

What do you think of parking on campus?



ANN MARTIN GRADUATE STUDENT NON DEGREE

I park at the Minges lot. The buses make parking fine. The lot is really big so I never worry about a spot.



AUSTIN HODGE JUNIOR NURSING

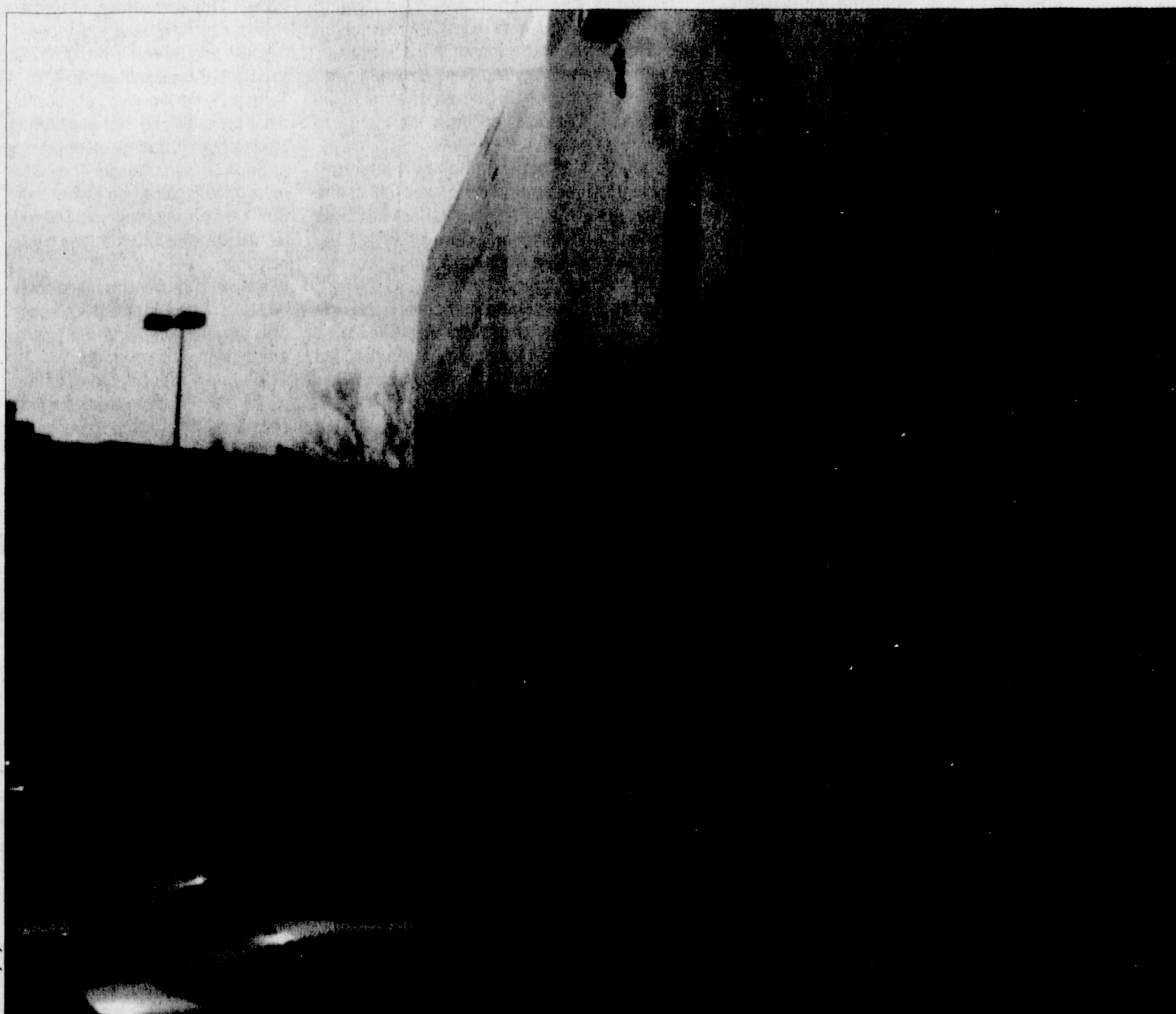
It's a little too far. It's hard to be on time and to deal with bus schedules. I think the teachers could share their parking more. I have seen one of these lots with a lot of open spots.



BILL CALE SENIOR INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

It could be improved. I'm a senior and I remember when we could park on the hill, but they took that away. I have found it is faster to walk from Eicklin to campus than to take the bus.

Parking remains problem on campus



Students continue to find parking on campus a problem as student vehicles are towed nearly every day. The most commonly towed areas are the A Zones and the Brody School of Medicine.

Parking officials urge understanding

COLE WAHAB STAFF WRITER

Parking on campus remains a constant problem for students, faculty and staff, whether parking on the outskirts of ECU or near residence halls.

Despite several policies put in place by Parking and Transportation Services to improve parking, the issue remains a steady concern and is still commonly talked about on campus. A parking deck, which would seem like an easy solution to the whole problem, has been debated by Greenville for years.

Mike Van Derven, director of parking and transportation,

said he understands the need for a parking deck, but the expense would be simply too high.

"A basic deck starts at about \$7 million ... monthly operating costs of the deck [and] annual maintenance is very expensive," said Van Derven.

"When they did a survey here about building a deck, they anticipated that if they were to build it, the permit costs would

be in the range of about \$800 and of course, most people do not find that palatable."

Van Derven said the majority of the problem originates with the location of the parking spaces, not the abundance of them.

"There is adequate space. The biggest problem is that they aren't exactly where people want them," Van Derven said.

"I've got at least 500 C [zone]

spaces out by Belk Allied Health that I need taken up, but no one wants to park in a C zone out there and ride the transit system."

Van Derven said above all else, the most important thing students need to understand about parking on ECU is it's a privilege.

"They [students] really have to understand there is parking for everyone when you purchase a permit ... they've got to realize it's a privilege," Van Derven said.

"What happens a lot is people try to get around the system ... it's about correct parking."

Van Derven said most vehicles towed are either parked in the A zones or by the Brody School of Medicine.

"I would say at least 80 percent of the towing comes from those lots," Van Derven said.

According to Van Derven, effective Jan. 1, towing companies who remove vehicles from campus will increase their towing charges. Basic daytime towing charges will increase from \$30 to \$50 while nighttime towing will go up from \$50 to \$75. Once the vehicle is towed, there will be no storage fee for the first 24 hours, but afterward, the owner will be charged \$15 for every day their vehicle is kept on the towing company's grounds.

Van Derven said he feels people will look at this price increase in the wrong way.

"It's done actually as an incentive to get your car picked up," Van Derven said.

Courtney Simmons, junior elementary education major who lives off campus, thinks parking on campus has become too much of a hassle and believes some solutions need to be found.

"I definitely think a parking deck is needed on campus," said Simmons.

Simmons said despite the price of the parking deck, the money is going to have to come from somewhere because we will not be able to avoid it for much longer.

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



Wind patterns and water temperatures are dramatically altered with the meteorological phenomenon El Niño.

Professor works with NASA scientists, develops El Niño predicting device

Model uses rainfall as tracking predictor

MICHAEL HARRINGTON STAFF WRITER

ECU professor Scott Curtis helped develop an El Niño prediction model that would help determine when an El Niño might occur.

The device traces winds that stir up the ocean and change the temperature structure, tracing this phenomenon back to the source, the Indian Ocean, and carefully monitors changes in rainfall.

Curtis said the basic idea behind the El Niño predictor is to make a statistical model that will help predict when an El Niño might occur, thereby limiting the

negative effects it can potentially bring. This new model captures rainfall data and relies on shifts in the data to determine when an El Niño might occur. It is a continuation of studies using winds and rainfall as a predictor.

So far they have been able to have a great deal of success in predicting when an El Niño might occur.

"It's been successful," said Curtis. Curtis' new statistical model will strengthen the ability to determine when an El Niño might occur.

El Niño is a warming of the eastern Pacific Ocean, which occurs every two to seven years bringing climactic changes.

The negative effects of El Niño can lead to a serious increase in rainfall that causes flooding

in some areas of the world and severe drought from a lack of rainfall in other areas.

Curtis said there are not only negative effects accompanying this weather phenomenon.

"There are some good effects and some bad effects," Curtis said.

Curtis said an example of a positive effect would be the Atlantic Ocean's hurricane season which is weakened causing fewer hurricanes and therefore less damage when there is an El Niño.

Curtis worked at the government agency NASA for five years prior to coming to ECU where much of this research was done and left this summer on a faculty grant to continue sharing ideas with other scientists at NASA.

While working on the faculty grant, Curtis was able to notice a shift in rainfall in the Indian

Ocean forced by winds prior to an El Niño in 2002-2003. From here he helped further develop a system that recorded the rainfall to use it as a predictor.

"There was a change in the rainfall pattern and at the same time there was a flip flop of dry to wet," Curtis said.

By matching patterns of rainfall from different time periods they are able to predict when El Niño might occur.

Curtis said although he is keeping up with his research down here, it is still quite helpful to work with other scientists and keep up to date the latest satellite technology being employed by NASA to track climate effects.

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

Speaker gives tribute to MLK

Activist recalls experiences during Civil Rights movement

CHRIS MUNIER STAFF WRITER

Dick Gregory, civil and human rights activist, addressed dozens in attendance at the Murphy Center Monday evening paying respects to his colleague, Martin Luther King, Jr.

Gregory was one of the activists in the Civil Rights movement that was at the epicenter of the movement in the 1960s. He discussed several accounts of his marches, protests, imprisonments and hunger strikes.

"We try to bring in heavy hitters. Dick Gregory is a living legend," said David Dennard, associate professor of history.

Gregory spent the evening discussing the tsunami disaster, politics, history and racism. According to Gregory, the movement King led was responsible not only for improved civil liberties for blacks, but for ending tyranny against women as well. However, he said most people know little about the importance of the movement.

"This planet has never been the same and the reason you, as Americans, don't know that is because the white, racist, insane system hasn't told you," said Gregory.

Gregory also used this lecture as an opportunity to voice his disgust for the misuse of religion by people in power. He said it is absurd that private colleges put on a display of God worshipping yet they have school mascots of hellish figures like "Blue Devils" or "Demon Deacons." He said the rising suicide rates at Harvard and MIT is



Dick Gregory retells stories of his past days during the Civil Rights movement.



ECU planned this event as part of its tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. This tribute continues on Jan. 17 with a candle light vigil and march on College Hill at 5:30 p.m.

evidence of something badly wrong with America's system of higher education.

"The more education, the more freaky you get," Gregory said.

"God don't give a damn about no doctor's degree."

Gregory said there is not enough homage paid to King for what he did. He said if not for King, blacks would not be

see GREGORY page A2

Campus News

Delta Week

As part of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Delta Week, there will be an Open Mic Night on Jan. 12 in 244 Mendenhall from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Club Baseball

Club baseball tryouts will be from Jan. 12 - 15 from 3:45 p.m. until sunset and Jan. 16 from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. at J. H. Rose High School. A van will be at the bottom of College Hill at 3:15 p.m. for those who do not have any means of transportation. If you have a schedule conflict, please send an e-mail to clubbaseball@mail.ecu.edu. For more information visit www.ecu.edu/org/clubbaseball.

Commuter Breakfast

Student Professional Development is hosting the Good Morning Commuter Breakfast Jan. 20 from 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the lower level in MSC. Bruce Maxwell, associate director of Student Professional Development, will be available to talk about career services provided by SPD.

True Colors

True Colors is a two-hour workshop that is a fun, informative communication system. It is based on the Meyers-Briggs Type Indicator and the work of David Keirsey and is a research-based approach to understanding human behavior and motivation. There is no charge, but only the first 50 people to sign up will be admitted. The event will be offered Jan. 25 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. and Jan. 26 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. To sign up, contact Paula Kennedy-Dudley by Friday, Jan. 21 at 328-6824.

Great Decisions 2005

Beginning Jan. 22, ECU will sponsor the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions Program. The event includes a series of lectures held every Saturday from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the New Rivers West Auditorium for eight consecutive weeks. Topics will range from the Middle East and Russia to Intelligence Reform and Overseas Job Outsourcing. Attending costs \$49 for all eight programs, which includes the textbook. Full-time students and teachers can attend for free and purchase the book for \$15. They can also earn teacher renewal credits or continuing education units for attendance.

Lacrosse

The ECU men's Club Lacrosse Team will have a mandatory meeting for all who want to play this spring Jan. 13 at 7 p.m. in 202 SRC. If you cannot attend and are still interested, please contact either Jamie Montgomery at 443-253-4009 or Tim Connolly at 410-294-9913. You can also e-mail at eculax@earthlink.net.

Victory Campus Ministries

Victory Campus Ministries will meet every Thursday at 8 p.m. in MSC.

MLK Holiday March

This annual candlelight vigil and march in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held Monday, Jan. 17 at 5:30 p.m. The march will begin at College Hill. For details contact David Dennard at 328-4364.

Community Unity Breakfast

The Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce, the Office of the Mayor and the City of Greenville will host this annual event at the J.H. Rose high School Auditorium Jan. 17 at 7:30 a.m. This is an event to celebrate and recognize the diversity and unity of the Greenville community. Attorney and motivational counselor, Earl T. Brown will be speaking. Brown is also a volunteer mediator for the Eastern Carolina Mediation Center. For more information, please call 752-4101.

Faculty Recital

The School of Music will be hosting a faculty recital at A.J. Fletcher Music Hall Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. For more information, call 328-6851.

Want your event printed in TEC? Please send your announcement along with the date, time, location and contact information to antnewseditor@theeastcarolinian.com.

News Briefs

Local

Charlotte group wants Confederate flag down
CHARLOTTE, NC - A Confederate battle flag flying over the graves of Civil War soldiers in a city-owned cemetery should be placed in a glass case and flown only on designated days, according to draft recommendations from a city committee.

"We thought this was respectful to the history but also respectful of the community," said committee vice chair Angeles Ortega-Moore. The group also suggest replacing the battle flag at Elmwood Cemetery with another Confederate flag, such as the NC State Flag of 1861. The Charlotte City Council must still approve the recommendations, but flag supporters oppose what they've heard so far.

"If this is their recommendation, we will fight it," said Mark Alexander Palmer, who has relatives buried at Elmwood. "This flag represents what these men fought and died under. It represents their beliefs. They have the right to have it flown over their headstones."

The city's Community Relations Committee has studied the issue since July, when Charlotte City Council member Warren Turner said he wanted the flag lowered because he worried people would believe the city endorsed it.

Turner said Sunday he didn't want to take a stand on the recommendations, but said he was "not sure whether a flag should be there at all." Supporters, including the Sons of Confederate Veterans, say the flag honors Southern history. Critics say it's a symbol of hate.

The community relations committee held a public forum in October, set up a Web site for feedback and researched how other cities have handled the issue.

Ortega and committee chair Don Steger said they did not anticipate any major changes to the recommendations. The committee will meet later this month to settle on the final proposal. City Manager Pam Syfert will then make a recommendation to the City Council, which has the final say.

Duke's energy plan challenged

CHARLOTTE, NC - A group challenging Duke Energy's plan to test fuel containing a small amount of weapons-grade plutonium has focused attention on the public's ability to assess the security of nuclear power plants.

Charlotte-based Duke plans to begin tests this spring of mixed-oxide, which contains weapons-grade plutonium, at its Catawba nuclear plant on Lake Wylie. In theory, terrorists could sabotage or steal plutonium once meant to detonate nuclear weapons.

The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League believes MOX fuel is dangerous and wants to stop the tests. But the group has been denied access to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission documents that Blue Ridge claims could prove that Duke's security measures aren't adequate. Blue Ridge argues that Duke should not be granted the exemptions it has requested from some security measures for protecting the MOX test fuel.

Those measures, such as maintaining a tactical response team and erecting additional physical barriers, are tailored for facilities that handle plutonium. Duke says the safeguards it already has in place perform the same functions.

A hearing on Blue Ridge's security claims was to begin Tuesday at NRC headquarters in Rockville, Md. It's closed to the public.

In May, the NRC staff found that Duke has toughened its security to protect the MOX fuel. The exemptions Duke seeks are legal and won't pose undue risks to public safety, the staff said. The commission has allowed Blue Ridge's attorney and technical expert, who have low-level security clearances, access to some material on condition they don't divulge the information.

National

Helicopter crashes into Potomac River

OXON HILL, Md. - A medical helicopter crashed into the Potomac River, killing at least one person. A second person was rescued from the river and a third remained missing Tuesday. The Life Evac helicopter went down just south of the Woodrow Wilson

Bridge around 11 p.m. Monday. Life Evac transports patients from one medical facility to another.

"One survivor was found clinging to the wreckage; another victim was found [dead] at the wreckage," said Maryland State Police Sgt. Rob Moroney. The search continued Tuesday morning for the third person.

Authorities said the helicopter just completed a drop-off at the Washington Hospital Center and was returning to its base in Stafford, Va., when it went down. No patient was said to be on board.

"I saw a helicopter come across the bridge," said Maryland State Police Sgt. Billy Dunston, who was stationed at the Wilson span. "It looked pretty low to me when it went across, but I didn't see it come out the other side."

A passer-by, Arthur Stewart, helped Dunston by pinpointing where the helicopter went into the water.

"It didn't seem real. I thought it would go down and come back up," said Stewart, 39, of Washington.

The survivor clinging to the wreckage was rescued by boat. The man, whose name was not released, was in fair condition Tuesday at the Washington Hospital Center.

"We have interviewed the survivor and he believes they may have hit something," Moroney said.

The aging Wilson Bridge is being replaced with a new span, and there are many large cranes at the site. Authorities said they don't know if they played a role in the accident.

A National Transportation Safety Board investigation was launched.

Drug companies launch discount card for uninsured

WASHINGTON - Ten major drug manufacturers unveiled a new discount card Tuesday that could help millions of uninsured Americans save money on prescription drugs. The Together Rx Access Card program allows those who meet income and age requirements to save 25 percent to 40 percent - and sometimes more - on more than 275 brand-name prescription drugs and a host of generic drugs.

It's the latest in a trend by drug makers to offer their own discount cards for those without health care coverage struggling to pay skyrocketing drug prices.

"It's free to get, it's free to use and the savings are real," said Roba Whitely, executive director of Together Rx Access. "The companies in Together Rx Access have stepped forward because they all feel it's the right thing to do and they are able to do it."

To qualify for the card, applicants must be under 65, not eligible for Medicare and have no other private or public drug coverage. They also must have incomes no higher than \$30,000 for a single person, \$40,000 for couples and \$60,000 for a family of four.

Whitely said the benefits could cover 80 percent of the 45 million Americans who are uninsured and don't carry prescription drug coverage.

Consumer groups have called similar discount cards a way for drug companies, rather than the government, to control who saves money and how much is saved. The cards offer some savings from already high prices while attracting new customers for the companies' products.

"It's a positive step but at the same time it strongly underscores the need for governmental action to expand coverage for the uninsured," said Ron Police, executive director of consumer group FamiliesUSA. "That has not been a priority for this administration."

International

Israel's Sharon to call Abbas

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told his Cabinet on Tuesday that he hopes to meet newly elected Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas in the "near future" - the latest sign that the two sides are trying to work toward peace after years of stalemate.

Abbas, fresh from a landslide victory in an election to replace Yasser Arafat as head of the Palestinian Authority, offered peace talks to Israel on Monday just as Sharon was installing a new, dovish government that favors withdrawing from Gaza and part of the West Bank.

Sharon, at the first meeting with his new Cabinet, including Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, said he would call Abbas later Tuesday and the two would discuss setting up a meeting, an official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"I plan on talking to Mahmoud Abbas later in the day to congratulate him," Sharon was quoted as saying. He said the meeting would be "in the near future" and focus on security-related issues.

A senior Defense Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israel is ready to hand over to the Palestinians security duties in West Bank cities. The official said discussions with the Palestinians on the matter would likely begin in the coming days.

But clouds hovered over both leaders on Monday, despite their victories.

While pledging to work with Abbas, militant Palestinian groups challenged his triumph at the polls, claiming not enough voters took part.

As for Sharon, the narrow 58-56 parliamentary vote in favor of his new team, allowing it to take office, was possible only with the support of a dovish opposition party. His own Likud Party split over his plan to remove all 21 settlements from Gaza and four from the West Bank in the summer.

Yanukovich camp vows to challenge Yushchenko's victory

KIEV, Ukraine - Allies of opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko refrained from celebrating Tuesday, a day after election officials declared him the winner of Ukraine's presidential election, anticipating another court challenge from his Kremlin-favored rival.

The final official tally of the Dec. 26 vote showed Yushchenko with 52 percent and Viktor Yanukovich with 44 percent, the Central Election Commission announced late Monday.

But the results must be approved by the Supreme Court and published in two official government newspapers before Yushchenko can be inaugurated. The results were not published Tuesday.

That could leave Yanukovich's campaign a window for more legal actions. On Monday the court rejected eight previously filed appeals by the former prime minister. Yanukovich's campaign had been expected to immediately challenge the results but had not done so by the time the court opened on Tuesday, court spokeswoman Lyana Shlaposhnikova said.

Indonesian survivor camp grows by the day

CALANG, Indonesia (AP) - The trickle of moisture dripping down a rock has become a drinking water supply at this city-turned-refugee camp. It's also the shower. And the trash dump.

Tsunami victims from all around the ruined city of Calang, 70 miles south of Banda Aceh, have been arriving daily to a growing settlement that local officials say has swelled to some 7,000 survivors.

As the camp grows, considerations left behind have been sanitation and preserving clean sources of water, meaning conditions such as diarrhea are becoming rampant and raising the threat of other diseases, doctors here say.

Refugees are rigging leftover pieces of corrugated metal to branches to create makeshift cabins, sheltering their families on the hillsides ringing this former fishing town where not a single building was left standing after the tsunami hit Dec. 26.

U.S. Navy and other helicopters have been running regular flights to Calang to ferry in supplies. Children play in the now-gentle waves alongside two Indonesian navy amphibious ships

sitting on the shoreline with aid and a clinic - one of three now located here. The city's own 10 doctors all died in the tsunami.

Aid supplies in the city itself now aren't the problem, said Syafrizal, logistics coordinator for the local government, standing next to heaps of donated clothes. It's getting the supplies to isolated areas nearby where helicopters or boats are the only means for carrying cargo - severely limiting the amount of aid that can be delivered.

"We have some supplies, we have food here," said Syafrizal, who like many Indonesians uses only one name. "But we have problems with how to drop it to other camps."

If the aid won't come to the people, the people will come to the aid.

Sarifuddin Puteh, 32, came from the village of Tenom with nine other neighbors to gather supplies for the estimated 1,000 people left alive. He said helicopters came every day, but only brought biscuits one day or water and medicine the next - meaning families were running low on rice, the main staple of the Indonesian diet.

Gregory from page A1

welcome to go see some "rat" in Disney Land. Gregory said instead of doing that why not find time to visit King's grave at least once?

Gregory informed everyone that he neither cared what people thought of him nor did he need them to validate what he says.

Gregory told a story about when he broke world records in track and how they were simply ignored because he was on a Negro team. He eventually got over his disappointment and later declared he did not value any validation from racist entities.

Gregory spoke several times about his habits of fasting. His methods of resistance have been non-violent throughout his entire career as an activist. Not only did he fast during his marches with

King but also in protest of the Vietnam War and during the Iranian hostage crisis as well. He lived off a liquid diet for 100 days during 1980.

The people in attendance at the Murphy Center approved and applauded Gregory's messages.

His concerns for society rested on his thesis that powerful officials are using the institutions of religion and fear to maintain a stranglehold on society. In regard to conservatism, Gregory said black people have always been rather conservative but rich white people use conservatism to hide racism.

"Fear and God don't occupy the same space," said Gregory.

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

Outer Limitz Bowling Classic League

Highlights:

- Four member mixed (M) or F (any mix) Teams.
- Winning Team will have picture plaque posted in the Outer Limitz.
- Highest Average Male & Female will win Bowling Balls.
- Top Team wins Bowling League T-shirts!
- No Experience necessary to join!

Mendenhall Student Center: East Carolina University Recreations Office

Outer Limitz Bowling
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East Carolina University
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Our View

How resolute are your resolutions?

Another year has come and gone and 2005 is among us, along with a new and challenging semester. With the New Year, New Year's resolutions inevitably follow. For many years, people have started the New Year off making resolutions with all the good intentions of keeping them, but by some force, resolutions are continually broken.

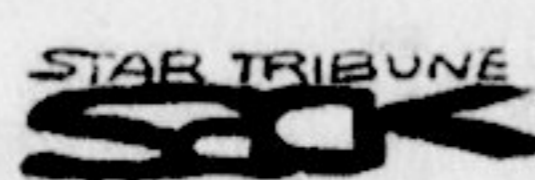
According to goalsguy.com, "The tradition of New Year's resolutions goes all the way back to 153 B.C. Janus, a mythical king of early Rome, was placed at the head of the calendar. With two faces, Janus could look back on past events and forward to the future. Janus became the ancient symbol for resolutions and many Romans looked for forgiveness from their enemies and also exchanged gifts before the beginning of each year."

Different parts of the world celebrate New Year's at different times and with different rituals. The United States' ritual of kissing at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve derived from masked balls. The masks symbolize evil spirits from the old year and the tradition of the kiss is meant as the purification into the New Year.

The Top 10 most common New Year's resolutions according to goalsguy.com are lose weight, stop smoking, stick to a budget, save or earn more money, find a better job, become more organized, exercise more, be more patient at work/with others, eat better and become a better person.

The first week in January marks the New Year's resolution week, founded by Gary Ryan Blair. He quotes, "New Year's is the only holiday that celebrates the passage of time. Perhaps that's why, as the final seconds of the year tick away, we become introspective. Inevitably, that introspection turns to thoughts of self-improvement and the annual ritual of making resolutions, which offer the first of many important tools for remaking ourselves."

Although New Year's resolution week has gone, *TEC* hopes that your resolutions have not. Whether you've chosen to lose weight or to become a better person, stick to your resolutions. The New Year brings exciting opportunities for all and we hope that 2005 is the beginning of a bright future for all here at ECU.



Opinion Columnist

Rachel Landen's series of odd events

Life's more silly than sentimental

RACHEL LANDEN
STAFF WRITER

It's all in my sentimental nature to think back over past events, reminisce about days gone by and reflect on the people and times that have been a part of my life. What better time to do that than at the end of one year and the beginning of another?

Thus, I sat down to write my first column of 2005, remembering the good, the bad and the ugly of the past year. It was a full year in all the traditional aspects but it was also especially complete with memorable moments, some I love to recall and others I would prefer to forget.

Anyway, somewhere in the midst of my musings, I thought of a conversation I recently had with a friend. We seemed to be attempting to top one another with more extreme stories of peculiarities in each of our lives. Four bizarre things had happened to me since we last talked — she detailed three of her own wacky situations.

Based on the count, I suppose I won, although maybe being the winner in this instance actually made me the loser. Forget *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events* — we decided



there should be a movie about Rachel Landen's series of odd events.

Speaking of movies, take for instance the story of this same friend and me in Blockbuster one weekend. While looking at the new releases and trying to agree on a movie to rent, a rather large male approached our aisle and began stuffing DVDs into his pants.

I was like a deer caught in the headlights — completely shocked and frozen in place. However, the shoplifter in sweatpants just smiled casually and picked up a few more movies, as if he were simply stowing them in a shopping cart before checking out. I was too stunned to know how to respond, although I cannot imagine myself encouraging a man three times my size to put the stolen goods back on the shelf. I'm not even sure that Blockbuster

would want them back after their temporary storage.

But this situation seems to pale in comparison to one in which my friend's family found themselves just the other day. Once again, it took place in a store, this time at Victoria's Secret. I could retell the story to each of you in my own words but I think that the e-mail from her mother says it best.

"We saw a cowboy in Victoria's Secret last night. He was walking around and was carrying thong underwear on his fingers. He kept saying, 'I have lost my woman. I don't know where she is.' (My advice to her would have been to run while you could.) What a sight. A lady there said he was carrying the underwear around like a lasso. We all laughed and laughed. It was quite an experience. Where do these people come from?"

Good question. But if last year is any indication, it doesn't matter where they came from — all that matters is that they will most certainly turn up once again this year.

That's the great thing about a new year. You might not be able to count on yourself to keep your resolutions but you can be assured that you will find yourself in an occasional odd situation. It might not sound so attractive right now but at least you'll have something to smile about when you look back on 2005. And that's what really matters anyway, isn't it?

Pirate Rant

People, the library is for studying not talking to your friends on your cell phone. And if you do get a call, tell them you will call them back or step outside or somewhere away from where people are studying, don't just sit there and talk in a normal speaking voice.

I know it is the first week of school and everyone is stressed, but student employees deserve respect. We are all trying to figure out our schedules and buy books just like everyone else. All we ask is that you be patient and chill out.

To my roommate who is always extremely hot: It is officially January and still gets cold at night. Turn the air conditioner off and stop turning me into an icicle. If you want some cold air, open your windows.

I get so sick and tired of ECU students complaining about hard exams, 8 a.m. classes and doing work on the first day of classes. You are supposed to be here to learn. If not, drop out so someone who wants to be here can have your spot. By the way, on a 10-point scale, a 79 is a C. If you want a B, earn it. Don't expect your professor to give you something you didn't earn.

Why aren't there any ECU ladies out there that like good guys anymore?

Why is it that we all take dating so serious? Look at it like this — many of us get in relationships that last roughly two years, and we move on. During this time, our partner is the best thing that ever happened to us. But now that I am by myself, I can't believe that I went out with her.

By no means am I a better driver than the rest of my fellow residents of North Carolina, but I do have something over them. I use my turn signals in parking lots, turning lanes, four-way-stop intersections and on all thoroughfare, highways and freeways. I'd rather not raise my insurance because of a preventable fender bender. Just asking for some common courtesy folks. That's all.

Come on, folks, if a person doesn't look at you, doesn't talk to you and tries to avoid you, then they don't want a flier.

Tell me, how do you ask someone on a date that you have a crush on? Do you just walk up to him and do the strange girl routine and just ask him out? Or do you invite him to a comedy show because you have an extra ticket? Either way it goes, you are still the strange girl desperate for a date.

Spring semester has started and so have the fashion shows. I wonder if all of these fashions will continue throughout the semester or just fizzle by the end of January like most New Year's resolutions.

Attention, ladies: If you're lonely, maybe you should try being less competitive.

Why does my advisor tell me to take a 3000 level course when a 1000 level one would fulfill my elective requirement?

I hate Hybrid cars. The only reason people have them is to show off. They don't get better gas mileage under normal driving conditions, they have anemic performance, poor resale value, cost three grand more (on average) than a gasser, are prone to break down, complicated to repair, the cost of replacement batteries is insane and you have to pay to dispose of the batteries when you get rid of the car. Hybrids are all hype.

Why spend \$150 on Microsoft when you can download a free MS-Office compatible suite from Open Office?

Why do people still buy \$70 used textbooks from the student store and UBE when you can buy them for half the price at online stores?

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.

In My Opinion

Studies show the liberal left is literally dying out

(KRT) — The National Abortion Rights Action League's youth coalition, Generation Pro-Choice, dispatched an e-mail this week with the headline "Rumors of Gen Pro-Choicers demise are greatly exaggerated." Interestingly, it didn't say that the "rumors" were false, only that they were exaggerated. It is increasingly clear to NARAL, though subtly expressed, that the demise of the left is imminent.

I am convinced that the political strength of conservatives, so evident in the gains of the 2004 election, is a reflection of a more permanent conservative impulse that runs deeply in the American character. But conservatism is not the chief threat to liberalism — the left is its own worst enemy.

NARAL's "Generation Pro-Choice" is dying because liberals are birthing fewer children. James Pinkerton recently contended in *Newsday* that "the left has birth-controlled, aborted and maybe also gay-libbed itself into a smaller role in American society."

Overall, the fertility rate in Kerry states is around 12 percent lower than in Bush states. The Economist reports that in the ultra-liberal state of Vermont, the annual fertility rate is 49 children for every 1,000 women of child-bearing age. But in the heavily pro-Bush state of Utah, nearly twice as many children per 1,000 child-bearing-aged women are being born. Of every 1,000 Utah women, 91 children are born.

Among liberal constituencies, homosexual couples are certainly not having children. Despite the rapidity and effectiveness with which the homosexual movement advances in politics and culture, homosexuals simply don't reproduce.

Abortion has much more to do with the fertility rates amongst liberals. Of the twenty states with the lowest abortion rates according to the Centers for Disease Control, only Maryland, Maine, and Wisconsin voted for Kerry.

Of the ten states with the highest abortion rates, only Florida, Kansas, and Virginia voted for Bush.

States that voted most overwhelmingly for Kerry tend to be ranked among the highest abortion rates. Kerry's most impressive lead over Bush was in the District of Columbia where he scored 90 percent. The District also is among the nation's highest annual abortion rate. Of the nine states with the lowest abortion rates — Idaho, Colorado, Kentucky, South Dakota, Mississippi, West Virginia, Utah, Missouri, and South Carolina — the average winning percentage for Bush was nearly 60 percent. Similar trends were projected by Planned Parenthood's think tank, the Alan Guttmacher Institute, after the 2000 election.

According to the Census Bureau, the 2004 Voting Age Population was 217.8 million. Since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion in the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, over 40 million documented abortions have occurred. And of those aborted Americans, 18,336,576 would have been at least 18-years-old on Nov. 2. John Kerry lost the popular vote by only 3,461,992 ballots. Kerry could have used another 18 million votes — five times his margin of defeat. That isn't to say that all 18 million citizens would have voted for Kerry, or voted at all, but given the power of parental influence the chances are likely that these aborted Americans would have been a major Democrat constituency.

What's more troubling for Democrats is that by 2008, the deficit in their Voting Age Population will have risen to 24,408,960 — those who were aborted between 1973 and 1990. "Liberals have been remarkably blind to the fact that every day the abortions they advocate dramatically decrease their power to do so," writes Larry Eastland in the *American Spectator*.

Wirthlin polling conducted a recent study of 2,000 Americans to

determine political connections to abortion. Democrats reported having a close relationship with someone who had an abortion at 49.37 percent, while only 35 percent of Republicans said that they were close to someone who had an abortion. Projecting these percentages onto the total numbers of abortion since 1973, Eastland found that there are 19.7 million missing Democrats and 13.9 million missing Republicans. Democrats are at a disadvantage by 5.84 million missing voters.

James Taranto of the *Wall Street Journal* has referred to these trends as the Roe Effect.

"Abortion is making America more conservative than it otherwise would be," writes Taranto. First, "liberal and Democratic women are more likely to have abortions." Second, "children's political views tend to reflect those of their parents — not exactly, of course, and not in every case, but on average. Thus abortion depletes the next generation of liberals and eventually makes the population more conservative."

To suggest that abortion has a very real impact on cultural trends is neither revolutionary nor, from a conservative point of view, worthy of celebration. The murder of a human being is equally wrong whether he or she is born to a liberal or to a conservative, to an anarchist or to a communist.

America is built on the principle of equality: that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That principle is not predicated on the biological evolution of the human species. Quite to the contrary, it is founded on the belief that God has made every soul in His image.

The rejection of that most fundamental truth, the founding principle of America, is the death wish of the American left. Liberals have not only failed to reproduce, they are quite literally killing themselves.

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Announcements

Mendenhall Movie:

No movies playing this week. Movies will begin showing next week.

Top 5's

Top 5 Movies:

1. Meet The Fockers
2. White Noise
3. Aviator
4. Lemony Snickets: A Series of Unfortunate Events
5. Fat Albert

Top 5 TV Shows:

1. CSI
2. 60 Minutes
3. NFL Football
4. Everybody Loves Raymond
5. Law and Order: Criminal Intent

Top 5 DVDs:

1. I, Robot
2. The Manchurian Candidate
3. Collateral
4. Dodgeball
5. Bourne Supremacy

Top 5 Books:

1. The Five People You Meet In Heaven
2. The Da Vinci Code
3. State of Fear
4. The Da Vinci Code: Illustrated Edition
5. Night Fall

Top 5 CDs:

1. Eminem
2. Green Day
3. Lil Jon and the East Side Boyz
4. Jay-Z and Linkin Park
5. Ludacris

Horoscopes:

Aries: You have more responsibilities and that requires you learn how to set priorities and even delegate. Yes, you can.

Taurus: Developing your natural talents will naturally lead you into a position where others ask for your advice. Do the homework to make sure you're right.

Gemini: It's a good day for talking things over, but all the words in the world are not going to make something work that won't. Listen to a pragmatist.

Cancer: You've won a higher place through your hard work, so go ahead and get something to celebrate your rise in status. You've earned it.

Leo: You don't have to solve every problem yourself. Encourage the people around you to come up with creative ideas and they will. And you can have some of the credit.

Virgo: The work's creative and the money's good, so don't complain. This will make it possible for you to get something you want, for the family. Plan a delicious reward.

Libra: Link up with an intellectual who can help you make up your mind. You like to consider all points of view, but one of them is better.

Scorpio: A curious mind and an old master help you bring out your natural talent. Be careful and realistic and accomplish a surprising victory.

Sagittarius: Push yourself to try something you're not sure you can do. You're growing now, so don't be stopped by your old limits. They don't apply anymore. Ignore them.

Capricorn: Finish up that final nasty bit of work you've been avoiding. It's a phone call or a favor you promised to somebody ages ago. It's inhibiting your creativity.

Aquarius: You're not in this mess all by yourself. You have very intelligent, creative and powerful friends. Call them up to get a few more good ideas.

Pisces: You're starting to ask "how" and "why," instead of just accepting what is. You're apt to find some good reasons, too. Tap into the main power source.



'Meet the Fockers' Will 'Spanglish' translate with movie audiences



With a star-studded cast including Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro, *Meet the Fockers* is now playing in theaters nationwide.

Awesome cast slaves to bad writing

TOMEKA STEELE
STAFF WRITER

Everyone was anticipating the much awaited sequel to *Meet the Parents* and it was finally released Dec. 22 cleverly titled *Meet the Fockers*. The cast includes the usual Robert De Niro (Jack Byrnes), Ben Stiller (Gaylord Focker), Blythe Danner (Dina Byrnes) and Teri Polo (Pam Byrnes).

In this new sequel, two award-winning actors were added to the stellar cast. Dustin Hoffman (Bernie Focker) and Barbara Streisand (Roz Focker) add to the awesome cast of *Meet the Fockers* as Gaylord Focker's kooky parents. Streisand does a wonderful job of portraying a mother

in this movie after originally turning down the part until some re-writes were made for her character.

The basis of the story is a continuation of the first movie, *Meet the Parents*, in which Gaylord meets the Byrnes for the first time and tries his hand at impressing Pam's father, Jack, with little success.

Finally Gaylord reaches the "Inner Family Circle of Trust" of the Byrnes and now it's time for the Byrnes to meet the Fockers. *Meet the Parents* was released in the fall of 2000 and was a major hit.

Meet the Parents has raked in more than \$300 million since its release. Much of the same humor used in the original movie is recycled and used again with a slightly different twist in *Meet the Fockers*.

For those who have not seen

the first installment, it is available on DVD and comes on television regularly. Tickets to *Meet the Fockers* are free with the purchase of the *Meet the Parents Bonus Edition* DVD which includes all the deleted outtakes.

Jay Roach, who also directed *Meet the Parents*, directed *Meet the Fockers*. It seemed he didn't hit the nail on the head the way he did with the first movie. It was expected that *Meet the Fockers* would just blow *Meet the Parents* away, but it didn't move it an inch.

The theme centers on the Byrnes meeting the Fockers and the families having to endure each other and numerous mishaps for two days. The two new characters, Roz and Bernie, spice up the story with their unusual lifestyle and practices.

Once again, Gaylord tries his best to please Pam's father, Jack, while trying desperately to keep his own parents in check.

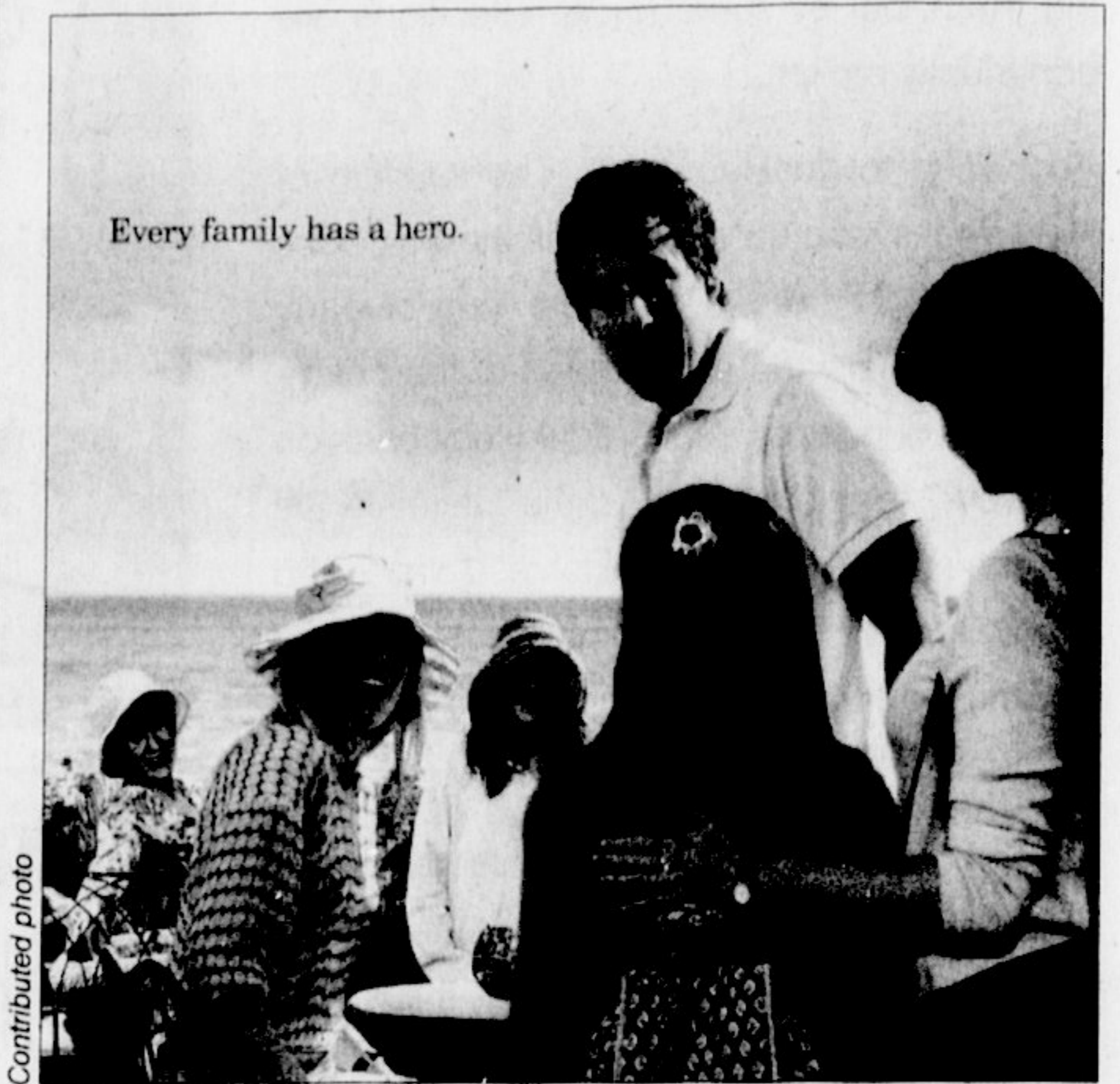
There are many funny moments, but they are always expected given the previews and trailers for the movie. There's little left to the imagination and there is pretty much nothing left in between but the same old fluff.

Although the movie was not what was expected in terms of comedy, the fact that the cast is award-winning makes up for it.

This movie had a good concept building on an already hit film, but it just didn't have the same humor, real life situations and probability as the original *Meet the Parents*.

Meet the Fockers doesn't live up to the hype surrounding it. It may be worthwhile to wait until the DVD hit stores.

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



Adam Sandler strikes gold with his latest movie.

Brooks' fifth film showcases a different side of Adam Sandler

KATHERINE DAY
STAFF EDITOR

James L. Brooks does not direct movies often, but when he does, he makes them count. With films such as *Terms of Endearment*, *Broadcast News* and *As Good As It Gets* under his belt, you could certainly understand why there was such anticipation for his latest film, *Spanglish*, a romantic comedy which was released Dec. 17 with stars Adam Sandler and Tea Leoni.

Though he has only directed five feature films in his career, Brooks has been a very busy man during that time. In that span, Brooks co-created a handful of TV series such as "The Simpsons" and "The Critic," he served as a writer for sitcoms "Rhoda" and "Taxi" and has produced a slew of feature films including *Say Anything*, *Jerry Maguire*, *Riding in Cars with Boys* and *Big*.

Throughout his career, Brooks has gained a reputation for being quite difficult to work with. Being such a perfectionist has been the reason for directing so few films, but also serves as the reason each film was so memorable to critics and fans alike. Three of the films he directed have been nominated for Best Picture by the Academy Awards. In 1984, his film *Terms of Endearment* won the coveted award while Brooks picked up the Oscar for Best Director.

Actors are attracted to working with Brooks and tend to find great success in doing so. Two out of Jack Nicholson's three Academy Awards for Best Actor came from Brooks' films. That fact may have been a contributing factor leading Adam Sandler to branch out and opt for a role in *Spanglish*, which probably paid less than Sandler's \$20 million quote.

Adam Sandler takes on a role different than those in movies made by his production company Happy Madison. Making millions and appeasing teenage boys everywhere, Sandler perfected the 'goof-ball' role in films such as *The Waterboy*, *Big*

SPANGLISH

Written and Directed by James L. Brooks

Starring Adam Sandler and Tea Leoni

Rated PG-13 for some sexual content and brief language

Running Time: 129 minutes

Daddy, and *Little Nicky*. In 2002, he showed the world his serious side and dazzled the critics in Paul Thomas Anderson's *Punch-Drunk Love*.

Another attempt has been made to showcase Sandler's talents in a role that doesn't require a speech impediment. Hoping to mirror Nicholson's success, Sandler's comedic talent will find itself useful in *Spanglish*.

With the role written with Sandler in mind, Brooks knew he had what it took to be in his film.

"It's a cliché, but what does it mean for an actor to make a part his own? It means that he takes on what you had intended and starts to put in his own stuff so that it becomes something that could only happen if he played it. I think this part, the way Adam plays it, could only happen if he played it."

While slammed by critics for his previous off-the-wall silly roles, Brooks always admired Sandler's brand of humor and thought him ideal for the part. Playing the role of a chef who internalizes his family problems, Sandler proves he isn't a one-trick pony after all.

Spanglish is the story of a troubled family. John Clasky (Sandler) is a successful chef whose marriage to Deborah (Tea Leoni) is rocky and the relationship with his children worsens. The career-oriented couple hire a housekeeper, Flor Moreno (Paz Vega), an immigrant from Mexico. The Spanish speaking Flor brings along her daughter Cristina (Victoria Luna) to translate for the family.

Relationships develop and the characters gain a new sense of understanding for them-

see SPANGLISH page A5

The Aviator: Flying High

Leonardo DiCaprio captivates audiences as Howard Hughes

KYLE BILLINGS
STAFF WRITER

The previews you may have seen paint *Aviator* in a charming, happy light. The million-dollar man, who made the best movies, flew the fastest planes and wooed the most beautiful women. While this may accurately describe the life of Howard Hughes, this movie shows both sides of the coin as a stark reality of the true life and spirit of the innovative mogul of many mediums Howard Hughes.

The epic portrays the life of Howard Hughes from the 1920s to the 1940s, in his heyday producing million-dollar Hollywood movies and creating the most innovative planes of the time. *Aviator* depicts the life of the man behind such movies as *Hell's Angels* (the most expensive movie ever made at the time with production costs close to \$4 million), *Scarface* (the 1930s prohibition account as opposed to Al Pacino in the 1970s) and *The Outlaw*. Despite failure to graduate high school, Howard Hughes, the

aviator, made precedents in film and aviation.

Leonardo DiCaprio may forever be seen as the boy wonder from *Titanic*, if his acting abilities were at any time in doubt, they should be doused with his performance in this film. DiCaprio captivates the audience, successfully depicting both the playboy persona and the man stricken with OCD. DiCaprio provides effective and emotional acting in every setting. The man he plays is conflicted with inner psychological demons and has a personality that won't allow him to lose pursuit in his interests. DiCaprio portrays these characteristics in their truest and most believable form and permeates the attitudes of the people who rose and fell on his own accord.

Direction is skillfully led through, so each scene is functionally constructed to paint a modern portrait of the man that lived two generations before our time. One incentive to see the movie includes the celebrated past of its director Martin Scorsese. Scorsese directed films by the likes of *GoodFellas*, *Raging Bull*, *The Color of Money*, *Gangs of New York* and *Taxi Driver*.

Critics have lauded the film around the nation. Comments include, "This is one of the year's



Leonardo DiCaprio plays Howard Hughes.

best films." (Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun-Times), "...a big, juicy, gorgeous, high-flying epic," (Peter Travers, Rolling Stone) and "...over length is the only thing that keeps *Aviator* from being the year's best movie."

Already *Aviator* has received accolades in the form of award show nominations. The Directors Guild of America "one of the most reliable forecasters of Oscar suc-

see AVIATOR page A5

'Bend it Like Beckham' bending all the rules



Soccer from a new perspective.

Girls can play soccer just as well as the boys

JOANNA WALDHOUR
STAFF WRITER

As the Laramie Movie Scope states, "This is a well-written, funny, heartwarming film with a nice message about being true to your own dreams."

The protagonist Jess (Parminder Nagra) has a big dream of playing on an all-female professional soccer team.

A teenager from London,

England, Jess idolizes the well-known British soccer player, David Beckham, and wants to be just as talented and skilled as he is. While Jess comes from a traditional Sikh family whose parents may have tolerated her passion for soccer as a young girl, now that she is older, her father (Anupam Kher) and mother (Shaheen Khan) dislike Jess's passion for soccer. Her mother wants Jess to focus on marriage, school and learning the traditional Punjab dinners.

One afternoon, as Jess is playing soccer with her friends, Juliette (Keira Knight-

ley) witnesses Jess's talented skills. Juliette, herself a soccer player on a team called the Hounslow Harriers, then asks Jess to audition for the all-female soccer team she plays on. Jess accepts, but her parents forbid her to play. Jess deceives her parents by sneaking out or lying in order to fulfill her dream of being on a soccer team.

This movie is a light-hearted film where family values run deep. This film is somewhat unique from other films in that Jess has an understanding of her family's traditional point of view even as she struggles with

the cultural generation gap she faces.

There is a soft humanity in *Bend It Like Beckham*, along with a bubbling enthusiasm. This movie is great for anyone who dreams big.

Directed by Gurinder Chadha. Written by Gurinder Chadha, Paul Mayeda Burges and Giljit Bindra. 112 minutes. A Fox Searchlight Pictures release. 2003. Rated PG-13 for language and some sexual situations, this movie fits the scope to a tee.

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

Spanglish from page A4

selves and other cultures. Told through the eyes of Cristina in a college-essay, *Spanglish* is the humorous story of culture collisions and the ties a family has to each other.

Expectations were high for this film. With Brooks averaging only two films a decade, success seemed certain for *Spanglish*. However, when it opened Dec. 17 to mixed reviews and moderate box office, hope sank for this small film. Compared to the 25 Academy Awards garnered by Brooks' previous four films and Sandler's \$41 million opening for *Big Daddy*, *Spanglish* appears quite weak.

Scott Foundas of the LA Weekly slams the film, recognizing its wasted talent. "Stuffed with random ingredients, spewing random bits of character and story across the screen for more than two hours, *Spanglish* is Brooks' unqualified kitchen disaster - a desperate, shapeless, overreaching big-screen sitcom of a movie that just wants to be loved. Is that so wrong?"

It's not as dismal as Scott Foundas portrays it. Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times enjoyed the film emphasizing its wonderful performances.

"The movie is all about solutions, and the problems are more

like test questions. At the end, I felt there hadn't been much at risk, but I got to see some worthy characters stumbling toward improvement."

Ebert's *Ebert & Roeper* and the *Movies* co-host, Richard Roeper raves about Paz Vega's performance hailing her as a breakout star and putting *Spanglish* on his top 10 of 2004 list.

In short, while the film may not appeal to every movie-goer, die-hard fans of Brooks will definitely enjoy his latest work.

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

Aviator from page A4

ness" nominated Martin Scorsese for best director for the *Aviator*. The Golden Globes honored the film with six nominations, including Best Picture, Best Performance for an Actor (Leonardo DiCaprio), Best Supporting Actress (Cate Blanchett), and Best Director (Martin Scorsese).

The picture was produced by Michael Mann, Sandy Climan, Graham King and Charles Evans Jr. Stars not mentioned much in the media include Cate Blanchett, Kate Beckinsale, John C. Reilly, Alec Baldwin and Jude Law.

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

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Student Homecoming Chair

Position Announcement

The Student Homecoming Committee is currently looking for a person to fill the 2005 position of Student Homecoming Chairperson.

As the applicant, you will be responsible for:

- Develop a budget and process it in a timely fashion
- Plan and execute the homecoming event
- Attend weekly Fall meetings

For consideration, all applicants must:

- Be a current student in good standing
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
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This is a paid student position. Applications must include letter of interest and resume of related experience and be submitted no later than January 20, 2005 to Paul Clifford, cliffordp@mail.ecu.edu

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Sports Briefs

C-USA reaches deal with ESPN, CSTV

Conference USA has entered into long-term agreements with ESPN, Inc. (ESPN) and College Sports Television Networks, Inc. (CSTV). Conference USA Commissioner Britton Banowsky announced today. The new agreements contain six-year initial terms to begin July 1, 2005 and conclude June 30, 2011. The agreement with ESPN extends the conference's current regular season football package to include the broadcast of the conference's Football Championship Game, starting with the inaugural game in 2005. It also encompasses distribution of men's basketball and women's basketball on ESPN/ESPN2 and both tournament championship games. The C-USA content granted to ESPN may also be available through the collection of ESPN entities such as ESPN Mobile (wireless), ESPN Interactive, ESPN Broadband (ESPN 360), ESPN.com, ESPN Pay-Per-View, ESPN Video-on-Demand, ESPN HD, ESPN2 HD, ESPN Deportes and more. The agreement with CSTV is comprehensive in nature and includes significant national and regional exposure for football, men's and women's basketball, and all other Conference USA sports. Additionally, the CSTV agreement includes video-on-demand, Internet, broadband, national over-the-air and satellite radio, and wireless distribution as well as corporate marketing rights, and Web site production through CSTV Online, a subsidiary of CSTV. Conference USA is preparing for a transition to a new membership model. Beginning in 2005-06, C-USA will consist of 12 member institutions that all participate in football and men's and women's basketball - East Carolina, Houston, Marshall, Memphis, Rice, SMU, Southern Miss, Tulane, Tulsa, UAB, UCF and UTEP. The league will span nine states and include significant television markets such as Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Memphis, New Orleans and Orlando.

NCAA approves academic reform plan

The NCAA approved the first phase of a landmark academic reform package Monday under which about 30 percent of Division I football teams would have lost scholarships had it been implemented immediately. On the last day of the NCAA convention, the Division I Board of Directors approved the plan that calls for scholarship reductions for teams that perform poorly in the classroom. The Academic Performance Program applies to every men's and women's sport -- more than 5,000 teams at the 325 Division I schools. Schools will receive reports in the next few weeks that let them know which of their teams fall below standards set by the Division I Committee on Academic Performance. That will serve as an initial warning. University of Hartford president and committee chairman Walter Harrison said the biggest problems were in football (about 30 percent of teams), baseball (25 percent) and men's basketball (20 percent). The so-called "contemporaneous penalties" are considered rehabilitative in nature and expected to serve as warnings for teams with poor academic performance. Such penalties could begin after the 2005 fall semester. Another phase of the program will be historical penalties, which will be more severe and directed at schools with continued problems. Harrison's committee is still working on the penalties, and they will have to be approved by NCAA directors later. Kansas chancellor Robert Hemenway, the chairman of the NCAA board, said the board has already endorsed those tougher penalties. Academic reform has been a centerpiece issue for Myles Brand since he became NCAA president two years ago. In his state of the association address Saturday, he said the measures "will change the culture of college sports." There will be two different measurements of academic performance used in the program. The Academic Progress Rate (APR) will be based on the number of student-athletes on each team who achieve eligibility and return to campus full-time each term.

Pirates to face nationally ranked Bearcats tonight

Cincinnati has lost just one game this season

TRENT WYNNE
STAFF WRITER

Talk about two teams headed in opposite directions. Coming into tonight's contest with the Cincinnati Bearcats, the ECU Pirates will have lost seven out of their last eight games, including two losses to open conference play.

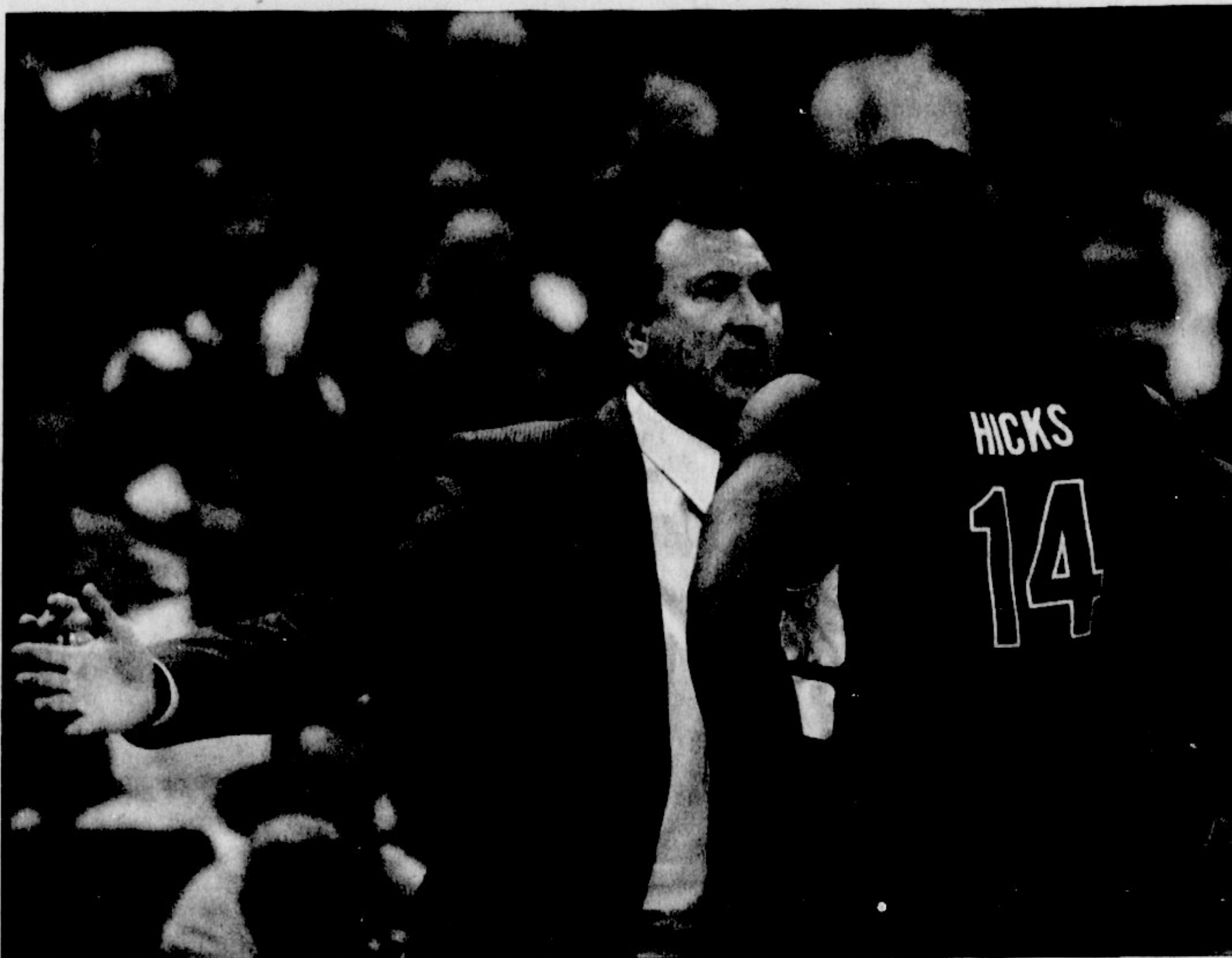
On the other hand, the Bearcats have steadily climbed up the national polls and now sit at No. 13 in the nation, boasting a record of 13-1.

The one in the Bearcats' results came at the hands of No. 1 Illinois, on a neutral court where the fighting Illinois won handily 67-45.

However, Cincinnati has opened conference play in correct fashion, as they easily disposed of DePaul and St. Louis, two normally solid teams in C-USA play. In the two wins, Jason Maxiell and Armein Kirkland combined to score 76 points and grab 31 rebounds.

Although Maxiell was placed on the Naismith watch list at the beginning of the season, a list comprised of the thought to be among the top 50 players in the country, the Pirates biggest threat may come in guarding the ever-versatile Kirkland.

Kirkland, recently named C-USA player of the week, averaged 20 points in Cincinnati's two conference wins, while posing problems to both the Blue Demons and the Bil-



Bob Huggins has a word with Eric Hicks during a break in play. Hicks is averaging 13.2 points per game and 8.9 rebounds this year.

liens. With his ability to conversely pound inside and shoot the trifecta, Kirkland may be one of the more underrated players in the nation.

With the exception of Kirkland, Cincinnati has continued to struggle from behind the arc this season (35 percent) as they have done in years past. Since Kirkland (47 percent from three land) may be the only threat from outside, ECU may employ using the zone defense more often they than would like

to try and neutralize the Bearcats' bread-and-butter, which comes in the paint.

The beauty of basketball, however, is no matter how good a team is defensively they still have to play at their end and put the ball in the bucket consistently. The Bearcats have given up just below 60 points a contest, very characteristic of a Bob Huggins coached team. The Pirates have to shoot better than their previous eight outings, in which they only scored

36 percent of the time from the floor.

The task is simple: Win a ballgame. The team is tough: Cincinnati. If the Pirates can get going in transition and get some early dunks and layups, they will bring in the key factor of the game which will be waiting to explode at all moments throughout the game: Minges. Never count ECU out at home.

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

Big Ben leader for Steelers

(AP) — Ben Roethlisberger played few poor games during his unrivaled 13-0 rookie-season run. The Pittsburgh Steelers' 17-6 victory over the New York Jets on Dec. 12 was one of them.

Roethlisberger looked uncomfortable and played ineffectively, throwing two interceptions and getting sacked twice as Pittsburgh was held to only three points until the fourth quarter.

The rookie quarterback picked up his play in the final period by leading two touchdown drives, but his statistics, 9-of-19 for 144 yards, were his worst of the season. He didn't even lead the Steelers in touchdown passes. Jerome Bettis had one to his none.

But if Steelers coach Bill Cowher is concerned that Roethlisberger will make his first NFL playoff start Saturday against the team that frustrated him most during the season, he wasn't showing it Monday.

Roethlisberger has played more NFL games than he did during his final college season at Miami of Ohio, so to Cowher he isn't a rookie any longer.

"We have an identity now. We have players who have roles on this team and we need everybody to play at the levels that have put us in this position," Cowher said.

"There's no one excluded. I don't differentiate rookies from guys who have been here eight or nine years."

Still, Roethlisberger looked like a rookie against the Jets, throwing for only 24 yards in the first half. Nearly all of his

see ROETHLISBERGER page A7

ECU lacking effort over break

In my three and a half years here following the basketball team, there has been one thing that has kept me going to games — their effort. No matter how big of an underdog the guys were, they fought and they played hard.

For some reason, this tradition went out the window over Christmas break.

I hung around town for the Winthrop game and saw seven guys on the court play with effort. The five from Winthrop, Japhet McNeil and Taylor Gagnon seemed to be the guys who cared there was a basketball game going on.

Coach Herrion has never quit coaching or standing in his familiar crouch despite the score. But this night, he sat with his arms folded and watched his team lethargically take a loss to an inferior team.

We dropped the game to the Eagles of Winthrop, then lost to South Carolina and then got embarrassed by Clemson.

During the Clemson game, we put up a dismal 12 field goals. Twelve field goals. Twelve field goals. That is so bad, it's worth saying three times. You are not going to beat ANYONE with only 12 field goals.

This run of poor play was really summed up when a Clemson player threw an alley-oop off the backboard and it was thrown down hard while four ECU players were no where to be seen.

While the effort was most certainly back during the South Florida game, things are just not going well this season. Everything that seemed to click earlier in the year has stopped.

The biggest question has been with Moussa. He's pulling down double digits in rebounds, but he's nearly seven feet tall, he should be averaging that. He has completely lost his touch around the basket. He was 0-10 from the field against Clemson and 0-for-4 against South Carolina. While he started scoring again against St. Andrews and South Florida, it was still two bad performances. He did knock down six field goals against the Bulls, but he missed 13, about 10 of which were within five feet of the bucket. He has got to find that touch around the basket if this team wants to win another game this season.



Mike Cook was one of the many Pirates to play poorly over Christmas break but has found his shooting touch as of late, scoring a combined 51 points in the last three games.

Mike Cook is scoring, but over break it was ugly. He was putting up around 20 shots a game and hitting less than half of them. Since then he has seemed to warm up, hitting on over half his attempts in the last couple of games.

And I don't want the guy to be perfect — physical errors are OK. If someone misses a shot that is a good shot selection, that's OK. But when a guy is double and triple teamed, someone will be open somewhere on the court and that would probably be a good time to pass the ball.

Corey Rouse, who at one point was dominating, has disappeared. He had double-double after double-double but now he isn't scoring and he isn't rebounding. We all know he can do it, we've all seen it.

The one bright spot over the break was the play of Japhet McNeil. If anyone doubts how hard he plays, just look at his numbers from the South Florida game. No, I'm not talking about points or any stat like that — I'm talking about hustle plays. Plays like the two charges he drew.

He was able to break down the Clemson press. He brought the ball up the court and passed it to someone who probably then missed a shot. Maybe Japhet should start shooting some more. That is a statement I thought I would never say.

His shot during the South Florida game looked totally different. It's coming out with more rotation and more at the top of release. At one point, he would be lucky to score from the field, now he is hitting from downtown almost every game.

Things like that are a credit to just how hard this guy works. He has probably had the same shot for his entire career and then he has the work ethic and motivation to work on it and fix it. Try to change something you have been doing your entire life and see how easy it is.

If everyone on this team would play like Japhet, we may not win some games, but we surely will try and will never give up.

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

Mets, Yankees make big league moves

(AP) — Carlos Beltran opened a unique doubleheader Tuesday by finalizing his \$119 million, seven-year contract with the New York Mets, while the Yankees prepared across town to complete their acquisition of Randy Johnson.

"I feel proud to be part of a new family: the New York Mets. The new Mets," Beltran said at a news conference at Shea Stadium. "I call it the 'new Mets' because this organization is going to a new direction, the right direction, the direction of winning."

Before their deal with Beltran, the Mets gave three-time Cy Young Award winner Pedro Martinez a \$53 million, four-year contract and kept Kris Benson for \$22.5 million over three years.

"When we started putting our team together ... I didn't think we were going to be able to sign a Carlos Beltran on top of that, after signing a great pitcher like Pedro Martinez," general manager Omar Minaya said.

The Yankees, who turned down the chance to sign Beltran to a \$100 million, six-year deal, focused on pitching this off-season after wasting a 3-0 lead against Boston in the AL championship series. They signed pitchers Carl Pavano (\$39.95 million over four years) and Jarret Wright (\$21 million over three years), then agreed to pay \$9 million to Arizona as part of the Johnson trade and give the Big Unit a \$32 million, two-year extension through 2007.

In other baseball news Tuesday, third baseman Tony Batista's \$15 million, two-year contract was finalized by Fukouka in Japan's Pacific League, which also agreed to a deal with infielder Jolbert Cabrera. Reliever Dan Miceli agreed to a one-year deal with the Yomiuri Giants of the Central League worth about \$2 million.

On Monday, Toronto agreed to a \$900,000, one-year contract with reliever Billy Koch, Los Angeles reached a preliminary agreement on a \$650,000 deal with catcher Paul Bako, Florida gave a \$475,000 deal to left-hander Matt Perisho, Pittsburgh agreed to a minor league contract with pitcher Todd Ritchie and Cleveland closed in on a minor league contract with outfielder Juan Gonzalez.

The Mets finalized their \$900,000, one-year deal with infielder Miguel Cairo and agreed to a \$2.1 million, one-year

contract with right-hander Victor Zambrano, avoiding arbitration.

In a trade agreed to on Dec. 30, the Yankees are sending pitchers Javier Vazquez and Brad Halsey, catcher Dioner Navarro and \$9 million to Arizona.

Vazquez passed his physical with the Diamondbacks on Monday night. Navarro had to take two physicals Monday — one for Arizona and one for Los Angeles, which is acquiring him as part of a separate deal.

Los Angeles is receiving Navarro and three other prospects from the Diamondbacks for outfielder Shawn Green and \$10 million. Green also passed his physical with Arizona and was scheduled to be introduced at a news conference on Tuesday.

He and the Diamondbacks reached an agreement in principle Sunday on a \$32 million, three-year contract, which allows that trade to be finalized. Then the Dodgers plan to complete their \$36 million, four-year contract with free-agent pitcher Derek Lowe.

On the way to his physical Monday, Johnson got into a confrontation on a Manhattan sidewalk with a television cameraman.

He put his long right arm up to block a camera from WCBS-TV after he left his Manhattan hotel.

Johnson, who was accompanied by Yankees director of team security Jerry Laveroni, made contact with the camera, station spokeswoman Audrey Pass said.

"Get out of my face, that's all I ask," Johnson said, according to a video posted on the station's Web site.

"No cameras," Laveroni said.

"Don't get in my face," Johnson then said. "I don't care who you are. Don't get in my face."

"I'm just taking a picture," said the cameraman, identified by the station as Vinny Everett.

Responded Johnson: "Don't get in my face, and don't talk back to me, all right."

Johnson issued a statement through agent Alan Nero that was distributed by the Yankees. "Regarding the unfortunate incident that happened this morning as I was on my way to take a physical, I hope that everyone will understand that the past few days have been a bit overwhelming and I wish I had handled the situation differently," Johnson said. "I am very sorry it happened."

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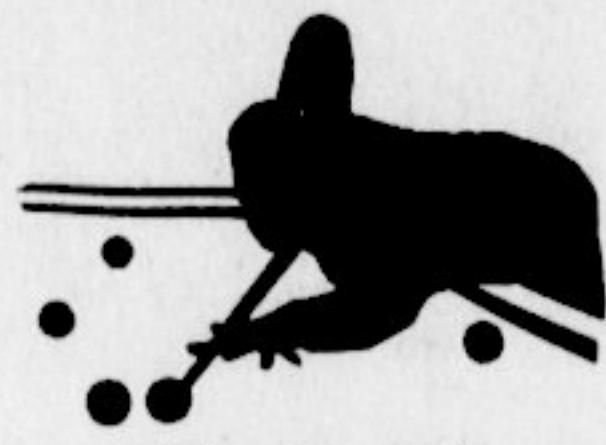
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MSC Social Room



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MSC Social Room

Tournament winners will be awarded trophies and the opportunity to represent ECU at regional competitions to be held at Virginia Tech University which is located in Blacksburg, VA the weekend of February 18-20, 2005. All expenses for the trip will be paid by Mendhall Student Center.

There is a \$2.00 registration fee for each tournament. Registration forms are available at the MSC, Billiards Center & Outer Limitz Bowling Center located on the ground floor of Mendenhall Student Center. Call the Recreations Program Office at 328-4738 for more information.

Roethlisberger from page A6



Roethlisberger has gone an astounding 13-0 as the rookie quarterback for the Steelers. Pittsburgh will play the Jets Saturday.

yardage came as he completed four of his final five passes for 99 yards, including a 46-yarder to Lee Mays that led to Bettis' 12-yard touchdown run.

"They were bringing a lot of people, and penalties hurt us a lot," Roethlisberger said. "We did not play a good first half of football offensively. We made some mistakes, but the good thing is we got out with the win."

Afterward, it was suggested that Roethlisberger was regressing and had hit the so-called rookie wall. But he bounced back a week later to throw for

316 yards and a touchdown as the Steelers beat the New York Giants 33-30.

"The thing I liked about Ben in the fourth quarter was, he never flinched," Cowher said.

The Steelers' 15-1 record matches the NFL's best regular-season mark since the 16-game schedule was adopted in 1976. Two of the previous three teams to go 15-1 the 1984 49ers and 1985 Bears won the Super Bowl. Only the 1998 Vikings failed, losing to Atlanta in overtime in the NFC championship game.

"The expectations we have are

no different from the ones we had to start this season," Cowher said. "This is just the next step we're taking. I think the only thing that changes is the quality of teams you play, all the attention that takes place, all the scrutiny that exists."

Still, no rookie quarterback has led his team to the Super Bowl, much less won it. Of course, no rookie quarterback had won his first 13 starts until Roethlisberger did.

"We just have to keep preparing like we've been preparing all year long and go out and seize this opportunity," Cowher said.

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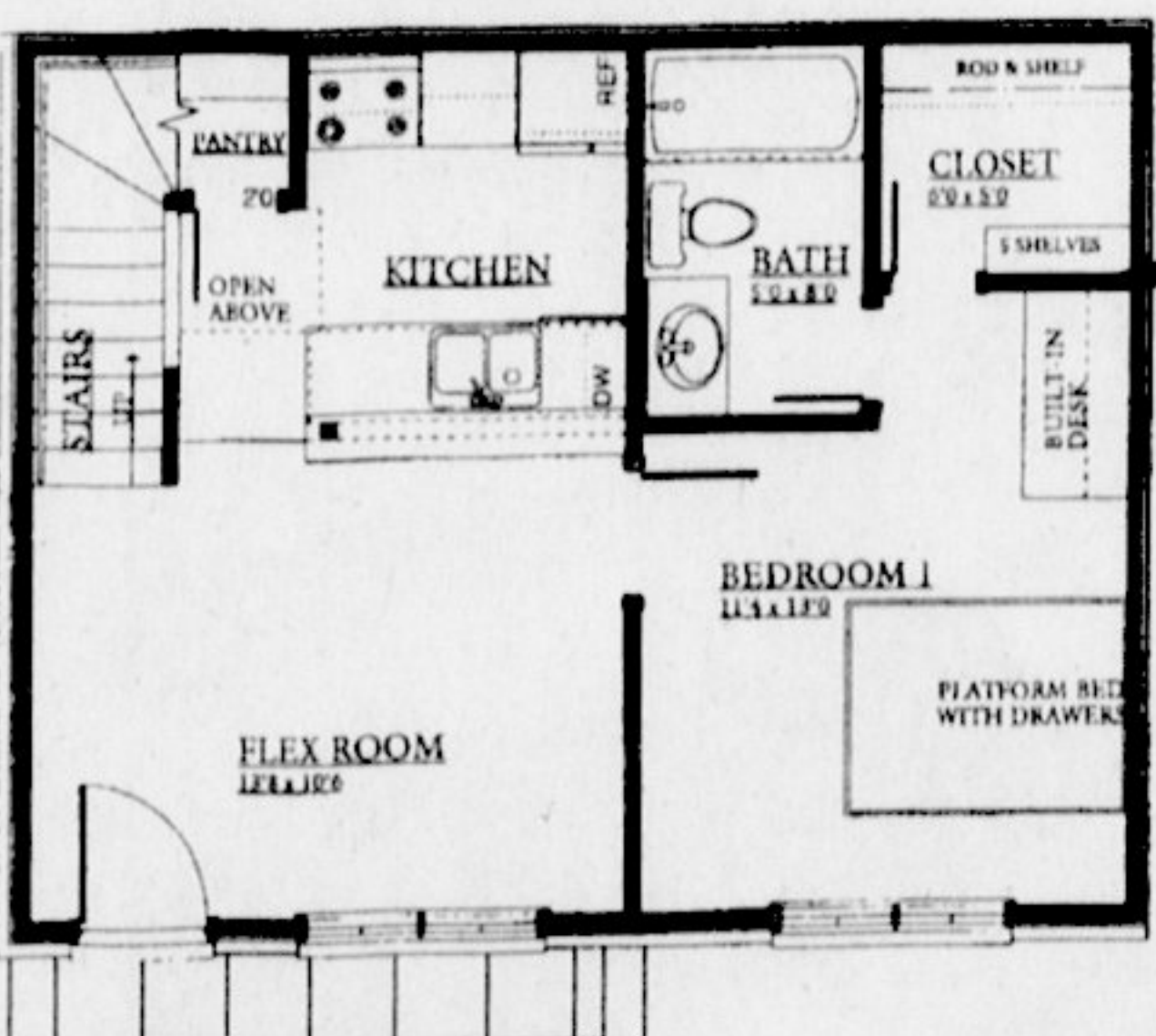
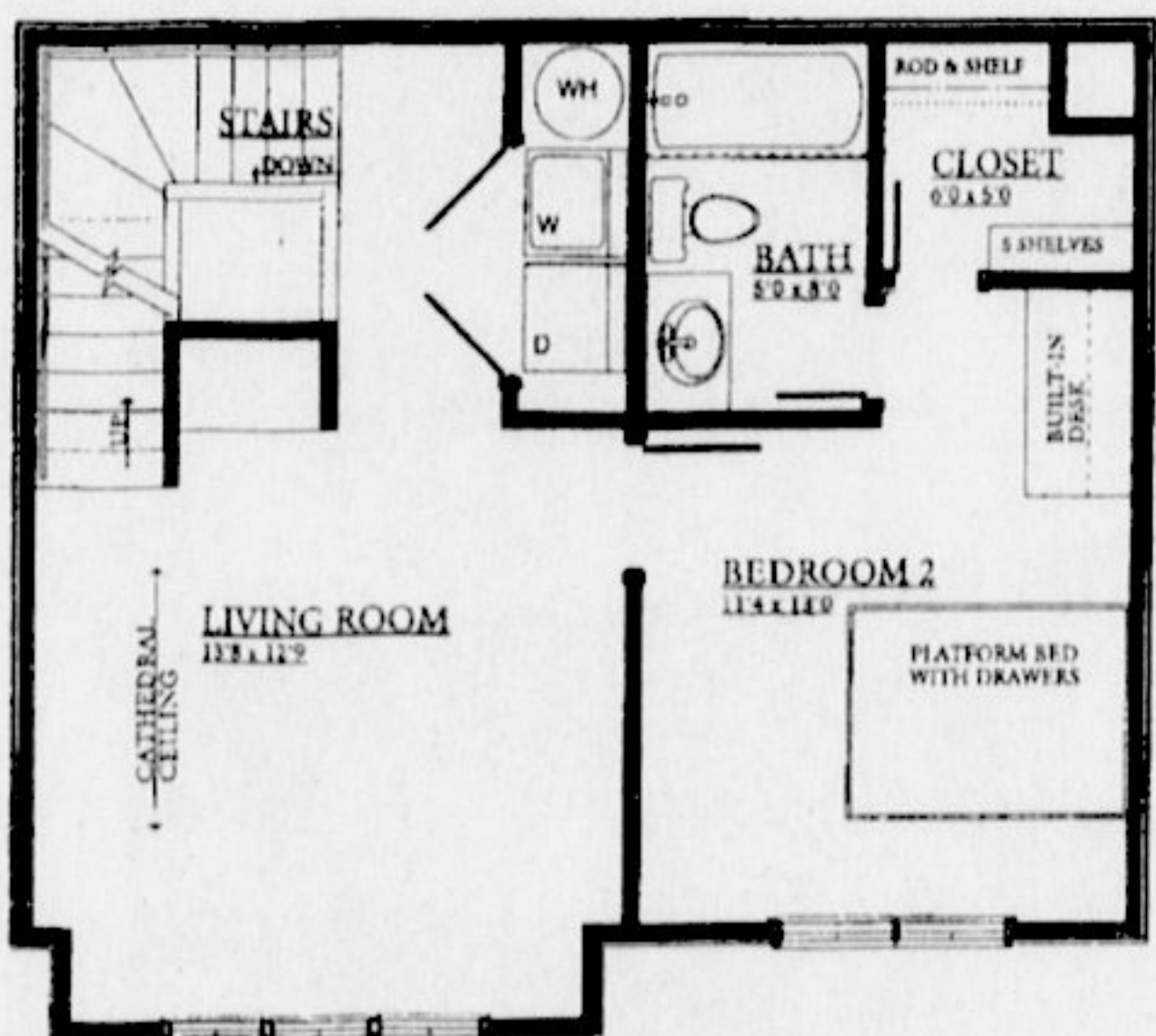
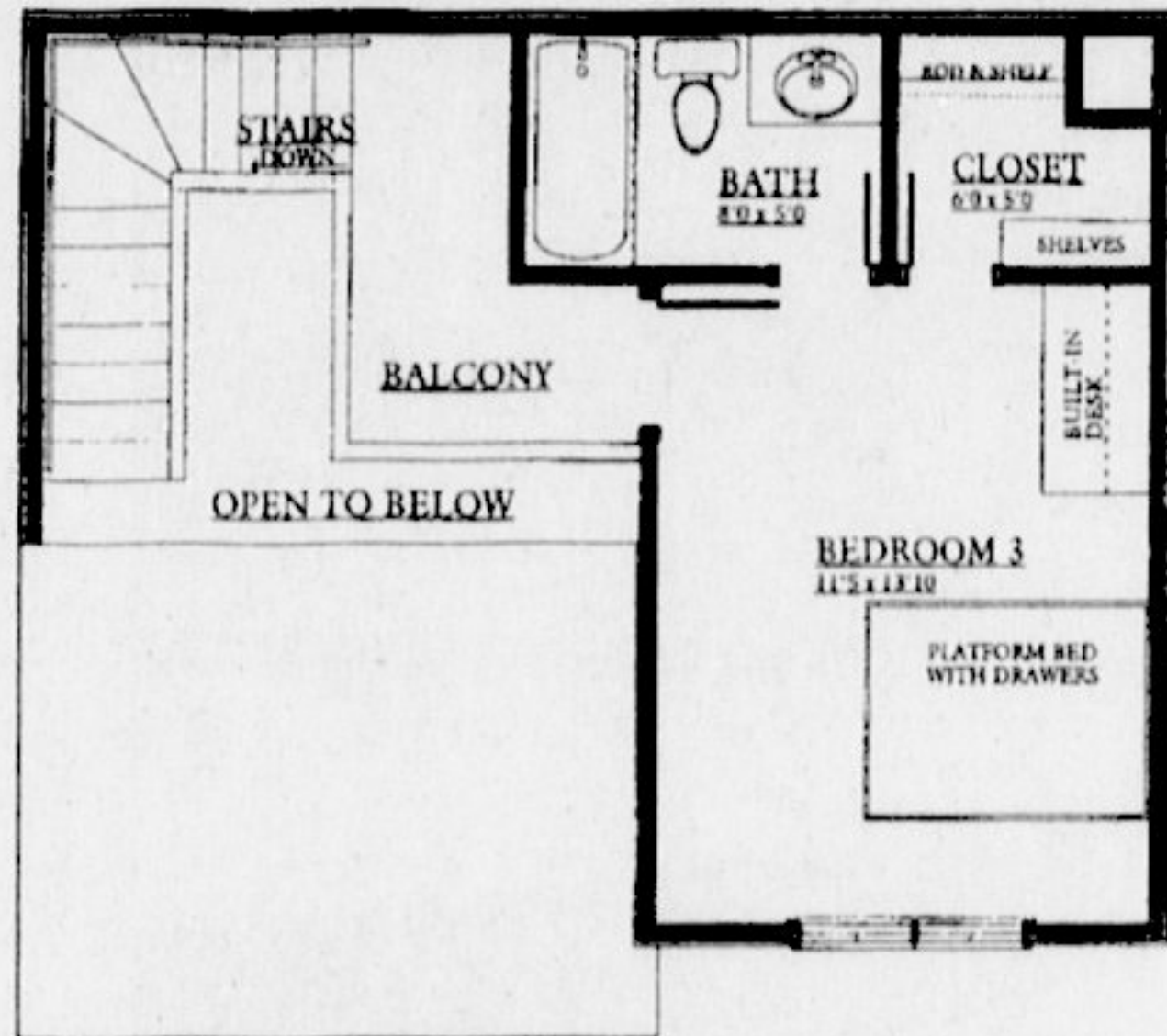
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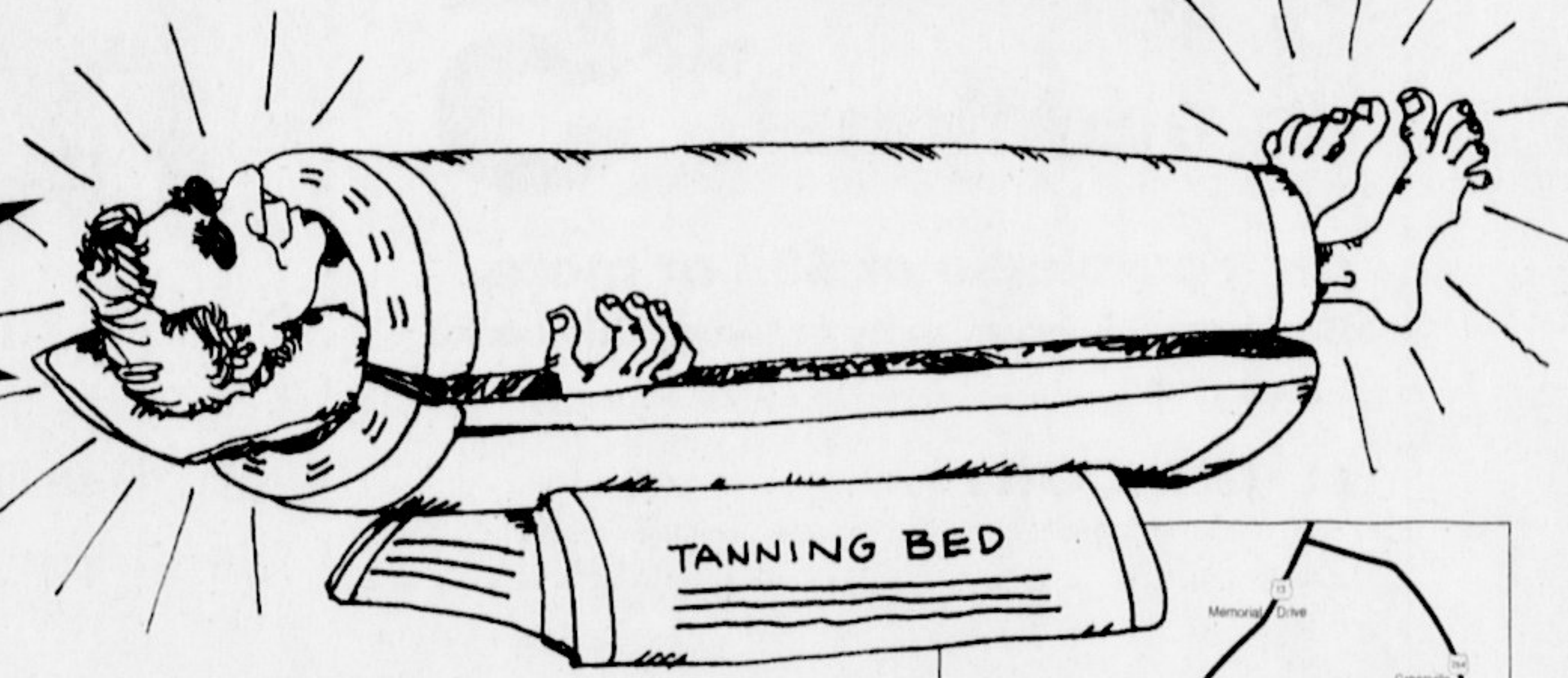
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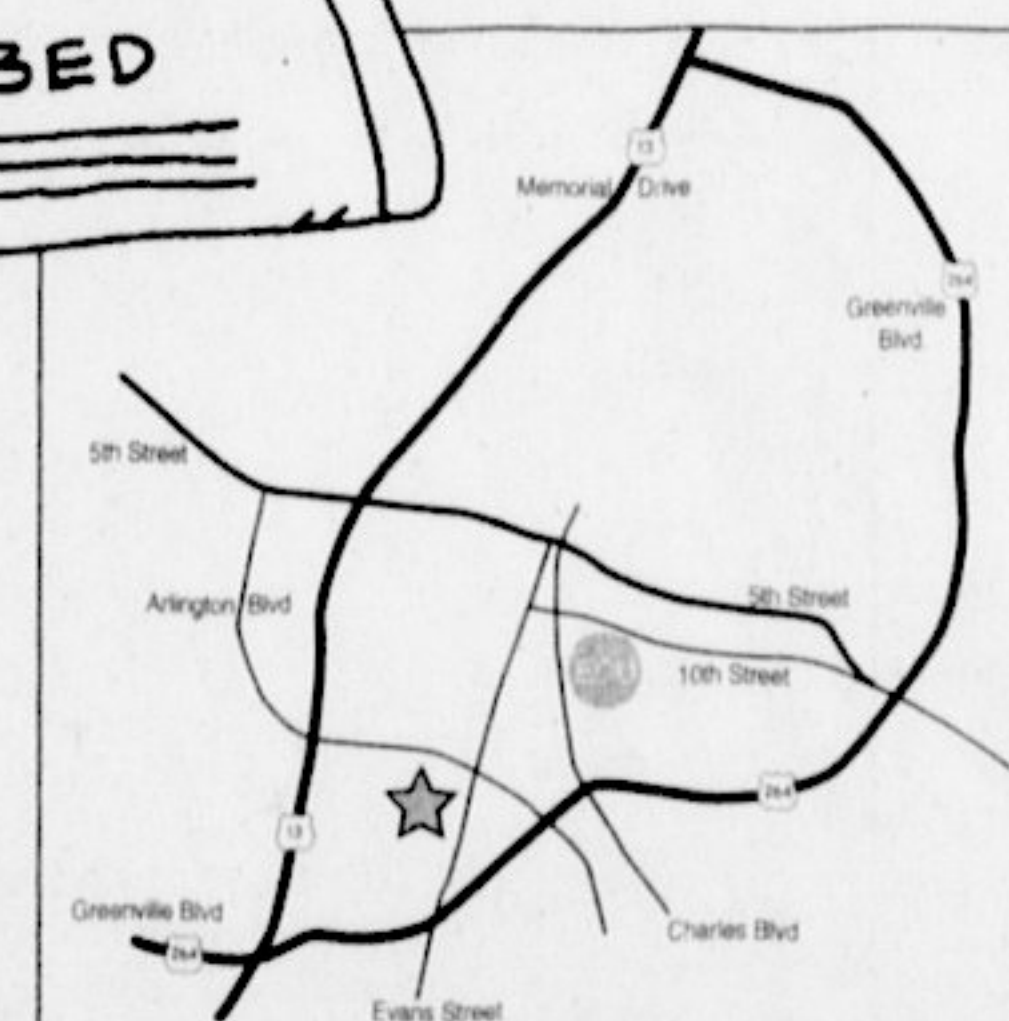


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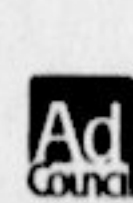


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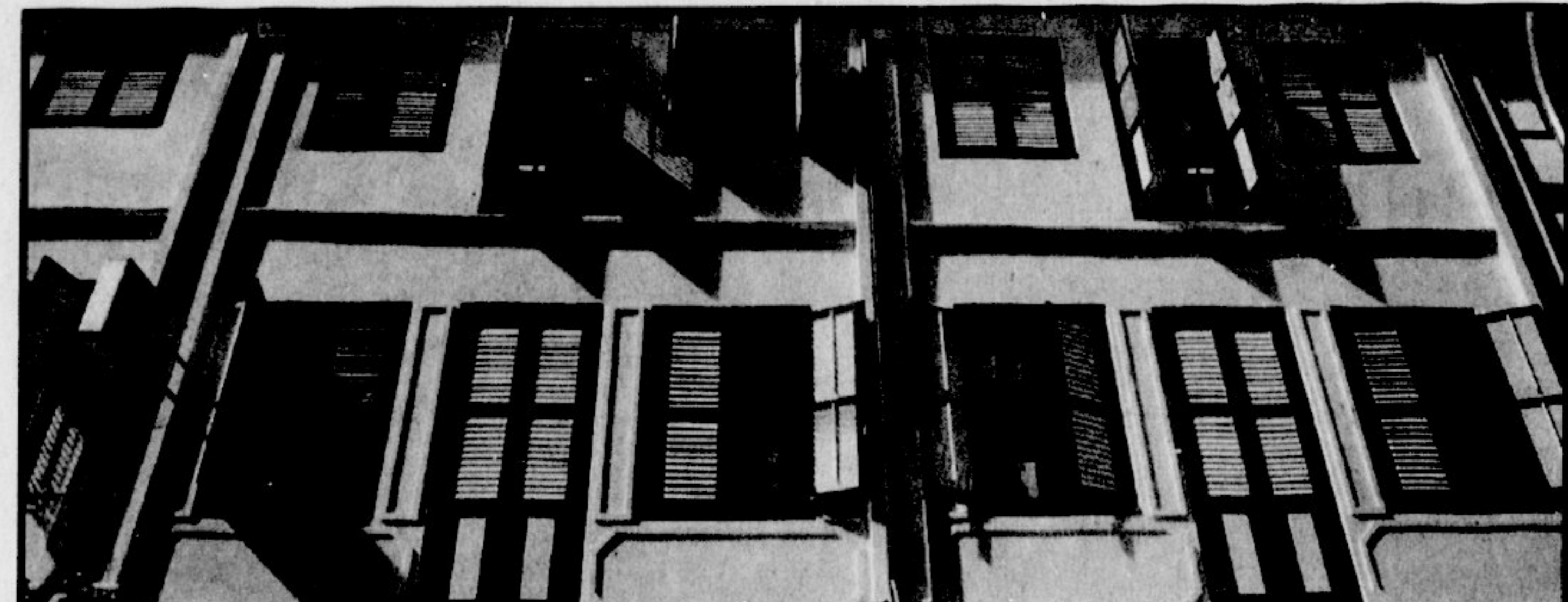
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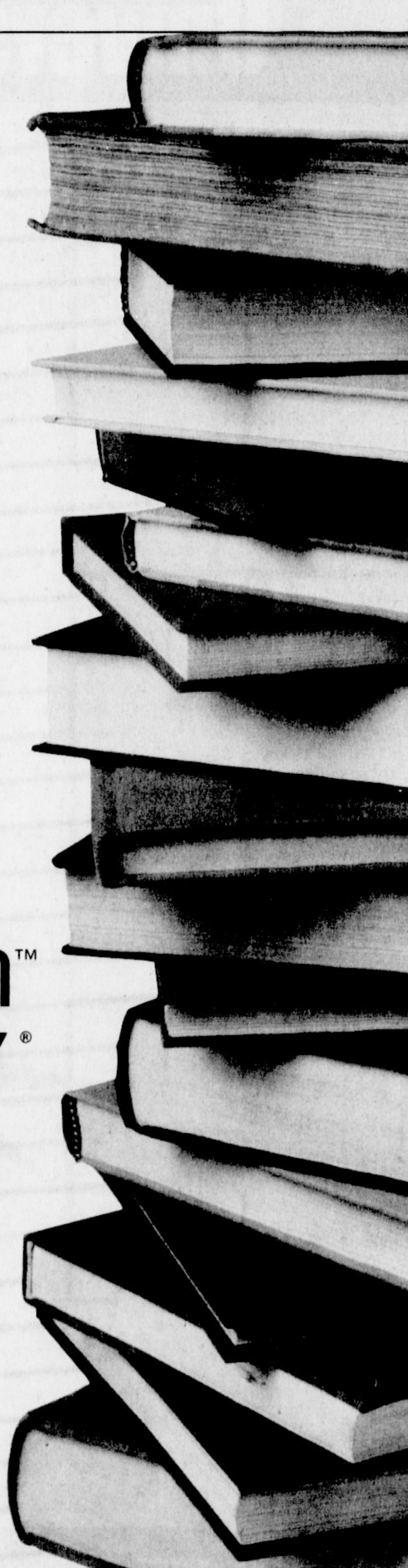
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