

# Elections in Iraq

### ECU community predicts possible outcomes

KRISTIN DAY  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As the first election in Iraq in about 50 years is scheduled to take place Sunday, many concerns arise for the country and loved ones fighting overseas.

A soldier stationed in Iraq who requested anonymity, said the week has been relatively calm but he expects conditions to get worse.

"They have not been attacking as much as they use to," he said. "They are probably storing up all their ammunition and explosives for what is to come."

He said insurgents will probably be targeting election areas with a lot of firepower in order to keep the people from voting.

David Conrad, political science professor, said he doesn't know what will happen during the elections, but unfortunately, he is pessimistic.

Conrad said the Bush Administration has made many promises to the American people they have not been able to uphold, such as suggesting the circumstances would improve once Saddam Hussein was out of the country.

"But it just keeps getting worse and worse," said Conrad.

The best-case scenario in Conrad's opinion is the election produces a government that enjoys support. The worst-case scenario

see IRAQ page A6

### Iraqi elections

Iraqis will head to the polls on Jan. 30 to elect representatives to craft their nation's

#### What voting is for

- Transitional National Assembly: 275 members elected to create constitution
- Provincial legislatures for Iraq's 18 provinces
- Kurdistan National Assembly for autonomous region in northern Iraq

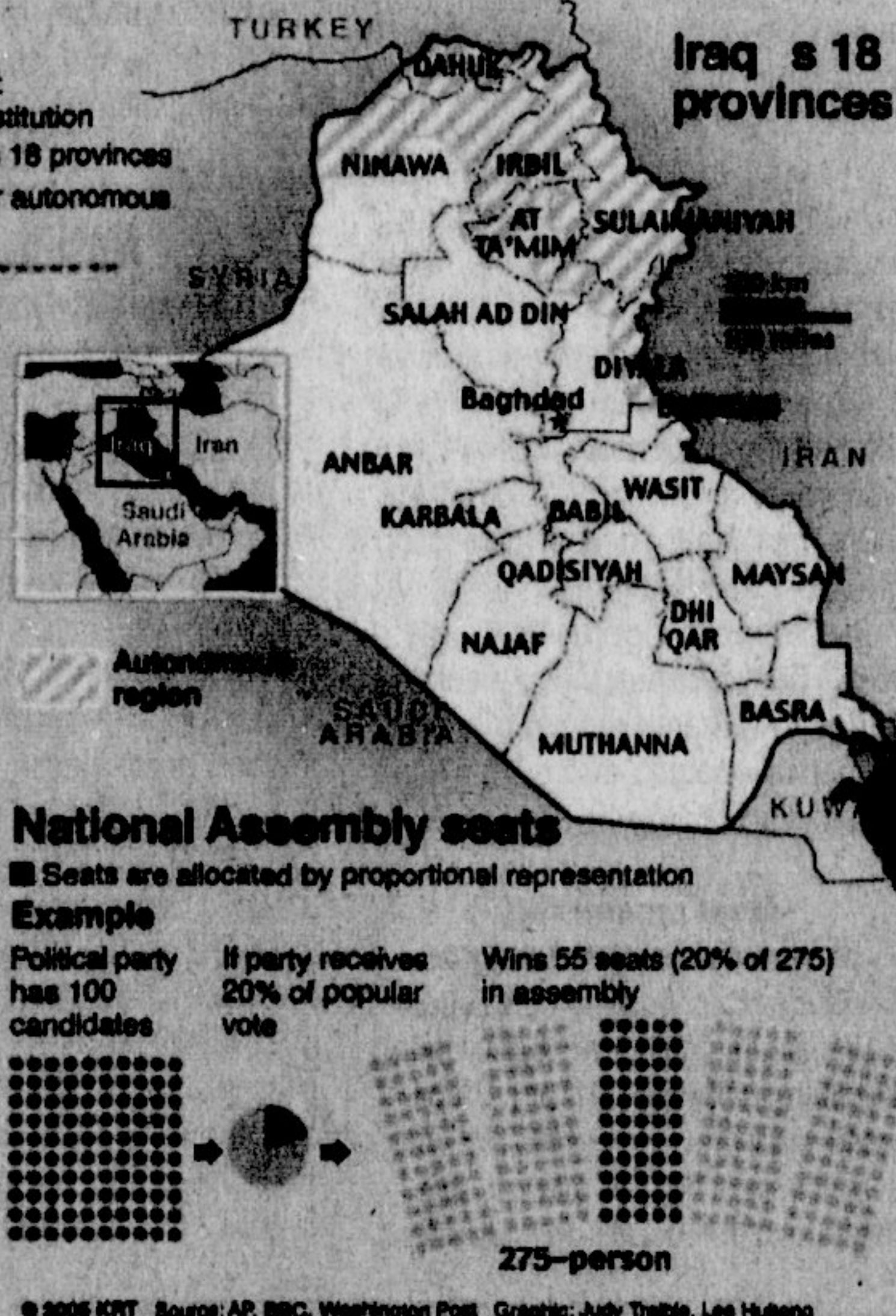
#### Who can vote

- About 15.2 million Iraqis, including 1.2 million living abroad
- Turnout expected: About 7-8 million

#### Assembly timetable

- 200
  - Feb. - Elects president, two deputy presidents who name temporary prime minister, cabinet
- Aug. 15 - Drafts constitution\*
- Oct. 15 - Nationwide vote on constitution\*\*
- Dec. 15 - New national elections if constitution approved by voters
- Dec. 31 - Fully constitutional government takes power

\*Six-month delay in process if constitution is not under way by Aug. 1.  
\*\*If constitution rejected by voters, new Assembly elections held on Dec. 15; one more year allowed to draft constitution, hold election.



Do you think the upcoming election will be overall beneficial for Iraq?



AMANDA CARR  
FRESHMAN BIOLOGY MAJOR

"Yes, because they need a leader that they elect themselves. It will make them feel more comfortable with their surroundings."



DIANA DODSON  
PSYCHOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE MAJOR

"I think there is so much pressure on it, I don't think people are going to vote the way they want to because fear of being hurt or killed. I don't think they will be properly regulated."



MELINDA DOUGLASS  
FRESHMAN ATHLETIC TRAINING MAJOR

"I think yes and no because some people don't want that kind of government but yes, because it gives them a choice."

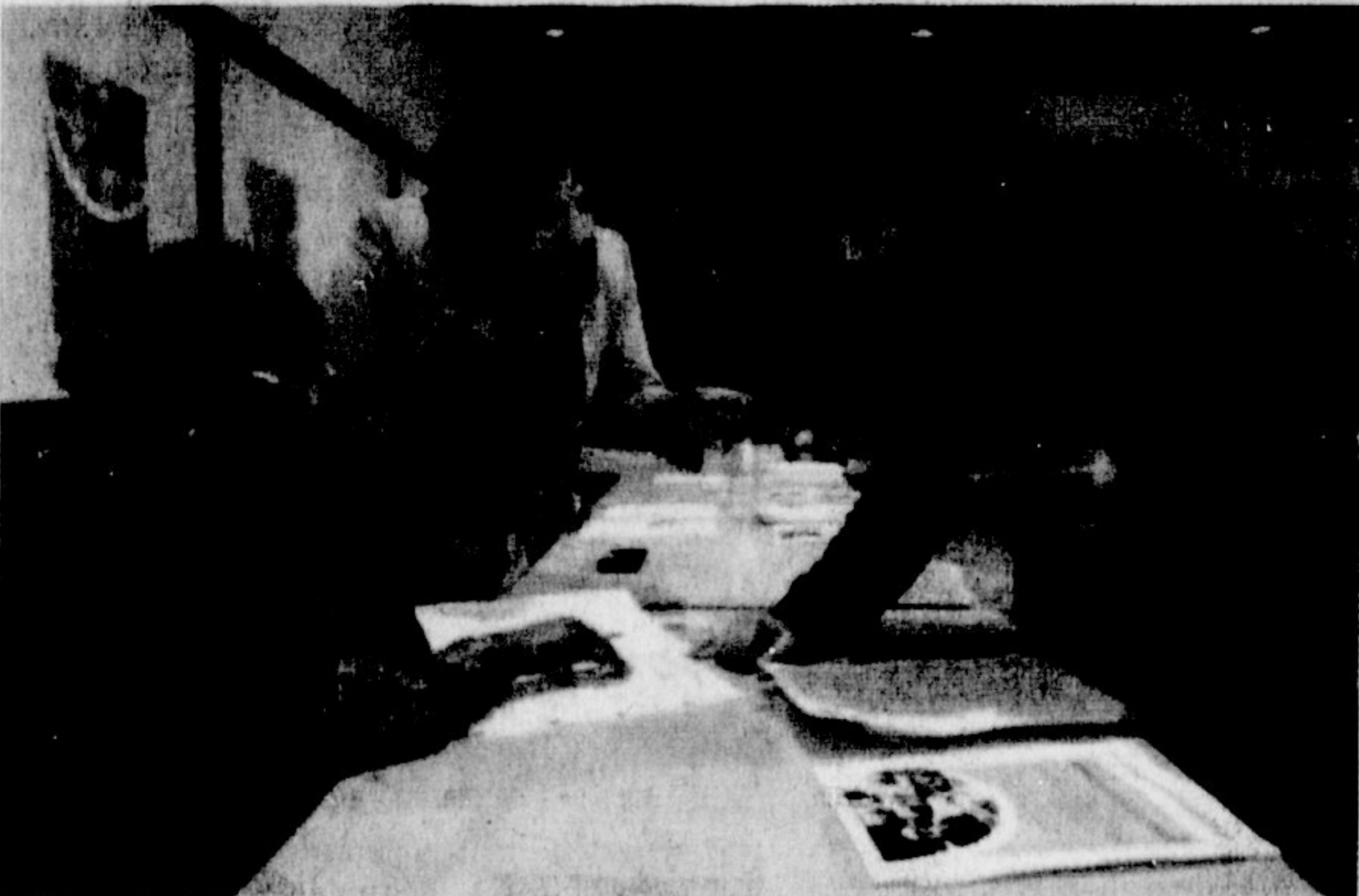


CASEY RICHARDSON  
FRESHMAN SOCIOLOGY MAJOR

"Helpful, because I think what they are doing is very pro democracy. I think its future will be more stable."

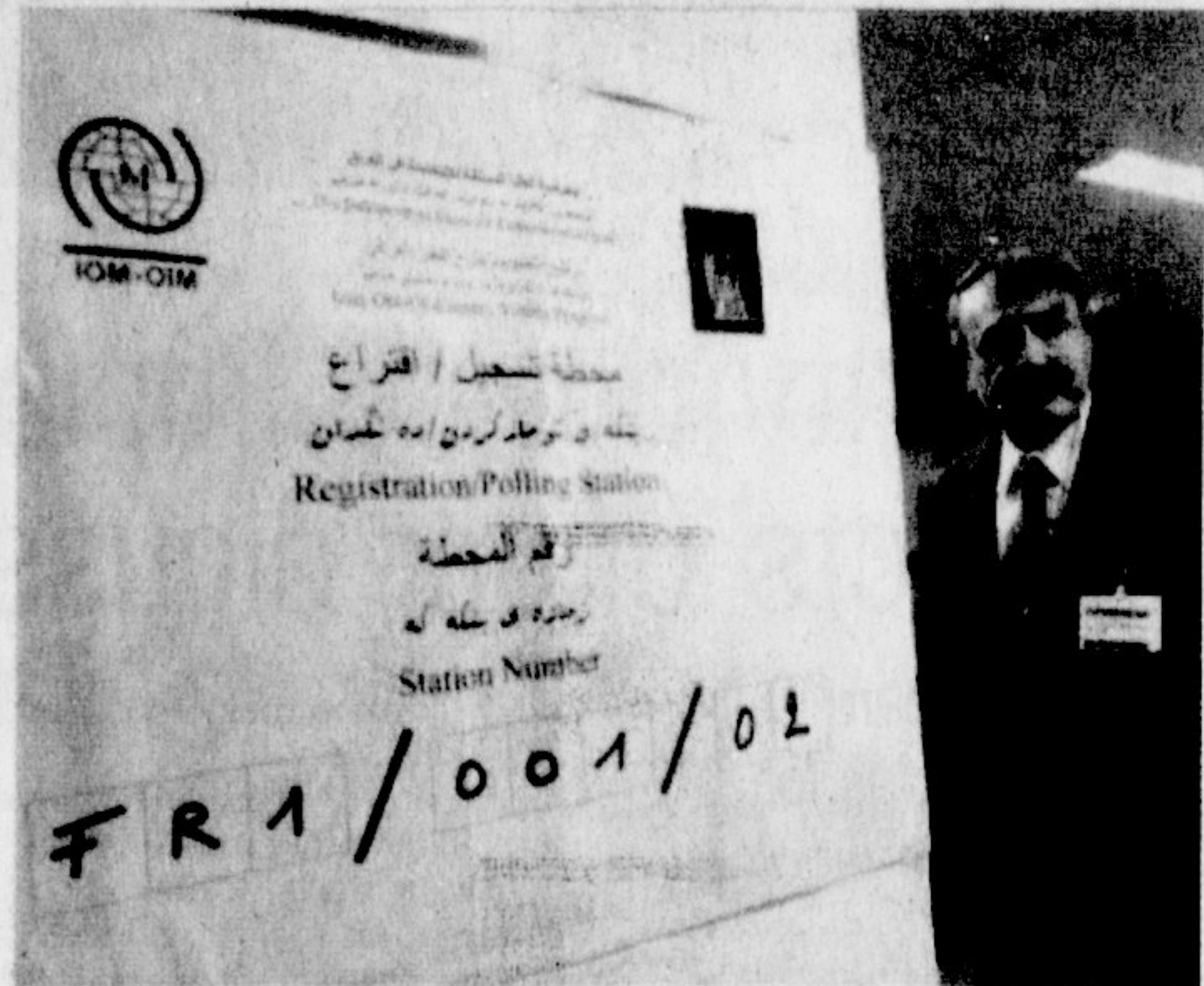


Volunteers paste posters on Baghdad walls (left, center) and an Iraqi policeman directs traffic in front of a wall advertising the elections (right).



AP PHOTOS

An Iraqi immigrant in the United States registers for the overseas vote.



An Iraqi polling station officer in Paris waits by the entrance.

## ECU Poetry Forum celebrates 40th anniversary



BALABAN

### Balaban featured as key speaker

AMBER PAYNE  
STAFF WRITER

John Balaban, author, professor and Vietnamese translator, is scheduled to read his poetry to ECU, Feb. 2 as part of the 40th anniversary celebration of the ECU Poetry Forum.

Author of 12 books in both fiction and non-fiction, Balaban has won The Academy of American Poets' Lamont Prize, a National Poetry Series Selection and been nominated twice for the National Book Award. He was also named the 2001-2004 National Artist for the Phi Kappa Phi Honor

Society, awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship award in 2003 and won the 1998 William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America for his book titled *Locusts at the Edge of Summer: New and Selected Poems*.

Peter Makuck, English professor, met Balaban during a book exchange, during which Balaban and Makuck swapped one another's books.

"Given the wonderful cadences and dramatic content of many of his poems I am very much looking forward to hearing him read," said Makuck.

Students are also looking forward to the event.

"You never see medicine poets, so this will be interesting to hear another writer's perspective... I look forward to hearing Balaban read," said Jerry Mathes, English graduate student.

Balaban is an English professor at NCSU. He is also the former president of the American Literary Translator Association and deemed Raleigh's poet-in-residence.

Balaban received an English degree from Penn State and a master's degree in English literature from Harvard. He graduated

during the Vietnam War, which he expressed an extreme opposition toward.

"I was pissed off at the war," said Balaban.

"I thought I could actually do something about it, so I left for Vietnam."

Balaban worked with Vietnamese civilians and treated the wounded. He tended to Vietnamese children and if their conditions were too severe, he would send them to the United States for professional care. Once they healed, the children returned to their families.

Balaban worked with the Committee of Responsibility and International Volunteer Services. Through his work with the organization, Balaban found his fascination for Vietnamese culture.

In 1972, he returned to the United States where he wanted to pursue his writing by translating Vietnamese poems. He took Vietnamese language courses at the University of Hawaii.

Balaban said with time came the understanding and professionalism of translating.

Balaban has translated

numerous poems and written fiction and non-fiction books mainly about the Vietnam War. These works include *Ca Dao Vietnam: Vietnamese Folle Poetry, Vietnam: The Land We Never Knew, Remembering Heaven's Face* and *Vietnam: A Traveler's Literary Companion*.

"The culture dates back 4,000 years and the complexity of their 2,000-year-old poems fascinates me," Balaban said.

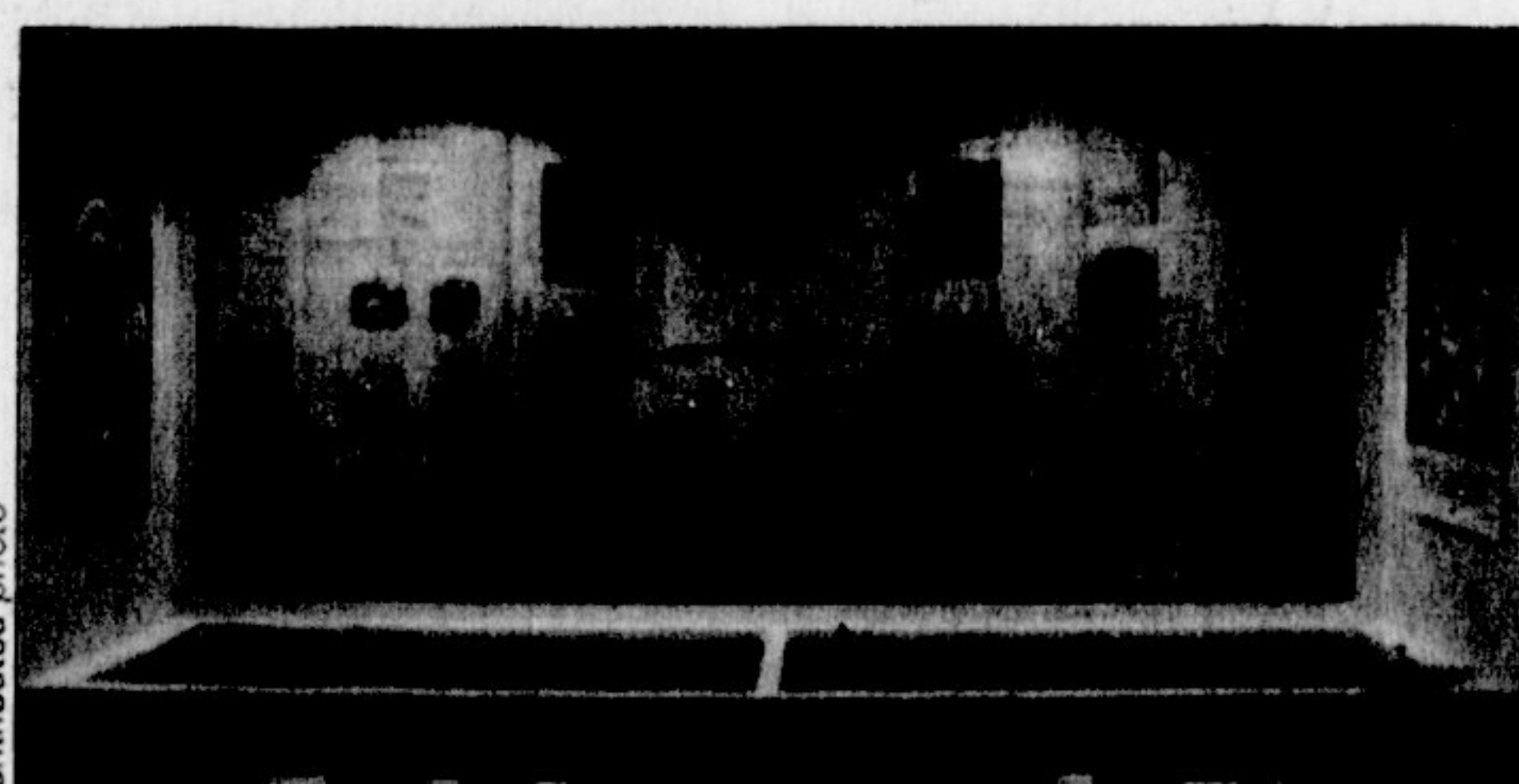
Balaban has been said to have "mastered the art" of taking Vietnamese poems and translating them with "delicacy and skill" while not disturbing the original piece.

Makuck expresses his fascination with Balaban's work through Balaban's memoir, *Remembering Heaven's Face*.

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



The event is taking place in 1032 Bate Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m.



The North Carolina Digital History library serves as a historical reference for counties of eastern North Carolina.

## ECU's North Carolina Digital Library a success

Site actively visited by people in nation, world

A.J. WALTON  
STAFF WRITER

The North Carolina Digital Library from ECU has proven to be a success since it was launched at the beginning of the year. Since its completion in July, the digital library has made a significant impact on the Internet world.

According to Elizabeth Smith,

principal investigator during the creation of the digital library and librarian in the North Carolina Collection of Joyner Library, the site currently offers 169 digital editions of titles related to 29 counties in eastern North Carolina. The site offers in-depth information including population histories, links to government sites, public libraries and the national register of historic places in each county.

Use of the digital library has increased dramatically since its initial opening with 222 people

see LIBRARY page A2

## Campus News

### Human Relations Council

The City of Greenville is accepting applications from students of an institution of higher learning to serve as volunteers on the Human Relations Council. This Commission is responsible for organizing and implementing programs dealing with problems of human relations and promoting understanding, respect, good will and equality of opportunity for all citizens. Two student representatives would be appointed for one-year terms. The Human Relations Commission meets the first Wednesday of each month excluding July and August at 7 p.m. If you live inside the city limits of Greenville and would like to serve on this commission, please call the City Clerk's Office at 329-4423 to obtain an application. You can also access a talent bank at [greenvillenc.gov](http://greenvillenc.gov).

### Send ECU to Kenya

ECU medical students are actively seeking donations for their upcoming trip to Kenya. Donations for the students to go and work in clinics this summer can be made to the Medical Foundation. In the "memo" section, please write "Africa Trip/EC."

### Join ASA

Interested in joining the Arab Student Association? Please send an e-mail to [srb0907@mail.ecu.edu](mailto:srb0907@mail.ecu.edu) or [bh0218@mail.ecu.edu](mailto:bh0218@mail.ecu.edu). Come learn more about the Arabic culture.

### PR Raffle

PRSSA will be at the Wright Place holding a raffle for an upcoming charity event Thursday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### Benefit concert

Blue County will be performing at the Wright Auditorium Jan. 27 at 8 p.m. for a benefit concert sponsored by 95.1 WRNS and WITN TV 17. Tickets are on sale for \$12 and are available to the public at the Wright Auditorium ticket office or by calling 1-800-ECU-ARTS.

### Annual member celebration/All That Jazz

The Pitt-Greenville Chamber of Commerce will host this musical event at the Hilton in Greenville at 7 p.m. Jan. 28. The ECU Jazz Combo, directed by Carroll V. Dashiell, Jr., will perform and the Citizen of the Year award will be presented. For more information, call 752-4101.

### The Delfonics and Harold Melvin's Blue Notes

C+C Entertainment and Oldies 104.9 will host this performance of blues music at the Greenville Convention Center Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the Greenville Convention Center. VIP seats are \$39 and general admission costs \$25. Call 321-7671 for details.

### Contra Dance

The Folk Arts Society of Greenville and ECU Folk and Country Dancers will host a contra dance Jan. 28 at the Willis Building on First and Reade streets. Lessons will begin at 7:30 p.m. and the dance will be from 8 - 10:30 p.m.

### Jazz at Night

The school of music will host this jazz event Jan. 28 at 8 p.m. in the Mendenhall Great Room. For more information call 328-6851.

### Greenville Contrathon 2005

The Folk Arts Society of Greenville and ECU Folk and Country Dancers will host this event Jan. 28 - 29 at the Willis Building on First and Reade streets. The program will be held from 1 - 5 p.m. and 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. Jan. 28 and from 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. Jan. 29. The FootLoose Band will provide musical entertainment. Call 752-7350 for more information.

### Rickey Smiley Comedy Show

Sponsored by M and M Promotions, Smiley along with comedians Ronnie Jordan and CED Delaney will perform at the Greenville Convention Center Jan. 29 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 902-6114 or 902-9116.

Want your event printed in TEC? Please send your announcement along with the date, time, location and contact information to [assistantnewseditor@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:assistantnewseditor@theeastcarolinian.com).

## Local

### Duke frat party stars bikinis, baby oil

DURHAM, NC - In what was probably not a film class assignment, partying Duke University students were found re-enacting a movie scene with an inflatable wading pool, a whole lot of baby oil and female students in bikinis.

Police came upon the scene - an apparent homage to the 2003 comedy *Old School* - in the basement of a Duke fraternity house early Sunday morning.

Police went to the home around midnight to check out a noise complaint and found about 200 students in attendance.

"Inside were several of America's future, re-enacting a scene from the movie *Old School*, where females wrestle in a pool of lubricants," said Durham Police Sgt. D. Gunter. In their version, the Duke students apparently opted for baby oil.

Officers said they cleared out the house, sending some of the women home in the subfreezing temperatures in nothing other than the bikinis they wore.

Nicholas Hunter Roberts, who lives at the address, was charged with violating the city's noise ordinance, a misdemeanor that carries a \$150 fine. There has been ongoing tension between students and residents of the neighborhoods that adjoin Duke's East Campus. Other weekend parties in the area resulted in noise ordinance charges and a marijuana possession charge.

### Meat processing plants violate human rights

RALEIGH, NC - Working conditions at meat processing plants in the United States, including one in North Carolina, violate basic human rights, according to a *Human Rights Watch* report. The report, released Tuesday after a

year of research, is based on interviews with employees and managers at three plants: a Nebraska beef factory, an Arkansas chicken plant and the Smithfield Packing Co. pork plant in the Bladen County town of Tar Heel. The report describes all three plants as places where workers are frequently injured and then refused medical care or fired.

The report found that repetitive motion injuries are universal in the industry, unsanitary conditions sometimes leave workers covered in animal urine and feces and attempts to unionize are sometimes violently quashed. Tom Clarke, leader of an 11-year effort to unionize the Smithfield plant, said the company has violated workers' rights for years.

*Human Rights Watch* often reports on international issues, such as torture in Iraq.

The Smithfield plant, about 100 miles south of Raleigh, employs about 5,000 and is the country's largest hog-killing factory.

## National

### FBI rules out Boston terror threat

BOSTON - Two men suspected of smuggling Chinese immigrants across the Mexican border placed a cell phone call warning of a possible terror threat against Boston, Mexican and American law enforcement officials said.

The call set authorities in motion - alerting the public, increasing security at the airport, on the subway. Gov. Mitt Romney even skipped President Bush's inauguration to return to Boston.

On Tuesday, the FBI said the chilling tip was a false alarm.

"There were, in fact, no terrorist plans or activity under way," the statement said. "Because the criminal investigation is ongoing, no further details can be provided at this time."

Jose Ernesto Beltran Quinones, one of 16 people sought for questioning about the alleged terror plot, was detained over the weekend in Mexicali, a border town near San Diego. His son, also named Jose, was detained Monday.

Mexico's federal Attorney General's office released a statement late Tuesday saying Beltran, 34, had admitted calling 911 on Jan. 17 from a cell phone to report the fake threat. Beltran was under the influence of alcohol and drugs, the statement said - he insisted the call "was only a joke."

### Delaware Supreme

#### Court ruling could free inmates

DOVER, Del. - A ruling by the Delaware Supreme Court could free nearly 200 inmates serving life terms for murder, rape and kidnapping - a decision that has drawn impassioned protests from victims' families and lawmakers. The court's decision that some life sentences should be considered 45-year terms applies only to life-with-parole sentences handed down for crimes committed before Delaware clarified its sentencing laws in mid-1990. On Tuesday, the State House unanimously passed a bill declaring the ruling "null and void," although lawmakers acknowledged the measure may violate the separation of powers.

"I have some severe doubts about the constitutionality of this piece of legislation," said Rep. Robert Valihura, a Republican from Wilmington. "That said, I rise in support of this legislation because we have to do something ... If this is unconstitutional, we have bought ourselves some time."

The vote came after lawmakers heard pleas from victims' families. Greg Whaley said his grandparents were killed in 1961 and his family recently learned that the man who was responsible - and who publicly

vowed to kill others if he was ever freed - could be released in four weeks. "I thought one of the functions of government was to protect the citizens," Whaley said.

Before 1990, a sentence of life with parole was considered a 45-year term for purposes of calculating good time credit and setting a parole date. Prosecutors maintained that if an inmate was repeatedly denied parole, he could be held until he died.

## World

### Military helicopter crashes, kills 31 in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq - A U.S. Marine helicopter transporting troops crashed Wednesday in the desert of western Iraq, killing 31 people, American military officials said. It was the deadliest crash of a U.S. military helicopter in Iraq.

There was no immediate word on how many people were on board or what caused the crash. The military officials did not specify the nationalities of those on board or say how many were soldiers.

The helicopter went down about 1:20 a.m. near the town of Rutbah, about 220 miles west of Baghdad, while conducting security operations, the military said in a statement. The aircraft was transporting personnel from the 1st Marine Division.

A search and rescue team has reached the site and an investigation into what caused the crash is underway, the military said.

"We can confirm casualties, but not what type or numbers yet," a U.S. spokesman Lt. Col. Steven Boylan said. Previously, the deadliest incident involving U.S. troops was a Nov. 15, 2003, crash of two Black Hawk helicopters that collided while trying to avoid ground fire in Mosul, killing 17

U.S. soldiers and wounding five.

### Grieving relatives try to identify more than 250

WAI, India - Thousands of sobbing relatives struggled to identify the blackened and bruised bodies of loved ones in a hospital Wednesday, a day after a stampede during a religious procession to a hilltop temple killed at least 258 people and injured 200 in western India.

The chain-reaction tragedy began when several Hindu pilgrims inside the temple fell on a slippery floor and were crushed to death by the crowd. Word of the accident then trickled out to some of the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims climbing toward the hilltop on a narrow walkway.

Angered over the deaths, some pilgrims began setting the shops lining the path on fire, sparking a stampede that killed at least 258 people, including 156 women, Subha Rao, the top district administrator, told The Associated Press.

Police chief Chandrakant Kumbhar said the tragedy began when the temple floor became slippery from a ceremony that involved breaking coconuts in front of a deity. Some pilgrims fell and were trampled to death by others propelled forward by the mass of people behind them trying to get into the temple to make offerings. Late Tuesday night, police and firefighters loaded bodies onto buses while sobbing relatives carried the crushed remains of their family members down the narrow hill path near Wai, about 150 miles south of Bombay.

Broken coconuts, torn shirts and shattered bangles lay on a slippery, wet floor outside the temple. Hundreds of stainless steel plates, traditionally used to make offerings of sweets and flowers to the gods, were strewn across the floor-streaked red with vermilion powder used in the offerings.

## Library from page A1

visiting the site July 2. Currently, the site averages 437 people a day.

Kenneth Hopson, sophomore computer science major, said he's used the site on several occasions and was impressed with its services.

"I was looking for information on my home county ... I 'googled' it and up came the ECU Digital Library," said Hopson.

"It was extremely easy to navigate. All the information I needed was available ... I found a lot." In the United States, more than 44,000 people visited the site between July and October.

American borders, however, have not limited the Web site's success. Approximately 5,000 people visited the site from places such as the United Kingdom, India, Australia and Canada.

The Web site offers a plethora of material for researchers. Due to the rich history of the American South, international and national visitors alike can find viable information on government, genealogy and historical fictional works.

The Web site has served as a resource for students in obtaining information for their class assignments.

Kenneth Rountree, sophomore information technology major, used the site for his English 1200 class.

"My assignment was to find

information on something that took place on my birthday," said Rountree.

"My professor told me about the Web site ... I went to it, typed in my birth date and loads of documents appeared. I got an A on the paper."

Smith said the library plans to continue growing this year.

"The number of titles will double and materials related to artifacts from several museums will be added," said Smith.

Links, individual sharing and listserve announcements are also bringing notoriety to the digital library. Library staff hopes people will continue to use the site as a constant source of information.

Students like Rountree believe the site is tremendously important.

"With all of the information the site offers, its success can only increase ... ECU students, in particular North Carolina students, should use the site more often," Rountree said.

This writer can be contacted at [news@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:news@theeastcarolinian.com).

## Digital Library

The site can be accessed at [lib.ecu.edu/ncc/historyfiction/](http://lib.ecu.edu/ncc/historyfiction/).



The ECU Technology Advancement Center is in the process of finalizing personal safety devices which would heighten security on ECU's campus.

## Security device implementation projects under discussion

### Students share mixed feelings for executing technology

KRISTIN DAY ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The implementation of pilot projects to identify and test personal alert devices for campus students has been slowed down creating mixed reactions in students and local police.

Concepts for the device are varied, but the general idea from ECU's Center for Wireless and Mobile Computing is to create a keychain-sized device which would incorporate wireless technology to transmit an alert to the police when a student needs help or assistance.

Barry DuVall, director of the Center for Wireless and Mobile Computing said they at the center (now the ECU Technology Advancement Center) have completed Phase I of a research project to identify and test personal alert technology.

"The university is looking for possibilities for implementing pilot projects," said DuVall.

"Approval and strategies for implementation are necessary before moving forward."

One concern about employing technology is the cost. When and if the technology becomes available to students at ECU, it would be difficult to get the product to everyone fairly.

Sgt. Amy Davis, ECU's Crime Prevention Sergeant, said the school needs to be careful because it would not be fair to keep it only for the people who can afford it. She said it should be made open to all students, faculty and staff.

"Other students shouldn't be held accountable for their own

safety because they can't afford it," said Davis.

"I think it's a great [idea], but it should be offered to everyone."

Linda Sharp, junior health information major, said she is rarely concerned about her safety on campus, but would consider buying a personal alert device if it were available at a reasonable price.

Some students echoed Sharp saying they don't think ECU's campus is dangerous enough for the effort of selecting and utilizing a personal alert system.

Lauren Connelly, junior Spanish major, said she doesn't think producing the device is necessary because assaults and robberies do not frequently occur on campus.

C.J. Edwards, sophomore music instruction major, said there are other consequential possibilities such as accidentally pressing the panic button or a thief stealing the device along with everything else.

Sophomore Kelley Lambert works at the Java City in Joyner Library and said even though she has to walk across campus in the dark after work, she doesn't really think about the possibility of being assaulted.

"I guess I think it will never happen to me," said Lambert.

For those who it has happened to, the reaction is different.

Emily Williford is an ECU student and a two-time assault victim. From her experience, the device would be well-worth the pitfalls.

"I like the idea of the security device and think it would be so helpful. I was mugged a few years ago and had a situation a month or so ago and it would have really helped," said Williford.

"Had I had one of those the night I was mugged, the people would have gotten arrested and

nothing would have been stolen."

Williford said this kind of device could save a lot of people from awful situations and cannot believe people think it is a bad idea to make it.

"I guess they haven't had the bad experiences you would need to think otherwise," Williford said.

"It all depends on what you have gone through, but I think it would save a lot of lives and prevent a lot of dangerous situations ... Think of all the people who are raped and if they have a police alert they may be saved."

Davis said that no crimes which she considers to be major have occurred recently, but in 2003 there were nine reported robberies and five sex offenses on campus.

"These numbers look small ... [but] this is a campus surrounded by a bigger city," Davis said.

"I'd rather see them a lot less than what they are."

Davis said the problem with most campuses is they often react after a crime. She said we should take steps to stop crime before it occurs and the security device is a possible solution.

"You have to be proactive," Davis said.

DuVall said universities can be considered safer than the outside world because they have their own police department, but no matter how safe ECU is, there are still problems with people getting mugged, raped and people getting into dorms. Students have been killed on UNC campuses.

"We should recognize the world is more dangerous than it was 20 years ago," DuVall said.

This writer can be contacted at [news@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:news@theeastcarolinian.com).

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## Helicopter crash leaves 31 dead

(AP) — This seaside military town reacted with grief and resolve Wednesday at the news that 31 service members were killed when a transport helicopter crashed in the deadliest single incident yet for U.S. forces in Iraq.

"It's terrible, but it comes with the territory," said Carl Dreibelbis, 52, an Oceanside native who served in the Navy and said members of his family have fought in every U.S. war since the American Revolution.

"I'm afraid that when people hear this, their inclinations will be to retreat. But I say charge," Dreibelbis said.

Twenty-seven of the victims were based at Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe Bay, which is under the operational control of the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, near Oceanside. Some of the victims were also members of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego. Further details were withheld pending notification of families.

The crew chief onboard the helicopter, Lance Cpl. Tony Hernandez, deployed to Iraq last summer and was

scheduled to return to Camp Pendleton in March, said his father, Leroy Hernandez, of Canyon Lake, Texas. He said he last spoke with his son on Sunday.

"He said it was cold, that he didn't like the weather, that he was working his butt off — the usual gripes," Hernandez said. "He didn't say a lot because he didn't want anyone to worry."

The previous deadliest incident in Iraq for American service members also was a helicopter crash: In November 2004, two Black Hawks collided while trying to avoid ground fire, killing 17 service members.

Wednesday's crash occurred as personnel were being transported by the CH-53E Super Stallion as part of security and stabilization operations. The military did not mention a possible cause.

Amber Warlock, 31, a former Marine whose husband is a Marine pilot stationed at Camp Pendleton, said she was stunned when she heard about the crash on television.

"You hear about people dying every day in ones and twos," she said. "But 31 is just too much to comprehend."

She sought solace at the beach with her 5-month-old daughter Heidi and a fellow Marine wife who cried at news of the deaths, even though she had confirmed her husband was OK in Iraq.

"You just know how every single woman sitting in her home feels, whether it's going to be yours or someone you know," Warlock said. "It doesn't matter who it is. It's a bad day for everybody."

Hernandez said his son tried to join the Marines after he graduated from high school but was rejected because he was too heavy. After visiting with a recruiter again, he was soon running hard and dieting to trim nearly 25 pounds off his frame. He had lost another 20 pounds by the time he finished Marine boot camp in California.

"We went to his graduation and we almost didn't recognize him," Hernandez said.

He said his own memories of fighting in the Vietnam War weighed heavily on him after his son deployed to Iraq.

"I knew (the war) was going to escalate — it was pretty much guaranteed," he said. "Unfortunately it's the young kids who end up paying the price."

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## Space station astronauts install mini-robotic arm, find goo on vents



Chiao and Salizhan are shown outside the space station.

"Everything's perfect," Mission Control radioed. "Well, thank God, thank God," came the reply. Before going back inside, they were advised: "Take a breather."

The spacewalk — unable to be completely televised because of a cold station antenna — was the first in Chiao and Sharipov's mission, now at the three and a half-month point.

"Hello, space, my old friend," Chiao, a veteran spacewalker, said as he exited.

A little earlier, flight controllers teased Sharipov for singing as he got ready to make his first-ever spacewalk. "You could hear that, huh?" he asked with a laugh. The singing and humming continued outside.

Because of the grounding of NASA's shuttle fleet, the international space station has been limited to two residents, one fewer than usual. As a result, no one was left inside during the spacewalk to monitor station systems, and flight controllers kept tabs on things, an increasingly

common practice in the wake of the Columbia disaster two years ago. Controllers did not get to see the start of the spacewalk 225 miles up because of an unusually cold dish antenna, which was parked in a fixed position at the station. They settled for audio only.

But the antenna warmed up sooner in the sunlight than expected, and live TV images of the station filled Mission Control's screens less than an hour into the spacewalk. The crisp images lasted only minutes, however, and reappeared sporadically.

Chiao, the American commander, and Sharipov, a Russian, promptly set up the mini robotic arm that arrived on Christmas Day along with much-needed groceries. Food and water were running so low that the spacemen went on a lengthy diet that ended only when the supply ship showed up.

They had a month of hearty eating to beef up for the 5 and a half-hour Russian-managed spacewalk, which involved hauling the robotic arm and its platform over 100 feet.

**GORDON'S**  
 for Snowboarding

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## Our View

### Is Supreme Court just in Schiavo's decision?

Who has the right to decide when it's time for someone to die? That is the question being passed around courts of law in the case of 40-year-old Terri Schiavo.

Schiavo suffered brain damage from going into cardiac arrest in 1990. She is in a vegetative state and a feeding tube is the one thing keeping her alive.

Terri's husband, Michael Schiavo, told doctors at the hospital that Terri would not have wanted to live in such a manner. According to Florida law, if a patient never puts such a request in writing (as Terri failed to do), decision of care passes to that person's spouse.

However, Florida Governor Jeb Bush ordered the tube be put back in place and the case passed through the court system, all the way to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ruled on Monday that Bush's request was unconstitutional and Michael has the right to remove Terri's feeding tube (however, due to all the red tape, it may be a while before that happens).

But is the Supreme Court's decision really fair? Terri's parents contend their daughter is still able to recognize and respond to them and they argue Michael wants to remove Terri's tube so he can marry another woman and inherit Terri's estate.

"It's judicial homicide. They want to murder her," her father, Robert Schindler said to the Associated Press Monday.

"I have no idea what the next step will be. We're going to fight for her as much as we can fight for her. She deserves a chance."

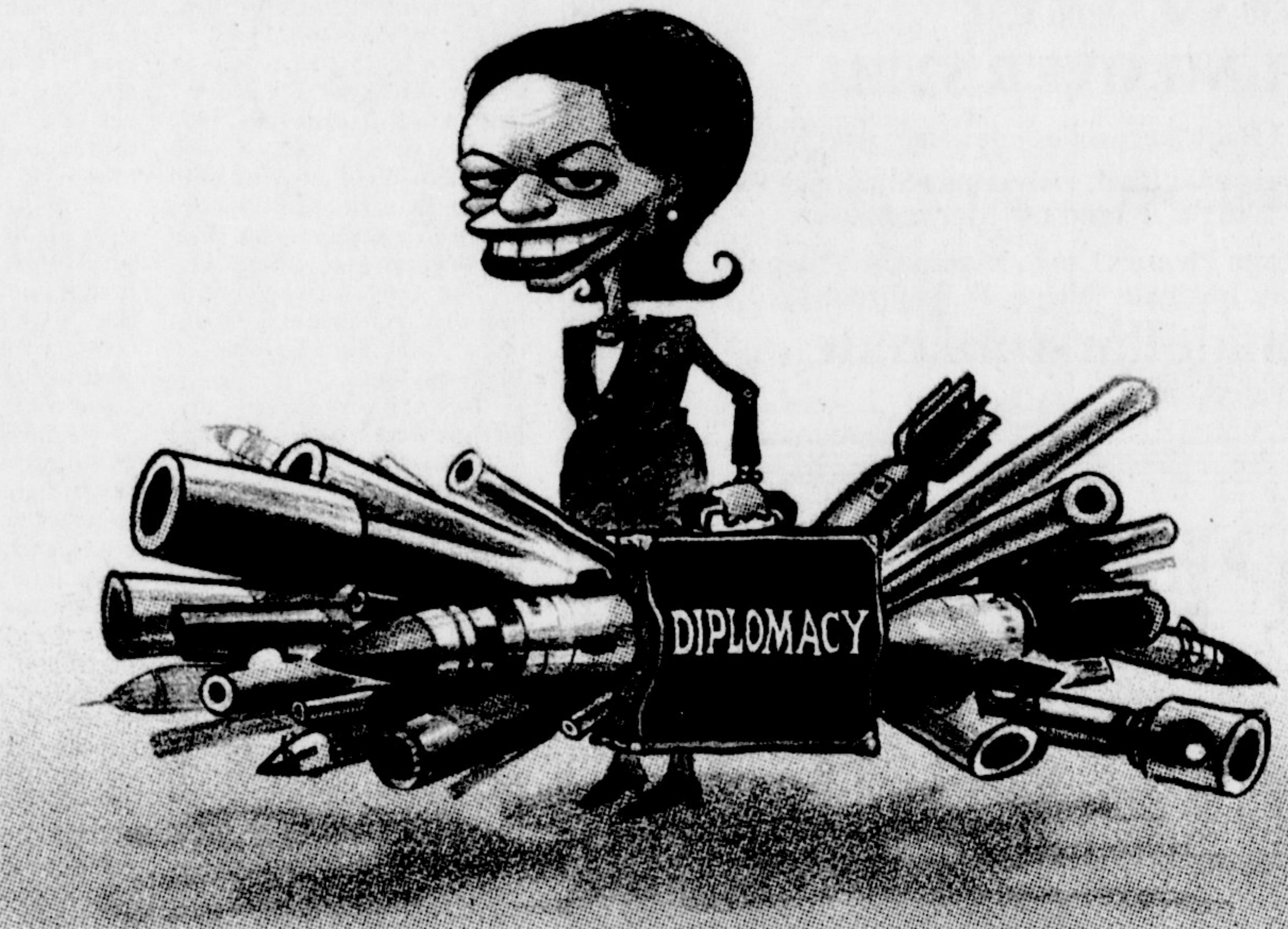
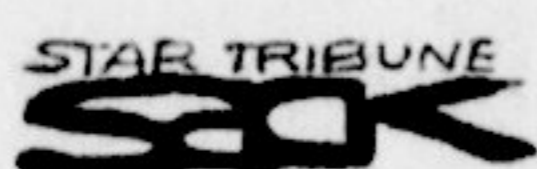
We agree with the arguments presented by Schindler. Terri has already lived 14 years since her injury and her parents argue that her condition may be improved with additional therapy. While that remains to be seen, we still believe the right to live should be decided by the individual and no one else.

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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

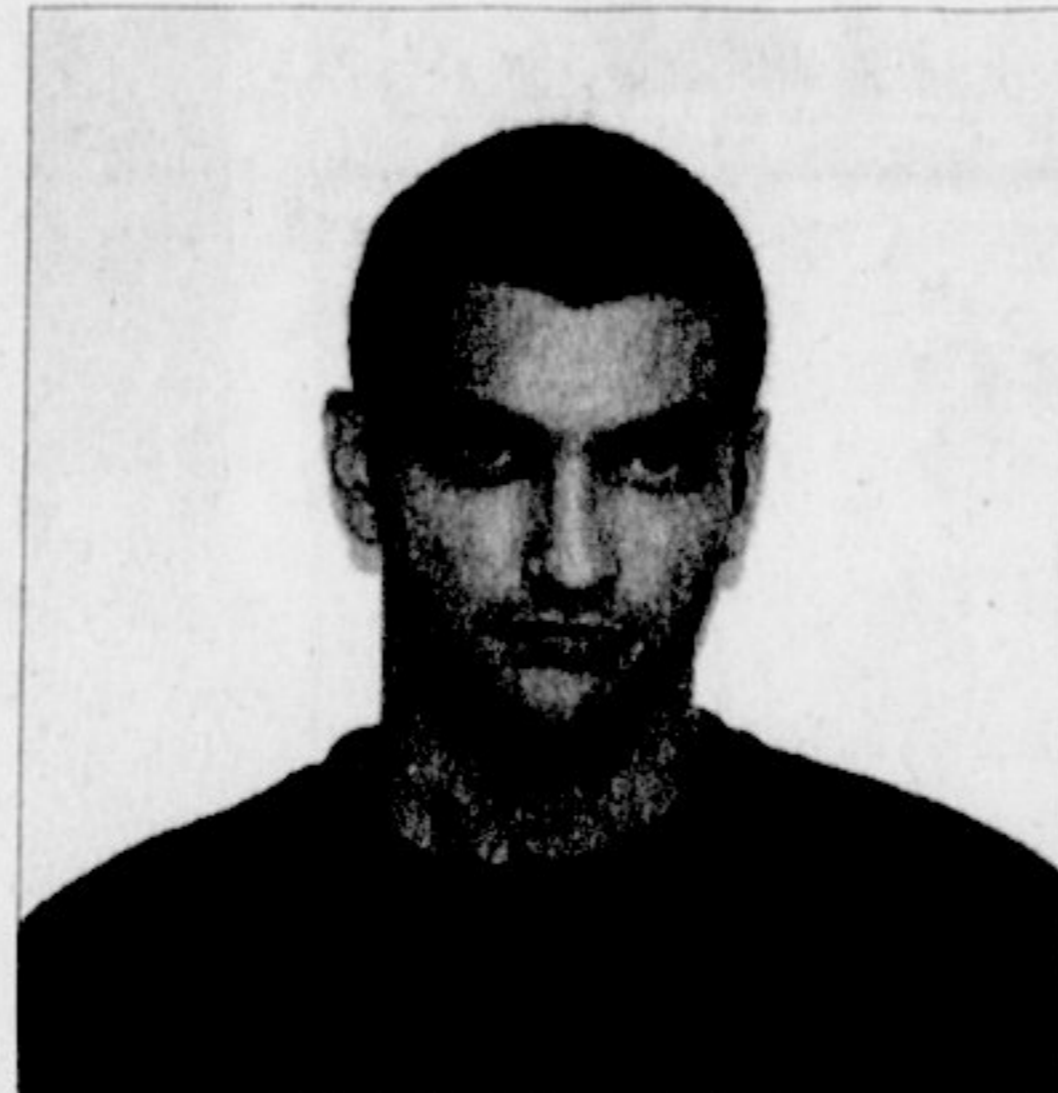
### So many questions, so few answers

*A modicum of soul searching never hurt anyone*

**PETER KALAJIAN**  
BLEEDING HEART COLLABORATOR

If there is one topic capable of holding my interest, a topic with which I never get bored, it is current events. The sweet, soothing tones of MSNBC have lulled me off to sleep many a night, but I have no sandman. In his stead, I tune in to Chris Matthews and Joe Scarborough, endlessly droning on about this war or that hot social issue. I can't get enough of it. But there is one issue, often mentioned in this column, which seems to take precedence over the rest. Even when not directly referenced, most topics can be related to it, or are in some manner pertaining to the one overriding driver of experience - you guessed it - religion. Religion is the glue which binds together the great collage of human experience and I for one have been experiencing a great deal of trouble getting my glue to stick.

Alright, let's be honest, I have no glue. I am glueless. Some would call my lack of glue atheistic, some would call it agnostic, I on the other hand prefer to think of my spiritual emptiness as an advantage, a leg up if you will. After great consideration, I have come to certain conclusions. Since history has certainly demonstrated that some of our readers are somewhat, shall we say, sensitive, I would like to stress that these conclusions pertain to me, myself and I. It is not my intention to proselytize (maybe technically) or evangelize anyone with my personal brand of religious skepticism, so please, I implore you - take my words for what



they are - observation.

It is a fundamental contradiction to be Catholic and also be pro-choice. If you choose to be religious (and its OK if you do) be religious all the time. That means if you are a devout Christian, or that's what you tell your parents and minister on Sunday mornings, premarital sex is not part of the program. How can a person be "kind of religious" or "sort of religious?" Do not be wishy-washy with your everlasting soul. For me, I reject the idea of an eternal soul, so I can be as hedonistic as I please.

If you believe something, stand behind it. Be a soldier, not a bystander. Religion or no religion, there is no greater betrayal of the fundamental nature of humanity than to silently accept one's fate, whether it was imposed on you during childhood or was attained through a lifetime of sin.

Question authority. If something sounds fishy, chances are it is. If you are a deeply Christian parent and expect your children to behave as "sheep amidst the wolves," do not send them to public school. Public school is where they learn science and, gasp, evolution. You have a right to raise your children in the manner you see fit, but

public education, more than anything, teaches children to ask questions. I have decided there can be but one solution to the continuing problem of religious indoctrination and the bigotry and hatred which are so often associated with it. It may sound revolutionary, but bear with me. I think it is the key to all of our problems. Granted, it may be somewhat unrealistic, but what is the point of having a weekly newspaper column if not to test out wild theories and hatch outlandish schemes?

My plan is simple, concise and functional. Until a child reaches a pre-determined age, maybe 15 or 16, they will be exposed to zero religious indoctrination. No church, no mosque, no temple. On their 16th birthday, children will then be able to choose their own paths, not blindly follow their parents and grandparents. They can be exposed to a multiplicity of lifestyles and world views, not just those of the Christian or Muslim or Jewish faiths. They can understand possibilities instead of having their possibilities laid out for them. I wonder, should this genius plan ever be implemented and you can believe that when I have children they will receive no religious education of any kind, how serious of an effect would it have on the membership lists of the world's great religions? Maybe the thousands of years of religious narrow-mindedness, hatred and bigotry can be brought to an end. But then again, maybe not.

I will be certain and let everyone know what the results of my experimentation are. Now all I have to do is find a family willing to abandon generations of religiosity and turn their child over to me. Probably easier said than done. Ah, well, penny for your thoughts.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Tony McKee, once again you continue to astonish me with your unique perspective on the world [in regards to Jan. 25 column titled "Moore shows more signs of hypocrisy"]. In regards to Michael Moore, he does not represent everyone who has issues with the far right agenda, which you seem to support. Most Democrats or liberals would probably agree that he sits on the lunatic fringe of the left. His only true great work was *Roger and Me. Fahrenheit 9/11* was a piece of propaganda - it only told one side of the story. It seems to me the problem with media outlets in general is that the far right and the far left dominate the discussions and leave the audience the choice between two very different ideologies and a very incomplete picture.

I have a question for you: Have you ever driven in Fairfax, Va.? Traffic is a nightmare in northern Virginia with 20-mile commutes often turning into two and three-hour trips. There is also a reason that teenagers have higher insurance premiums than other drivers - that is because they are more likely to get into accidents, mostly because of inexperience. A cell phone is a major distraction for inexperienced drivers when driving on Interstate 95 or 66 in the morning or afternoon rush hour traffic.

Why do you persist spewing out such distaste for anyone who didn't vote for George Bush? Your side won, yet you still are bitter. We will have a few years to see how well

the Republican agenda works since they control both houses of Congress and the White House. If you want to rant about the intrusion of the government on our lives, why not look at the Patriot Act, which allows the government to monitor what we check out at the library and subpoena financial records without our knowledge. That seems to be a much bigger intrusion by the government on our freedoms. As a great man once said, "Those who would trade freedom for security deserve neither."

David Bergeron  
Sociology Graduate Student

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to Jan. 12's opinion column titled "Studies show the liberal left is literally dying out." The ability of Republicans to discuss their own political ideals like they are dry business statistics never ceases to amaze me. Being one of the "endangered" leftists this article discusses, as well as being pro-choice, I never thought an article about abortion could offend me. I was wrong. This article cited fertility rates of Republican states versus Democratic states, the fact that homosexuals can't reproduce and higher abortion rates among democrats to assert that - "the left has birth controlled, aborted and maybe also gay-libbed itself into a smaller role in American society."

The author had the nerve to cite the proportion of the 40 million babies aborted in the last thirty years that

might have grown up to be left wing, adding that John Kerry sure could have used those votes. This argument relies on so many ridiculous assumptions that I can't believe it reached printing. First of all, even Republicans (and their kids) get abortions. Furthermore, like me, not all kids will share the political views of their parents. I mean, someone actually sat down to a calculator so that they could tell me that 19.7 million aborted fetuses would have grown up to be Democrats?

The overall tone of the article was like the author was saying "Ha ha, you left-wingers did this to America and now you're all dying for it." If I'm offended, I wonder how a pro-lifer would look at this story. Would they care that the 40 million lives, that they hold so sacred, were being discussed in such a coarse and obtuse manner?

Would Americans be offended if I were to write an article that calculated how many of the dead American soldiers in Iraq were Republicans? Warmongers are more likely to be Republican, so maybe if we step up this war effort, the Democrats will have a chance in 2008. Perhaps the Bush administration's efforts to teach "abstinence only" in schools, is really a plot to prevent right wing children from learning about birth control, thereby raising that Republican fertility rate. Oh wait, I forgot, only liberals have premarital sex.

Nick Jones  
ECU Biology Graduate Student

## Pirate Rant

Can I have some sidewalk, please? Some people need to go back home to their mommies and daddies and have a talk about sharing because it's rude to bump into someone and then act like it's their fault. You know you're in the wrong.

I know it's their job, but giving out parking tickets all day has to be a drag. I mean you earn your living by making tons of people miserable everyday.

Clean your shavings out of the sink when you're done. It takes two seconds and, while you're at it, flush the toilet, that's not what I want to see at 8:30 a.m.

To the people that still have John Kerry stickers all over their car, you look pretty tacky and need I remind you - Bush won.

Everyone needs to come and support the basketball team at all of our remaining home games. I've never heard it so quiet when the opposing team is shooting free throws. Minges should be one of the toughest places to play. We, as fans, have to be crazy and organized. Let's be Maniacs.

Is there anyone else still waiting for course packets? I mean if we need to hire someone to make copies, let me know. I desperately need a job.

Why is it that when I try to go to my night class, I can never find a place to park? I can either ride around the parking lot for 30 minutes waiting for a space or take the risk of walking half a mile in the dark, just waiting for someone to come up and snatch my purse.

I come to class every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I sit in the same seat every day. The one day I'm late because of ice and light snow flurries, you are in my seat. The seat I have sat in every single day since Jan. 7. And now, you try to beat me to class to get my seat. Needless to say I have not had my seat for a couple of days. But now, I will be getting to class extra early just to see your face, you seat stealer.

I love winter in Greenville, especially when I'm walking around in a sweatshirt and everyone else is in a jacket with gloves, a scarf and a serious winter hat.

Maybe if the cheerleaders had something to cheer for then it would not seem like they learned to cheer at a funeral. To whoever wrote that, you are probably the disrespectful person that gets up before the game is over and leaves. So until you stay for a whole game then you should not have a say on how the cheerleaders act.

I came to the South from New Jersey and I can't count how many people told me I say "yous guys," when really, no one says that.

The Pirate Rants totally make my Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Keep up the good work, TEC.

Could Greenville be any harder of a place to get a job?

What am I supposed to do this weekend without NFL football? I can't wait until the Super Bowl. Go Patriots.

Why does my boyfriend insist on talking to his ex-girlfriend, even when he knows how bad it pisses me off?

Each time I drive into a meter parking lot, I always grab the last open space. By the time I get all my things together, I realize why it's the last open space - it's broken.

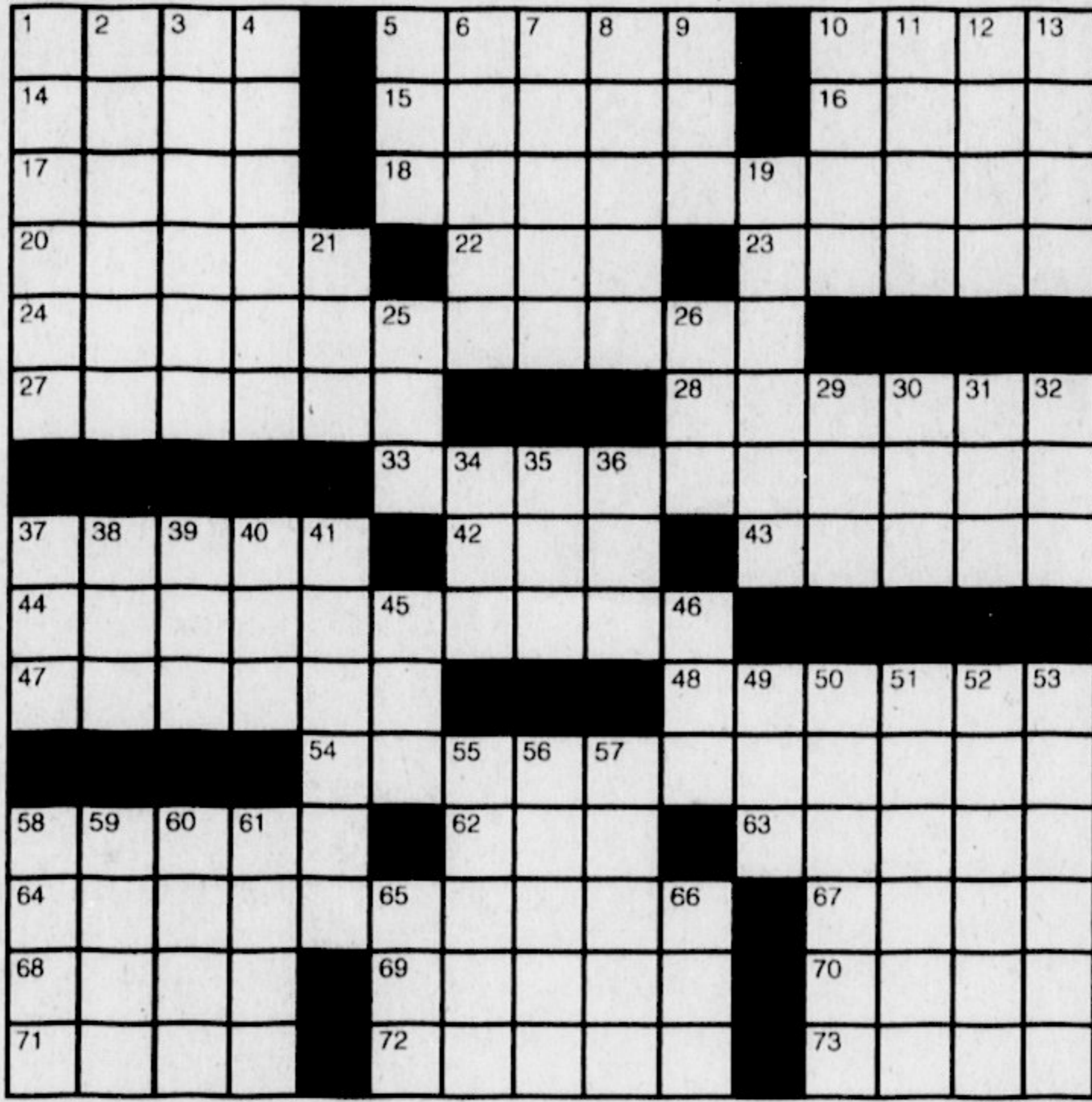
Note to men: While watching a game of football or basketball while women are present, never say that you think the cheerleaders could stand to lose a little weight.

When's the new dining hall going to open? I want Subway.

*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.*

## Crossword

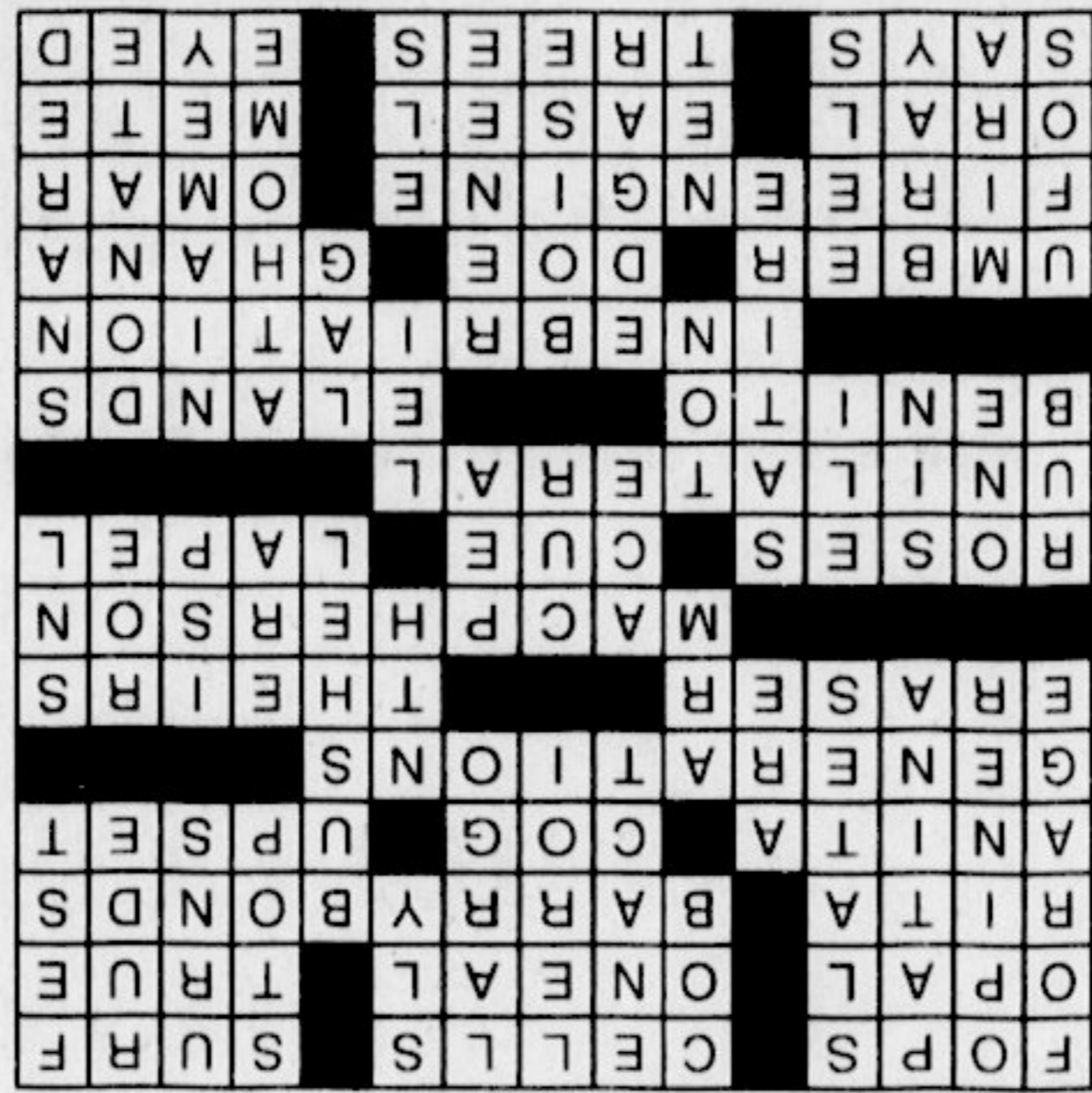
- ACROSS**
- Dandies
  - Prison rooms
  - Browse the Web
  - October birthstone
  - Ryan or Shaquille
  - Tried and \_\_\_\_\_
  - "Educating \_\_\_\_\_"
  - 3-time National League MVP
  - Novelist Brookner
  - Gear feature
  - Bothered
  - Increments in the family of man
  - Graphite eliminator
  - Ones belonging to them
  - Model Elle
  - Fragrant bed?
  - Theater signal
  - Jacket part
  - One-sided
  - Mussolini's first name
  - African antelopes
  - Drunkenness
  - Brown pigment
  - Buck's mate
  - Lake Volta location
  - Hook-and-ladder truck
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Khayyam
  - Evangelist Roberts
  - Painter's tripod
  - Apportion (out)
  - Speaks out
  - Kilmer classic
  - Watched closely
- DOWN**
- Search for food
  - One with two cents to put in
  - Bronze coat
  - Roofing pieces
  - Male swan
  - Put into effect
  - The King of France
  - Florida key
  - Guileful
  - Cease
  - Coffee servers
  - Boorish
  - Suffix with gab or slug
  - Four pecks
  - Is plural?
  - Provide with weapons
  - Utmost degree
  - Bullpen stat
  - AOL, e.g.
  - Fish eggs
  - L. Michael's show
  - Top card
  - Mongrel
  - Green color
  - Massage
  - Ace, when not eleven
  - Misdeed
  - Lilly or Wallach
  - Sarcastic wit
  - Heavy weight
  - Hilo garland
  - Trail behind
  - Receiving callers
  - Capital of Niger
  - Give briefly
  - Trapped
  - J. \_\_\_\_\_ Hoover
  - Capital of Idaho
  - Zellweger of "Jerry Maguire"
  - Space saucers,
  - Ms. Sorvino
  - Donkey lament
  - Morays
  - Butterfly snare
  - Golfer Ernie



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01/27/05

### Solutions



- 51 Capital of Niger  
52 Give briefly  
53 Trapped  
55 J. \_\_\_\_\_ Hoover  
56 Capital of Idaho  
57 Zellweger of "Jerry Maguire"  
58 Space saucers,  
60 Donkey lament  
61 Morays  
65 Butterfly snare  
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**Iraq** from page A1

is the election turns chaotic, people claim the outcome was rigged or participation is low.

Regarding whether or not the election will be delayed, Conradt said his gut instinct is Iraq will hold the election, but he is not sure how many people will show up. He said at least 14 provinces are supposed to vote.

Conradt said there is always the possibility of a positive outcome. He said people made dire predictions for the election in Afghanistan as well, but things went relatively smooth.

Mike Palmer, history professor, said he thinks they will have the elections and due to the amount of people who have registered, many people will come to vote.

Palmer said there is a lot of interest among people in the area, but it is unpredictable what exactly will happen. Officials could open polls in the morning and insurgents could destroy two of them so no Iraqi voter wants to show up the rest of the day.

According to the anonymous soldier, the area will probably remain dangerous territory for at least a month or two after the elections while the government tries to take control and start doing things on their own. He thinks the elections will be ultimately good for the people of Iraq and the world.

"Of course, it isn't going to happen over night," said Palmer.

"Once the elections are over, I still see things getting worse before they get better. But over time, perhaps a few years or longer, things will improve drastically for Iraq."

The soldier said Iraq has the potential to be one of the richest countries in the world and he's sure it will happen as long as the government can gain some control over the area.

Conradt said after the elec-

tions, the new government is supposed to eventually ask U.S. soldiers to leave. However, he is skeptical because there isn't much evidence to back up claims that the United States has fully trained a sufficient number of Iraqis.

Palmer said as soon as the Iraqi government thinks they can handle it, America will leave.

"They'll set a target date down the line," Palmer said.

He said there are disputes on how effective the police there will be, but he knows they are busily training people.

Palmer said the problem lies in not knowing how each political group will act once U.S. forces leave. He said that 20 - 25 percent of Iraqis are Sunni Arabs, the same political group as Hussein and they are doing some of the recent bombing because they know if there is an election they will lose.

"The election is going to legitimize transfer of power to other groups," Palmer said.

"The change in Iraq ... is bad news for the [Sunnis]."

Both Palmer and Conradt think the Shiite leaders may take the bulk of the votes. Palmer said many Sunnis are boycotting the elections, but the fewer who show up, the more overwhelming the victory for the other groups will be. He said the question is about how far the Sunnis are willing to go to stop the elections. Whether or not they carry out more bombings and if they lose, they could become even more dangerous.

"When we leave, these guys [the Sunnis] will be less efficient but probably more brutal," Palmer said.

Palmer said the Shiites might also become aggressive once American troops leave.

This leads to another threat of a civil war, which Conradt said is always a possibility.

However brutal the people may get, Palmer says the country

should hold the elections now.

"I do think we are better off going ahead with the election than not," Palmer said.

For American forces, the anonymous soldier said he does not think the number of troops in Iraq will significantly change.

"I don't think they will send any more troops over or send anyone home early or extend other troops ... for the election or immediately following the election," Palmer said.

"[However] there are still units scheduled to come here in the future, to rotate out with other units."

Gina Bauer, 20-year-old wife to a Jacksonville marine, said her husband was told two weeks ago he would leave for Fallujah for at least seven months on Feb. 15, the day after their second anniversary. She said about 350 marines will leave with him, and between January and March an estimated 16,000 marines from Jacksonville will be sent to Iraq.

Bauer said after her husband came home from Mosul a few months ago, they used to want us over there, but now he didn't think the situation was improving.

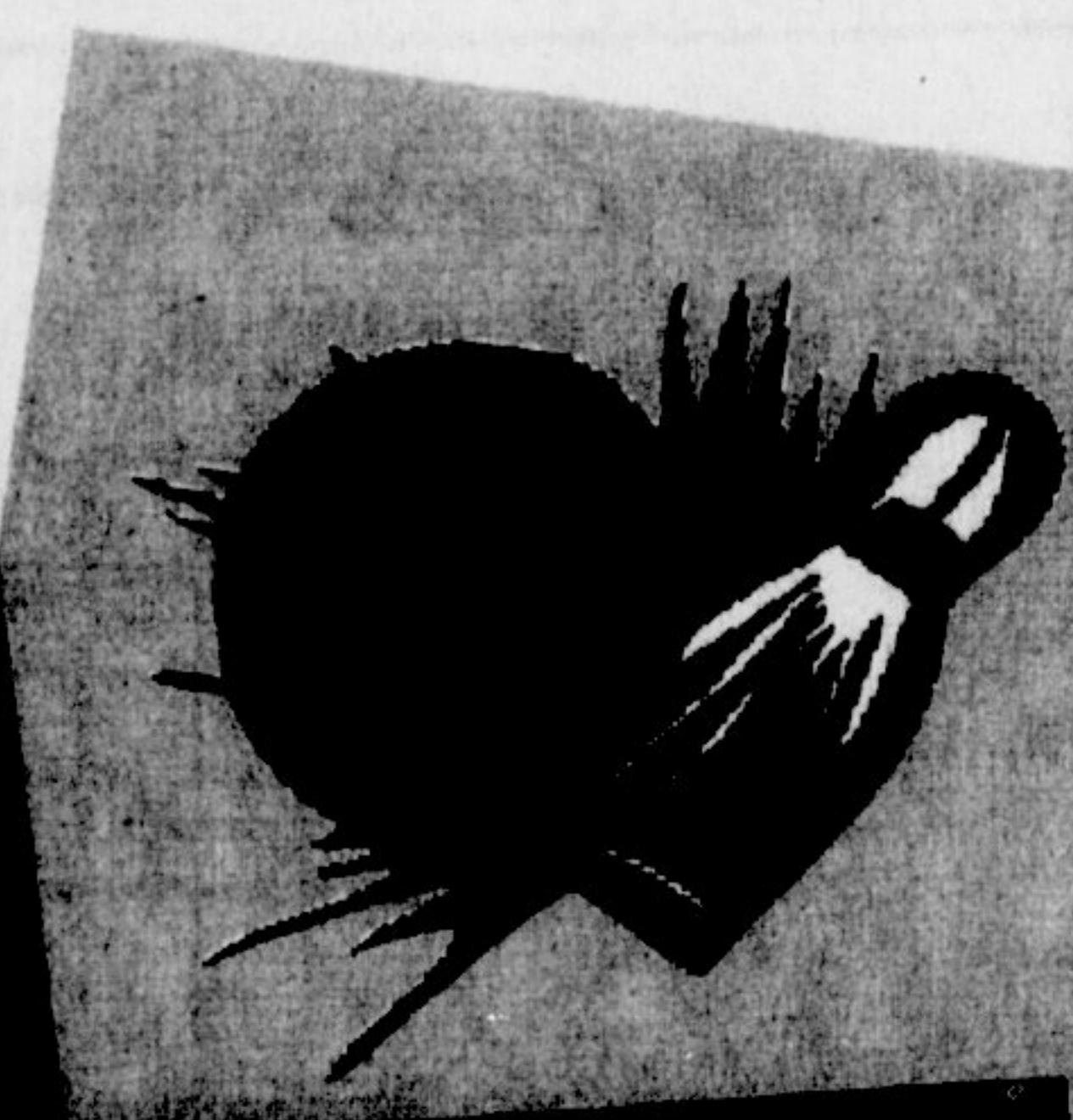
"They don't want us over there, they don't want us to set up a new government," Mr. Bauer said.

"They're doing whatever they can to hurt us or get rid of us."

As for the administration, Bauer has a positive view of President Bush. She said Bush gave the military three pay raises, which is great improvement considering almost every girl she works with lives off food stamps.

Registration for Iraqi immigrants to vote overseas has already begun in many countries including the United States. As of time of printing, the election in Iraq is scheduled for Sunday.

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



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Kelso Mopv Presen Photo

# CLASSIFIEDS

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Hey Graduates! Hot 103.7 and Eagle 94 is looking for account executives to market advertising in Greenville and surrounding areas. Great benefits, unlimited income. Call Tori Gray at 252-672-5900 Ext. 203 to set up interview.

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Saturday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.). Individuals must be available for regular Saturday work. Preference for students who will be able to work some during Spring Break and Easter Break. The positions are for between 15 and 30 hours per week, depending on your schedule and on business needs. The jobs are within walking distance of ECU and the hours are flexible. Pay is commensurate with your experience and job performance and is supplemented by an employee discount and tuition assistance. Apply in person to Store Manager, Joan's Fashions, 423 S. Evans Street, Greenville (Uptown Greenville).

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Web Programmer Wanted. ECU Student Media has an open undergraduate web programming position. HTML and programming experience required. Send resume to, or for more information email rezezd@mail.ecu.edu

Do you need a good job? The ECU Telefund is hiring students to contact alumni and parents for the ECU Annual Fund. \$6.25/hour

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Kelso Dunes, Mojave National Preserve Wilderness  
Photos: Peter Dinschke

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Winston Churchill

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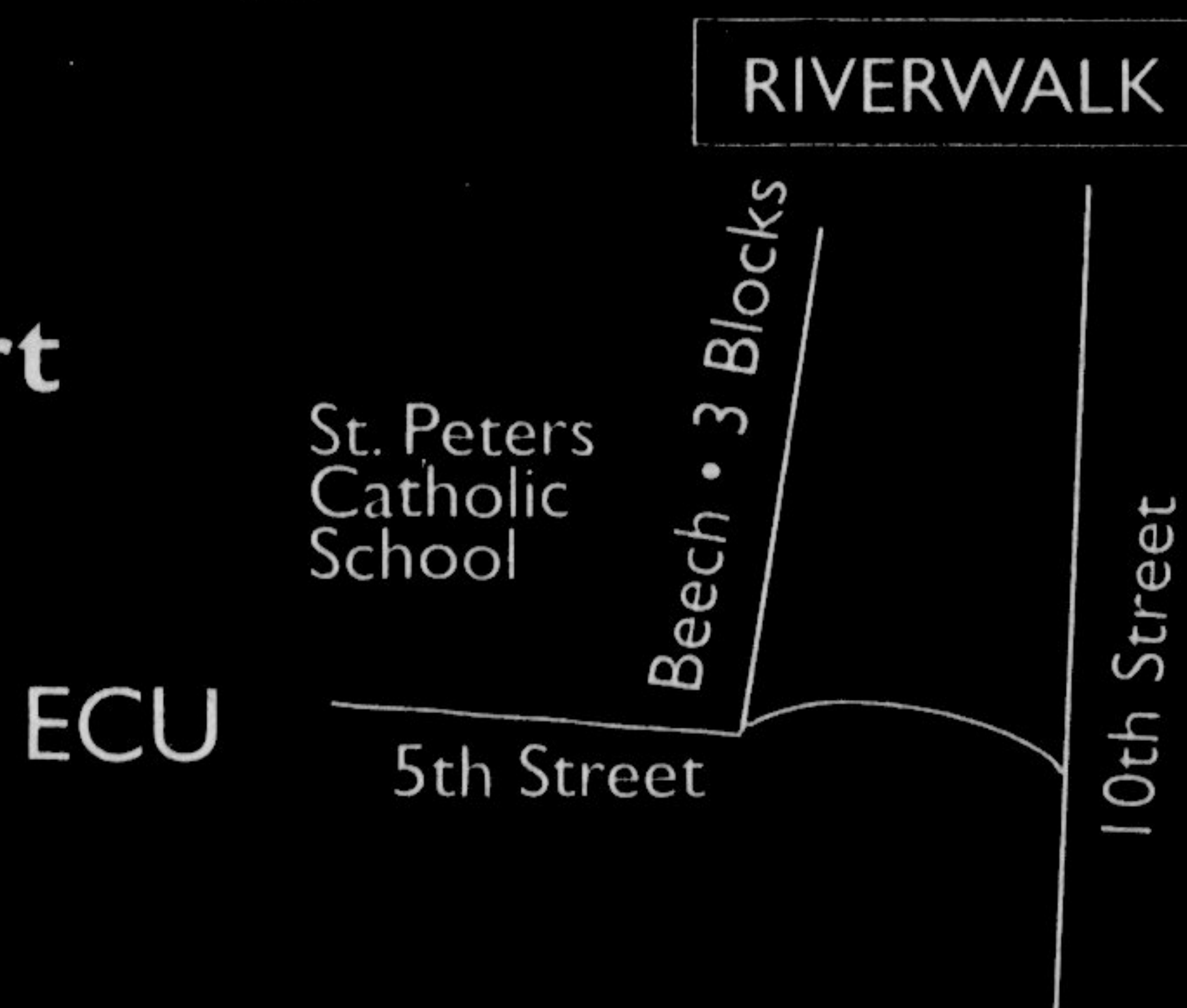
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Taken from

## Local Concerts

Bright Eyes will be performing at the BTI Center Raleigh Memorial Auditorium Monday, Jan. 31. The show starts at 8 p.m. and tickets are \$18 - 20.

Letter Kills featuring Stutterfly will perform Wednesday, Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. at Cats Cradle in Carboro. Tickets are \$8.

Josh Groban featuring Chris Botti will be at the RBC Center in Raleigh on Friday, Feb. 2.

Chingy will be at the House of Blues in Myrtle Beach, SC on Thursday, Feb. 3. Show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$17.50. No cameras allowed.

Ryan Cabrera will be at the House of Blues in Myrtle Beach, SC Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$17.50.

Rascal Flatts featuring Blake Shelton will be at the Colonial Center in Columbia, SC Saturday, Feb. 19 at 8 p.m.

Elvis Costello & The Imposters will be at the Grady Cole Center in Charlotte March 8. Tickets go on sale Saturday, Jan. 29 at 10 a.m.

## Recipes:

## Pineapple Upside-Down Biscuits:

1 (10-ounce) can crushed pineapple  
1/2 cup packed light brown sugar  
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, at room temperature  
10 maraschino cherries  
1 (12-ounce) package refrigerated buttermilk biscuits (10 count)  
Grease 10 cups of a muffin tin. Strain the can of crushed pineapple, save juice for later. Combine the pineapple, sugar and butter, and mix well. Divide the pineapple mixture among the muffin cups. Place a cherry in the center of each muffin cup, making sure cherry hits bottom of cup. Place 1 biscuit in each cup on top of sugar and pineapple mixture. Spoon 1 teaspoon reserved pineapple juice over each biscuit. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes or until golden. Cool for 2 minutes. Invert the pan onto a plate to release the biscuits. Serve warm.

**Peanut Butter Mousse:**  
2/3 cup peanut butter  
1 cup milk  
1 cup heavy cream  
1/4 cup powdered sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 1/2 to 2 teaspoons gelatin  
2 tablespoons water  
Chocolate ganache, recipe follows  
Caramel red wine sauce, recipe follows  
Chopped peanuts, for garnish

In a saucepan, warm the peanut butter and milk then whisk to combine. In a mixer with a whip attachment, whip the cream, powdered sugar and vanilla until medium peaks. Bloom the gelatin in the water and add to the warm peanut butter. Strain into a bowl and fold in the whipped cream mixture. Pour into flexi dome molds and freeze overnight. Pop the frozen peanut butter mounds out of the molds and place on a wire icing rack. Ladle the ganache over to coat. Remove from the rack with a spatula and place on parchment paper in the refrigerator until set, about 10 minutes. Garnish mousse with a pinch of chopped peanuts on the top and serve with caramel red wine sauce.

**Chocolate Ganache:**  
1 cup heavy cream  
8 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped  
Heat the cream and pour over the chopped chocolate. Whisk to combine.

**Caramel Red Wine Sauce:**  
2 pounds (5 1/2 cups) sugar  
1/2 cup water  
1/2 bottle red wine  
In a saucepan boil sugar and water together to make a light caramel. With a wooden spoon stir in the red wine, slowly. Chill.

Taken from foodnetwork.com

## Rape, assault associated with drugs, alcohol



Photo illustration by Kyle Fisher

Date rape drugs are easily hidden in mixed drinks, beer, liquor and water. All students are reminded to watch their drinks and go with gut instincts.

## How they are related, how to prevent

AMANDA WINAR  
STAFF WRITER

Drinking on the weekends, going out clubbing on Thursdays and dollar drafts on Tuesdays are all part of many college students' lives. Partying and drinking becomes a fun part of college, but there are also many dangers and risks associated with drinking.

College students in the past have become victims of date rape and sexual assault. As a result of reoccurring problems, researchers have done extensive studies in trying to discover the relationship between date rape and sexual assault in the use of drugs and alcohol.

What researchers have found at the Trauma Institute is that between 27 percent and 36 percent of convicted rape/sexual assault offenders were under the influence of alcohol during the offense.

Dianne Rodriguez, a senior, said many times people just assume the victims are the ones handed drinks or slipped drugs.

"The assaulter who is on drugs or who has been drinking is more likely to act out on delusions, and won't think clearly," said Rodriguez.

In reference to colleges, the Trauma Institute figured out that ... college binge drinkers are "2.3 times more likely than non-bingers to have experienced forced sexual touching and 2.7 times

more likely to endure unwanted sexual intercourse." Binge drinking is considered to be five or more drinks in a night.

Sophomore Bethany Taylor said a guy who was drinking had slipped her a date rape drug while drinking one night.

"I should be able to go out with my friends and feel safe - not have to worry that my drink could have something dangerous in it," said Taylor.

Rodriguez had a similar opinion about date rape drugs.

"I think a lot of people prey on people who are drinking. An easy environment, like bars, can increase the use of date rape drugs because both the offender and victim are usually drunk," said Rodriguez.

Nights at the bars, clubs and other drinking venues like football games are very prominent events in college, making campus areas a feeding ground for date rape and sexual assault.

see DRUG page B4

## Dangerous date with elusive 'Mary Jane'



Photos.com

"Joints" are often concealed as tobacco cigarettes since rolling paper is readily available.

## Marijuana, effects, consequences

MEREDITH STEWART  
STAFF WRITER

Weed, pot, grass - no matter the slang it's still the same thing - marijuana. Although the potency or quality may vary, all of it is mind-altering. All kinds have THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) along with more than 400 other chemicals. The amount of THC in marijuana has steadily been increasing since the 1970s.

THC is strongly absorbed by fatty tissue and traces of THC can be detected several days after a smoking session. Heavy users can have traces detected after weeks. Marijuana is usually smoked as a blunt or in a pipe or bong.

One main question lingers in the minds of people nationwide - why do people smoke marijuana?

There are many reasons why

## FYI

If someone is high they may:

- seem dizzy
- giggle for no reason
- have red eyes
- have difficulty remembering recent events
- become sleepy

teens start smoking marijuana. "I started smoking in the 11th grade because my friends did. I've been doing it ever since," said a freshman at ECU.

"It helps me relax and just have chill-time," said a sophomore at ECU.

Many hear about it in song lyrics, see it used in movies or see their older siblings doing it and think it's cool. Although reasons vary, the number one reason most people smoke pot is due to

see MARIJUANA page B2

## Harmful effects of illegal student leisure activities

## Important reminders all students should know

TOMEKA STEELE  
SENIOR WRITER

Being college students we have all heard what drugs and alcohol can do to us. We listen, we nod and agree, but it's easy to fall back into the regular pattern of college life and all its partying. It's necessary that college students fully understand the repercussions of drugs and alcohol on our bodies and ultimately our lives.

Starting with drugs, particularly marijuana, methamphetamines and cocaine. Many people may think our campus is far from these things when actually, just like any other college campus, they are everywhere.

Marijuana is one of the easiest drugs to obtain in abundance and most of the time is the first drug used by teens and college students, often referred to as the "gateway drug." It is used in some states to suppress the effects of cancer but will not be getting

## Numbers to remember

Places one can call for help:

ECU Center for Counseling:  
328-6661

ECU police: 328-6150

Alcoholics Anonymous of  
Greenville: 758-0787

Pitt County Substance Abuse:  
847-4335

legalized anytime soon.

Marijuana has both short-term and long-term effects. Some of the short-term effects include sleepiness, reduced short-term memory, increased heart rate, bloodshot eyes, dry mouth and throat, paranoia and hallucinations.

Smoking marijuana is not attractive. It seems the people who smoke are only attractive to other smokers. Marijuana causes bad body and breath odor.

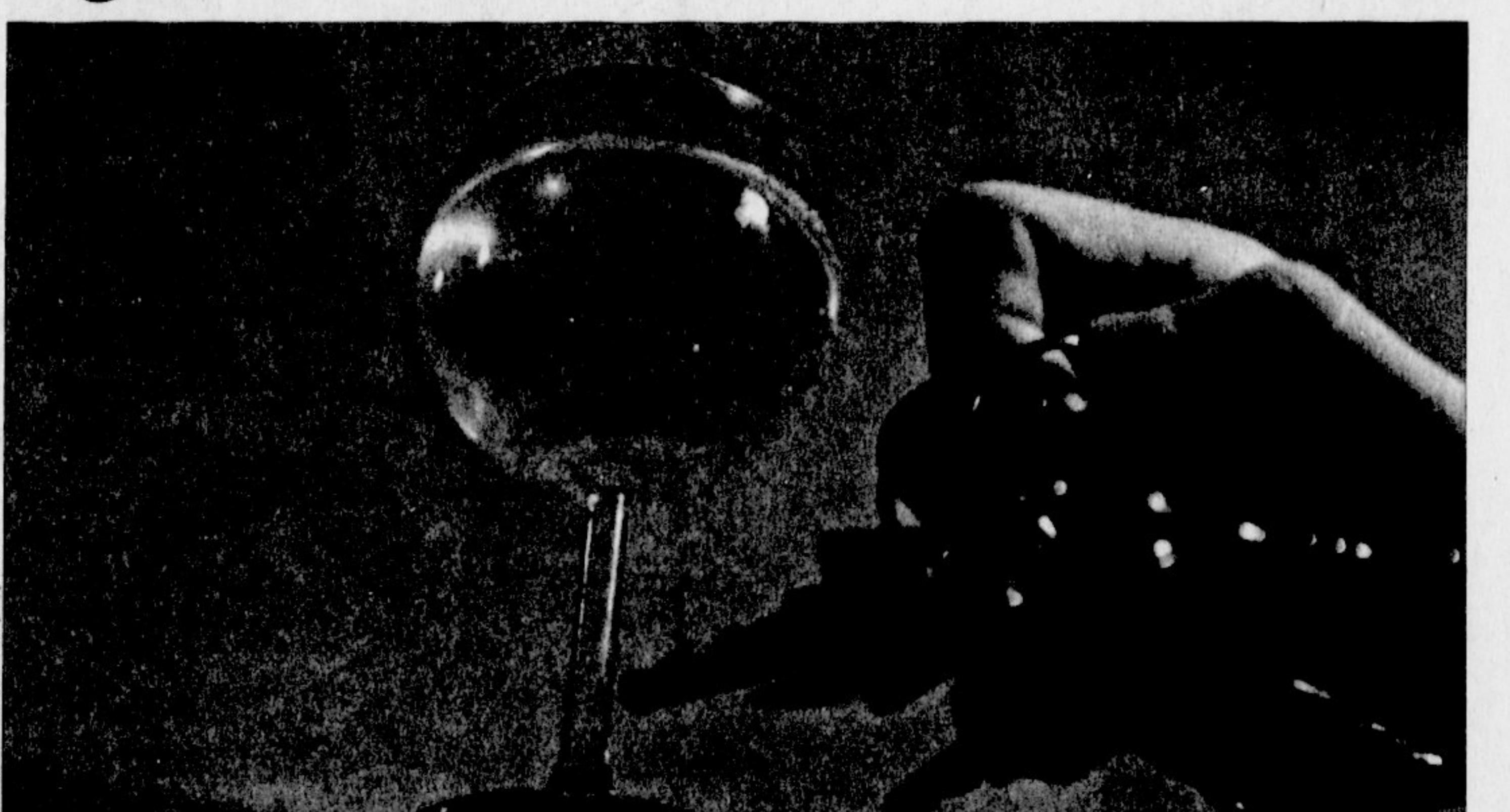


Photo illustration by Kyle Fisher

Drinking and driving are never tolerated by police or other drivers. Be safe, turn in the keys.

Some of the long-term effects of using marijuana are enhanced cancer risk, a decreased level in testosterone levels for men, lower sperm counts, increased testosterone in women, increased risk of infertility and psychological dependence. Marijuana blocks messages going to the brain and

alters coordination. Driving while high has the same dangers as driving when drunk.

Methamphetamine or "speed" is a stimulant and has strong effects on the brain and nervous system. Speed increases heart rate and blood pressure. Other effects of speed are insomnia, extreme

anorexia due to decreased appetite, tremors, violent behavior and can cause damage to blood vessels in the brain causing strokes.

Cocaine and crack have the same effects and psycho-

see ACTIVITIES page B2

## Activities from page B1

logical risks as "speed." They both can cause brain seizures, heart attacks, strokes and respiratory failure. Psychologically cocaine and crack produce erratic behavior, hallucinations and depression.

Sometimes it's hard to tell whether a friend or a loved one has a serious problem with any drugs but there are some obvious signs. If you notice a friend or yourself getting high on a regular basis then that could be a sign that there may be a problem.

Some other signs are: pressuring others to smoke or drink, depression, missing work or poor performance in school work and getting in trouble with the law. It's hard to confront a

friend or admit a problem within oneself but it's better than living life to get high or drunk.

Next up is alcohol and ECU is infamous for how many tickets they give out for drinking.

The short-term effects of alcohol are that it distorts vision, hearing and coordination. Alcohol alters perceptions, impairs judgments and causes bad breath and hangovers. The long-term effects of alcohol abuse are stomach problems, skin problems, liver damage and memory loss.

Clues that someone has problems drinking can obviously be seen. Those clues are the inability to control drinking, blackouts, a high

tolerance level and changing personalities. Never let someone who is in a drunken stupor go to sleep. It's always best to take that person to a hospital in efforts to reduce the risk of death.

There are many places one can receive help if they are having problems with drugs and alcohol. All one has to do is open up a phone book. There are many counseling centers and groups that are eager and willing to help.

Alcoholics who want to get help usually find it in an Alcoholics Anonymous group or some other form of counseling support group. For people who have drug addictions, treatment may be more abrasive. In recovery centers, addicts

can find help but go through a period of detoxification that can be challenging, but in the end well worth it.

Everyone has heard all these things before but hopefully college students can begin to take these things seriously and to the heart. It's awful when a death occurs at ECU that could have been prevented if only the warnings were listened to.

This is college and this is a time to have fun but don't lose sight of why we all came here. Education first, partying second and when you do party, please keep these things in mind.

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

## Marijuana from page B1

peer pressure.

The drug affects each person differently. Some feel relaxed, thirsty and very hungry - this effect is referred to as "the munchies." Others have a sudden feeling of anxiety and paranoia. This is more likely to happen when a more potent type of marijuana is smoked.

Marijuana may seem harmless, but in reality it highly affects a person's abilities in school, sports, relationships and his or her future. Using this drug on a regular basis causes problems with memory and learning. Sounds, time and perception in general are affected while a person is high. Your heart rate increases and your motor skills are delayed, which makes things like driving very risky. When you get high and do something like drive, it puts others at danger as well as yourself. Why should someone else have to pay for other people's bad decision?

If a person is high, they are more likely to make embar-

assing mistakes or even hurt themselves. If a person smokes for a long time they begin to lose interest in academics and begin to feel less motivated to do things. Physical activities and other things that require effort slowly fade. As for athletes - pot completely throws off performance in timing, movements and coordination. Marijuana affects your judgment and decision making skills, which may cause a person to do something they wouldn't usually do.

The regular use of "weed" may cause cancer and problems with your respiratory system. Breathing problems often occur, such as coughing and wheezing. THC - the main active chemical in this drug - damages the cells and tissues making it more difficult for your body to fight colds and infections.

"I smoke weed, but know I can stop when I want to," said a 19-year-old at ECU.

Although this teen and many others strongly believe this to be true, studies have shown that long-term use can lead to addiction. (This study was geared toward teens that had prior antisocial problems.) Addiction is when these teens are fulfilling their urges by smoking more marijuana, even though it negatively affects their families, relationships, school performance and any physical activities.

Information is out there and the "anti-drug" campaigns are being sent nationwide. The decision of making this a drug-free America lies within the hands of today's teens. But let me warn you - a recent study predicted that more than 60 percent of teens will be smoking marijuana by 2008. Now is the time to set a good example for tomorrow's leaders.

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



**Firewise tip:** Landscaping with water-retaining plants helps protect your home from wildfire. Find other useful tips at [Firewise.org](http://Firewise.org).

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MARTHA HILL  
STAFF WRITER

The Outer Banks offer the opportunity for a great weekend getaway with little expense. Only a three hour drive from Greenville, it's a great place to visit during the winter months.

Historically speaking, there is a lot for one to see and do. The Lost Colony is located on the island of Manteo, the first English establishment in the New World. Drive downtown to the Festival Park, also honoring the birth place of English speaking America, to see the Elizabeth II, a replica of a 16th century sailing ship and learn about how settlers lived during that time period. If you head south on Highway 12 you can see the Bodie Island Lighthouse or drive even further to see the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. The drive down south is wonderful this time of year. There are a plethora of wild geese, ducks and other water birds to be seen along the road. Of course, no one can forget the Wright Brother's Memorial, the birthplace of aviation. Here you can learn about how these two brothers worked together to change the world with their famous first flight in 1903.

Although many restaurants are closed at this time of year, there are still many great places to eat that are locally owned. Chili Peppers is a wonderful and reasonably priced establishment that serves great gourmet tex-mex food. They also have a bar where you will find many locals hanging out during the winter months. Goombays is

also a good choice, serving lunch and dinner. Both are located in Kill Devil Hills. Seafood restaurants abound. The Black Pelican, located in Kitty Hawk or Kelly's Restaurant and Tavern in Kill Devil Hills, are very popular. They are a bit more expensive but worth the extra money.

You can't go to Dare County without visiting one of the micro-breweries. The Weeping Radish is located in Manteo. A German owned restaurant and brewery where one can sample the many types of beer made on site with German fare, if one so desires. Tours are also available but call in advance for times. The Brewing Station is located in Kill Devil Hills. This is a very popular restaurant and brewery on the weekends. However, you may want to get there early because they often have bands play on Friday and Saturday nights and the place gets packed.

The nightlife on the Outer Banks is lacking in the winter but can be fun if you know where to go. The Port O' Call in Kill Devil Hills is a great place to see bands. Reggae is a popular venue there, but it is always best to call ahead. Kelly's Restaurant and Tavern is another option. Kelly's usually has a DJ or a band, depending on the weekend. If you like alternative music, you might want to try The Pit in Kill Devil Hills.

The Outer Banks has a really great selection of art galleries and shops. Carolina Moon is a local favorite filled with interesting jewelry and curios. It is a great place to buy a gift for the person that has everything. Birthday Suits is located next door with a great selection of clothes for guys and gals. They are well known for their selection of women's swim wear. They carry many of the suits featured in the coveted *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue*. There are many surf shops on

the Outer Banks as well. The two most popular are Wave Riding Vehicles in Kitty Hawk and Whalebone Surf Shop in Kill Devil Hills. Some of the other local favorites are the Secret Spot and Cavalier Surf Shop.

"The new hot surf shop is The Outer Banks Boarding Company which sells Lynn Shell and Murray Ross boards," said Mike Porchey, a local who has been surfing on the Outer Banks for 22 years.

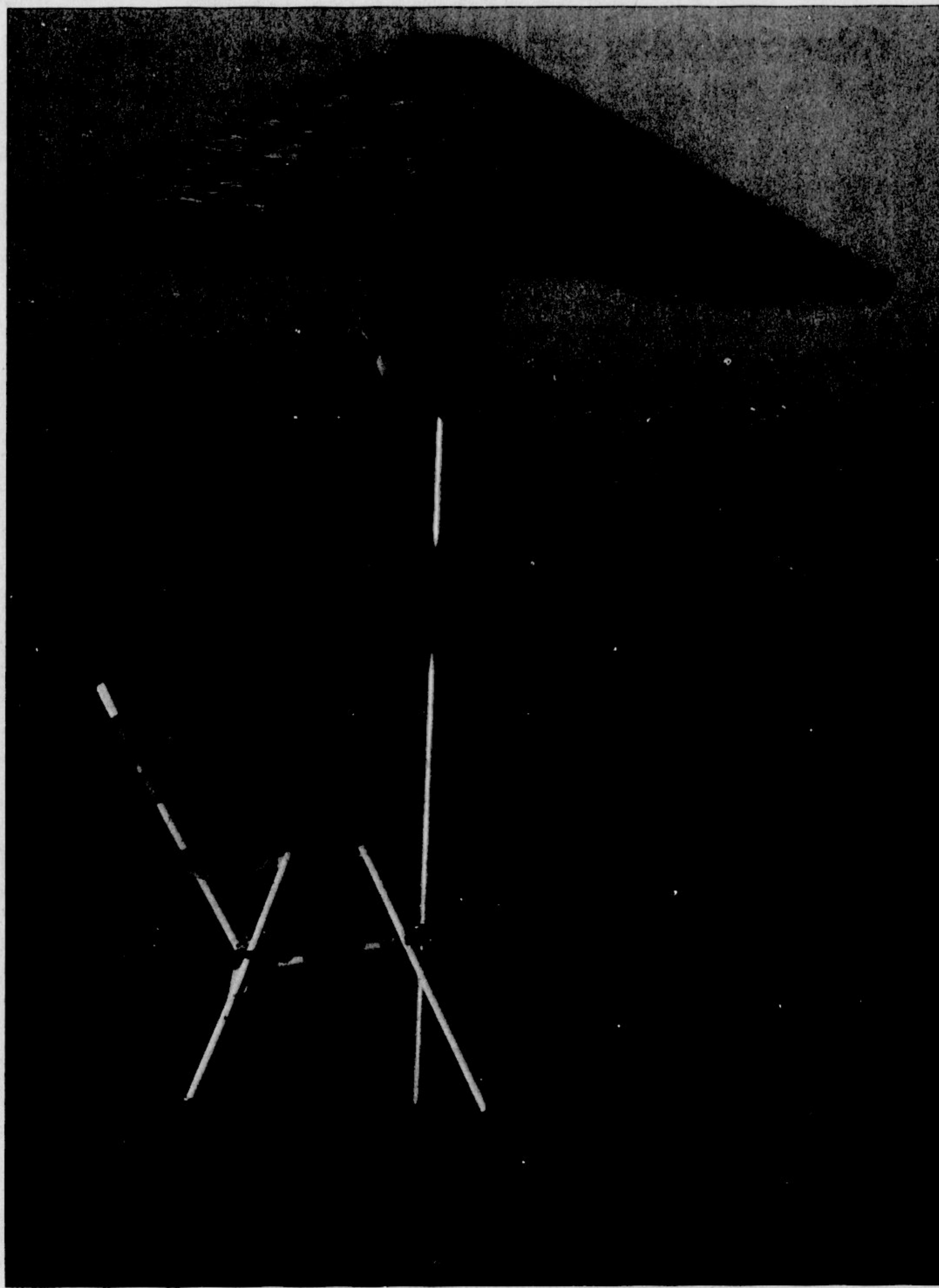
You can't go to the Outer Banks without going to the beach, even if it is the middle of winter. If it is a mild winter day or there is a blustering northern wind, bundle up and take a walk along the ocean. You may find a few people on your journey but most likely you will only run into some sandpipers or sea gulls scuttling along the sand.

After strolling on the beach you can warm up at one of the coffee shops located up and down the bypass. The easiest to spot is the Beach Bread Company in Kitty Hawk. Order a latte or espresso and sit by the fire in their spacious dining and sitting area. They serve breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Hotel rates are cut in half during the winter, allowing even the thriftest traveler to spend the night in a room overlooking the ocean. If you want to go with a big group of people, one may consider renting a cottage for the weekend. Call the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce for hotels or cottages or go online to the Dare County Tourist Bureau at [outerbanks.org](http://outerbanks.org) for more information.

Thanks to the improvements along Highway 64, it is one of the most convenient ways to reach the Outer Banks. Take a weekend to get away.

This writer can be contacted at [features@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:features@theeastcarolinian.com).



Aside from history and surf shops, the beaches offer shaded beach chairs and rolling waves.

## Negative consequences of drunk driving, illegal drug use

Statistics grim for college community

KYLE BILLINGS  
STAFF WRITER

We all know about the stigma ECU maintains for being a party school. Despite any doubts in the disparity of alcoholic beverages, there can be grave consequences for those who choose to drive after a good time.

Take for example Michael Phelps. That name is attached to the man who won an unprecedented eight Olympic medals during the 2004 Summer Games. With numerous corporate sponsors, Michael Phelps

was the golden boy representing America. However, on Nov. 4, 2004, Phelps had his squeaky clean image tarnished when he was given a DUI. Vicki Michaelis of *USA Today* reported the terms of his probation are abstaining from alcohol, speaking at local schools and attending a Mothers Against Drunk Driving panel, along with a \$250 fine. Also mentioned in the article was Michael Phelps admitting that, "I was scared because I have a lot to lose."

In fact, organizations such as MADD fervently claim it isn't only people of high profile that have a lot to lose. Michael Phelps is one of the thousands negatively affected by the abuse

of alcohol.

Let it be known that the era of Prohibition is over. It is not illegal for someone over the age of 21 to buy and consume alcoholic beverages. The facts and statistics do not lie however. It can be shown that those around and below the legal drinking age are the least responsible. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that in 2002, "an estimated 17,419 people died in alcohol-related traffic crashes - an average of one every 30 minutes. These deaths constitute 41 percent of the 42,815 total traffic fatalities, and that about three in every 10 Ameri-

cans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives." Alcohol-related deaths are also considered the third most preventable cause of death in America.

It would be naïve to assume everyone will abstain from driving if under the influence. The potential effects as shown can be severe and life-altering. If you find yourself in the predicament where you need a ride, an ECU Transit service offers you a safer alternative. Call ECU-Ride and you end the risks drunk driving provides. Party hard, but be safe.

This writer can be contacted at [features@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:features@theeastcarolinian.com).

FYI

Here are some of the consequences for underage drinking and driving:

-Any minor under 21 with "any trace of alcohol in the body or consuming while driving" will receive a Class 2 misdemeanor, which may result in up to 30 days and/or a fine up to \$1,000. This includes suspension of your driver's license.

-The legal Blood Alcohol Content for a person over 21 to drive is 0.08. For any minor with a BAC over the limit is subject to a "Class A1 misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment or fine set at the court's discretion or both. After consideration of grossly aggravating and mitigating factors, the minimum sentence is a fine up to \$200 and imprisonment between one to 60 days."

-These and many other NC State laws and statistics are available from the NC Gen. Statistics.


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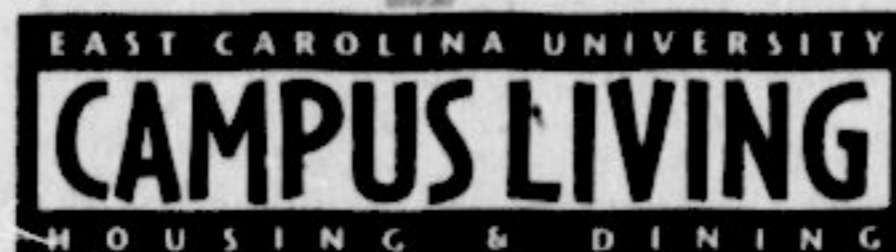
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## Once Again, It's On!

Announcing the Spring 2005 ACUI All-Campus Tournaments

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MSC Multipurpose Room  
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Tues. January 27, 6:00 p.m.  
Outer Limits Bowling Center  
(Men's and Women's Singles Divisions)

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

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

### Drug from page B1

In a survey of students from the University of Hawaii-Manoa, 16 percent of male college students admitted to giving or encouraging the use of drugs or alcohol to obtain sex.

According to the Trauma Institute study, 8 percent of female college students in a national sample answered affirmatively to the question "Have you had sexual intercourse when you didn't want to because a man gave you alcohol or drugs?" When discussing rape in general, it has also been discovered that 45 percent of recorded rape inci-

dences, the offenders seem to be influenced by alcohol or drugs.

Since there is a substantial parallel between the use of drugs/alcohol and date rape/sexual assault occurrences, a bigger question arises. What do we do now?

Change in initial behavior can only be suggested because college students are going to continue to drink and party. Nothing can change the way individuals work and spend their time, but it never hurts to be more aware of what you are drinking and the events that are

taking place around you. Do not share drinks or accept a drink from someone you do not feel comfortable around. Never leave your drink unattended and keep a watchful eye on what you are drinking and how you are feeling throughout the night.

And remember to use the age-old buddy system for extra protection. Sexual assault and rape are serious events that can be controlled if people begin to make an effort to drink safely.

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

## Fall illustrates dangers of drinking

(KRT) — Angie Gratzl was gripped by fear as she dropped her son Jason off at his freshman dorm in Madison, Wis., last summer.

"He kept saying, 'Don't worry Mom, I'll be fine,'" Gratzl said in an interview. "But when I drove away sobbing, I knew in the back of mind, something was wrong."

Within hours, it was. Back at her home, Gratzl awoke to a phone call from the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics. Jason's orientation to college had been soaked in alcohol. He had fallen off a balcony at a party. A serious head injury had left him in very critical condition.

More than four months later, Jason, 18, is struggling in a world of brain damage.

Some progress has been made: He has started to walk and talk. His family hopes he will be released from a rehabilitation center in nine months.

But the damage is severe. It is unlikely that Jason will study or work again. He will never become the person he once was. His life is changed forever.

His accident, Gratzl said, illustrates the profound dangers teenagers face when they are swept up in the drinking culture of college.

"I want kids to understand that there are consequences for their actions," Gratzl said. "But kids don't listen. They don't think it will happen to them."

Susan Crowley, director of prevention services at UW-Madison Health Services, agreed.

Before the accident, Jason was eager for attention. He acted in plays and took up the tuba, trombone, clarinet and guitar.

As a member of the public speaking team at Burlington High

School, Jason scored high points in competitions explaining the origins of Silly Putty and demonstrating the marvels of magic.

He was in good spirits Aug. 28, the day A. Gratzl helped him move his television, PlayStation and other cherished items into his dorm. Jason's older brother, Bob, a senior at the university, helped them set everything up.

Angie Gratzl headed home around 5 p.m.

All she knows of what happened next is what police have told her. As she understands it, Jason then met up with his roommate and a girl he knew from Burlington.

The three ended up at a party off-campus. Jason drank so much alcohol that he got sick.

Shortly after 11 p.m., Jason went to the house's second-floor balcony because he thought he was going to vomit. Police were responding to a nearby party at the time when they heard someone yelling: "Get the cops down here, this guy is bleeding to death." Jason had been found on the ground.

Jason's accident was not unusual. It's common for dozens of students to land in Dane County's detoxification center the first semester, Crowley said. Within the past four years, two students at the university have suffered alcohol-related deaths.

While many freshmen have experimented with beer and wine, few have consumed the shots and mixed drinks popular on campus, she said. Stripped of parental rules and the comfort of high school friends, many students are susceptible to peer pressure.

"In hindsight I can see that he was nervous about fitting in," Angie Gratzl said.

At first, the doctors didn't think he was going to make it.

He had fallen on his head. His brain was severely swollen, and it was bleeding, Angie Gratzl said. The doctors operated and placed a draining tube in his brain. But for more than three weeks, it was touch and go.

"Those were the worst weeks of my life," said Jason's father, Robert Gratzl of Lake Geneva.

Then Jason opened his eyes. One no longer worked. Even now, he can't look down with the other.

At week four, he raised his thumb, barely. After six weeks, Jason was considered stable, and his family was able to move him by ambulance to a coma recovery division of Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center in Milwaukee.

In November, he started to talk in slurred speech. Soon after, he began to walk with the assistance of people who hold him up and a walker. He moved to the Brain Injury Unit at Mount Carmel Rehabilitation Center in Greenfield, where he is undergoing speech and physical therapies, among other treatments.

But the progress eventually will halt, Angie Gratzl said. Jason is no longer the son his parents once knew.

Jason doesn't speak unless spoken to. When he does, it's a simple yes or no. And more often he just shrugs.

Before the accident, photographs of Jason show a boy with spiky hair and a warm smile. Recent photographs show a boy in a wheelchair with deadened eyes.

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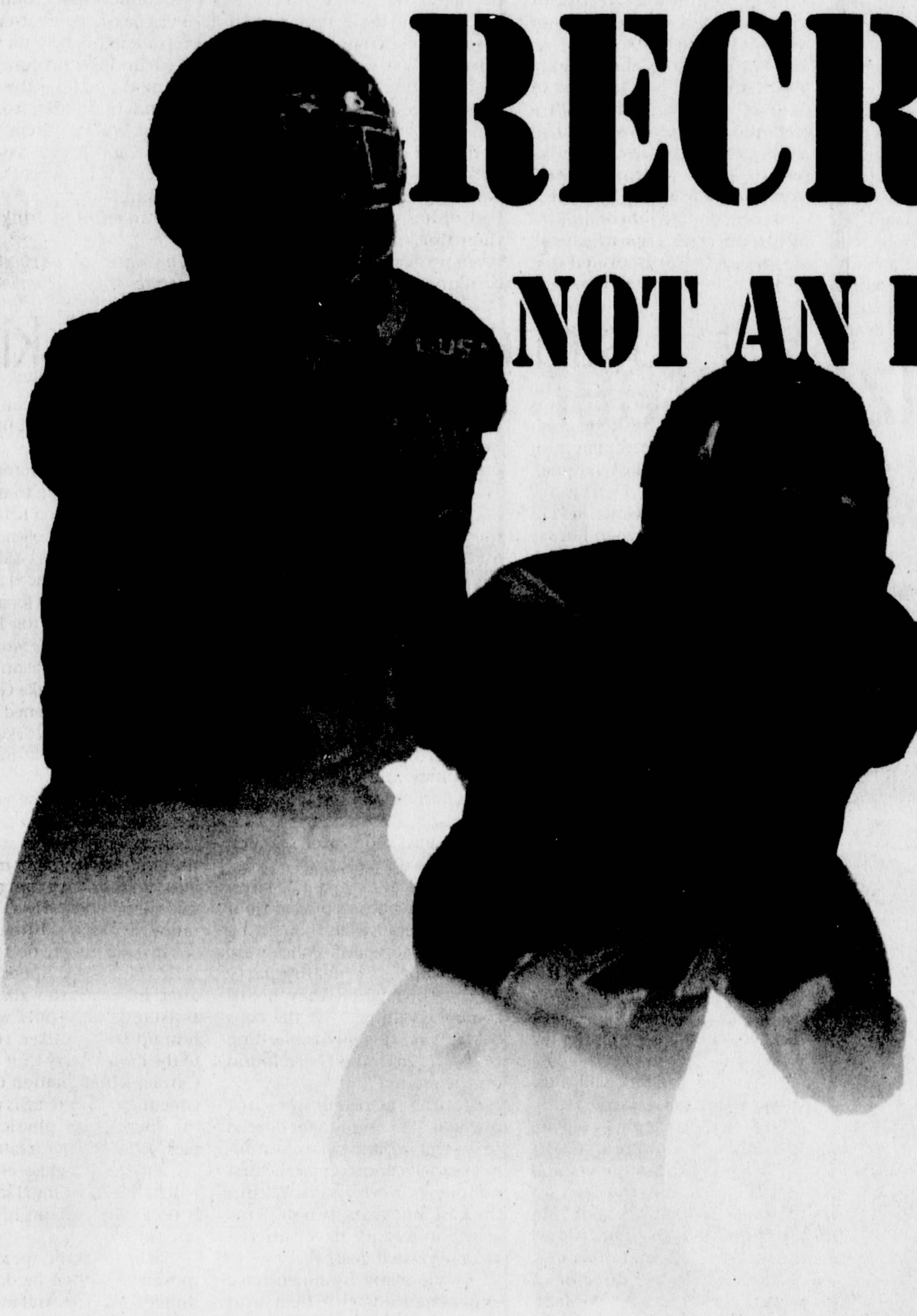
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## RECRUITING: NOT AN EXACT SCIENCE



*Pirates pulling in several verbal commitments*

ERIC GILMORE  
STAFF WRITER

Peering into the depths of the second floor of the Ward Sports Medicine Building, the nearly complete football staff is staring into the future. What the future holds, however, is hardly in their hands.

The coach's livelihoods and their families rests on the decisions of 17 and 18-year-old men. Actually, it's quite comical if you think about it. Imagine grown men begging and pleading for "five star" athletes that can propel programs to that hardly attainable next level. In many ways it's just a less glamorous episode of "The Bachelorette."

Recruiting is arguably one of the least exact sciences in the world. No mathematical problem can solve it. What sales pitch will work? What do prospective athletes want? Will this recruit represent my university well? All are questions coaches have to answer by judging the athletes. But, ultimately it's the athletes judging the coaches.

Outside the University of Colorado, recruiting visits are very structured. Phone calls are often shared between athletes and coaches prior to an official or an unofficial visit. An official visit allows for the institution to pay for the travel and expenses for the athlete during his stay.

Usually meetings occur before dinner on Friday. Maybe a coach will project the athlete's image onto the Jumbotron and announce his name over the loudspeaker. On Saturday, a recruit usually tours the campus, meets weight trainers, academic sports advisors, the rest of the coaches and players. Recruits either stay with their families or in dorms where they are shown a good time. At the end of weekend on Sunday, coaches have one-on-one meetings with recruits often offering scholarships or not.

A mixture of different backgrounds from the coaches is essential in recruiting. Phil Petty can relate to players easier because he played quarterback at South Carolina only a couple of years ago. Junior Smith can tell players that he is the all-time leading rusher when he ran onto the same field as the recruits. Rock Roggeman, the linebacker's

see RECRUITING page B6

## Pirates finally emerge victorious

*Rouse records another double-double*

TRENT WYNNE  
SENIOR WRITER

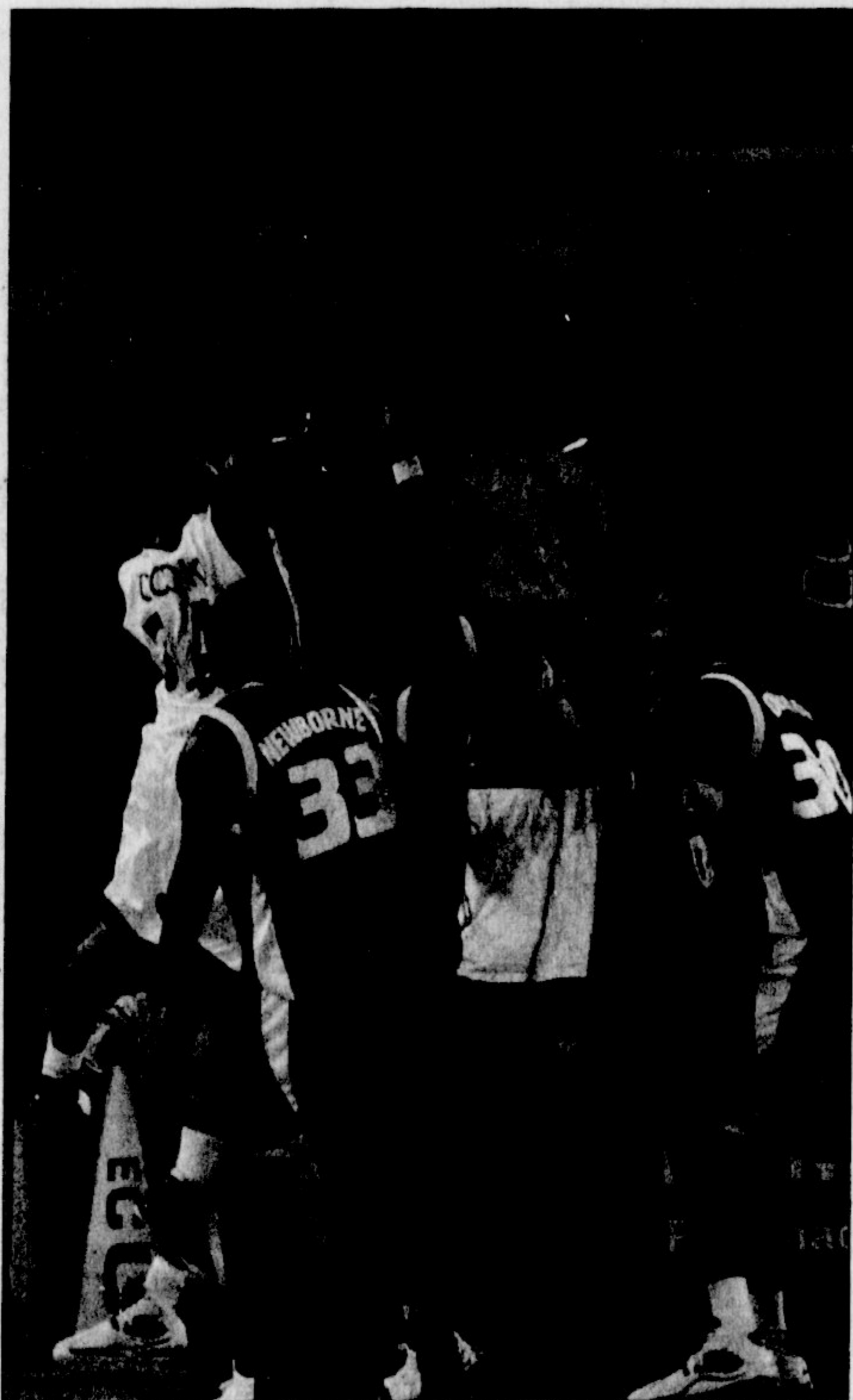
Bill Herrion hasn't had a reason to smile in close to two months. Coming into their bout with St. Louis, the Pirates had dropped 12 of their last 13 games and have been abysmal in all parts of the game with exception to rebounding. Wednesday night changed all of that in a span of 40 minutes as he walked into the post-game press conference and sat down with a grin that split his face in two. "Let me try an open my mouth here, it's been about two months since I last smiled," said Herrion with a relieved, beaming face.

Herrion had plenty reason to smile as ECU picked up their first conference win against the Billikens, 60-53. St. Louis controlled the tempo and scoreboard for most of the first half, shooting nearly 57 percent from the field and only turning the ball over four times. With the score 29-21 in the Billikens favor, the Pirates got back-to-back threes from Josh King and Mike Cook, which helped ECU squeeze into halftime, only down 33-28.

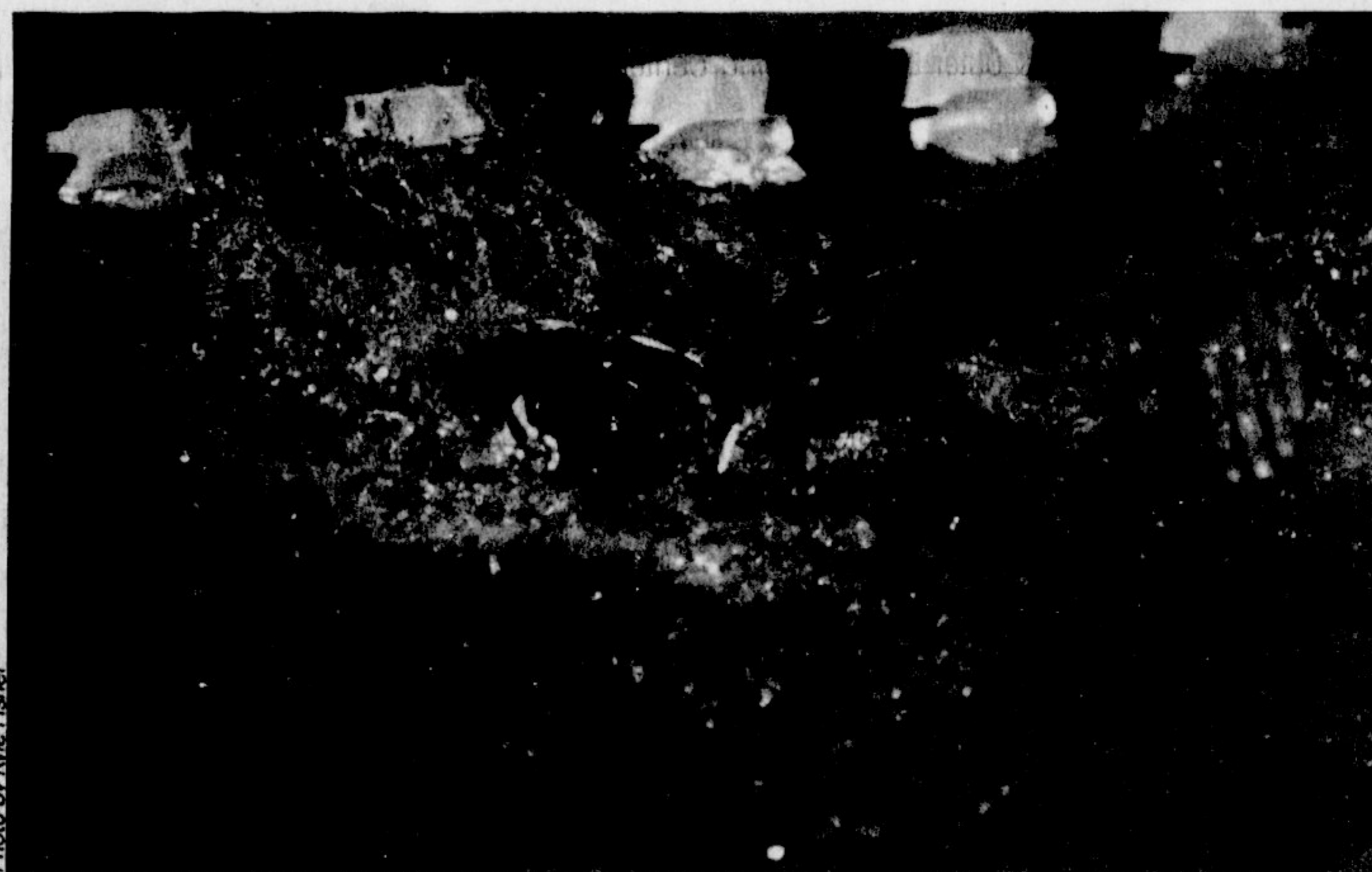
"We were very lucky to only be down five at halftime because Moussa (Badiane) and Corey (Rouse) were in serious, serious foul trouble," Herrion said. Badiane and Rouse both picked up two early fouls within the first five minutes of the contest, causing them to only see limited action and forcing the Pirates to go small.

The Pirates small lineup kept the game close with a solid performance

see BASKETBALL page B8



Mike Cook led ECU players with 15 points.



ECU hasn't competed in a meet in almost two weeks when they defeated William & Mary.

## Pirates get ready for Chapel Hill

*Men's team looks to remain unbeaten*

DAVID WASKIEWICZ  
STAFF WRITER

With an undefeated record heading into next Wednesday, the ECU Men's Swimming Team is looking to add another win to their total, this time over in-state rival Chapel Hill. The Lady Pirates, with only one loss this year, will also try to add another win onto their two-match streak.

Both of the UNC teams are

coming off of a loss to Virginia last weekend. The men's team was dominated 172-71, while the women lost 179-119. The Pirates will try and add salt into the Tar Heels wound, riding on the momentum of the team's previous win.

The last meet for the Pirates took place two weeks ago against William and Mary. The men's team pulled out a convincing 126-108 win. Not to be outdone, the Lady Pirates pulled out a convincing win of their own, winning 121-89. The Pirates were scheduled to face UMBC last weekend but the meet was called

due to inclement weather.

The Tar Heels have always proved to be a challenge for the Pirates in the past. Since 1977, the Lady Pirates have never defeated the Tar Heels in regular season meets. The men's record against the team has also been disappointing in the past. Riding the wave of their best season in school history, the Pirates will try to dominate this year.

The meet is scheduled for next Wednesday at 4 p.m. in Chapel Hill.

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

## Greenville Disc Golf Club to host 'Ice Bowl' in Meadowbrook Park

*Tournament benefits Pitt County charity*

ROBERT LEONARD  
SENIOR WRITER

So many times in sports, people are focused on winning. The winner is placed in the spotlight. If you were to keep that same philosophy this weekend at the Greenville Ice Bowl, a disc golf tournament at West Meadowbrook Park, the light would be shining on the community.

Rick Rothstein, a resident of Kansas City, created the Ice Bowl in 1987 in Columbia, Mo. Since disc golf tournaments are mainly in the spring and

summer, Rothstein wanted some sort of national tournament that would be for the wintertime. His idea was the Ice Bowl.

Ice Bowls are held at disc golf courses all around the world from the first weekend in January through the last weekend in February. The motto of the Ice Bowl is "No Wimps, No Whiners," referencing the nasty weather that can occur during this time of year. In fact, the Ice Bowl even keeps track of the temperature and the amount of snow on the ground. The coldest Ice Bowl reported was in 1996 in St. Cloud, Minn. where temperatures reached a blistering -29 degrees. The most snow was once again in St. Cloud, this time in

1997. The golfers played through an amazing 50 inches of snow.

Just like every other disc golf tournament, someone will win and someone will lose. But finding out who the best disc golfer that day is not the focus of the Ice Bowl, it's about charity.

The Greenville Disc Golf Club will be hosting the event this Saturday at 10 a.m. The charity being represented is the Pitt County Social Services Food Pantry and Scholarship Fund. Entry fee for the event is \$10 and two cans of food. Everyone who enters will receive an Ice Bowl golf disc and an Ice Bowl mini disc, which is used to mark the golfer's lie.

"Many courses around the

state have had Ice Bowls for many years," said Greenville Disc Golf Club President and tournament director Scott Faison.

"Since we now have a public course it was only fitting that we have one also. The Ice Bowl is actually an international event and we feel lucky to be a part of it."

Last year, there were 170 Ice Bowls around the country and 6,561 players in those. Just last year, the Ice Bowl raised \$86,887 and 17,489 pounds of food, all donated directly to local charities.

The two round tournament will be a special format geared toward fun and raising money. The first round will give golfers a chance to throw a mulligan if they choose. Every mulligan will

cost that golfer a dollar and that money will be donated to the Pitt County Social Services Food Pantry and Scholarship Fund.

After an hour break for lunch, the golfers will be paired up for a best shot round in the afternoon. The best score from the morning round will be paired with the worst score, second best score will be with the second worst score and so on. The person with the lowest overall score will take home a trophy.

Although you may not play disc golf, Faison still urges people to come out and donate canned food.

"This is for a good cause and more importantly a local cause," Faison said.

"Too many times charities we

donate to are far away or we can not see the impact that our donation does. With this, a person can see what they are going to help. Also you don't have to be a disc golfer to participate in an Ice Bowl. You will get a disc and a mini with your entry fee so anyone could come out and play. This is one event that is geared highly toward more fun and less competition. Anyone is welcome to help us and play."

For more information on the Greenville Ice Bowl or for directions to West Meadowbrook Park, you may contact Scott Faison at mff0526@aol.com.

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

## Recruiting from page B5

coach, can use his natural energy to sell a recruit.

In sales and recruiting, experience is vital. Steve Shankweiler, the offensive coordinator and offensive line coach, is entering his 25th season as a coach, 11 of which were at ECU.

"You have to show recruits where ECU has been and how they can be part of making it where it was again," said Shankweiler.

"You have to sell them on being the bell cow. If you come people will follow."

Eastern North Carolina is another point of emphasis for the new regime.

"With kids in this part of the state, you have to stress

how important this university is to eastern North Carolina," Shankweiler said.

"I agree that the bulk of your team should come from the Carolinas, but I know that kids want to win. I don't care if they are from Mars, they want to win."

Another former Pirate coach, Donnie Thompson, now the assistant head coach and defensive line coach is known in coaching circles as one of the best recruiters.

Thompson recruited past Pirate greats Robert Jones, Jerry Dillion and Carlester Crumpler. He was also involved in recruiting Julius Peppers and Ryan Sims to UNC.

Thompson knows the ECU values because he spent 1986 -

1988 on the ECU sidelines.

"It's easy for me because I was recruited to come back," said Thompson. "I just tell them what interested me in coming back. Number one, can they get a great education? My son graduated from here so you can't get a better education."

"The other thing is playing in Conference USA. It's a competitive league. It gives athletes national exposure if you are at the top of that league. We expect to be at the top of that league."

Whatever the science formula is, the Pirates have already nailed down several verbal commitments. Josh Grier, Quentin Cotton, Marcus Hands, Bran-

don Setzer and JJ Millbrook

all graduated high school in 2003, but sat out in 2004. All are currently enrolled. Aundrea Allison, a junior college All-American receiver enrolled this semester. North Carolina natives Kyle Johnson, Chris Mattocks, Josh Smith and Terrell Hudgins have all reported their verbal commitments. Robert Kass and Jeremy Chambliss are the only two from out of state to give public verbal commitments.

From the lists of commitments, the players like what they see. After all, they are the future.

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

# Owens could jeopardize career

(AP) — The reason an athlete visits an orthopedic surgeon as opposed to a faith healer should be evident: You can't always count on divine intervention.

And so while it was uplifting to hear Terrell Owens say, "Spiritually, God is healing me and I'm way ahead of where a lot of people expect me to be," it's a good thing he bothered to get a second opinion. Even if it wasn't the one he wanted, it was the one Owens needed.

A month ago, Dr. Mark Myerson needed two screws and a plate to put Owens' right ankle back together. After Tuesday's weekly checkup, Myerson said he was pleased with his patient's recuperation, but he still refused to clear him to play in the Super Bowl.

Yes, Owens looked healthy patrolling the sideline in Philadelphia last Sunday, waving a towel and whipping up the home crowd. But that means something only if he's auditioning for the cheerleading squad. The guys on New England's defense can appreciate a courageous comeback story more than most, but once Owens sets foot inside the lines, that won't keep them from going after his bum ankle.

Myerson reasoned it takes eight to 10 weeks to recover from the surgery — when the Eagles and Patriots meet Feb. 6, Owens will have been on the mend and rehabbing for about six and a half weeks. Still, the team's doctors and trainers apparently have the final say. If they

green-light Owens for the Super Bowl, the only place any of them should be allowed to operate an X-ray machine is at an airport.

It's easy to understand the temptation on all sides, of course. Games that mean as much to a player as the Super Bowl only come along every so often, and pro football careers are notoriously short and risky to begin with. On top of that, the most inspirational moments in sports are about guys playing with pain that makes you wince just reading about it.

The hands-down winner in the category is Muhammad Ali going all 12 rounds against Ken Norton in 1973 after his jaw was busted by a punch in the second. But it's hardly the only one.

Last October, it was Curt Schilling busting the stitches holding together a frayed tendon so he could work seven innings of Game 6 against the Yankees. Three decades earlier, it was Willis Reed dragging a bum leg into the center circle for the jump ball against Wilt Chamberlain in Game 7 of the 1970 NBA Finals. And then there was Kirk Gibson's gimpy-kneed tour of the bases after his walk-off homer against the A's All-Star closer, Dennis Eckersley, in Game 1 of the 1988 World Series.

If those moments sent chills down your spine, imagine the effect it had on the field.

"When he hit that ball," Oakland shortstop Walt Weiss



see OWENS page B8 Owens is determined to play in Super Bowl XXXIX.

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# NCAA puts focus on graduation rates

(KRT) ST. LOUIS — When the recommendation first became public, it seemed ridiculous. Or, at the very least, a suggestion made by ivory-tower academics who weren't operating in the real world. How could it ever come to pass that the NCAA would penalize teams that graduated fewer than 50 percent of their athletes?

The suggestion was just one of many made in 2001 by the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, which had spent more than a decade making suggestions that the college athletics establishment had mostly ignored. The commission itself noted that former Michigan football coach and athletic director Bo Schembechler had responded to a previous report by saying, "The hubbub will pass, and so will these so-called reformers."

Two weeks ago, however, the NCAA board of directors passed sweeping athletic reform legislation that boiled down to this: Starting in 2006, teams that are graduating fewer than 50 percent of their athletes will lose scholarships. And that's just the beginning — upcoming will be stronger sanctions that could result in ineligibility for bowl games and NCAA championships.

The full import of the new rules will be fully understood only after several weeks, when the NCAA releases its first set of data as a warning to schools that would fail to meet the standards for the 2005-06 season. NCAA officials have said that football, men's basketball and baseball will be most affected.

Assessment of penalties will be delayed until the following season, giving schools a year to bring up their academic standards.

Many of those who have been voices for academic reform, however, don't need to see the concrete results to believe that the new guidelines are an important step in controlling the monster that intercollegiate athletics has become.

"It's not too much to ask an institution, most of which are spending a half-million to a million dollars a year in tutoring and supplemental guidance for the classroom (for athletes), it's a massive expenditure that most people don't know takes place,"

said William Friday, former chancellor of the University of North Carolina and president of the Knight Commission.

"There's every reason in the world to expect 50 percent of them to graduate. That's what the university ought to do. They ought to qualify for gainful employment because they're not going to make a living in sport."

Others aren't so sure. They wonder if with all-important scholarships on the line, schools looking for loopholes will create more courses such as Jim Harlick's "Fundamentals of Basketball," if not entire majors designed to keep athletes on a path to graduation.

Potentially worse, they say, is that coaches may be less likely to recruit athletes who, perhaps because they were simply not lucky enough to attend an academically rigorous high school, may struggle academically at first.

But even those who worry about potential negative consequences applaud the NCAA's efforts.

"I think the intentions are outstanding," Georgia Tech men's basketball coach Paul Hewitt said.

That said, he worries that the new rules will one day be considered discriminatory — not by intent, but in practice.

One NCAA staff member, Hewitt said, told coaches in a meeting that they needed to start recruiting kids who looked like graduates. "That's a heck of a statement," said Hewitt, his outrage coming through weeks after the meeting.

Explained Hewitt: "We're talking about recruiting, quote, better prepared student-athletes. We're talking about not recruiting potential early departures for the NBA. When you close your eyes and think about those groups of people, what faces do you see? You see black faces."

"Socio-economically, they may come from a situation that the school isn't as good. If you look at the early departures from college basketball, if you look at the kids who left, 95 percent of them happen to be black. I don't think there's anything wrong with a young man changing the course of his life to better his and his family's point in life. Everybody who works is always looking to advance himself up."

"I worry that we are going to come back in five years and say, 'You know what, the intentions here were great, but these rules proved to be very discriminatory.'"

Much has changed in the four years since the Knight Commission first floated the 50-percent number, let alone the 14 years since its first report in 1991. Gradually, university presidents are taking the lead in running intercollegiate athletics (another Knight Commission recommendation) and controversies over the increased commercialization of college sport, the composition of the Bowl Championship Series and the continuing academic scandals on college campuses have prompted more calls for reform.

All of those circumstances have resulted in what supporters say is the beauty of the legislation the way schools are punished.

"What all of these debates and discussions have made very clear is that you get the change in Division I college sport when you take control of the money," Friday said. "Moral debate has its place, but nobody listens to that. You take the money away, you'll get the attention in a hurry."

And that, in effect, is what the new academic rules do. Teams that do not graduate an acceptable number of athletes will be penalized with the loss of athletic scholarships. Specifically, a coach will be unable to re-award a grant-in-aid that was previously given to an athlete who left the university without making progress toward a degree.

Every one of the NCAA's 5,000-plus teams will be subject to the rule. The penalties will be assessed team by team, not solely for the school, and they will be based on a new measurement devised by the NCAA, the Academic Progress Rate.

Men's basketball has received much of the negative publicity for graduation rates. Each March, the Center for the Study of Sport at Central Florida University evaluates the teams in the Sweet 16 in various categories, including academic performance, and a year ago only four Sweet 16 teams (Kansas, Duke, Vanderbilt and Xavier) graduated more than 50 percent of their players.

As the tournament continued, the percentage of schools

with poor graduation rates grew.

"When three out of four of the teams in the Final Four last year were graduating under 40 percent of their athletes, that's a pretty incriminating statistic," Friday said. "We've just got to do better."

Basketball coaches always have complained about the manner in which graduation rates were calculated. The federal graduation rates, the only measure available, do not account for transfer students. If a player transfers in to a school, he does not count in that school's graduation rate, even if he does graduate. By the same token, a player who transfers out of a school counts against the school he leaves, even if that player goes on to graduate from another institution.

With that fact in mind, the NCAA's Committee on Academic Performance, chaired by Walter Harrison, president of the University of Hartford, and the NCAA staff came up with a new statistic, the APR.

The APR is based on a scale with 1,000 at the top. Teams scoring below 925 will be penalized. That APR, Harrison explained, essentially means that 92.5 percent of a team's athletes are retaining eligibility.

The penalty works like this: If students are not returning as full-time students for the next semester and are academically ineligible, that student's scholarship will not be re-awarded. The NCAA has further decided to cap the number of scholarships a team can lose at 10 percent.

So a football team that scores below 925 on the APR could lose up to nine scholarships, and a men's basketball team could lose up to two for the following season. If the problems are corrected, teams would receive a full complement of scholarships for the next season.

"I think this gets to the bottom of the problem very quickly," Leveck said. "I think you'll be hearing, 'Well, what's their APR?' instead of their graduation rates ... I do think this piece of legislation requires every coach in every sport to sit up and look at their sport and know they can be hit personally. It will affect their recruiting and their ability to distribute financial aid. So I like it. I think it's a good start."

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**Basketball** from page B5

from behind the arc, connecting on five trifectas in the opening 20 minutes.

"Is that a record?" Herrion inquired jokingly about his Pirates surprising efforts from three-land.

ECU cooled off from downtown in the second half but turned up the defensive intensity, holding the Billikens to a dismal 23 percent from the floor and scoreless through nearly the first six minutes of the half.

The Pirates, feeding of their defensive pressure, opened the half on a 12-0 run.

"I told the kids at half, 'if you want to win this game you are going to half to get some stops in the first five minutes of the second half,'" Herrion said.

"It is not about the offense, it's about the defense."

The Billikens could never seem to get on track under the Pirates' smothering pressure and could only manage 20 second half points.

"I think we wanted the game more tonight than they did," Herrion said.

After the run, ECU never let St. Louis creep any closer than four as the Pirates picked up their first conference USA win 60-53.

"I am just really, really proud of the kids," Herrion said.

Cook finished the game with 15 points and nine rebounds, but

maybe his biggest contribution came with his hustle and leadership.

"I thought Mike Cook played one of his better games since he has been here at ECU," Herrion said. "He played very hard defensively and rebounded the ball as well."

The Pirates also another monster performance from Rouse, who recorded 13 points and 13 rebounding, keeping his season average of a double-double in tact.

"Corey played great once again and that is all you can ask of him is what he did tonight," Herrion said. ECU also found a spark off the bench as King connected on three long balls, finishing with 11 points.

"Josh King gave us a great lift off the bench," Herrion said. "I told him that in order to beat St. Louis you have to make jump shots and that he needed to be ready because his shots were going to be there."

The Pirates continued their great rebounding as ECU outreboarded St. Louis by 17 and had 20 more second chance points in the bout. With the win, the Pirates move back into position to make the C-USA tournament and will host the Charlotte 49ers this Saturday.

Game time is slated for 1 p.m. in Minges Coliseum.

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

**Owens** from page B6

said about Gibson back then, "it was almost surreal. As devastating a blow as it was, I remember running off the field and saying, 'Man, that was unbelievable.'"

And while football may be the one sport that rivals boxing in its physical demands, there are plenty of inspirational tales to go around. The best of that lot is about Rams defender Jack Youngblood.


In the first half of a 1979 playoff game against the Cowboys, he was chop-blocked by two Dallas linemen, causing his left fibula to snap above the ankle. Youngblood talked the trainers into taping him up at halftime, finished that game and played the next two wearing a brace. The Steelers spoiled any chance of a happy ending by beating the Rams in the Super Bowl.

Owens' decision absolves the doctor of any blame should Owens re-injure the ankle - or worse. But more likely, Myerson made it knowing the sheer number of disastrous outcomes are what make the rare successes so memorable.

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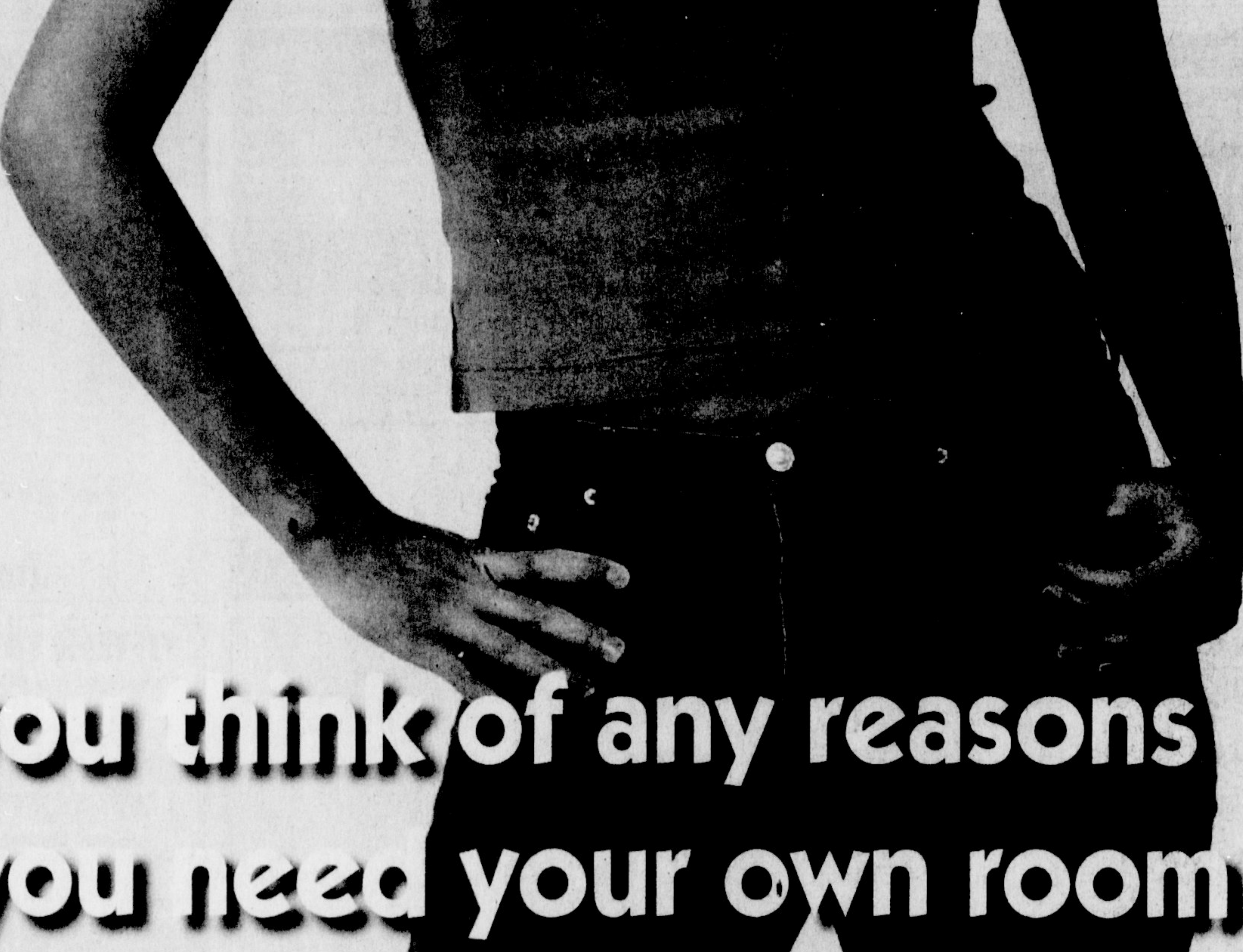
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