

Edwards visits Greenville

Pays thanks to North Carolinians as he steps down from Senate

NICK HENNE
NEWS EDITOR

John Edwards, former North Carolina senator and candidate for vice president stops in Greenville's Shepard Memorial Library Wednesday as part of his "Thank You Tar Heels Tour."

"It's been such an honor and privilege to represent all of you in the U. S. Senate," said Edwards.

He said his work was all about bringing the values that he grew up with in rural North Carolina, the same kinds of values the people of eastern North Carolina hold including faith, family, hard work and responsibility to the nation.

Edwards said he is in many ways a typical North Carolinian and was proud to represent the state. He did a number of things, while serving the senate to help improve the lives of Americans.

A patients bill of rights was passed through the U. S. Senate while Edwards was in office giving the people, rather than insurance companies, a chance to make their own health care decisions.

Another issue has been seniors struggling in paying for their prescription drugs.

"That's a real and serious problem ... We worked very hard to get generics into the marketplace more frequently to bring down the price of prescription drugs for everyone," Edwards said.

Edwards worked during his time in the U. S. Senate to bring about education reform. He was able to take reforms Governor Easley had put into place in North Carolina to the national level improving the issue throughout the country.

Edwards said it is important for there to be sufficient public education systems in North Carolina.

"I wouldn't have any chance in the world of being where I am today without a great public



John Edwards came to Greenville Wednesday for part of his "Thank You Tar Heels" tour. Edwards thanked the audience for their support and discussed the challenges and issues the United States has yet to fully address.

school education," Edwards said.

"Without the heroes in America, the teachers who teach us in our public schools every single day, who all of us are so proud of."

Edwards said there is a gap with the quality of schools in this country based on where people live and their race. He said it is important to provide help and support for teachers and getting the best teachers in the best schools and ensure a quality education system for everyone.

Growing up in North Carolina, Edwards said he understands the struggle many North Carolinians face with the hurricane seasons.

"We lived with that every day just like you did," Edwards said.

Edwards said there are numerous eastern NC residents who have worked hard their entire

lives and paid their taxes who need the Government to provide them with aid during such catastrophes.

"Through no fault of their own, their lives have been devastated and now is the time for their government to step up and help them," Edwards said.

They had been successful in helping families in need after hurricanes.

The economy is another issue faced throughout North Carolina.

Edwards said he has seen families who have farmed for generations, unsure of whether they would be able to continue their family tradition. There have also been cases of jobs leaving rural communities leaving people out of work.

He said there have been vari-

ous people within these industries whose jobs leave giving them no idea what they are supposed to do.

He said he worked for a better trade policy which helped this issue, in addition to the recent passed tobacco buyout.

"We were proud to do that and it was something the farmers deserved," Edwards said.

Edwards said he was proud to represent North Carolina ideas on the U. S. Senate.

"I was also proud to be able to take the values that all of us grew up with to the nation because I think North Carolina has something to say in the national debate," Edwards said.

An issue universities throughout North Carolina are facing today are tuition increases.

Edwards said tuition increases

contribute to the hundreds of thousands of young people in the United States who cannot afford college. On top of that, it exasorbrates the problem that college students already have, which is they are working part time, borrowing money and worried about whether they are going to have a job when they get out of college. He said this should not be the future that 18-22 year olds are faced with and he thinks there are a lot of things that can be done.

The starting place is within the national government.

"We have state budgets that have been [in] difficulty for years now. Some of them have been in the worst difficulty since the last 50 years, that increases the pressures to raise tuition because there is no

see EDWARDS page A3



Students can take ECU courses through the Internet.

ECU leads state in distance education

Students come from almost every county

CHRIS MUNIER
STAFF WRITER

ECU's Distance Education program has been described as one of the best in the state. People who are interested in becoming students but are unable to commit to campus classes are offered more than 40 degrees and certificate programs that can be obtained via the Internet.

John Connelly, senior associate director of distance education, said ECU has offered distance education since 1947, but at that time all it meant was deploying professors to other counties.

Since the 1990s, distance education has become more popular given the advent of computer and Internet technology. In terms of semester hours, there were about 6,900 semester hours worth of distance education classes being taken in 1995. That number has grown to approximately 50,000 semester hours offered this past year.

What sets ECU apart from other institutions is the plethora of degrees and certificates being offered to students. According to ECU's Web site, there are 10 bachelor's degrees offered, including a B.S. in communication and industrial technology. ECU makes its mark with its 27 master's degree programs. An M.S. in criminal justice, an M.B.A. in business administration and an M.A.Ed in special education are among the post-graduate degrees offered. There are also several graduate certificates, four post-master's certificates available and four other online programs under development.

"We have more to offer because our faculty has stepped up to the plate and put these programs on," said Carolyn K. Dunn, coordinator of marketing and summer study abroad.

Connelly and Dunn gave very positive reviews of the faculty in the distance education program.

Connelly said the faculty has really driven the engine of distance education.

"We've tried to create an atmosphere and a set of support systems for faculty and the administration ... to make it both attractive and easy for faculty members to deliver their programs online," said Connelly.

Connelly said the degrees are no less rigorous than a degree obtained through campus classes. Dunn said the program is open to anyone but its focus is facilitating the needs of students who have full time jobs or children that otherwise would not be able to make it to ECU to attend classes. Someone using online technology could get an entire degree over the Internet.

Another contributor to the success of distance education is the North Carolina legislature. Connelly said they had the foresight to make this happen and it has been great for ECU.

Distance education is also a good option for transfer students coming to ECU. Especially for community college transfers, distance education gives the opportunity for a college education to students who have a difficult time moving to Greenville.

"We have students from almost every community college in North Carolina," Connelly said.

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

What do you think of the tuition increase?



ZINA BYRD
JUNIOR NURSING MAJOR

"I don't like it. I'm a working parent and you just have to borrow more money and financial aid that doesn't increase with it and there was no reasoning given to the students."



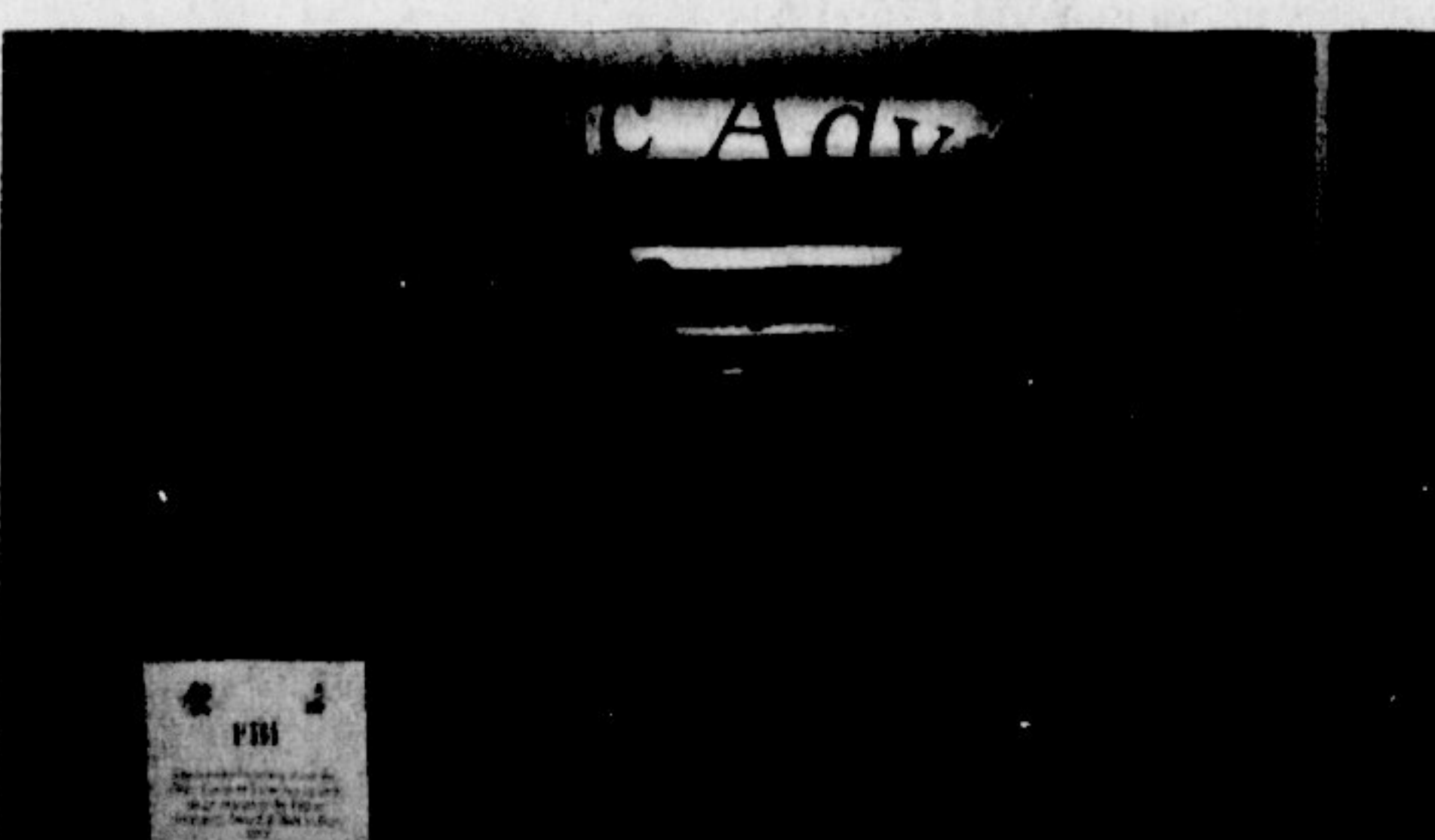
DUSTIN GAINES
JUNIOR BUSINESS MAJOR

"I have mixed emotion and tuition is high enough but we need to help new organizations and the football team needs some help."



MICHELLE SMITH
SOPHOMORE ART MAJOR

"I don't think it should be increased for people who aren't in these organizations."



This year's tuition increase helped fund the new advising centers.

Tuition, student fees to increase

Increases would begin next academic year

MICHAEL HARRINGTON
STAFF WRITER

ECU officials have called for a \$300 increase in campus based tuition and approved a \$134.50 increase in student fees which would be enacted at the beginning of the next academic year.

The increases in campus based tuition will allow ECU to generate an additional amount of approximately \$5.7 million. Of this amount, \$1.7 million would be used to cover the cost of financial aid and the rest of the \$4 million would be geared toward making competitive salaries for ECU faculty and staff.

Chuck Hawkins, interim vice chancellor for administration and finance, said the tuition increases are necessary to ensure that our faculty salaries are competitive with our peers.

"We are somewhere around 55 percent of our peers," said Hawkins.

"In order to be competitive, we feel that we need to be at about 80 percent."

Hawkins said we have lost faculty members because of this problem and by raising campus based tuition, ECU is taking the necessary steps to prevent any other faculty departures thereby

maintaining a higher quality of education for the students of ECU.

Last year, ECU increased campus based tuition by \$225. This allowed ECU to address some of the problems with our faculty salaries and to set up a professional advising center on campus.

Hawkins said the advising center was created because students indicated to ECU this would be an asset to campus and so far the center has received a lot of positive feedback from the students.

The increase in student fees was approved by the SGA and is going to affect a wide variety of campus institutions.

Of the 15 schools in the UNC system, ECU has the 10th highest total of required fees.

The largest portion of the money will go toward the athletics department, which will be receiving \$50 of the \$134.50 per student increase.

Another sizable amount will go toward the renovation of Mendenhall Student Center with \$36 per student fee in hopes of turning the aging building into a first class facility.

Educational technology needs will account for another \$20 per fee in order to provide ECU with the latest technology such as the Piratemail e-mail system, Microsoft in the labs and

see TUITION page A2

ECU students hunt for submarine 'Alligator'



Students with the maritime studies program searched for lost Civil War Union submarine, the Alligator.

ECU students funded by NOAA

SUMMER MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

ECU students in the maritime studies program have recently completed a search for a sunken U. S. submarine, the Alligator, which was lost around the time of the Civil War.

The Alligator, a green 47-foot submarine, was given the name Alligator because it resembled an alligator when it was submerged.

There were a total of six students working on the project, which searched for the submarine between Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout.

The goals of the search were to find the sunken submarine and learn new material that could be used in classrooms. While they were unable to locate the Alligator, they did learn material from the project.

"We were asked by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to do this project because the maritime studies program has completed several important underwater archaeology projects and we have excellent students," said Tim Runyan, director of ECU's program in maritime studies.

The researchers searched for the Alligator in the "Graveyard of the Atlantic" off North Carolina's Outer Banks. The area between

Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout was chosen for the search because the last sighting of the Alligator was south of Cape Hatteras, making this a likely place to start based on historic records. The research team searched for eight days on a Navy vessel moving at 3 or 4 mph.

Michael Overfield, an NOAA employee and MA Maritime Studies degree holder, was the chief scientist on the project. In addition to directing all aspects of the project, he reserved time to instruct students on the operation and use of equipment.

These organizations also supplied the researchers with a YP-679 research vessel, known as the Afloat Lab. The vessel was 108 feet long, and carried several technologically advanced instruments, such as a side scan sonar, a Geometric G-880 cesium magnetometer and a Nova Ray remotely operated vehicle.

The side scan sonar is used to search for shipwrecks by creating pictures of the ocean floor with sound.

The magnetometer located high concentrations of iron, signaling where a ship or part of it could lay. This tool showed two places in the search area where there were possibly wrecked ships. One location turned out to be a barge and the other was not identified.

The researchers found out what was on the seabed by using the remotely operated vehicle. This allowed them to watch

see ALLIGATOR page A3

Campus News

Worldfest

The SU Cultural Awareness Committee, International Student Association, Office of International Student Affairs and the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center are sponsoring Worldfest Dec. 2 in the Multipurpose Room of Mendenhall Student Center from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. Worldfest is a free, multicultural holiday celebration. Holiday refreshments will be served while you learn about Kwanzaa, Chanukah, Diwali and more.

Holiday Lighting

Come to Farmville to enjoy music and food and to get your picture taken with Santa. The Farmville Development Partnership will host the event in downtown Farmville Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. Call 753-4670 for more information.

Brody Holiday Celebration

The Academic Support and Enrichment Center at the Brody School of Medicine is hosting a multicultural holiday presentation called "Holiday Celebrations from Around the World" Dec. 2 to enlighten students as well as faculty and staff of different celebrations during the holiday season. Tables will be set up in the dining area, 2W-40, with special displays and lunch from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. For more information, contact Virginia Hardy or Verna Perry at 744-2500.

Holiday Exhibition

The Holiday exhibition and sale in Gray Gallery at Jenkins Fine Arts Center will take place from Dec. 2 - 4. Items for sale include jewelry, scarves, sculptures, paintings, prints and ceramics and all proceeds benefit the art guilds and artists of the school of art and design. The gallery will open at 9 a.m. and will close at 8 p.m., except for Dec. 4 when it closes at 2 p.m. For more information, contact Gil Leebrick, gallery director, at 328-6336.

Business After Hours

Join Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce and other members for an evening networking with other business professionals in marketing, building and becoming more involved in the community Dec. 2. The event is sponsored by the college of fine arts and communication and Bank of America and will be held at Jenkins Fine Arts Center from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. For details, call 752-4101.

NCHSAA Eastern Region Football Championship

The NC High School Athletic Association will be holding this event Dec. 3 at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. Call 919-962-2345 for more information.

Professor Concert

The school of music will host the Distinguished Professor Concert in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall at 8 p.m. Dec. 3. For further details, contact 328-4788 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS.

Christmas Parade

The annual Greenville Christmas Parade will be downtown Dec. 4.

Turtle Island Holiday Concert

Part of the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series, this concert will take place Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. in the Wright Auditorium. The concert is with the Greenville Choral Society and features music appealing to the many holidays of winter. For more information, call 328-6851 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS.

Chemistry Tutors

Ace your chemistry final. The Chemistry Club is offering chemistry tutoring for \$15 - \$20 per hour. Old final exams and notes are available. Prices are \$10 for an exam packet and \$15 for notes. Email chemclub@mail.ecu.edu for more information.

Festival of Trees

The Family Support Network of eastern North Carolina is hosting the Ninth Annual Festival of Trees from Dec. 1 - Dec. 23 at the Greenville Convention Center. View an array of beautiful trees decorated by businesses and individuals. Bring your children for Bedtimes with Santa and pictures Dec. 2 and Dec. 4 from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. There will also be a preview party Dec. 3 with a live silent auction from 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. The cost for the preview party is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. Call 328-4494 for more information.

News Briefs

Local

Blackbeard's recovery gets \$245,000 in grants

MOREHEAD CITY, NC - Researchers trying to recover artifacts from the wreckage of a vessel believed to be the flagship of the pirate Blackbeard have won grants worth \$245,000 to pay for their work, state officials announced Tuesday. The Golden Leaf Foundation has awarded the Queen Anne's Revenge Shipwreck Project \$145,000 to save fragile items or those that could be threatened because of storms and to conduct research in new areas. The state Legislature gave the project \$100,000 to pay for conservation of the artifacts at an ECU laboratory. The grants came just before a two-year grant from Save America's Treasures expires in December. The money will pay for preparation of a detailed plan for recovery and artifact handling in the field and in the conservation lab. "We anticipate starting an expedition for major recovery in early summer to further explore the site and recover tens of thousands of artifacts," said project director Mark Wilde-Ramsing. "After that, staff will begin intensive work in the lab cataloging, sorting, processing and/or storing recovered materials." The shipwreck was discovered in 1997 and items recovered from it have been displayed at the NC Maritime Museum in Beaufort and been part of a traveling museum tour. The Queen Anne's Revenge Shipwreck Project is administered by the Office of Archives and History in the NC Department of Cultural Resources.

Police charge man who tried to save pet from fire

BURLINGTON, NC - A Burlington man who struggled with police to try to save his pets from his burning home was charged with resisting arrest. Johnny Godwin, 60, said he was inside the home he rented when a

neighbor told him the house was on fire. After walking outside to see where the smoke was coming from, he went back inside to save his pets, he said.

"The next thing I knew, [the police] grabbed me," Godwin said. "They weren't going to let me go back and save my dogs."

Burlington police Officer D.D. Poston said officers and firefighters arrived at the home about 11 a.m. Tuesday when Godwin was still inside.

After trying to talk him out of the house, Poston said the officers had to restrain Godwin and carry him across the street.

Poston said Godwin tried to get back into the home, fighting with officers and threatening them. Poston said they had to handcuff Godwin to keep him from going back into the house and harming himself or others.

Godwin was charged with resisting a public officer. A neighbor, Jennifer Daye, said the officers used excessive force when they dragged Godwin out of the home. "That's not right," Daye said. "They dragged that man out of the home. He didn't want his animals caught in the house."

Godwin's pets, two dogs and numerous cats, were found and taken to the county animal shelter. Burlington Fire Chief Jay Smith said the animals, which were unharmed in the fire, would remain at the shelter until Godwin comes to claim them.

National

Lynndie England prepares for court martial

FORT BRAGG, NC - Pfc. Lynndie England was back in a military court Wednesday to prepare for her court-martial on charges she abused prisoners at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison. The Army Reservist from Fort Ashby, W.Va., is scheduled for trial Jan. 18 on charges of abuse and of committing indecent acts. She gave birth to a son Oct. 10, and attorneys have said

the father is Spc. Charles Graner Jr., portrayed in testimony as the ringleader in the abuse.

The hearing before Col. Stephen Henley, a staff judge at Fort Bragg, is on pretrial motions and the proceeding began with Henley questioning attorneys on procedural issues. England, 21, was one of seven members of the Maryland-based 372nd Military Police Company charged with humiliating and assaulting prisoners at the prison near Baghdad. She became a focal point of the scandal after photos surfaced showing her smiling and posing with nude prisoners stacked in a pyramid, pointing and flashing a thumb's up, and holding a detainee on a leash.

Defense attorneys maintained that England was being used as a scapegoat for a military run amok. Graner is scheduled for trial in January at Fort Hood, Texas. Three co-defendants have pleaded guilty and received sentences ranging from reduction in rank to eight years in prison. England faces up to 38 years in prison if convicted.

PETA says Iowa kosher slaughterhouse abusing animals

DES MOINES, Iowa - An animal rights group has captured videotape that it says shows cattle at a kosher slaughterhouse enduring an "absolutely outrageous" level of cruelty. PETA claims the video, posted on its Web site Tuesday afternoon, shows repeated acts of animal cruelty at AgriProcessors Inc. in northeastern Iowa. The organization filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Monday that alleged improper slaughtering practices. "They're ripping the tracheas and esophagi out of fully conscious animals, dumping them out of pens into pools of their own blood. The animals stand and bellow and attempt to escape for up to three and even four minutes in some cases," Bruce Friedrich, a spokesman for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, said

late Tuesday.

Rabbi Chaim Kohn, the plant's supervising rabbi, told *The New York Times* in Wednesday's editions that the tapes were "testimony that this is being done right." In kosher slaughter, the animals' throats are sliced with a razor-sharp blade, intended to cause instant and painless death. Jewish law forbids stunning them first.

Federal law considers properly conducted religious slaughter as humane, and allows Jewish and Muslim slaughterhouses to forgo stunning. The rules outlaw leaving animals killed that way conscious for an extended period of time.

World

No-confidence against Ukrainian government

KIEV, Ukraine - Ukraine's parliament brought down the government of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich with a no-confidence motion Wednesday in a show of the opposition's strength. The outgoing president called for an entirely new presidential election to be held to resolve the country's spiraling political crisis. Yanukovich and his opposition rival Viktor Yushchenko sat down for talks Wednesday in the presence of European mediators and outgoing President Leonid Kuchma. Tens of thousands of opposition supporters have been demonstrating in the streets for days, saying the vote was fraudulent and that Yushchenko was the winner. In what appeared to be an attempt to seize the political initiative back from the opposition, Yanukovich appealed to the Supreme Court to declare part of the results of this month's presidential run-off vote invalid, the justices said. Yanukovich's appeal focuses on alleged violations in western Ukraine, where Yushchenko draws most of his support. It was not clear if the court would agree to hear the appeal. The court is already hearing an appeal by Yushchenko against the

results, which declared Yanukovich the winner of the Nov. 21 runoff. Yushchenko claims he was robbed of victory, and his court case focuses on alleged violations in pro-Yanukovich eastern Ukraine.

French appeals court reduces premier's sentence

VERSAILLES, France - A French appeals court on Wednesday reduced the sentence for former Prime Minister Alain Juppe in a party financing scandal, opening the door for his possible return to national politics. The court in Versailles sentenced Juppe to a 14-month suspended prison sentence, down from the original 18 months, and barred him from elected office for just one year, instead of the 10-year ban handed down in January in his first trial.

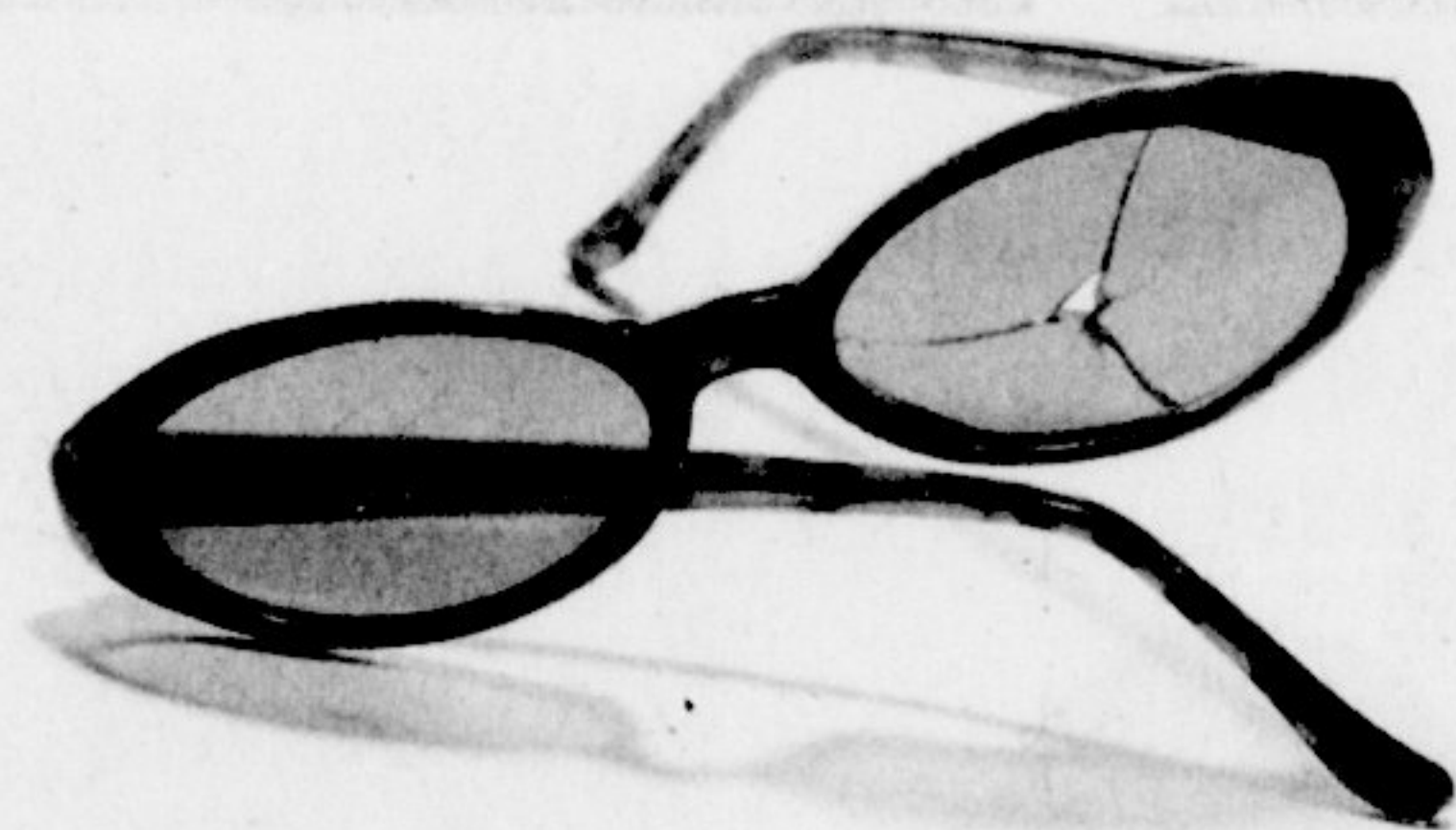
The shorter ban could in theory allow Juppe to stand for office again in 2007, when presidential and legislative elections are scheduled. Nevertheless, the ban means Juppe will have to give up his remaining post as mayor of the southwestern town of Bordeaux.

One of his attorneys, Francis Szpiner, said Juppe would not appeal the revised sentence. The prosecutor had asked that Juppe get a two-year ban from elected office. Juppe, accompanied by his wife, Isabelle, hustled into a waiting car and did not speak to reporters after the ruling. Juppe has gradually withdrawn from the political scene, giving up his parliamentary seat and his leadership of President Jacques Chirac's party, since his first conviction in January. It was not clear whether the 59-year-old envisages a return to politics once his ban on office is over.

Before his January conviction, Juppe was widely viewed as Chirac's favorite to succeed him as president. Juppe served as Chirac's first prime minister in 1995-1997 and the French leader famously once praised his ally as "the best among us."

Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.



U.S. Department of Transportation

Ad Council

Tuition from page A1

antivirus software. It will also provide funding for programs that need updated labs such as construction management and Industrial Technology.

The SGA also approved another \$23 increase in student transit fees that will go toward replacing buses on a normal schedule and maintaining programs such as safe ride and campus shuttles.

ECU students had mixed reactions to the increases.

"It's coming out of my pocket,

but if it makes our school more prestigious, it's a good thing," said George Ansell, sophomore undecided major.

"We're trying to compete with other schools in the state."

Reonda Washington took a different perspective and said she disagreed with the logic that raising tuition is the only way to maintain a high quality of education on campus.

"There are universities that are not raising tuition and still have good programs," said Washington.

Stephanie Kates, senior hospitality management major, said the tuition increase might not be necessary.

"Our programs are already getting better. I think they should wait and see if this continues," said Kates.

Kates said the increases would not have a large impact on her and she would not have trouble making the additional payments.

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

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Edwards greets an ECU student during his stop in Greenville.

other way to deal with ... faculty salary increases that are necessary to keep good people," Edwards said.

"This is something the national government can do something about."

Edwards said he proposed in the presidential primaries that the federal government spend a significant amount of money providing direct help to states to make sure that they do not have to raise college tuition.

There are already so many

young people who feel stressed about paying for college and the last thing needed is to make it even harder for those people.

Edwards said one of the great things he learned in the campaign was that there are people all over the United States who work to make America what it is today who are just like North Carolinians. They want to believe that after they go to work every day and they do the right thing, that tomorrow is

going to be better than today and for their children and their grandchildren.

"In many places that dream has been replaced with just trying to get by. People whose incomes are going down while at the same time the costs of everything is going up," Edwards said.

"I am proud to have served on a ticket with a man who I believe is a great American, a great human being and would have made a great president, John Kerry."

Edwards said he is commonly asked if he is going to run again for U. S. Senate. His main concern is with his family as his wife Elizabeth has recently been diagnosed with breast cancer. Elizabeth chose to go public with her disease even after John encouraged her to not to because of their massive exposure to the public eye within the past several months. Elizabeth wanted to go public in an attempt to draw other women to become tested.

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

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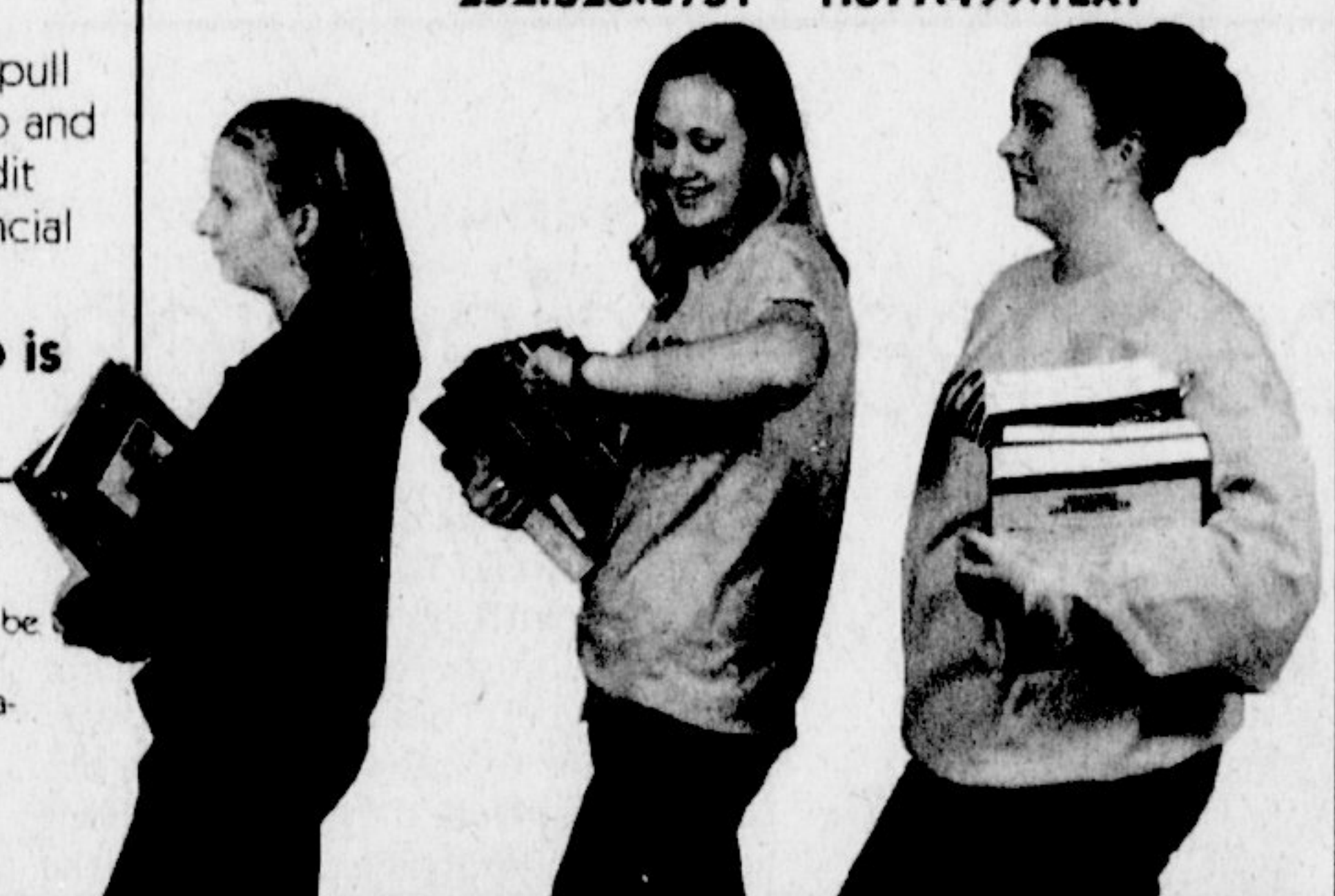
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Alligator from page A1

images on a television screen recorded by a camera on the ROV. However, the researchers never found the Alligator.

"The ocean is a huge place to find an object as small as the Alligator," Runyan said.

While on the project, students learned how to use the different types of equipment required for underwater search.

The six students who worked on this project received funding from several organizations, but mainly by the NOAA, the Office of Naval Research and ECU.

After the students collected all of the data on the search, it was processed at Eller House, the home of ECU's maritime studies program. The students put together a presentation which exhibits the information they learned from the field study.

The students then presented their work to NOAA and ONR at a symposium in Norfolk, Va. The presentation included pictures of the students working on the boat and with the different tools, information on what the search found and did not find and the data gathered about the other projects in which

ECU students were participating.

More information has emerged concerning the Alligator, including the blueprints discovered in Paris, which have given more information about the Alligator's design and size.

The Alligator was a submersible warship that would allow divers to plant explosives under enemy ships. It was designed by the French inventor, Brutus De Vileroi and was built in Philadelphia during late 1891 and early 1892.

The purpose of building this weapon was to counter the Confederate ironclad, Virginia and other vessels. The first mission of the Alligator was to destroy an important bridge to the Confederates, which went across the Appomattox River. The submarine was also used to clear a path through the James River.

The Alligator was assigned to help the Union take control of Charleston, SC.

The submarine was being towed by the USS Sumpter when a fierce storm caused the crew of the USS Sumpter to release the Alligator. The submarine became officially lost at sea by this storm on April 2, 1863.

The Alligator was forgotten and some people think that the USS Holland was the first U.S. Navy submarine. This conclusion led Rear Adm. Jay Cohen, the chief of naval research, to seek more information on the submarine, but there is little known about it. NOAA and other organizations have funded this project to discover as much information as possible about the submarine and possibly find it off the North Carolina coast.

The students enjoyed the opportunity to work on the project for various reasons.

"I liked working on this project because I was able to learn how to use the equipment," said Melissa Madrigal, candidate in ECU's Coastal Resources Management program.

"I thought working on the project was pretty neat because this was my first actual field study and the first time I've ever had to do an underwater project," said Valerie Grussing, student in ECU's Coastal Resources Management program.

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

ECU to build new residence hall

First new hall since
1969

MICHAEL HARRINGTON
STAFF WRITER

ECU is set to begin construction on a new residence hall that would offer students modernized suites which would allow more privacy for residents on College Hill between Tyler Residence Hall and Todd Dining Hall.

The new suites will have two bedrooms and bathrooms, a living room with a kitchenette, central air and will house only four students instead of eight like the older suite-style halls on campus.

Construction of the first new hall on ECU's campus since 1969 should be underway before the end of the semester and is scheduled to be completed in 2006.

The project has an estimated cost of \$27 million, which will be generated through bond revenue.

Aaron Lucier, associate director of Campus Living, said the design of the new hall was heavily influenced by the desire to keep more upperclassmen on campus through offering them more privacy and personal space.

"After freshman year, a lot of people want more space," said Lucier.

"I think the new hall is going to be very comfortable for students."

Lucier said Campus Living would more than likely retain its current system where returning students are given their first choice of halls.

Todd Johnston, director for University Housing and Dining Services, said campus housing has a desire to recruit more upperclassmen to residence halls because of the academic benefits.

"There is research that shows on the average, students who stay on campus outperform students who stay off campus," said Johnston.

"Some studies have shown a full point higher on average GPA for on-campus students."

The site of the new hall is currently a parking lot that caters to residents of Tyler Hall. Campus officials have taken the necessary steps to ensure there will still be sufficient parking for students once the new residence hall is constructed.

Lucier said ECU has purchased lots on 14th Street in the area of College Hill and has converted them into parking areas. They also turned the basketball courts outside of Belk Residence Hall into parking spaces.

"We feel these steps will adequately cover parking," Lucier said.

Both Johnston and Lucier hope the location of the new building will help keep upperclassmen on campus.

"It's an awesome location, right next to Todd Dining Hall, right here on the hill," Lucier said.

"It gives them all the benefits of an apartment and they don't have to worry about parking for class," Johnston said.

"We think it's the best of both worlds."

Gauhar Dhillon, junior biology major, said the location coupled with the amenities would probably be enough to convince her to stay on campus.

"I would rather live there than an apartment because it's closer to campus," said Dhillon.

Craig Mckee, junior neuroscience major, said he thinks students will still opt for off-campus housing.

"I think students will still move out to apartments, it's almost a traditional thing," said Mckee.

Mckee said that in the long run, modernized residence halls might keep more students in campus housing.

"In time, it might make a difference. It is nice to be close to campus," Mckee said.

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

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Our View

CHEERS

The United States is expanding security for the upcoming January national elections in Iraq.

JEERS

The expansion will be achieved by sending about 1,500 troops from the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, NC – a base that holds many loved ones of people on ECU's campus.

CHEERS

Cereality Cereal Bar & Café, a restaurant serving 30 varieties of over the counter cereal along with 36 different toppings, opened its doors to the University of Pennsylvania campus Wednesday.

JEERS

A bowl of Fruit Loops mixed with Cap'n Crunch and topped with Pop Rocks is sure to drive dental bills straight through the roof.

CHEERS

In an interview with the Associated Press, Tom Brokaw admits that although he is retiring after 23 years as an anchor on "NBC Nightly News," he would return if a big story breaks and NBC needed him.

JEERS

With Brokaw signing off Wednesday night and CBS' Dan Rather signing off in March 2005, what broadcast journalists will be able to fill their shoes?

CHEERS

The film *Finding Neverland* was named best film of 2004 by the National Board of Review this week. The award is the first of many that critics look at to predict who will win best picture at this year's Academy Awards.

JEERS

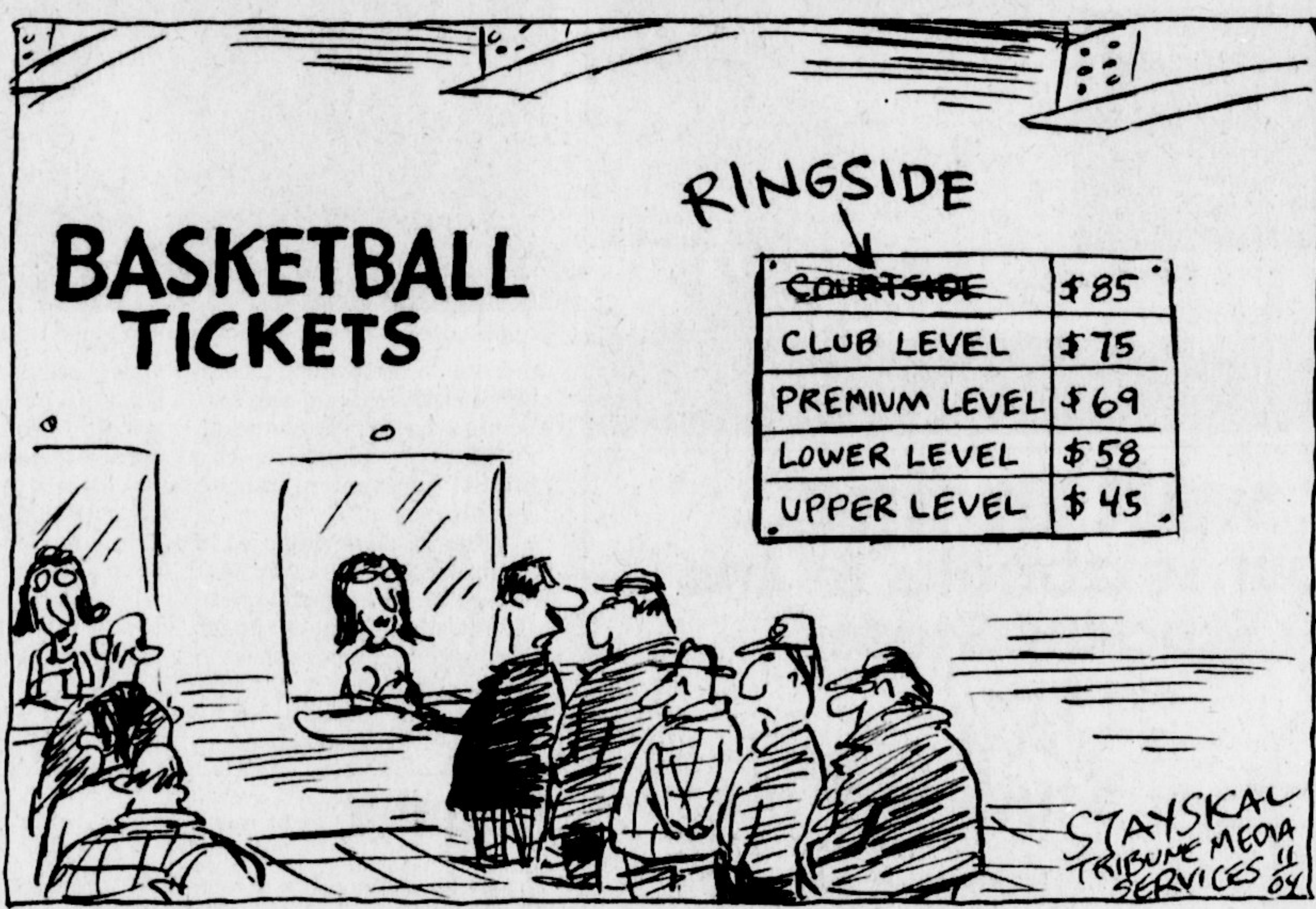
According to the Associated Press, "the organization doesn't always jibe with the eventual Academy Award winner. In recent years, the National Board has chosen *Mystic River*, *The Hours*, *Moulin Rouge* and *Quills*, none of which won the best-picture Oscar.

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Serving ECU since 1925, *TEC* 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. *TEC* 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 *TEC* is free, each additional copy is \$1.



Opinion Columnist

Reality shows permeate television

How far can it go?

PETER KALAJIAN
STAFF WRITER

Like most Americans, I watch far too much television. I enjoy nothing more than plopping myself down in the horribly uncomfortable chair which serves as my living room center of operations and shutting off all processes of thought which could interrupt the HBO bliss I have so looked forward to.

Knowing within myself that there are usually much more important and productive things that I could be expending my time on, to alleviate some of the guilt of television I try and confine my viewing to shows with some level of educational value. The History Channel, Discovery, and the Animal Channel are my usual first stops when perusing the vast universe that is digital cable. But the last few years have witnessed an explosion of the newest form of television entertainment – the reality show.

While its roots can be traced back several decades to the original television quiz shows of the 1950s, reality television made its grand cultural entrance with the introduction of a little program called "The Real World." Viewers were enticed to watch every week with the promise, "The true story of seven people chosen to live together in a house. Watch what happens when people stop being polite and start getting real." Since the early 1990s, when "The Real World" first began changing the medium, there has been an unprecedented surge in the proliferation and popularity of the reality show concept, and within a few years, the well of good, thoughtful ideas on which to base television shows had all but dried up.

As more and more reality shows began appearing, their quality and cleverness rapidly declined. Immensely popular and some would say more valid show ideas like "Survivor" and "The Real World" (which is still on the air but by most accounts has lost some of that new show smell which people initially loved so much) were replaced in the late 1990s with high-minded concepts like "Who Wants to Marry My Dad?"

In My Opinion

Basket brawl recreates gladiator-spectator relationship

KRT — Was the melee between NBA players and fans a racial brawl?

The Nov. 19 game between the Indiana Pacers and the Detroit Pistons resulted in nine players being banned for more than 140 games.

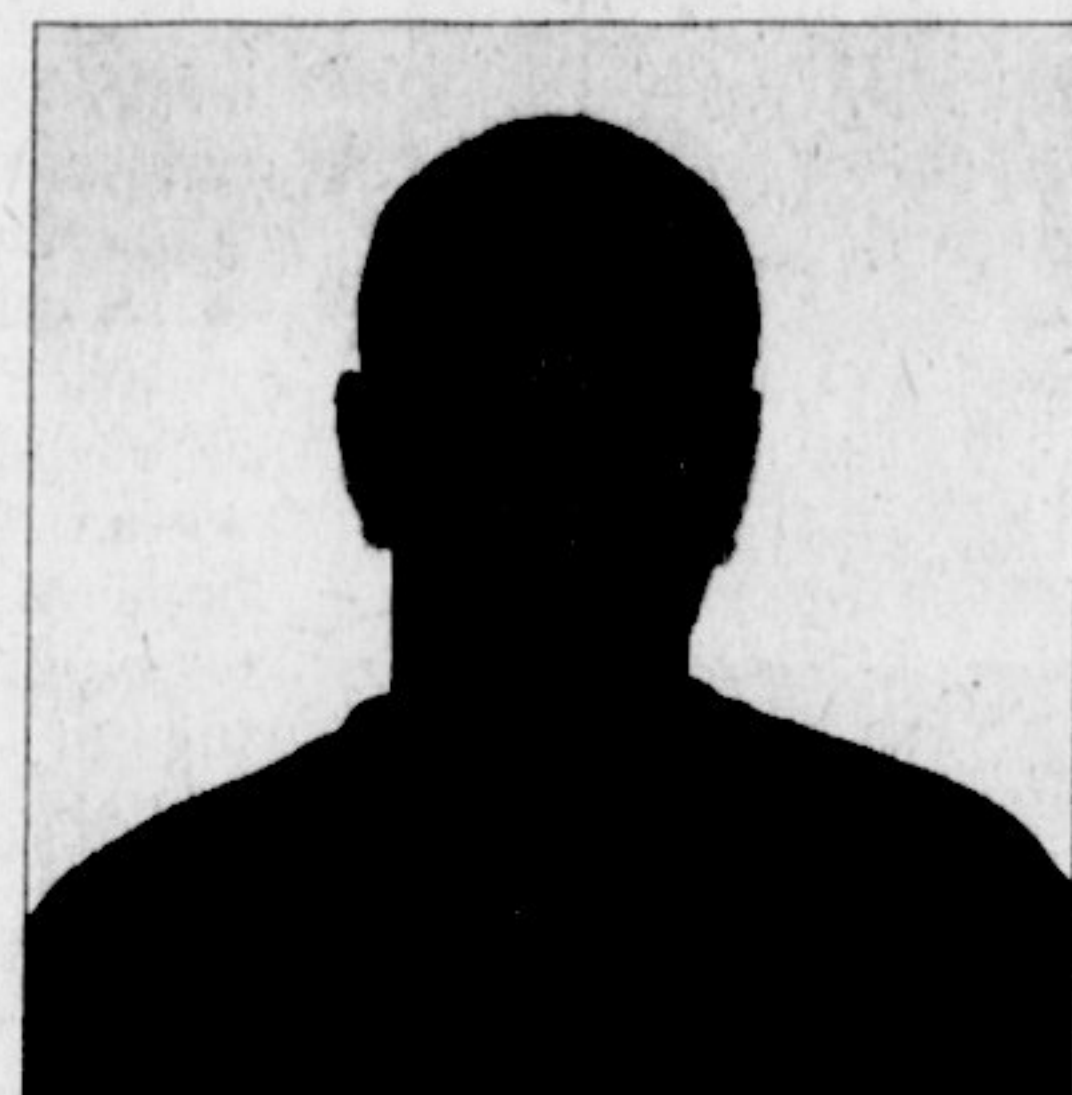
All of the players involved were black and most of the fans they confronted were white.

Initially race was a silent issue. But as pundits of every stripe have weighed in on this incident, discussions of race have become increasingly prominent.

The narrative that is emerging goes something like this: Most professional basketball players are poor black youths from urban America who are socialized in a culture that lacks social graces. They earn exorbitant salaries, live pampered lifestyles and lack the appropriate gratitude for their – largely unearned – good fortune.

What's more, these black athletes are performing for predominantly white fans who are affluent enough to afford the high cost of NBA tickets. It's a tricky arrangement.

But that developing narrative is a bit one-sided, and the lack of symmetry was evident in the players' penalties. Ron Artest expressed his regret for the incident and complained that NBA



and "The Swan."

Of the dozens of reality television programs that have come and gone over the last decade, perhaps none is as tactless and alarming as "The Swan." If you have never heard of this show, its where ugly or otherwise aesthetically challenged individuals choose to have extensive reconstructive plastic surgery to improve their looks, then are judged alongside the other contestants to see who's procedure has produced the best results in a beauty pageant format. Just another cultural driver that makes people ashamed of the way they look and encourages them to strive for the most artificial and physically violating solution they can find.

The recent proliferation of every imaginable premise for the reality show foundation has made me think about just how far reality TV can go before there is a massive public backlash – the likes of which we have not witnessed since the death of disco.

Every time I flip past a new reality show, or an advertisement for a new reality show, one thought permeates my mind, and has since I first started watching "The Real World" a decade ago. In the early 1980s, Arnold Schwarzenegger starred in a film called *The Running Man*. The premise went something like this: Sometime in the near future, persons convicted of serious crimes by the state are forced to participate in a game, called "The Running Man." They are confined to a small section of a dilapidated city and given a goal to reach and a certain timeframe with which to reach it. Along the way, however, they are met

by multiple antagonists who look like a cross between that character from *Mad Max* with the leather domination mask and an American Gladiator (Turbo maybe). These antagonists, very simply, aim to kill and mutilate the contestants before they can reach their goal. There is only one little catch – the whole ordeal is videotaped and broadcast as the most popular game show in America. Naturally, Schwarzenegger ends up being the rogue contestant with some survival skills and ends up killing his pursuers and proving to the home audience just how barbaric their hunger for entertainment really is.

Now, this comparison may seem somewhat farfetched, but think about it. A majority of Americans believe in the death penalty, and good luck finding someone not interested in entertaining television programming, so is it such a leap? The federal government already sanctions the execution of convicted murderers (the moral distinctions between lethal injection and public beheadings are still lost on me – killing is killing) and television is probably the single most popular form of mass entertainment in this country, so are we really that far away from a scenario like that conveyed in Schwarzenegger's film? Certainly, it may not be in a year or five years, but eventually, is it so inconceivable that the American public, so hungry for new and entertaining television programming, would be unwilling to set aside the glaring moral implications of such a show and watch with revelry?

Hopefully, before this scenario can come to fruition, the backlash against reality television which I mentioned and patiently await will be upon us. Reality television will become passé, like disco, loved and revered by a small, loyal demographic but widely ignored by the American public overall. Perhaps then we can inject some dignity and humor into television and not prey like vultures on the humiliation, degradation and open foolishness of our fellow citizens.

Boycott reality television, I say, for someday, our avarice in the face of human indignity will spawn a show exactly like "The Running Man." It is only a matter of time.

Commissioner David Stern penalized him too severely. (Artest received a 72-game suspension and is out for the rest of the season.) Stern acknowledged he was particularly hard on Artest. "I did not strike from my mind that Ron Artest had been suspended on previous conditions for loss of self-control," he said.

The NBA Players Association said Artest's punishment is too severe and has hinted it will challenge Stern's sweeping authority as commissioner. Not only does Stern determine the penalties but he also has the final word on any appeal.

But those organizational and logistical concerns only skirt the edges of the true crisis.

The separation of gladiator and spectator traditionally is one of class. In more current times, the separation is more of a cultural gap with increasingly prominent racial overtones.

NBA officials once doubted if whites would even pay to watch black athletes.

The dominance of black players in the NBA has revolutionized the game and, for the most part, the difference has been fortuitous for league officials. The black players' explosive athleticism

and stylistic flourishes have helped Nielsen ratings and have increased revenue of most pro sports franchises.

But those cultural differences have rougher aspects. The hip-hop sensibilities that shape the behavior of the younger NBA players certainly fuel exciting athletic exploits, but they also inspire other, less desirable team qualities.

The intolerance for disrespect ("dissing"), the "bling-bling" ostentation, the celebratory ego-flexing – these attitudes also are part of the hip-hop package. But fans increasingly are rejecting that aspect of the game.

"League and club executives decided to marry the NBA to hip-hop, and clearly didn't know what they were getting into," wrote *Washington Post* sports columnist Michael Wilbon. He argues that by hyping the hip-hop connection, NBA officials share some blame for widening the gap between fans and players.

It was a gamble. An emphasis on hip-hop sensibilities might have provided just the spurt of profitability the sport needed. But if the league and its marketers created it, then blaming the players for following through is the ultimate dis.

Why on God's great green earth do people feel the need to put the brown paper towels in the toilets? Come on people, grow up.

Don't walk on the left hand side of the sidewalk, run into me and then give me a dirty look like it was my fault. It doesn't work that way, honey.

Ladies and gentlemen, your book bags and/or purses, no matter how much they cost, are not that special that they need their own seat on the bus. Be considerate and move your crap and let someone who is standing sit down. Chances are you probably won't get cooties if someone you don't know sits next to you.

My fellow students, I am sick and tired of listening to those of you who complain constantly. Whether it is about your professors, classes or work load, it seems that you came to college for one reason – to whine. Believe it or not, everyone here on this campus has work and assignments that we do not care to do. This might be another surprise – most of us do not care to listen to your constant incoherent remarks about your test and paper that are both due tomorrow. So next time you go to whine about your 10-page essay that is due tomorrow, that your professor did not give an extension on because you missed the last five classes, just keep your mouth shut, do the work and give our ears a break!

Why do people feel the need to carry a leash when they walk their dogs, if they are going to let their darn dogs run wild through campus and let them poop all over the place? Scoop it up please.

Why must we come back from Thanksgiving break at all? We come back for what, all of three weeks? What the heck is the point. It's not like I'm actually going to learn anything.

Why is it that you tell men where and when things are, but they still insist on asking where and when things are ... duh!

Do professors not realize that every semester they run out of time in their class? When will they realize that every other professor on campus is assigning one last paper also?

Why is their always one person in a group project that will never show up?

I think we should rename the Cement Mixer shot to "Garbage Truck," because it tastes like s---.

Teachers should not be able to give exams the week before finals, it just is not fair.

If someone makes an embarrassing mistake in class or work why do people insist on pointing it out to everyone and not the person who made the mistake?

The hats you wear when you're cold are called beanies, not toboggans. A toboggan is a sled.

I hate when people know you are trying to work on something and yet they keep talking to you.

It'd be nice if a person told you they had a mental disorder before you started dating them.

Elf is the funniest movie I've seen this year. Go Will Ferrell.

Roommates, please be courteous. Don't eat the last cheese puff.

What's up with people and blocking their phone numbers when they call you? If I don't know who is calling I'm for sure not going to answer my phone.

How can you call yourself a properly stocked bar at a Mexican restaurant if you don't have any Southern Comfort, Jose Cuervo or Grand Marnier?

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.

Pirate Rants

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CLASSIFIEDS

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THURSDAY December 2, 2004

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Blocks to ECU, 2 or 3 BDRM

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Greek Personals

The sisters of Phi Beta Chi would like to congratulate our sister of the week and newest alumnae, Ashlei Martin. We will miss you!

The sisters of Gamma Sigma Sigma want to thank SAE for the two socials this semester. They were tons of fun!

Other

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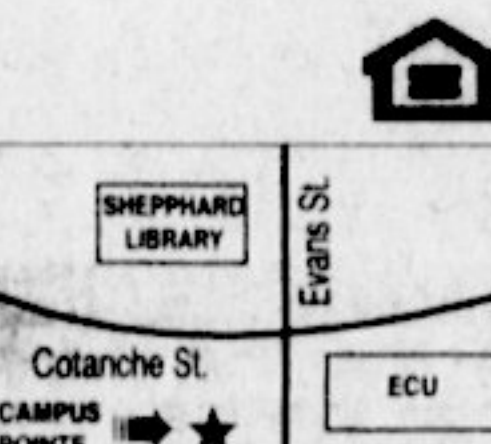
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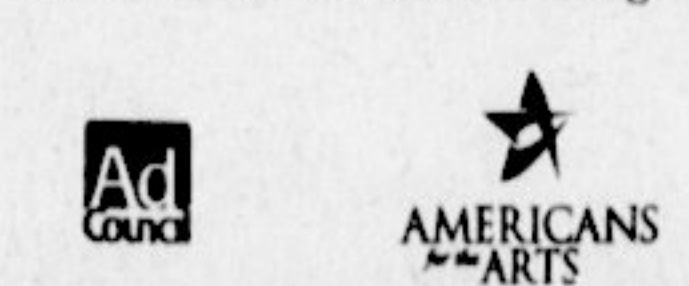
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This bracelet was a gift Amber Apodaca received from the center where she helped teens with drug and alcohol problems. She was wearing it when an underage drunk driver took her life.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MCGINNIS

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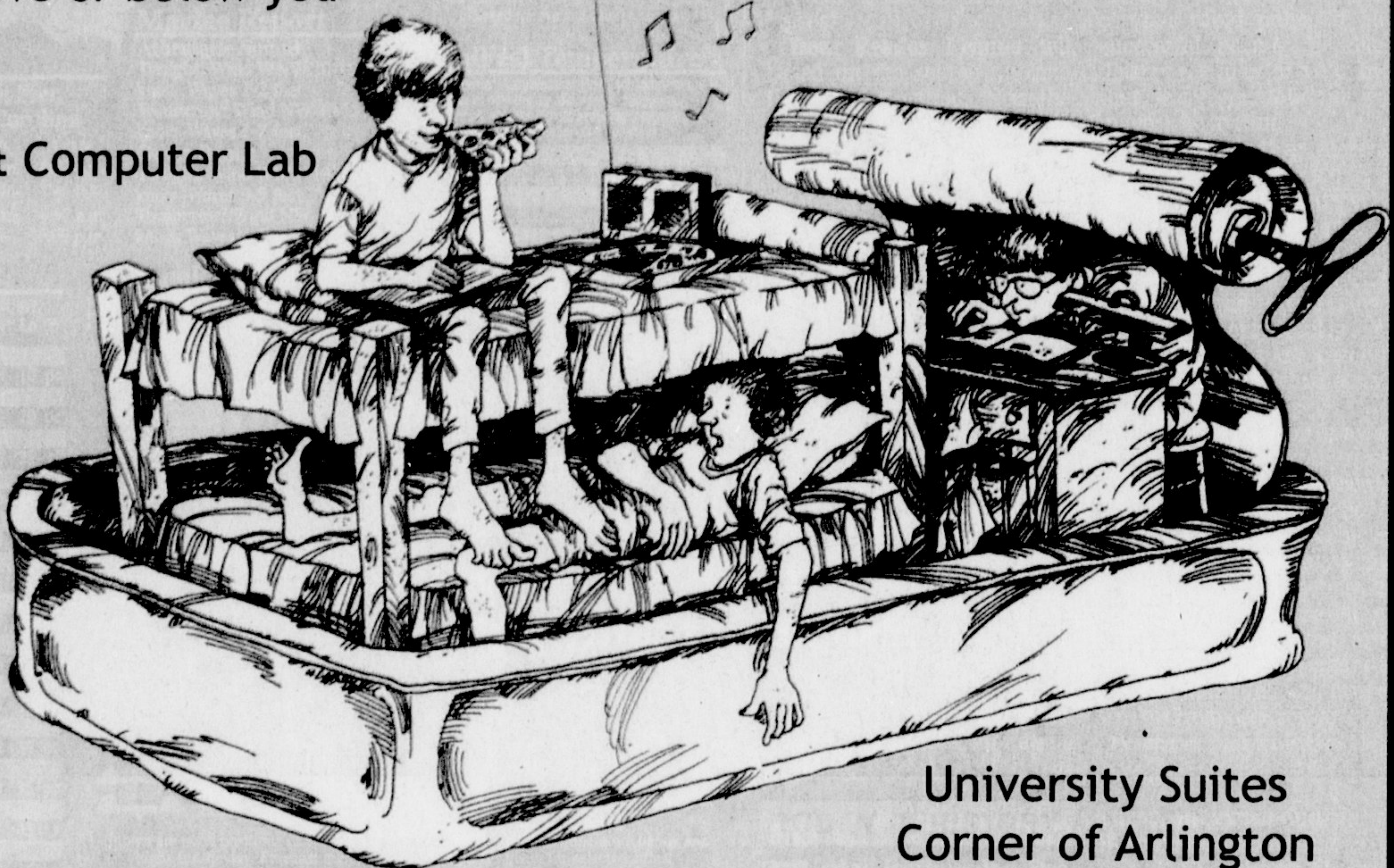
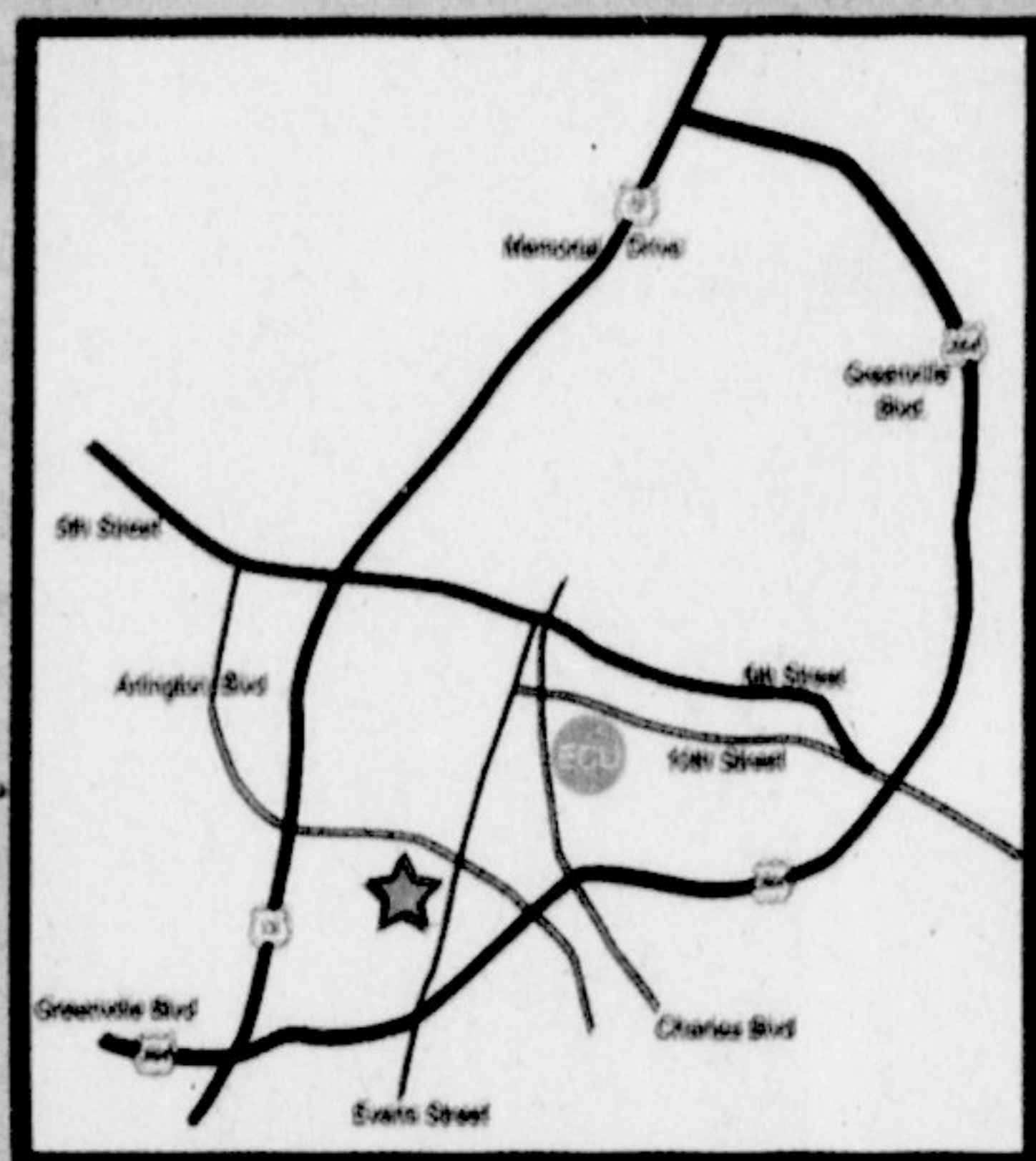
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TREE TRUTHS

1. How did the tradition of decorating evergreens at Christmas begin?

The tradition of decorating evergreens can be traced back to ancient times in Rome and Egypt in celebration of the winter solstice. In 1510, the first Christmas tree was displayed in Riga, Latvia. Early decorations included ribbon, food, lace and tin. The custom was later brought to America during the Revolutionary War by Hessian mercenaries.

2. What is the height of the tallest tree in history?

The world's tallest recorded Christmas tree was a 221-foot Douglas fir at the Northgate Shopping Center in Seattle in 1950. In 2001, the tallest artificial tree stood at 170.6 feet and was displayed at Moinhos de Vento Park, Porto Alegre, Brazil. Also known as the "Peace Tree," it was made of green PVC foliage and had a lightning rod and flashing lights to warn aircraft.

3. Can I buy a tree, sight unseen?

Yes. Approximately 330,000 real Christmas trees each year are sold via the Internet or catalog.

4. How long does it take a Christmas tree to grow?

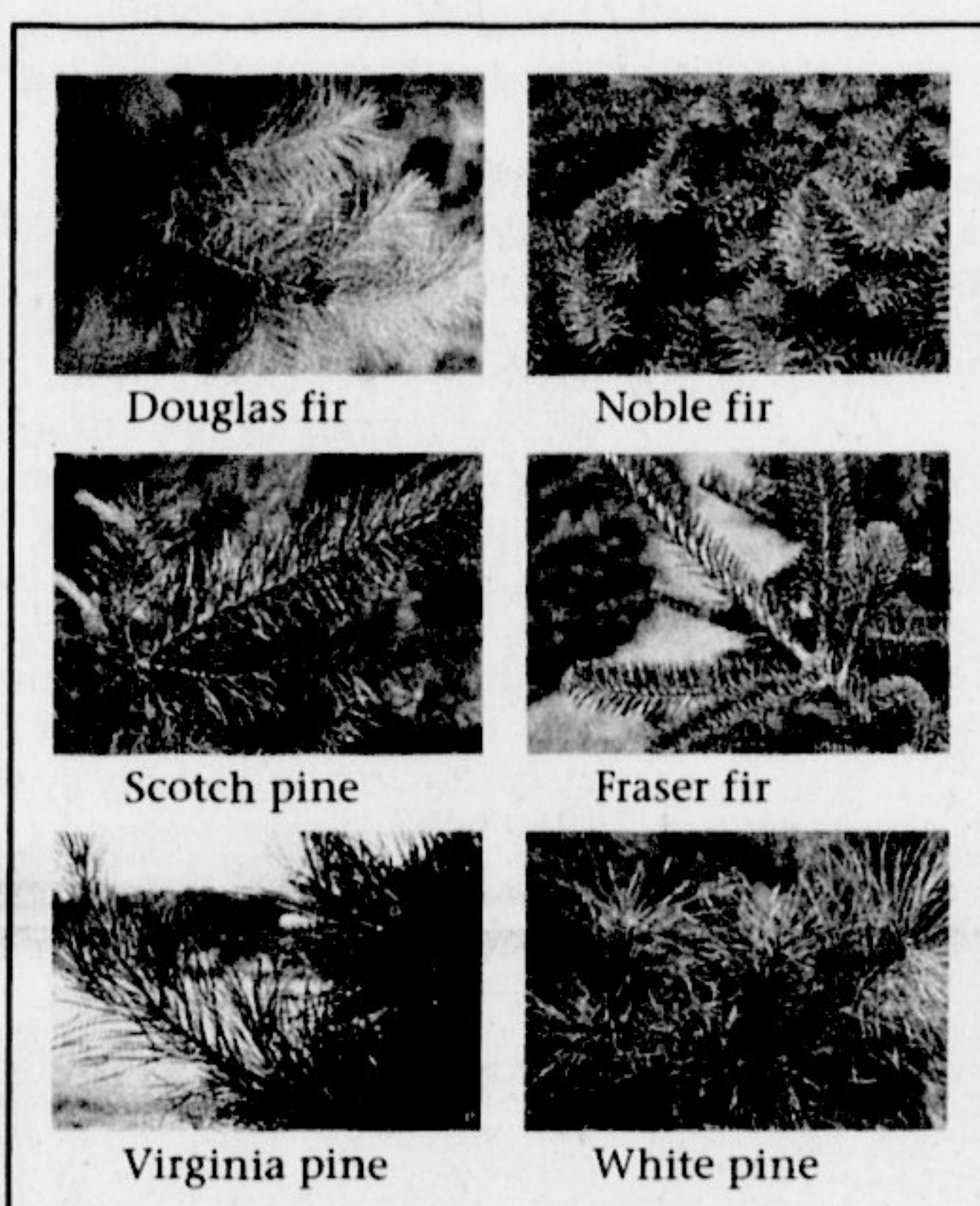
Depending on the variety, the average tree takes seven years to grow 6 feet, the average retail height. Some trees require 15 years of growth to reach the same height.

5. How do trees get that perfect shape?

Evergreens do not naturally grow into the picture-perfect shape that is popular for Christmas trees. As trees grow, farmers control their shape through regular shearing. By using clippers to control the width and form of the branches, farmers force trees to grow into the popular cone shape.

6. What are the most popular Christmas tree varieties?

The most popular Christmas tree varieties include:



7. What should I expect when I go to a farm to cut my own tree?

Here are some tips from the National Christmas Tree Association:

■ Beware of fire-ant mounds, tree stumps, an occasional blackberry vine, uneven ground and sharp saws.

■ Wear comfortable shoes and old clothes. Bring rain gear if the weather is threatening. Also bring several pairs of work gloves. Leave your pets at home or keep them leashed at all times.

■ Saws are usually provided by the farm operator.

■ Some farms measure and price their trees individually, others sell them by the foot. Ask about the pricing policy before heading out in the field.

■ Select the tree that fits your predetermined needs (ceiling height, type of foliage, etc.). Check the trunk to be sure that it is sufficiently straight. Keep in mind that pines will usually have, at least, some crook in their trunks. Also check that the tree has a sufficiently long handle to accommodate your stand.

■ Cutting the tree is easiest as a two-person project. The person who is cutting usually lies on the ground, while the helper holds the bottom limbs up.

■ Bring the tree to the processing area where it will be cleaned and netted. Netting makes transporting and handling the tree substantially easier.

■ When you are checking out, remember to pick up a tree removal bag. It can be used as a tree skirt and then pulled up around the tree to help keep the floors clean when the tree is being taken down.

8. Where are most Christmas trees grown?

There are about 15,000 tree growers in the United States, with farms in every state. The top Christmas tree-producing states are Oregon, California, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

9. How much do Americans spend on Christmas trees?

More than 23 million real Christmas trees were sold in 2003, valued at \$791 million. The average Christmas tree costs \$33.80.

10. How can I keep my Christmas tree fresh?

Proper watering and care are necessary to keep a tree fresh. The following tips can keep a tree fresh and hydrated through the holiday season:

■ When shopping for a tree, choose one that is not losing needles or fading. Both are signs of excessive dryness.

■ Make a fresh cut before placing the tree in its stand to allow maximum water absorption.

■ The average tree needs 1 quart of water a day. Additives such as aspirin or commercial powders are not necessary and could harm the tree.

■ Place the tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces or television sets, which could cause the tree to dry out.

11. Where is the national Christmas tree?

The national Christmas tree can be found on the White House lawn. In 1923, President Coolidge started the tradition of the national Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

12. Where can I find the best tree in the United States?

Every year, members of the National Christmas Tree Association pick the best tree and name it grand champion. The award-winning tree is presented to the president and the first family each year to be displayed inside the White House.



ERIC DRAPER/THE WHITE HOUSE
President George W. Bush and Laura Bush stand in front of the 2002 Christmas tree.

13. Has the government ever made any tree regulations?

The government once banned the use of tinsel because it contained lead and was a health hazard. Today's tinsel is made of plastic and is safe to use. President Teddy Roosevelt banned Christmas trees from the White House for a time because he thought the tradition was harmful to the environment and wanted to encourage conservation.

14. Am I hurting the environment if I display a real tree?

Ninety-eight percent of Christmas trees are harvested from farms. For every tree harvested, two to three seedlings are planted in its place. Christmas trees also create oxygen, which benefits the environment. One acre of Christmas trees can produce enough oxygen for 18 people.

15. What is flocking and why is it used?

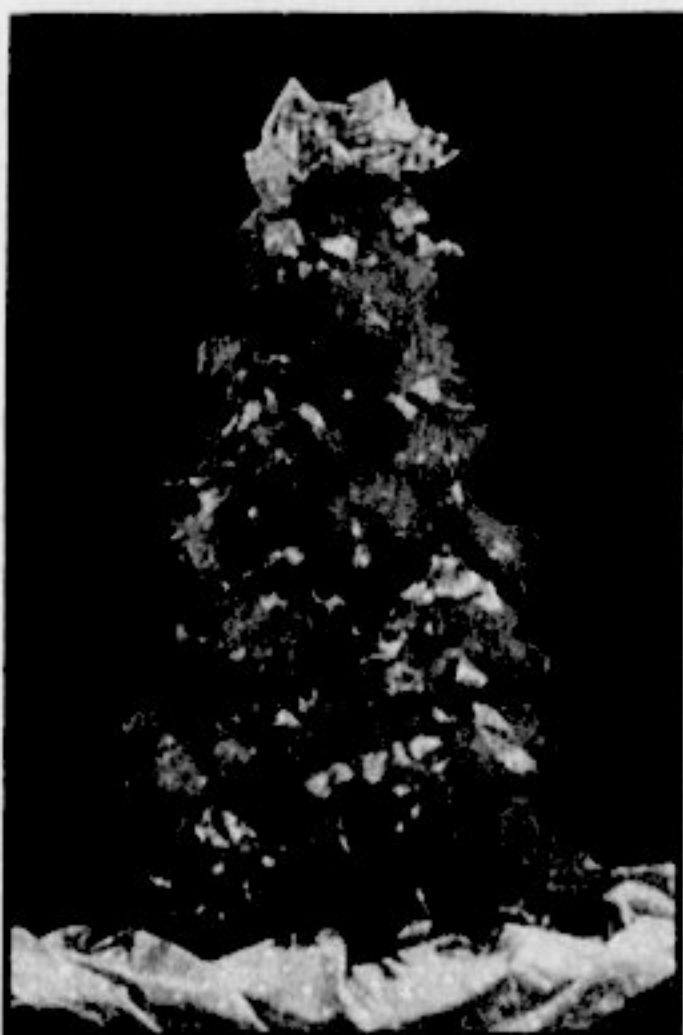
Flocking is spraying adhesive coating to the branches of Christmas trees. The branches of a flocked tree look as if they are covered in snow. Colors other than white are also available.

16. Are real trees more popular than artificial ones?

Most people prefer artificial trees because they require little work. During the 2002 Christmas season, almost 50 percent of households displayed an artificial tree. Only 21 percent used real trees.

17. What are some popular alternatives to traditional Christmas trees?

In warmer regions, many people choose to decorate palm trees instead of the traditional evergreen. Some choose to make their own tree out of everyday items, such as lights and drinking glasses.



RON T. ENNIS/KRT
A four-foot pink turkey feather Christmas tree.

18. Are Christmas trees recyclable?

Real Christmas trees can be used in a variety of ways after the holidays. The trunk and branches can be converted into mulch for the garden. They can also be used as bird feeders or as a refuge for fish in private ponds.

19. Can I replant my tree after the holidays?

Trees that can be replanted, also called "living trees," are gaining in popularity. Living trees are sold with their roots intact so they can be potted or planted when taken home.

20. Are real trees a fire hazard?

Fresh Christmas trees that are watered regularly are generally not a fire hazard. Less than 0.001 percent of Christmas trees are involved in a fire.

— Daniel Cooper,
Fort Worth
Star-Telegram

SOURCES:
THE NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE ASSOCIATION;
AMERICAN FLOCK ASSOCIATION;
TEXAS CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS ASSOCIATION;
HOWSTUFFWORKS.COM;
GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS;
KRT, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION, VIRGINIA CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS ASSOCIATION.

PABLO ALCALÁ/KRT

Deck your halls this season 'Tis' season to indulge yourself

How to decorate your home away from home

LAURA KEELING
SENIOR WRITER

This year you might want to think about adding a little décor to your house, apartment or dorm room to get you in the mood for the holidays. To get started, you might want to ask yourself a very important question: What is Christmas to me?

It might be stockings full of candy, fruit and items too tiny to be wrapped. If that's not it, maybe it's the Christmas tree, beautifully decorated with the fresh smell of pine and ornaments that your family has been collecting for years. Or maybe it's the mistletoe hanging in the doorway, awaiting a special couple to stand underneath for a magical holiday kiss.

No matter what Christmas is to you, there will always be one item that will remind you of sweet memories of holidays past.

Once you have figured out your special item, make it your theme. If stockings tickle your fancy, hang them by the fireplace or on the wall and fill them with all of your favorite goodies. This can be for both you and your guests to enjoy.

If it's the tree that makes you happy and your budget is running low, go to the local tree lot and ask them if you can have a few clippings from the trees (usually they will have a pretty big pile). Bring the clippings home, put them in a vase and you will have the amazing scent without the guilt of buying a tree and worry of it catching on fire.

Another important thing to remember is to be creative. If you want all of your money

to go towards gifts, start looking around. Get some friends together, pop popcorn and string it up to make a special garland. Put a string of lights on the balcony or front porch, and put a wreath on the front door. It doesn't have to be extreme to make the holiday special. By decorating with friends and neighbors, you can build stronger bonds and sense of family.

Take the best memories of Christmas that you have ever had, and make them come alive by decorating with items that remind you of them. Decorating might make you more anxious about going home, yet, it will help to ease the woes of upcoming exams. Relax and let the holiday be a part of your life in your home away from home, right here at good old ECU.

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

KRT — Santa and crowded malls aren't the only holiday traditions.

So is weight gain. Parties. Holiday meals. Wine and spirits.

Americans gain about a pound during the winter holiday season, according to a 2000 study by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

One pound doesn't sound like much but that extra bit tends to accumulate over the years, says Alicia Guerra, a registered dietitian and diabetes educator for Baptist Health Systems in Kendall, Fla.

"One day is not going to cause any problems," Guerra said. "The problem is that most people don't go back to healthy eating and watching themselves."

Downing a huge meal isn't necessarily a heart breaker, either, says University of Miami cardiologist Dr. Robert Myerburg. However, for someone with hypertension or a history of heart failure, the heavy salt load and high-fat content common to holiday meals could lead to cardiovascular problems.

Here, then, are strategies for reducing holiday-induced flab.

SIZE MATTERS, REALLY

Last year, Web designer Donna Holdsworth, 49, a member of the diabetes support group at Hollywood, Fla. Medical Center, started her diet before Thanksgiving and lost about 30 pounds by the time 2003 slipped into history. She hopes to do the same this year.

"Portion controlling worked and I made it through the holidays," said Holdsworth, who is not diabetic but who has a family history of the disease. "My sister came down and baked a bunch of fudge. I had a piece but didn't take the whole box."

"Another thing they stressed is to plan these cheats. If I know something like (the holidays) is coming, beforehand I'll watch my intake a little more. You know you are going to cheat so plan it."

Cathy Lewis, a business owner in Boynton Beach, Fla., said she picks her carbs wisely.

"If we were really honest about holiday treats it would be the side dishes that make us look forward to the meals so much," says Lewis, 50. "Sweet potatoes? Yeah, I can have them as long as



they're not slathered in butter and adorned with marshmallows. Stuffing is also OK made with whole grain breads and vegetables, nuts and fruits."

FOCUS ON ONE THING

Barb and Joe spent the day slaving in the kitchen browning the bird, stuffing it with bread crumbs and cushioning it on a bed of buttery mashed potatoes. You're invited to partake of this feast because you're dating their daughter. Tell Barb how wonderful her stuffing is and make sure she sees you happily spooning some onto your plate. Then go light on everything else.

FILL 'ER UP

"Make sure you don't go to a party on an empty stomach. You won't be inclined to indulge as much," said Ruth Marcus, a registered dietitian with Hollywood Medical Center. Snacks could include cheese, yogurt, veggies, fruits and nuts.

OUTSMART THE BUFFET

Hold your drink in your dominant hand so you rely on your less-coordinated hand to gather the food. (You'll keep from over piling.)

Skip things you can always have, like chips and dips, and choose foods you only get once a year.

Or, be last in line at the buffet and some of the higher fat foods may be gone.

"Let the other people eat too much," Marcus said.

SILENCE IS NOT GOLDEN

Forget your second-grade

teacher's admonishments about being quiet. Self control is for the library.

Be a chatterbox.

Tell dad his goatee makes him look 10 years younger. Discuss the recent election (well, maybe not).

Play music critic and tell everyone why Eminem has lost it. If your gums are flapping you can't be forcing food through 'em.

FORGET TRADITION

When making gravy let the fat harden first, scoop it out and then heat. That saves a whopping 56 grams of fat a cup, Marcus said.

Lighten up the green bean casserole by replacing the high sodium cream soup with chunks of potato or use low-sodium soup.

For the crunchy top, use almonds instead of fried onion rings.

HOLA FIBER

Forty percent of Hispanic preteens — about twice as many as a decade ago — are overweight in America, said Mary Cremeans of the Florida Department of Agriculture citing a 2004 University of Southern California study.

Obesity hits one in three Hispanic children, compared with one in six non-Hispanic children between the ages of 6 and 19, according to a 2000 study by the Centers for Disease Control.

Ethnic dishes can be tinkered with to help. Fiber is your friend.

Insights into meaning of Kwanzaa

African American,
Pan-African holiday

TOMEKA STEELE
STAFF WRITER

Kwanzaa is a holiday celebrating family, community and culture. Kwanzaa though, lasts longer than one day the way that Christmas does. Kwanzaa is celebrated from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1.

Kwanzaa's name is taken from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which is Swahili for "first fruit" in the first harvest celebrations in Africa.

Kwanzaa is founded on five traditional activities of the "first-fruits" harvest celebrations: ingathering, reverence, commemoration, recommitment and lastly, celebration.

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 during the Black Freedom Movement. Maulana Karenga and The Organization Us founded Kwanzaa, and they are also the authoritative keepers of the Kwanzaa traditions. Karenga is a professor and chair of the department of Black Studies at California State University in Long Beach.

Kwanzaa was created for three central reasons. Firstly, Kwanzaa was established to restore the meaning of African culture. Secondly, Kwanzaa reaffirms a close bond between its people. Lastly,

Kwanzaa was created to reinforce the seven principles.

The seven principles or Nguzo Saba are unity (Umoja), self-determination (Kujichagulia), collective work and responsibility (Ujima), cooperative economics (Ujamaa), purpose (Nia), creativity (Kuumba) and faith (Imani).

Kwanzaa adapts these principles from Kawaia philosophy. Kawaia philosophy is a communitarian based African philosophy composed of the best African thought and how it is applied to a changing world.

The seven symbols of Kwanzaa are the crops (Mazao), the mat (Mkeka), the candleholder (Kinara), the corn (Muhindi), the seven candles (Mishumaa Saba), the unity cup (Kikombe cha Umoja) and the gifts (Zawadi). The colors of the Kwanzaa flag are black, red and green. Black is for the people, red is for the struggle and green is for the future and hope for the struggle.

Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday, it is a cultural one and thus can be practiced by African Americans and Africans of all religions.

The main point of Kwanzaa is to remember and stress the importance of learning African culture.

"I do not celebrate Kwanzaa but I do find it very interesting

and informative. I like all the principles Kwanzaa is based on and in the future I will try to incorporate it into my life.

"Like that Kwanzaa is geared toward promoting the bonds between African Americans and our culture," said Tiffany Bonaparte, junior sociology major.

To prepare for Kwanzaa a central area in the home is chosen for decoration with African cloth and then the mat is placed down and all other symbols are placed on it. Next the candleholder is placed on the mat and the candles are placed inside the candleholder. ears of corn as well as the cup of unity are placed on the mat.

The candles are different colors — black, red and green. The family discusses when the candle is lit, its principle that corresponds with it and every one explains how they put that principle to use that day.

After that, a plan is laid out as to how the family will put that principle to use each day of the year.

The last day of Kwanzaa is Jan. 1, which is the beginning of the New Year. This day is the Day of Meditation (Siku ya Taamuli).

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

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Christmas tree arrives at U.S. Capitol



Workers secure the Capitol Christmas Tree on the West Lawn of the building on Monday

KRT — A helicopter extraction from a mountaintop forest. Two miles of parachute cord. A police escort.

A hostage rescue? Not quite. Just a few of the preparations necessary to get the U.S. Capitol's Christmas tree from Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains to the nation's capital Monday.

"The hardest part of the whole trip was just getting everything lined up," said Keith Garman, the service manager for Camrett Logistics, the company in Rural Retreat, Va., that volunteered a semi truck to transport the 67-foot red spruce from George Washington National Forest to the Capitol's lawn. Cut down

Nov. 2, the tree visited more than 30 Virginia towns en route to Washington.

Federal lawmakers adopted the tradition of the Capitol Christmas tree in 1964. Since 1970, it's been cut from Forest Service land, and this year's is the first from Virginia. With help from the Capitol Architect's office, Forest Service officials whittled the pool of eligible native Virginian evergreens to one 79-year-old spruce last July. Once cut, a helicopter plucked it from the forest. Workers tied its branches with parachute cord and steered it onto Camrett's specially built flatbed trailer for highway transport.

The White House's Christmas tree, a comparatively small 18-and-a-half-foot Noble fir donated by John and Carol Tillman of Rochester, Wash., also arrived Monday. First lady Laura Bush received the tree, which was delivered by horse-drawn wagon.

On Monday morning, a crane eased the mammoth Capitol spruce into position on the Capitol's lawn, where it now sits in a poured concrete footing, 5 feet deep. It'll be decorated with 5,000 oversized ornaments made mostly by Virginia schoolchildren - and 10,000 light bulbs before Dec. 9, when House Speaker Dennis Hastert will preside over its ceremonial lighting.

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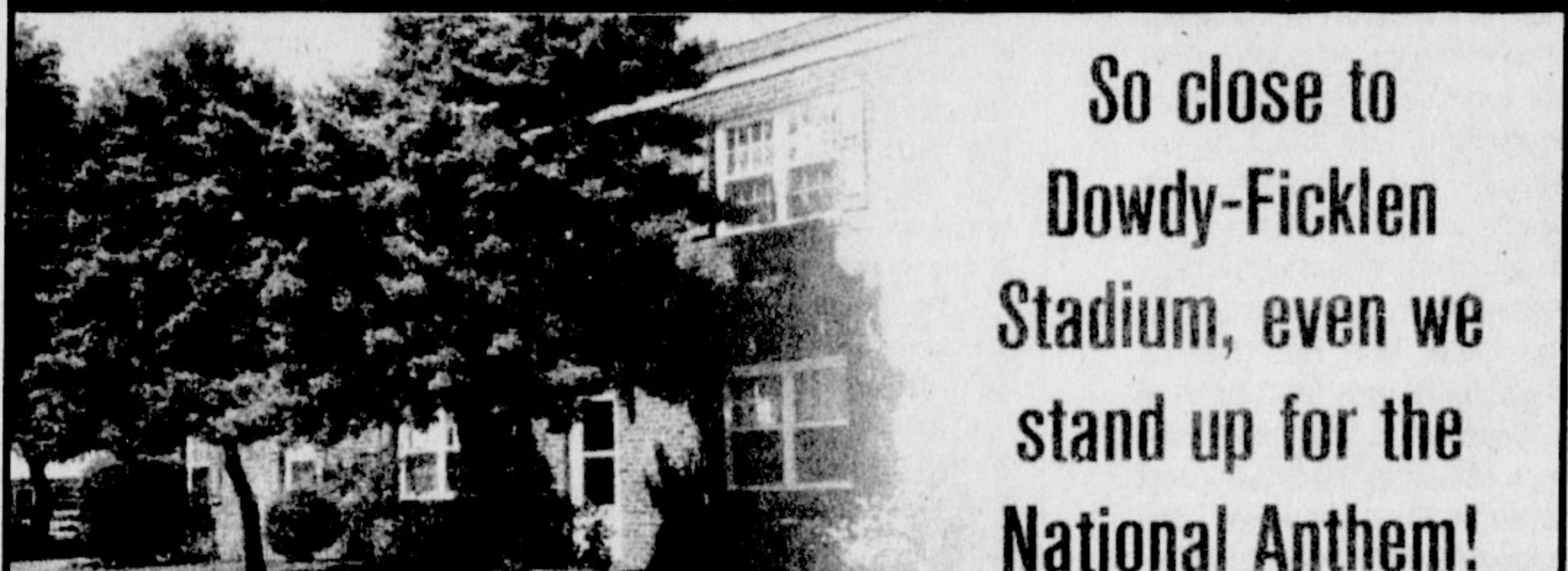
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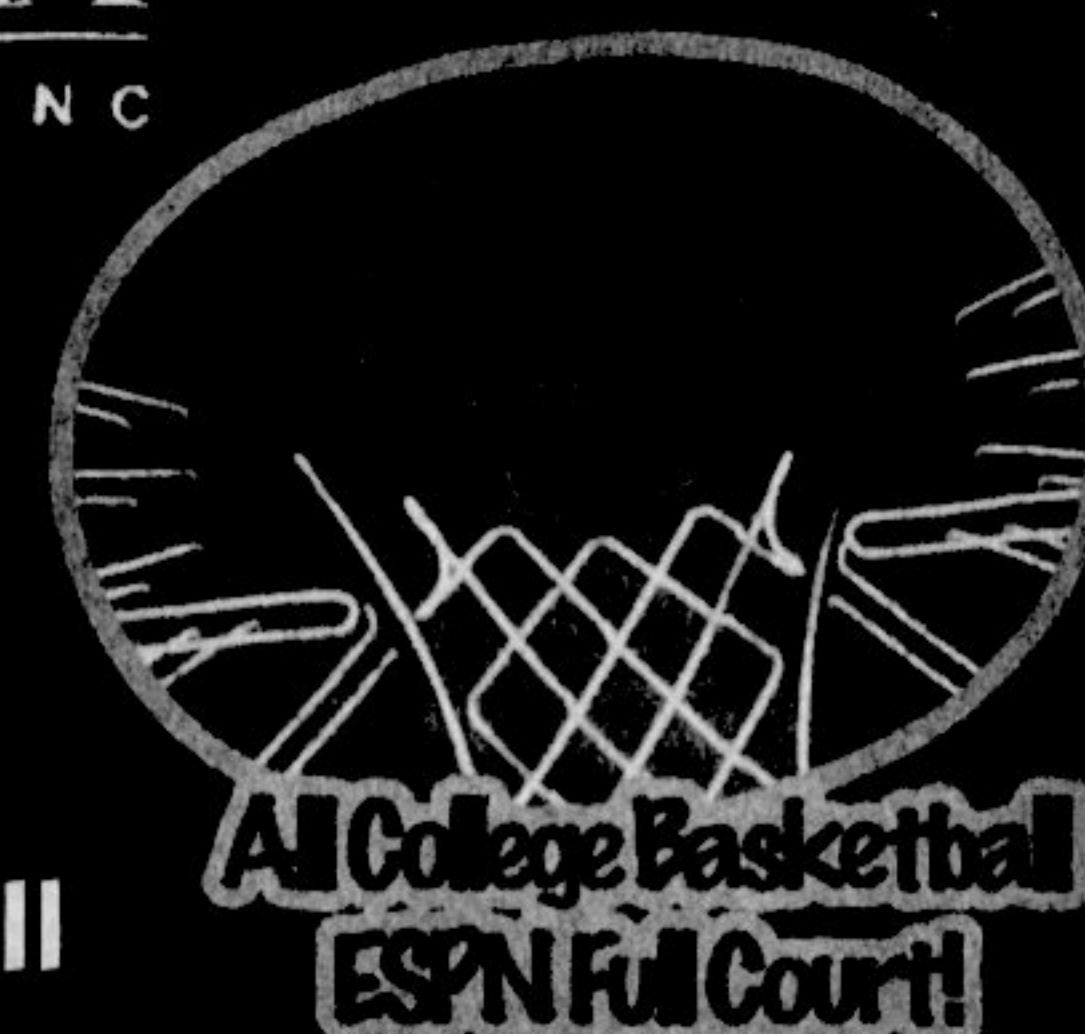
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SPORTS

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TONY ZOPPO Sports Editor BRANDON HUGHES Assistant Sports Editor

THURSDAY December 2, 2004

Sports Briefs

Johnson loses
in coaching debut

As much as the San Antonio Spurs love beating the Dallas Mavericks, this pounding was less satisfying than usual. In defeating their division rivals 107-89 Tuesday night, the Spurs also ruined the pseudo-coaching debut of Avery Johnson, one of the most beloved players in San Antonio history. Johnson's Mavericks never led, but were close at the start of the fourth quarter until Devin Brown sparked a victory-sealing spurt with two three-point plays and two dunks. He finished with 14 of his season-high 16 points in the period, leaving Johnson sulking as he walked off the court, merely nodding and waving to Gregg Popovich, San Antonio's coach and a good friend. Johnson, the handpicked successor of Dallas coach Don Nelson, ran the game as if the job was already his. Nelson was there, too, but offered only suggestions. This was the first of about six such training sessions Nelson hopes to have. Nelson picked this game to start breaking in Johnson because he played most of his 16 seasons for the Spurs, including starting on their 1999 championship club. This was the Spurs' fourth straight win and the second time in a week that they've easily handled the Mavericks.

Browns coach resigns

Butch Davis never wanted to abandon his dream job and all its ego-soothing power. The last-second losses, freaky injuries and intense scrutiny on his family changed his mind. It was time for Davis to go. The Cleveland Browns will move on without him. After arriving three years ago with the promise of winning a Super Bowl title, Davis resigned as Cleveland's coach on Tuesday, leaving the last-place Browns with five games left in another sinking season. Davis' departure came two days after the Browns dropped their fifth straight game, a 58-48 loss that followed a script similar to many others in the Davis Era: close but not good enough. Although he had been promised last week by team owner Randy Lerner that his job was safe for the remainder of this season, Davis decided he wanted out and surprised the team by stepping down. First-year offensive coordinator Terry Robleskie will coach the Browns for the rest of the season. His first game won't be an easy one: The Browns host the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots on Sunday. Davis inherited a 5-27 expansion team devoid of any depth or star players from Chris Palmer in 2001. He went 24-35 during his stay in Cleveland, leading the Browns to a 6-7 record and a playoff appearance in 2002, his second season after leaving the University of Miami. But since then, the Browns regressed, going 8-19 amid a string of close losses, costly injuries and chaos.

Pacers to be charged

Indiana Pacers players will be charged for fighting with fans during the Nov. 19 brawl at the end of a game against the Detroit Pistons, Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorceyca told *The Detroit News*. The prosecutor declined to say which players would be charged or what the charges might be. Auburn Hills police Lt. James Manning told the newspaper he expects four members of the Pacers to face assault and battery charges. Manning said at a news conference Monday that a lawyer for the Pacers told detectives that none of the players would agree to be interviewed by police. Prosecutors could get the police report by the beginning of next week, Manning said. The fight between spectators and players broke out near the end of the game after an on-court dispute over a foul. A fan hurled a drink at Pacers forward Ron Artest, who charged into the stands, followed by teammates. Artest was suspended without pay for the rest of the season by the NBA - Stephen Jackson was suspended for 30 games, Jermaine O'Neal for 25. The players' union appealed those punishments. Police determined that a fourth member of the Pacers, reserve center David Harrison, was involved in the brawl, too, but the NBA didn't suspend him.

Deiner leads talented
Golden Eagles squad

Dameon Mason and Marcus Jackson celebrate a Golden Eagles victory.

Marquette aims for
NCAA tournamentERIC GILMORE
STAFF WRITER

Marquette was the first Conference USA team to advance to the Final Four just two years ago. This year's Golden Eagles want to be the second C-USA team to achieve the feat.

Tom Crean's squad will have to follow the leadership of senior point guard Travis Deiner. The 6-foot, 1-inch guard is being mentioned in the same breath as past point guards Bobby Hurley and Mike Bibby.

The Preseason All-America Candidate was the first C-USA player ever to lead his team in points per game (18.8) and assists per game (6.0). He led his team last year in assists (187), three-pointers (90), three-point percentage (.450), steals (41), free-throws made (136) and minutes per game (34.2) last season.

The 175-pound point guard is a fierce competitor who never wants to come out of a game and will do anything to help his team win. During Deiner's freshman season, Marquette

won 11 more games than the previous year. He and teammate, Todd Townsend have notched 72 wins in their first three years, the most since 1978.

Townsend and junior college transfer Marcus Jackson will help shoulder the load off Deiner's back. Townsend is a veteran that will help the younger players adjust to Crean's system faster. The 6-foot, 7-inch forward will help provide a presence on the glass.

Jackson will have to add production rebounding as well to replace Scott Merritt who graduated. The Illinois native will help tutor the team's three big newcomers.

Junior Steve Novak will play a large role in determining the success of the Golden Eagles. Novak is 6-foot, 10-inch, but still has the ability to set out and shoot the three. He sank eight three-pointers on his way to 30 points last season in a nationally televised upset against Louisville.

Novak was the second-leading scorer last year behind Deiner when he averaged 12.5 points. He also led the team in free-throw percentage at 91.2 percent. He is the leading returning rebounder as well,

corralling in 142 last season.

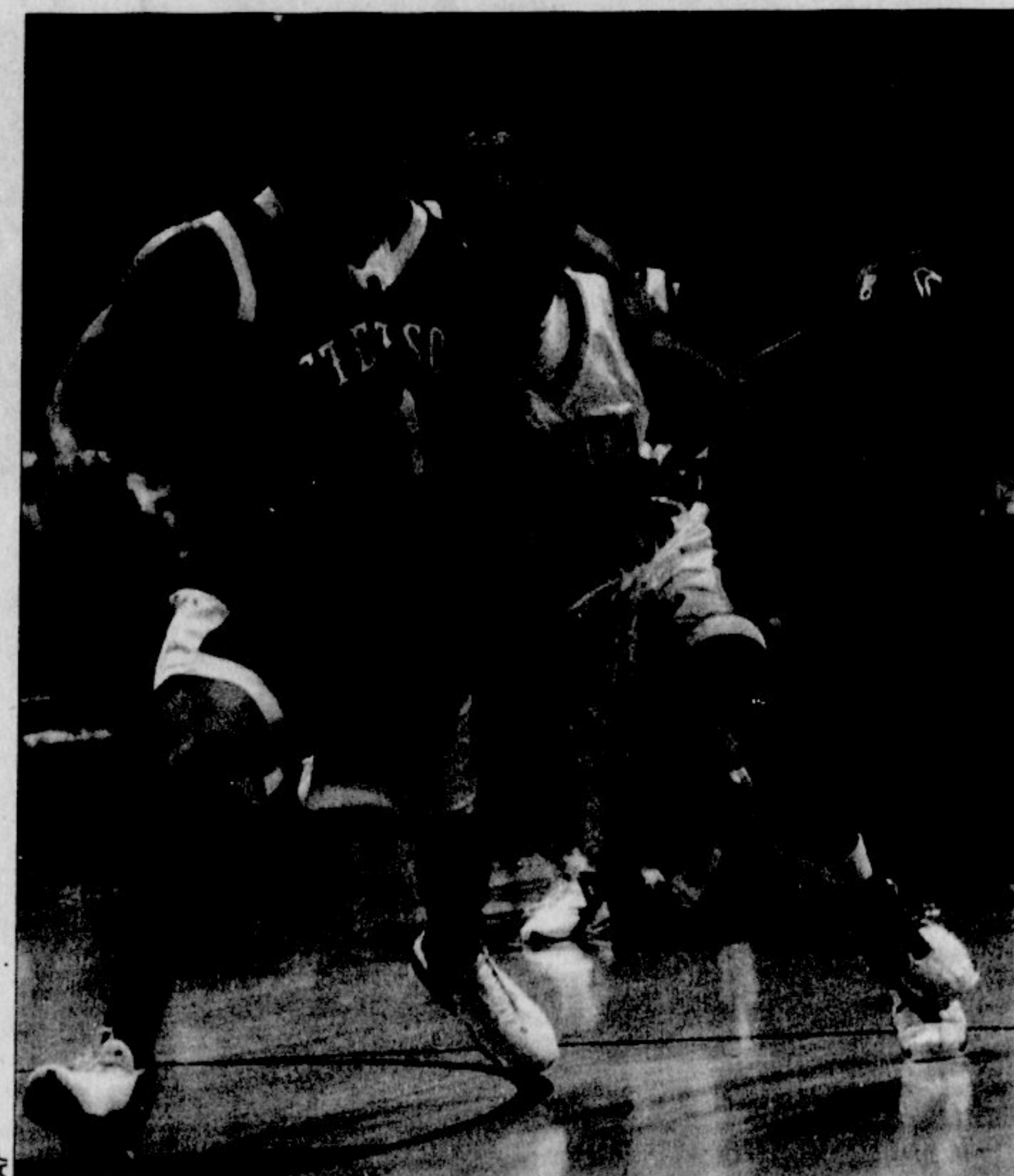
Novak will move to the power-forward position to help move fellow junior Joe Chapman to small forward. Chapman, who played guard last season, will be able to use his quickness to beat bigger players to the basket.

Sophomore Dameon Mason will have the biggest void to fill moving to the guard position. Mason will try to follow in the footsteps of former Golden Eagle Dwayne Wade. The 6-foot, 5-inch guard matured on national television in the aforementioned Louisville game. He sank a shot with eight-tenths of a second left in front of a defender's face to tie the game. After a Louisville timeout, Mason drilled the free-throw to win it.

Fellow sophomores Mike Kinsella and Dan Fitzgerald are both transfers. Kinsella provides some size being a 7-footer. Fitzgerald will have to sit out this season.

Marquette's freshman class is big. Ousmane Barro, a 6-foot, 10-inch, 230-pounder from Senegal knows the American game because he was a foreign-exchange student in Chicago

see EAGLES page B5



USF failed to make the C-USA tournament last season.

Bulls focusing
on improvementSouth Florida head
coach in second yearERIC GILMORE
STAFF WRITER

Each year in Conference USA two teams do not make the postseason tournament. South Florida does not want to have to sit at home again this year.

Second-year coach Robert McCullum thinks the Bulls will be able to surprise some people. In arriving from Western Michigan after former-coach Seth Greenberg left for Virginia Tech, McCullum didn't have much to work with. The Bulls finished last season with only eight players, two of which were walk-ons. This season, that number is up to 15.

McCullum was also handcuffed because he tried to instill a different style of play. The Bulls now implement an aggressive style that pushes the ball in transition while playing a man-to-man defense in the half-court.

In trying to build off a 7-20 record, McCullum only focused on the positives in the off-season. He believes his team is in better physical condition and it will show through conference play.

The Bulls will be led by senior Terrence Leather. Leather was USF's Most Valuable Player as a junior when he became only the eighth Bull to lead his team in both points-per-game (15.5) and rebounding average (8.4). The 6-foot, 9-inch power forward was tenth among C-USA scoring leaders and third in rebounding.

Leather has gained 10 pounds in the off-season to up his frame to 230 pounds. The senior was selected Preseason Third-Team All-Conference. Junior college transfer Maurice Mobled will back up Leather at the power forward position.

The only player to play in every game last season, Bradley Mosley, has been diagnosed with renal cancer and will not play this season. In 2003-2004, he was the only USF player to start every game, averaging 36.9

minutes per outing. He played all 40 minutes in 12 of the Bulls' final 14 games. He was the team's second leading scorer with 14.6 points per game.

James Holmes and true freshman Collin Dennis will have to handle the shooting-guard duties. Holmes, a junior, missed most of last season with a stress fracture in his left ankle. Dennis is a talented combination guard from Texas.

Senior Brian Swift will handle the point guard duties. Swift guided the Bulls' offense last season starting 26 of 27 games. Swift averaged 9.9 points and 4.4 assists his junior season, while logging 35.0 minutes per game. True freshman Montavious Waters and sophomore transfer Chris Capko will help to provide some depth at the point guard position.

Junior college transfers Marius Prekevicius and Marlyn Bryant will compete for time at small forward. Prekevicius averaged 16.2 points in his only season at Weatherford College in Texas. Bryant is coming back from an ACL tear for the second consecutive season.

Three different players, Brandon Brigman, Konimba Diarra and Solomon Jones will all compete for time at center. Brigman is a senior who spent the majority of last season fighting a hernia. Diarra showed promise down the stretch last season. Jones sat out last season after playing his freshman season at Daytona Beach Community College.

Even though McCullum's team was tabbed to finish last in the conference standings, the Bulls should be much improved from a season ago. The learning curve might take longer than expected with USF moving to the Big East next season.

If the Bulls can stay away from the injury bug and grasp McCullum's system, then they might not have to endure watching the postseason conference tournament at home.

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

St. Louis Billikens off to rocky start this season

Team should struggle
in Conference-USABRENT WYNNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The St. Louis Billikens remember very vividly Friday, March 10, 2000. That's the day superstar Kenyon Martin broke his leg during Cincinnati's opening round "warmup" in the Conference USA tournament against St. Louis. Needless to say, the No. 1 Bearcats' hope of a national championship fell to the floor with the fall of their leader, and they watched the Billikens go on to win that game along with the entire tournament.

Ever since the 2000 season however, St. Louis has perpetuated mediocrity year-after-year. Last year's overall record of 19-13 was good enough for a NIT bid, in which the Billikens made a quick exit in round two, falling to Notre Dame 77-66. While the NIT is an accomplishment for most division one schools (even a godsend to others), St. Louis

is known for their basketball supremacy. The Savvis Center is one of the toughest to play in all of college basketball, and Head Coach Brad Soderberg was hired in 2002 to do great things again with this program. Could this be the year?

Let's take a look.

St. Louis returns Reggie Bryant, Izik Ohanon and Anthony Drejai to the starting lineup along with a solid back-up center in Tom Frericks.

As a junior, Bryant averaged 16.4 points per game and 3.9 rebounds per game. The six-foot, two-inch guard gave many opponents match-up problems due to his uncanny ability to get to the basket and create scoring opportunities for himself and his teammates.

Joining Bryant in the backcourt is Drejai. Drejai chipped in last year with 6.5 ppg. However, the speedy junior is known more for his aggressive defense. Drejai averaged close to two steals per contest this year, and with

see ST LOUIS page B5



The Billikens finished 19-13 last season and lost in the second round of the NIT.

Eagles

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Eagles from page B4

last year. Ryan Amoroso is 6-foot, 8-inch, 240-pounds, from Minnesota. Both players will contribute minutes, but under-stand the chain of command.

The Golden Eagles out-of-conference schedule is daunting as usual. Marquette has already won two tournaments, one of which included knocking

off a tough Kent State squad. Marquette will host Arizona and Wisconsin before their conference schedule opens up at Tulane.

Crean has averaged 20.4 wins in his six years at the helm and helped to create a national power in Wisconsin. Crean has received the C-USA Coach of the

Year Award twice. He has solidified success in the future when Marquette will move onto the Big East. The former Michigan State assistant has secured three top-100 commitments for the 2005 class and one for 2006.

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

St Louis from page B4

increased minutes in the 2004 season, that number should go up.

It's a coin toss between who to start at the center position, but Soderberg has chosen to go with Ohanon, who already has experience as a starter. The 6-foot, 9-inch senior averaged 7.2 ppg last season. The big concern about Ohanon is his lack of ability to rebound. Only grabbing an average of 2.8 rpg, the Billikens could be looking more and more to Frericks to fill the void down low.

Frericks, a senior, averaged 7.7 ppg and 6.0 rpg. While obviously the better overall player than Ohanon, Soderberg likes Frericks coming off of the bench as an emotional lift to his players. I would expect this to change soon enough though when Frericks proves

he undoubtedly deserves the starting job.

The wildcard for this Billiken team has to be junior college transfer Vas'shun Newborne. Newborne transferred from Chipola JC where he helped the Indians to a 32-5 record, a conference title and a sixth place finish at the NJCAA tournament. He averaged 11.2 ppg and 7.5 rpg throughout the span of last season.

The only significant freshman to speak of for this year's Billiken squad is Dwayne Polk. While his senior year high school numbers are modest, 14.1 ppg, 4.5 apg and 2.3 spg, Polk is a born leader and has a big-game mentality. As a point guard, he led the Vashon Wolverines to an unblemished 31-0 record and the class 4A state

championship. During the title game, Polk scored 21 points in the third period alone en route to a 38-point outing and the title. This kid will not shy away from the pressure situations, and with Reggie Bryant on his wing pretty much at all times, this Billiken team could be a tough one to handle down the stretch of tight contests.

As far as predictions go, I don't see St. Louis making much noise this year. The conference is as strong as ever from top to bottom, and after starting the season 1-4 against lesser opponents, the Billikens could be in for a long season.

You never know though, and that's why they play the games.

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

Big East doesn't deserve free ticket to ride in BCS

KRT — There, we got that out of the way. Hating the Bowl Championship Series has become such a way of life, dissenters should probably move to Canada.

At the risk of being deported, I've never thought the BCS is the root of all evil. But one obvious flaw has surfaced.

Can anyone explain why the Big East has an automatic bid?

(At this point, at least one reader invariably asks, "What's the BCS, and why should I care?" The BCS is too complicated to fully explain here. But you should care because if America can't come up with an undisputed football champion, are we really any different than Ukraine?)

It would help if all candidates were qualified. The Big East gets one of six automatic bids to a big bowl. That made sense when it had Miami and Virginia Tech. Now they are in the Atlantic Coast Conference, and the Big East looks like the Beatles if Paul and John had left for a better TV deal.

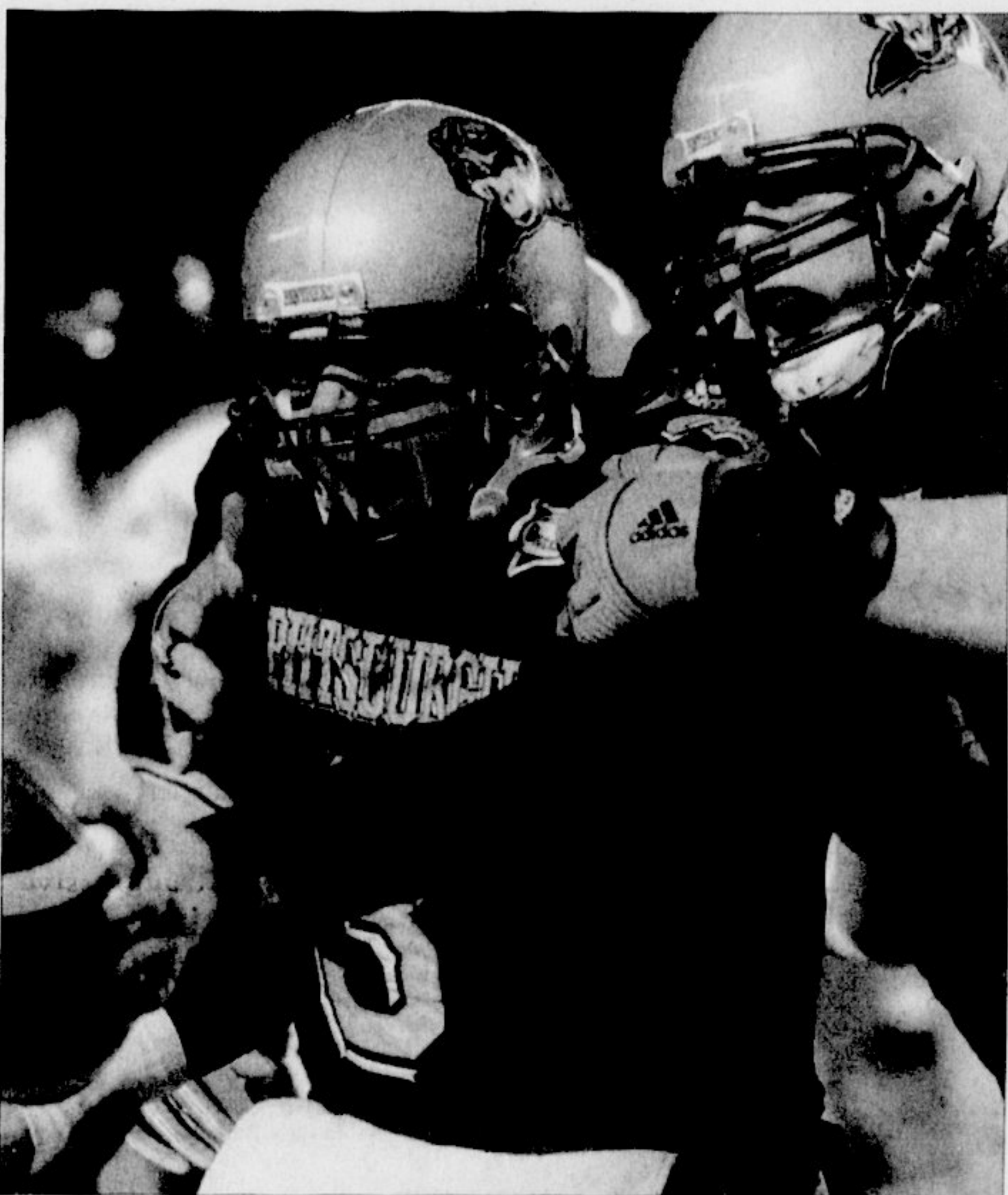
Anyone want to watch Ringo play the Fiesta Bowl?

That would actually be Pittsburgh, where coach Walt Harris spent most of the season trying not to get fired. The Panthers could go 7-4 and still end up in Tempe. That's a nice trick, considering they haven't beaten a top-15 team and lost to the team formerly known as Nebraska.

No wonder Texas coach Mack Brown feels so persecuted. It's one thing to lose out to Oklahoma. It's another to get aced out by a team that needed overtime to beat Furman.

"I think you have to be careful about singling out any conference on a single-year basis," said BCS Coordinator Kevin Weiberg.

This isn't a one-year thing. The Big East roster reads like Auburn's non-conference schedule. Rutgers' main claim to fame the past 25 years is 1983 grad James Gandolfini. He did some ads promoting the football program. Even Tony



Pittsburgh will get a BCS bid with a 7-4 overall record.

Soprano couldn't help the Scarlet Knights.

UConn? Does Rebecca Lobo play quarterback?

Cincinnati and USF are joining next year. If that's the cavalry, you don't want to be a settler.

West Virginia has a decent program. And Louisville is joining next year. But if those are your marquee names, you're still a triple flea-flicker away from being the SEC, Big Ten, Pac-10, Big 12 or ACC.

With Miami and Virginia Tech gone, Big East attendance dipped below 40,000 fans a game this year. Maurice Clarett had that many tutors at Ohio State.

As far as the bowls are concerned, the Big East representative is going to become the Christmas fruitcake. You think the Sugar or Orange or Fiesta bowls want to pay \$14 million for the right to welcome a few thousand Louisville fans to town?

Is there any relief in sight? "I'm not terribly optimistic," said Mountain West Commissioner Craig Thompson.

His rising league has as much claim to an automatic bid as the Big East. But the BCS is all about protecting turf. The Big East got there first, and there's no way it is going to voluntarily leave the money trough.

The only hope is a review system for automatic qualifiers. Nobody knows how it will work. Hopefully, alumni success in HBO dramas won't be a factor.

The BCS is supposed to start discussing the details next year. Just don't expect any change for at least a few years.

"We can only worry about us," Thompson said. "But certainly for this year, the contracts are in place."

Too bad we can't take one out on the Big East's bid. Even Tony Soprano would OK that hit.

Willingham era with Irish ends



Tyrone Willingham was fired on Tuesday after three years at Notre Dame.

AP — Every fading dynasty gets more desperate the further the memories recede, and it turns out Notre Dame is no different.

So Ty Willingham was informed Tuesday, with three years left on the biggest contract in school history and three less-than-satisfying seasons behind him, that he wouldn't be around to see his first recruiting class graduate.

The decision to fire Willingham was made by the university's higher-ups, after what was reported to be an emergency meeting of the university's board of trustees. Exactly what the "emergency" was remains a matter of some speculation. But it fell to athletic director Kevin White to explain why, for the first time in school history, Notre Dame chose not to honor a commitment to its football coach.

"From Sunday through Friday our football program has exceeded all expectations, in every way," White said at a news conference.

"But on Saturday, we've struggled. We've been up and down and sideways a little bit."

If you're searching for a post-mortem to the Willingham era, you won't find a more succinct one. Off the field, he was nearly flawless. On it, the "up" was a stunning 8-0 run Willingham produced at the start of his stay in South Bend — the "down and sideways" covered just about everything since.

His teams went 21-15 over that stretch and lost big games by lopsided scores, the kind of record that would have drawn a pink slip at more than a few traditional football powerhouses, much the same way Nebraska ditched Frank Solich last season and Florida canned Ron Zook with a few games left in this one.

Notre Dame used to pride itself on not being part of that crowd. The Irish made a point of keeping underwhelming, Gerry Faust and overmatched Bob Davie for all five years of their contracts. Now, there's no pre-tending otherwise.

All the other things that made the Irish special once no longer apply. A program that has collected more national titles than any other hasn't brought one home in 16 years, and hasn't seriously contended since 1993. It's been 17 years since a Heisman Trophy was added to the display case. And now patience, always in short supply at Notre Dame, has evaporated as well. That makes the Irish less special still.

To be fair, Willingham knew what the bargain was when he signed on. He knew that waking up the echoes was a lot tougher trick now than in the days when Rockne, Leahy and Parseghian managed to pull it off, especially if he was going to do it while running a clean program.

The only part he got right was that last one. And even that didn't count for much when rivals like Bob Stoops at Oklahoma and Pete Carroll at Southern California were recruiting circles around Willingham and returning their programs to national prominence in less time, all the while steering clear of trouble. They weren't hampered by the tough academic standards that apply at Notre Dame, but Willingham arrived there fresh from a stint at Stanford, where the standards are tougher still.

For all that, there is still no tougher job in the game than the one Willingham had until Tuesday. The Irish are the only team in college football with

a few million unpaid consultants and their own network TV deal. When he showed up on campus, the program was still reeling from the embarrassment caused by George O'Leary's padded resume.

Based on Notre Dame's history, and despite the alumni who began nipping at his heels once the magical 8-0 start yielded a 2-3 finish in his first season Willingham had every reason to believe he'd have more time. Enough time, at least, to put his recruits, his West Coast offense and his philosophy in place. That was before the board of trustees called an emergency session — the emergency apparently caused by reports that the game's hottest young coach, Utah's Urban Meyer, was being seriously courted by Florida.

Meyer is a former Irish assistant and a bona fide offensive genius, a qualification that the higher-ups at Notre Dame apparently believe will get him into the living rooms of all those skilled passers and catchers who crossed Notre Dame off their recruiting lists years ago. Of course, they believed the same thing about Willingham just three years ago.

Meyer, whose Utes are 11-0 and ranked No. 5 in his second season, thinks he knows what he's getting himself in to. He has a clause in his current deal that allows him to leave for Notre Dame without a buyout.

"I have great respect for that university. That's the reason it's in my contract," Meyer said after practice Tuesday.

"I think a lot of people look into it more than what it is."

Maybe so. But the last guy who had the job thought the same thing and look where he is now.

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Indiana fires DiNardo as football coach

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Gerry DiNardo was fired as Indiana's football coach after a 3-8 season that ended with a 63-24 loss to Purdue, the Hoosiers' seventh defeat in eight years to their state rival. DiNardo, who has two years left on his contract, had an 8-27 record in three seasons that were marked by declining attendance.

Fred Eichhorn, president of the school's Board of Trustees, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that DiNardo was dismissed during a meeting Tuesday. Eichhorn did not know when an announcement would be made and athletic department spokesman Pete Rhoda said no announcements were immediately planned.

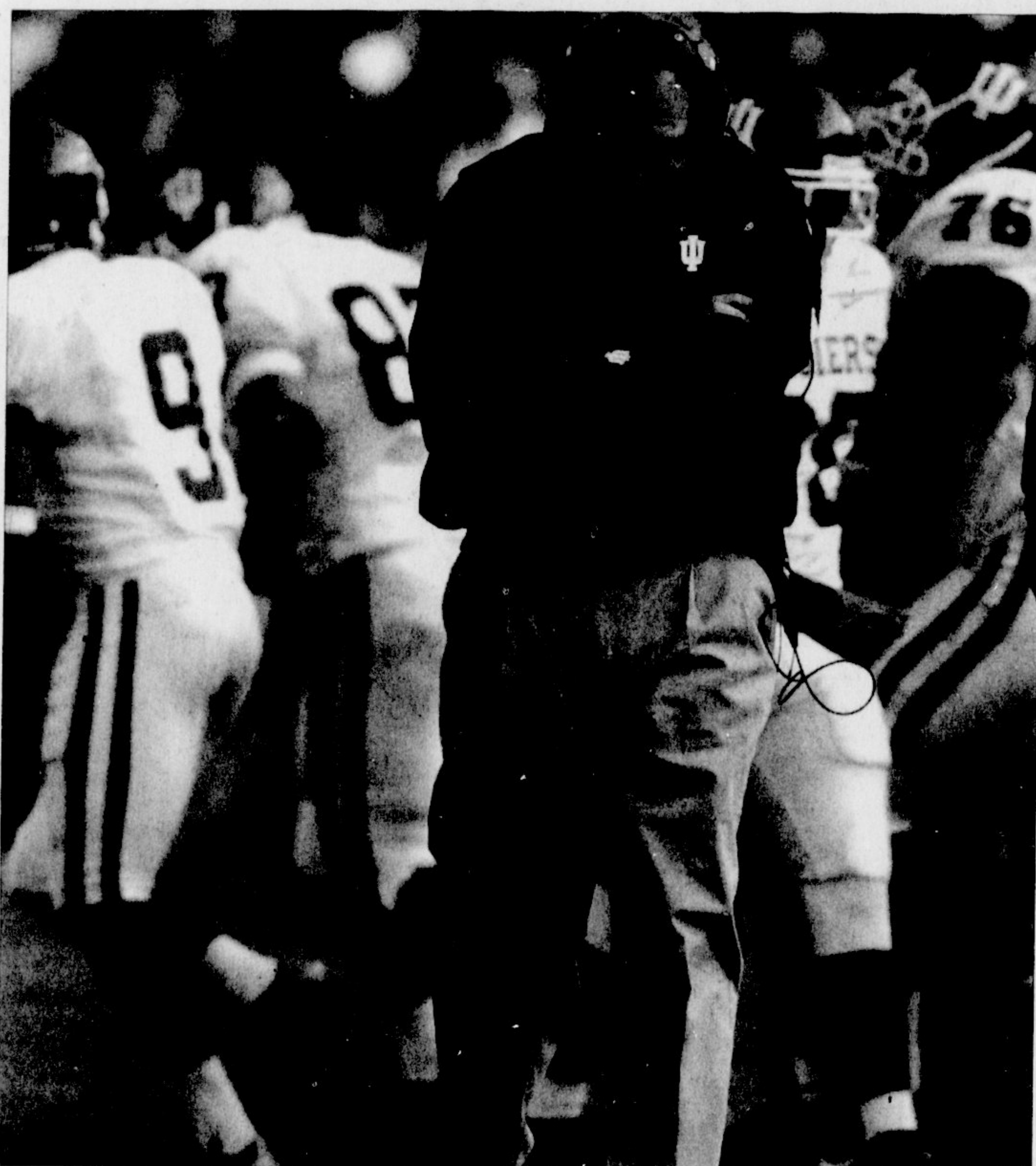
DiNardo replaced Cam Cameron after the 2001 season. After the rout by Purdue, he said "this was just about the worst day we've had as a team."

The firing is the first major coaching change by athletic director Rick Greenspan since he was hired in September as the school's fourth athletic director in a little more than three years.

Crowds kept on the decline at Memorial Stadium during DiNardo's stay, with the Hoosiers ranked near the bottom of the Big Ten in football attendance.

Attendance averaged about 28,400 this season in Indiana's 52,000-seat stadium—down from about 35,000 the year before and the 12th straight year attendance averaged less than 40,000. The Big Ten average for the 2003 season was 72,000.

This season started with promise for the Hoosiers, who opened 2-0 for the first time since 1996 after a road upset of then-No. 24 Oregon. The season quickly soured as the Hoosiers lost their next five games by an average of 16 points before upsetting then-No. 24 Minnesota



Gerry DiNardo departs Indiana after three tumultuous seasons at the helm.

for their only Big Ten victory of the year.

DiNardo's tenure also makes him the 10th Indiana coach since Bo McMillan left in 1947 to fail to produce an overall winning record.

DiNardo inherited a team that was weakened by the departure of

record-setting quarterback Antwan Randle El. This past season was the first time in his three years that the Hoosiers started the season with a full allotment of 85 scholarship players.

DiNardo played at Notre Dame and was a member of the

Irish's 1973 national championship team. He was 32-24-1 at LSU, where he led the Tigers to three straight bowl appearances during 1995-97 but was fired 10 games into the 1999 season. He went 19-25 at Vanderbilt, its best four-year span in 25 years.

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Volume 80

Holtz

Former USC gets five-year

TONY ZOPPO SPORTS EDITOR

It took ECU seven days after the Pirates' new

Chancellor reference Friday a high performer the quality ECU state. He then why ECU select in the years to

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Martin educ on leaders

ALICIA WILLIAM STAFF WRITER

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Audience education

SALMA KHAN STAFF WRITER

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Hisbookcom the down low," being married

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