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**THE EAST CAROLINIAN**

Volume 80 Number 76

**THURSDAY**

April 14, 2005

# Numbers increase for spring graduation commencement

Official ceremony set for May 7

SHANNON KEITH  
STAFF WRITER

ECU is expecting record numbers of students to participate in this year's spring graduation ceremony scheduled for May 7.

"We are looking forward to one of our larger events this year," said Liz Johnston, director of the department for disability support services and commencement.

"These numbers are definitely up."

More than 1,300 students, roughly 300 more students than last year, are currently registered to participate in this year's ceremony in Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum.

The school has been holding commencement inside Williams Arena for the past three years, instead of outside at Dowdy-Ficklen stadium, due to the unpredictable nature of spring weather.

Due to fewer seats available to guests in Williams Arena, ECU has split commencement into two separate ceremonies.

Both ceremonies will begin with a concert, followed by the student processional, recognition of the individual colleges, faculty and guest speakers and the conferring of the degrees by the chancellor.

Although the number of graduates attending commencement has increased, it still only represents a fraction of the students actually graduating.

The Office of the Registrar has reported that nearly 2,800 students have applied to graduate this spring, double the amount that have currently chosen to attend their own graduation ceremony.

Many students have chosen, as an alternative, to attend their individual departmental ceremonies.

However, Johnston said, the degrees are actually conferred by the chancellor at the commencement ceremony.

"That is the official graduation ceremony."



see GRADUATION page A2 *Number of students attending commencement is growing, ally spring during December's commencement ceremony.*

## ECU reflects on tuition increase decisions

Financial planning underway for next fiscal year

NICK HENNE  
NEWS EDITOR

ECU officials are in the process of planning how to use the tuition increases they were granted and find ways to make up for unallowed increases in effort to effectively plan for next year's budget issues.

While the NC Board of Governors rejected the proposed increase for undergraduate resident students in their February meeting, they approved the campus initiated increase of \$300 for undergraduate, non-resident students and all graduate students. In addition, the BOG approved a \$60 per credit hour increase specifically for the MBA/MSA students and last year approved a \$700 increase for the first year medical students effective in the 2005 - 2006 fiscal year. The MBA/MSA increases will be used to enhance those programs and ECU is in the process of modifying their plan for the other tuition increases.

According to Kevin Seitz, vice chancellor for administration and finance, the state legislature still has the authority to raise tuition as part of the state budget, but has not indicated that they plan to do so.

Chancellor Steve Ballard said he did not expect the BOG to fully pass the proposed \$300, he was surprised they did not pass any of it, especially with the Student Government Association's support and the 12-1 vote on ECU Board of Trustees to endorse the increase.

Ballard said there are more than 9,000 students at ECU who have demonstrated financial need, which is higher than any other school in the UNC System. ECU must therefore be very concerned about access and affordability to education.

Ballard said the need for campus initiated tuition increases over the past two years is due to continual cost increases and ECU not receiving these cost factors included adequately on the public agenda. He cited utilities going up 41 percent over the last three years creating more than \$4 million in new utility costs.

The assistant professor market has also increased 22 percent in three years and 90 percent of ECU's hiring are at the assistant professor level.

Ballard cited quality as a critical question that needs to be considered in making tuition decisions.

"If we don't address quality and the cost of being competitive, we're not going to be as good as we need to be," said Ballard.

"It costs more to bring in good people ... and I am absolutely committed in bringing good people."

Malpractice insurance has gone up 300 percent over the last three years, putting a financial strain on the Brody School of Medicine, which is central to ECU's future. In addition, new federal requirements have also increased the costs for the BSOM.

"The reason that we have to think about tuition increases are that the costs never stay the same, they have always gone up," Ballard said.

"We want to be competitive, ... we want to provide the best programs for our students."

One of the main reasons why the BOG did not allot tuition increases was because the reasons proposed by UNC schools were the same they have heard for the past five years. Since the BOG has passed tuition increases four out of the past

## State mandates Greenville bridge to undergo replacement



Construction on the 14th Street bridge will begin in May and is scheduled to be completed next year.

Construction process will affect area traffic

MICHAEL HARRINGTON  
SENIOR WRITER

A bridge on 14th Street is set to be replaced after it was deemed functionally obsolete by the NC Board of Transportation.

The bridge is located a few dozen feet from the intersection of Charles Boulevard and 14th Street.

Ed Eatmon, division construction engineer for the NC Board of Transportation, said the bridge recently received a rating that indicated it needed to be replaced.

The job was awarded to Mountain Creek Contractors, who have to meet certain guidelines in completion of the project.

Eatmon said initially workers will relocate a number of utility lines that are attached to the bridge. This stage of the project will begin in early May and continue until the end of August.

After the initial stage, construction will be halted in order

for ECU football game traffic to access the area by 14th Street.

Once the home football games are over for the year, the second phase of construction will begin.

In this phase, the entire road will be closed to traffic, creating changes in the area's traffic pattern.

Eatmon said approximately 14,000 cars travel on 14th Street every day.

Once the project has started, Mountain Creek Contractors have a limited amount of time to finish before being penalized.

"Once they close the road, they have 120 days to build the bridge," said Eatmon.

"The penalty is \$5,000 per day."

In addition to completing the bridge, Eatmon said the lanes will be widened to accommodate the amount of traffic the road receives.

Nicole Buttress, public information officer for the North Carolina Department of Transportation, said the contracts are approved at monthly meetings when they are ready for construction.

"We have project schedules ... each month they have a certain number of projects that come

before the board," said Buttress.

Eatmon said the area will also begin seeing the effects of a variety of other improvement projects in the near future.

Arlington Boulevard is going to be connected to NC 43. Eatmon said bidding for that contract begins May 17.

Eatmon said construction should begin on that project in July, barring any glitches in the bidding process.

NC 43 is also receiving the benefits of a road widening and resurfacing project, Eatmon said.

"We're widening the pavement by about 6 feet and resurfacing," Eatmon said.

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

### Bridge Cost

The cost of the replacement effort is \$1.8 million and completion is scheduled for summer 2006.



ECU football players participate in the traditional Japanese Bori dance in preparation for the International Festival.

## ECU, Greenville to co-host festival

Success of event based on diversity awareness

CHRIS ADAMS  
STAFF WRITER

The 15th International Festival of Greenville is taking place April 16 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the recently renovated Town Commons.

Originally funded by the city of Greenville alone, ECU became active in putting on the event in 2003. The festival is designed to be a celebration of the many different countries represented in the Greenville area, 63 of which are represented at ECU.

There are several events taking place for the festival. Tents will be set up in the Town Commons area where local vendors and ECU student groups from other countries will hold information on the country they are representing as well as provide native foods.

Barbara Dunn, information and communication specialist for ECU Regional Development Services, was excited about the different ways of learning about the cultures represented.

"This is definitely something

### International Festival

Entrance is free and transportation will be provided by the GREAT bus system, free of charge as well.

The list of vendors includes Café Caribe, China 10 and the Swiss Chalet, as well as many other local international vendors. Student groups on campus including but not limited to the Arab Student Union, the German Club and the Asian Club will all be present at the International Festival.

to come in order to learn about the culture, not only in terms of art, dance and music but also ethnic foods," said Dunn.

"For a very low price because this is designed for regular people to go in and learn about the different cultures, not necessarily to spend money to be able to have fun."

Native items available for purchase will also play a role in the International Festival. Handcrafted masks and pottery from Zimbabwe will be able to

see FESTIVAL page A3

see TUITION page A9

# NEWS

Page A2 news@theeastcarolinian.com 252.328.6366

NICK HENNE News Editor

KRISTIN DAY Assistant News Editor

THURSDAY April 14, 2005

## Announcements

### AA Meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings will be held every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in 14 MSC. For more information, call 760-500-8918.

### Entrepreneurial Banquet

The Pitt County School System is holding their Educational Foundation Entrepreneurial Banquet April 14 at 6:30 p.m. in Rock Springs Center on Highway 43. This event is held in recognition of bold leadership and responsible risk taking to advance teaching and improve learning in the Pitt County Schools. For more information, please call 830-4223.

### Fire Fighter Appreciation Dinner

Phi Sigma Pi National Co-Ed Honor Fraternity is hosting a Fire Fighter Appreciation Dinner April 19 at 6 p.m. at five local fire stations. The Fraternity will have a table in front of Wright Place April 11 - 15 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Volunteers as well as donations, including spaghetti sauce, noodles and the like for the theme of the dinner, which is "Taste of Italy," are needed and should be dropped off at the table. Students as well as organizations are welcome to help in any way they can. For more information, please contact Alex at aji0908@mail.ecu.edu.

### Pirate Purple/Gold Pigskin Pig-Out Party

The ECU Athletic Marketing Department is holding the 25th annual Great Pirate Purple/Gold Pigskin Pig-Out Party April 15 - 16 at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. There will be lots of fun for the entire family as the Pirates celebrate this event that attracts people from all around with live entertainment, midway carnival rides, children's activities, fireworks, pig cooking contests, golf and tennis tournaments, a spring football game and more. For more information, call 258-8447.

### Salsa Dance

The ECU Folk and Country Dancers are sponsoring a salsa dance Friday, April 15 in the Willis Building at First and Reade Streets. Instruction by Procopio and Heidi will begin at 7:30 p.m. and the dance will be 8:30 - 11 p.m. with DJ Ramon. The cost of admission is \$3 for students, \$5 for FASG members and \$8 for the general public. For more information please call 752-7350.

### International Festival

The 15th International Festival of Greenville is taking place April 16 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the recently renovated Town Commons.

### Pediatric Healthy Weight Summit

The second annual Pediatric Healthy Weight Summit entitled "Harnessing the Power of Communication: Marketing and Its Influences on Childhood Obesity" will be held Monday, April 18 and will focus on how marketing can be used as a powerful tool to promote positive messages about healthy eating and physical activity. For more information contact Yancey Crawford at 744-5061 or crawfordy@mail.ecu.edu.

### Summer Work Study

ECU students who are not taking summer classes and can work 40 hours each week can participate in the work-study program this summer. First go to Student Financial Aid in 250 Flanagan and pick up a "Hiring Authorization Form." Then attend a brief information session at Student Professional Development on the corner of Fifth and Jarvis Streets. Sessions will be held April 20 from 2 - 2:30 p.m., April 21 10 - 10:30 a.m., April 22 10 - 10:30 a.m. and April 25 11 - 11:30 a.m.

### Barefoot On the Mall

ECU's annual Barefoot On the Mall event will be April 21. Come out and enjoy food, music and fun.

Want your event printed in TEC? Please send your announcements with date, time, location and contact information to assistantnewseditor@theeastcarolinian.com.

## News Briefs

### Local

**Witness says Akbar admitted bombing Kuwait camp**  
FORT BRAGG, NC - An officer testified Tuesday that a 101st Airborne Division sergeant under court-martial confessed in the aftermath of a fatal grenade and rifle attack at a brigade camp in the Kuwait desert two years ago. Maj. Kyle Warren told a 15-person jury he found Sgt. Hasan Akbar in a bunker, where he appeared to be performing guard duty, following the attack that killed two officers. Akbar was a suspect at that point. Warren said he wrestled Akbar to the ground and asked, "Did you do this? Did you bomb the tents?" "He said, 'Yes,'" Warren testified. Akbar's defense lawyers declined to cross-examine Warren, the brigade intelligence officer who took charge of security after the middle-of-the-night attack at Camp Pennsylvania March 22 - 23, 2003.

Akbar's attorneys are not disputing that he carried out the attack, but have said their client was incapable of premeditating the killings due to mental illness. Akbar is charged with two counts of first-degree murder and three counts of attempted first-degree murder. If found guilty of premeditated murder, he faces a possible death penalty.

### Suspect in NCSU shooting convicted in separate case

RALEIGH, NC - A man charged in two fatal shootings outside a NC State University football game was convicted of robbery, kidnapping and burglary in a second case. The conviction on Tuesday of Tony Johnson, 21, means he would be eligible for the death penalty if he

is found guilty in the Labor Day weekend shootings. A Wake County Superior Court jury found Johnson guilty of four counts of robbery with a firearm, four counts of first-degree kidnapping and one count of first-degree burglary in connection with a home invasion robbery Aug. 22 in Raleigh. Sentencing was scheduled for May 4. Johnson's brother, Timothy Johnson, 23, also was charged in both the robbery and the shooting. He pleaded guilty in January to charges in the home invasion. Both are charged with first-degree murder in the killings of Kevin M. McMann of Chicago and 2nd Lt. Brett Johnson Harman, a Camp Lejeune Marine from Park Ridge, Ill., Sept. 4. The victims, both 23, were shot to death in a tailgate area outside Carter-Finley Stadium.

### National

#### Scientists scramble to destroy vials of 1957 flu virus

Scientists around the world were scrambling to prevent the possibility of a pandemic after a nearly 50-year-old killer influenza virus was sent to thousands of labs, a decision that one researcher described as "unwise." Nearly 5,000 labs in 18 countries, mostly in the United States, were urged by the World Health Organization to destroy samples of the dangerous virus because of the slight risk it could trigger a global outbreak. The labs received the virus from a U.S. company that supplies kits used for quality control tests. "The risk is low and we've taken appropriate action," said Dr. Nancy Cox, chief of the influenza branch at the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention in Atlanta. Her counterpart at WHO, Klaus Stohr, agreed but said, "If someone does get infected, the risk of severe illness is high, and this virus has shown to be fully transmissible." The germ, the 1957 H2N2 "Asian flu" strain, killed between 1 million and 4 million people. It has not been included in flu vaccines since 1968, and anyone born after that date has little or no immunity to it. The WHO said Tuesday that there have been no reports of infections in laboratory workers associated with the distribution of the samples and that "the risk for the general population is also considered low."

#### Woman who claims she found finger in chili won't sue Wendy's

SAN JOSE, Calif. - A woman who claimed she scooped up a human finger along with her chili at a Wendy's restaurant has decided not to sue the fast-food chain. Anna Ayala dropped her claim because it "has caused her great emotional distress and continues to be difficult emotionally," said her attorney, Jeffrey Janoff. Ayala, 39, claimed she found the 1 1/2-inch long fingertip on March 22 while dining at a Wendy's restaurant in San Jose. She later filed a claim with the franchise owner, Fresno-based JEM Management Corp., which her attorney had said was the first step before filing a lawsuit. Phone calls to Ayala's house went unanswered Tuesday. Investigators searched her Las Vegas home last week as part of their investigation into how a finger ended up in the chili. Wendy's spokesman Denny Lynch declined to comment on Ayala's decision to drop the lawsuit but said

a reward hot line to receive tips will remain open. Wendy's has offered \$50,000 to the first person who can provide verifiable information that identifies the origin of the finger. "It's very important to us to find out what really happened at the restaurant," Lynch said. "We will continue to fully cooperate with the police investigation." Wendy's maintains the finger did not enter the food chain in its ingredients. None of the employees at the San Jose store had lost any fingers, and no suppliers of Wendy's ingredients reported any hand or finger injuries, the company said. The Santa Clara County coroner's office used a partial fingerprint to search for a match in an electronic database but came up empty. DNA testing is still being conducted on the finger.

### International

#### Rice deputy greeted by complaints in Iraq

FALLUJAH, Iraq - Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's top deputy - on a surprise trip to meet with Iraq's newly elected government - inspected reconstruction efforts in this former insurgent stronghold Wednesday and was promptly greeted with complaints of little progress. Originally scheduled to tour a water pumping station and a bread shop, Undersecretary of State Robert Zoellick was confined to a caravan of armored transport vehicles - except for a meeting with civic leaders at a fortified military compound. Marines said the security situation in Fallujah remained tenuous, although daily attacks were down.

Zoellick urged Iraqi citizens to lead efforts to reconstruct their own hometowns, even as the United States, its allies and the fledgling Iraqi democratic government assist. "To bring a city back to life, it has to be done by the people of that city," he said told Fallujah's civic leaders. The No. 2 official at the State Department, Zoellick arrived in Iraq a day after Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld visited. The two Bush administration officials did not cross paths. Both trips were kept secret for security reasons until their entourage landed in Baghdad.

#### Pilgrims view Pope John Paul II's tomb

VATICAN CITY - Clutching rosaries, medals and flowers, thousands of people filed past the simple white marble tomb of Pope John Paul II on Wednesday, as the Vatican reopened the grottoes beneath St. Peter's Basilica for the first time since the pope died. Some said they had come not only to pray for John Paul, but also to pray to him. Many Roman Catholics believe John Paul, who died April 2 at age 84, was a saint. "I'm hoping maybe for a little miracle," said Myra Palmer, 67, of Hagerstown, Maryland, in the eastern United States. "I'm praying to him that my husband gets his eyesight back." Pilgrims lined up in the crisp morning air as early as 4 a.m., three hours before the grottoes were reopened. "We are Catholics, and we had to see the pope one last time," said Angelo de Tommaso, a 30-year-old accountant who traveled overnight by bus from the southern Italian town of Giosa to be among the first in line.

## ECU ITCS offers new SPAM technology

Services available to students, faculty

LAUREN DONOVAN  
STAFF WRITER

ECU Technological Services is now offering students a new SPAM blocker called Mail Marshal.

ECU students and staff have spoken and voiced their need for SPAM detectors in the ECU system to protect individual users and their computers.

ECU responded with new, up-to-date technology, which is a service that gives users a Web interface.

"When so much of the mailbox space is being taken up by SPAM, it really limits the server space offered to students," said Joe Norris, associate chief information officer and director of IT support services.

ECU has not had any protection against SPAM up until this point and they are hoping the new technology is as productive and helpful as expected.

According to Norris, Mail Marshal works like a sifter. It closely evaluates each piece of mail coming into the mailbox and determines whether the mail is SPAM, junk mail or wanted mail. After the mail is separated, the SPAM mail is kept in a designated space where the user can click and access it if desired. While there, the user is free to check the SPAM mail and make sure there is nothing in there that is wanted. The Mail Marshal will hold this mail for up to 10 days and then, if un-touched, it will be automatically deleted.

Along with detecting SPAM, this new technology allows the user to make lists of blocked senders and acceptable senders. It allows individuals to train the system to work with their wants and needs.

"We ran tests for six months and found out that ECU receives about 4-5 million pieces of e-mail per month," Norris said.

"Amazingly, half of those e-mails turned out to be SPAM."

As a result of the use of this new technology, Norris says they will be able to increase students' mailbox space.

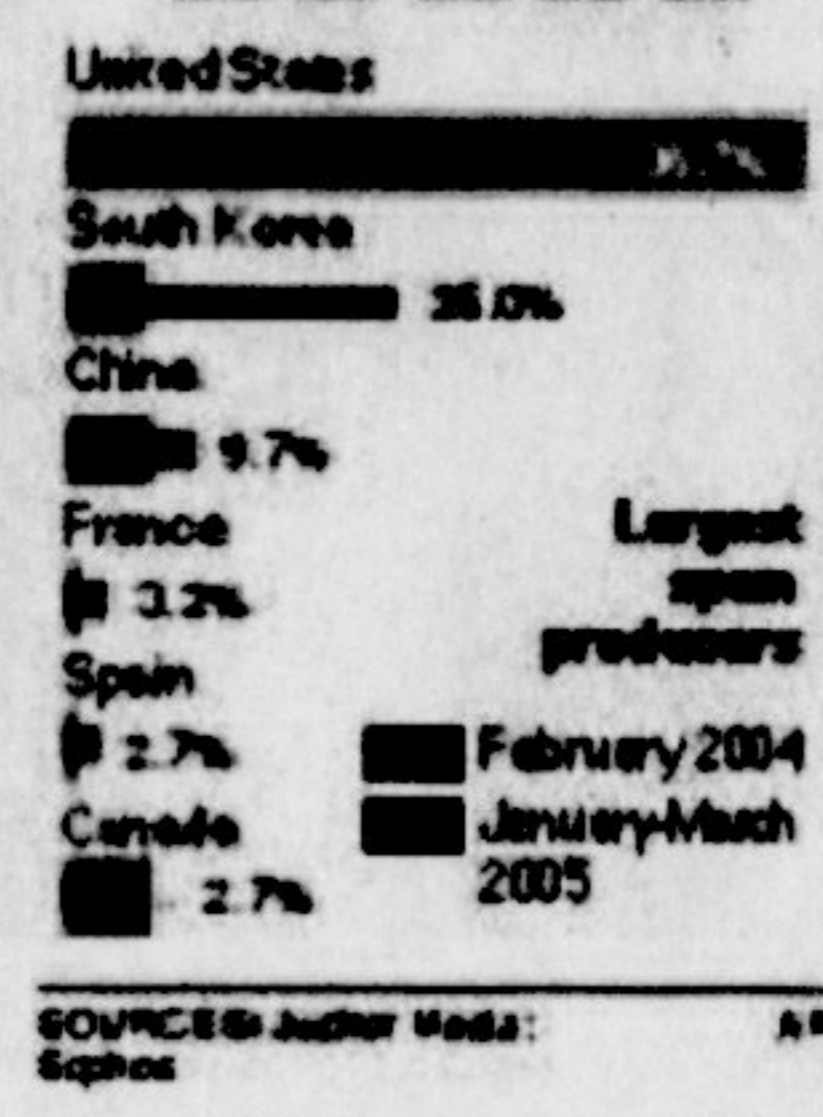
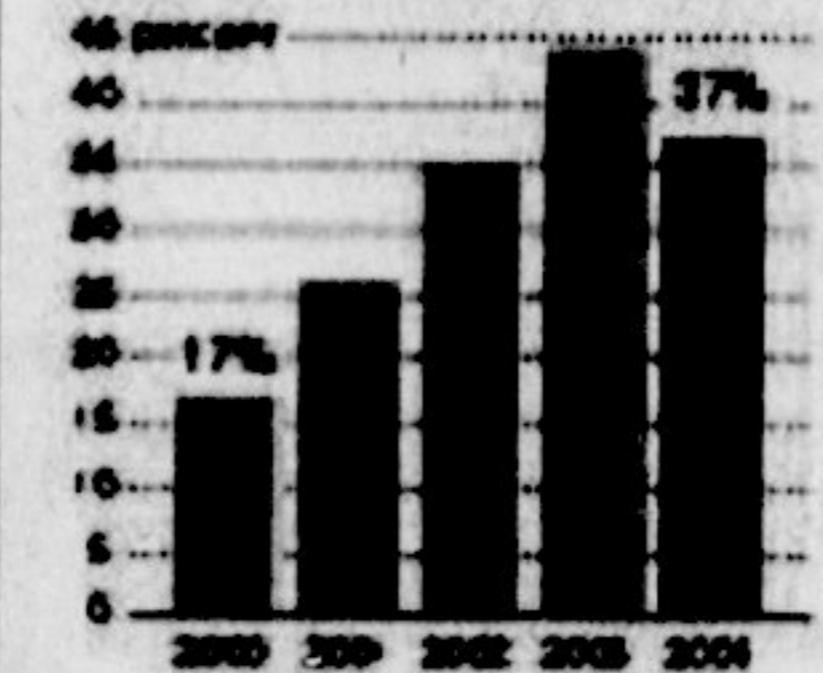
The Mail Marshal has been available to faculty and staff since January and is being made available to students this week.

Paul Maloney, sophomore

### Spam slightly down

Nearly 40 percent of e-mail received in 2004 was spam, with the United States responsible for more than one-third of it.

Spam as a percentage of total e-mail received in consumers' primary personal e-mail



### Spam

To access the spam software, visit: spammarshal.ecu.edu

construction management major, is excited about the new technology.

"I think it sounds great. Our current mailbox space is small and it would be great to have more room for additional mail," said Maloney.

Trey Williams, senior communication major, had a similar reaction.

"I'm all for it. I get so much junk mail and it drives me crazy."

Funding for the technology is coming from a student technology fee and was done through the student government.

"We see this as another service enhancement for the ECU community. We want to be able to match all of the other servers that are offered to students," Norris said.

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

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### Festival from page A1

be purchased in addition to pottery and beadwork from the Native American population. A family who adopted a daughter from Moldova will be selling Moldovan crafts from which the proceeds will go to benefit orphanages in that country.

"It is important to expose people to the customs of other countries because we are growing into a global society," Dunn said.

"The more we can learn about how people live in other countries, the richer we become because we then broaden our horizons and develop an appreciation of people from other countries."

Seven main events will be the focus of the day including a Mirage Middle Eastern dance, a Scandinavian dance named SCANDANS, Latin music from the band Carnavalito, a Japanese Bon dance accompanied by the Triangle Taiko drumming group and the Guadalajara

Mariachi Band.

Both the Japanese Bon dance and the music from Carnavalito are being offered. Carnavalito is a nationally recognized Latin Jazz band based in Raleigh who has performed at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta as well as received the honor of "Best Recording Artist in the Triangle" from *Spectator Magazine*. The Japanese Bon dance, which is being put on by the Japan Center East, is an ancient dance traditionally performed in the summer in order to honor one's ancestors. The dance is simple, involving basic steps with clapping at certain moments while the dancers move in a circle. At the International Festival, the Bon dance will be focused on gaining audience participation.

"The whole focus is to celebrate the countries that we have here in Greenville," Dunn said.

"Also, we want to help those of us who are not as well traveled to learn more about

these cultures."

Students at ECU echo the statements of Dunn.

"I think it is good for people to think outside of the box," said Ellen Oliver, senior family and community services major.

"I think people should be introduced to new experiences that will help them become more open minded."

Dunn said she expects around 7,000 people to attend this year, but feels this event could grow into an event that attracts 30,000 people. She said growth would provide greater sponsorship, which would allow bigger acts to be brought in to the event.

"What [the festival] is really all about is learning about other cultures and how we can build a participatory community here that is open to diversity and learning about other cultures and how we can live together," Dunn said.

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

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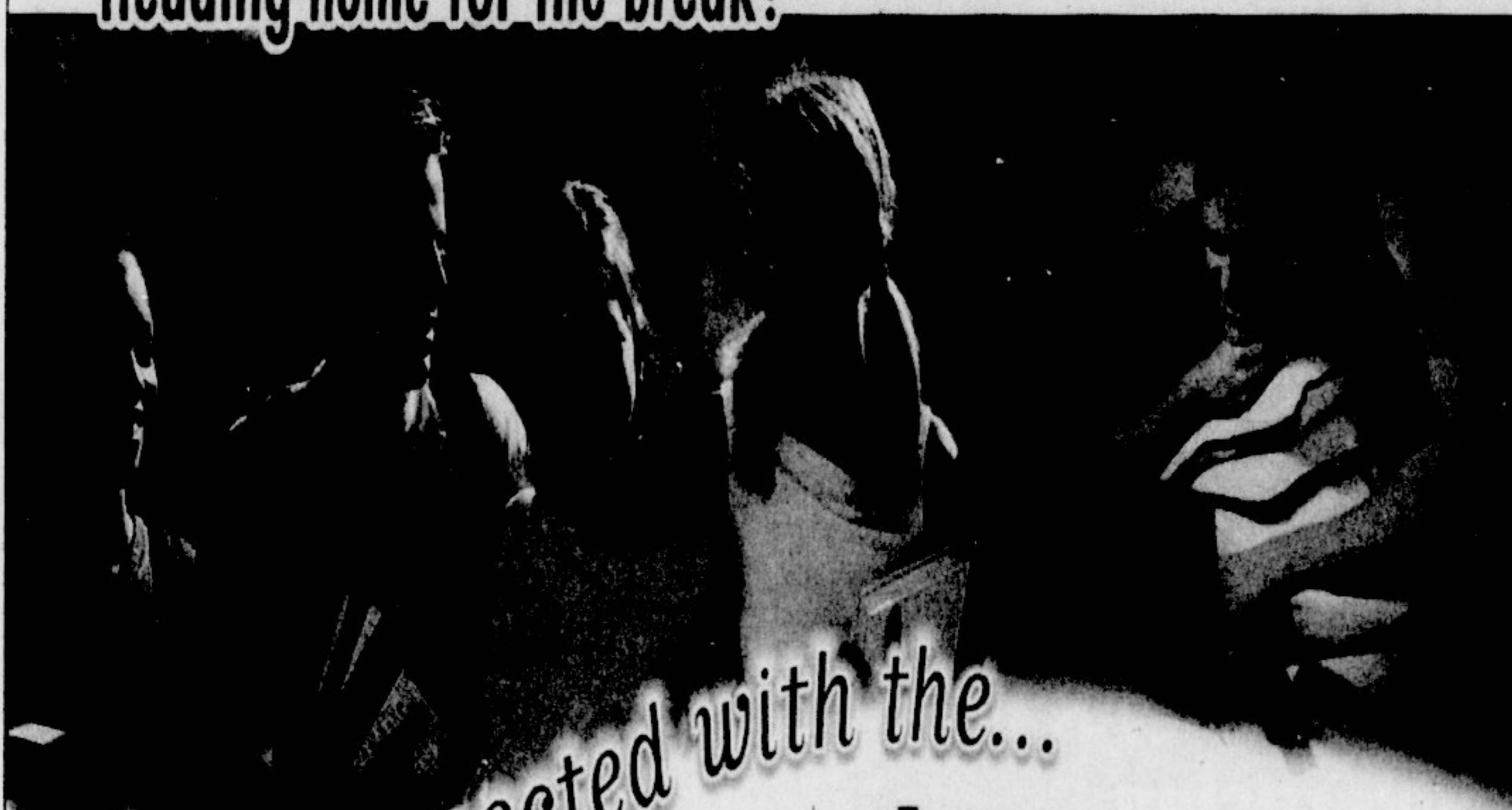
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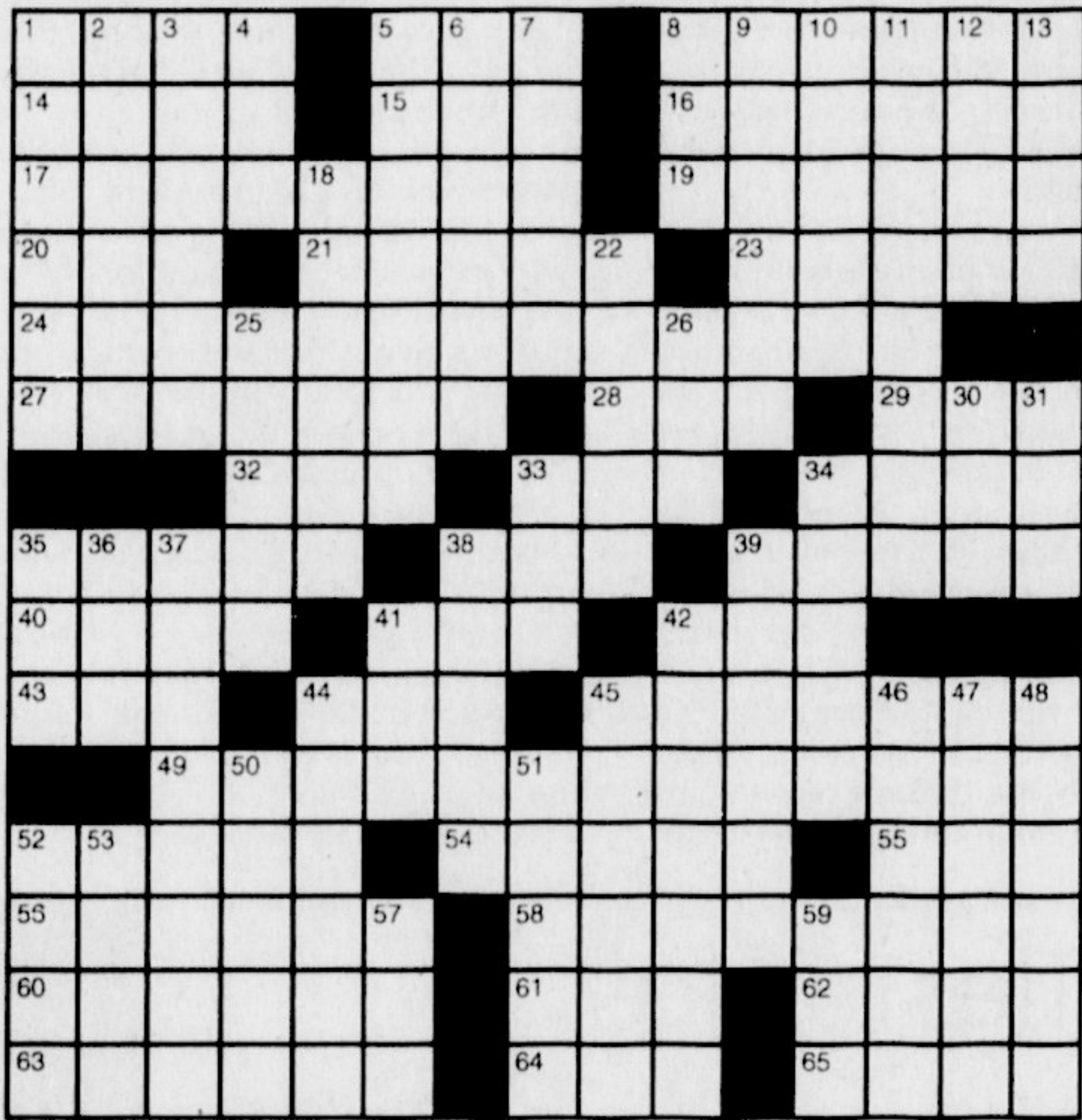
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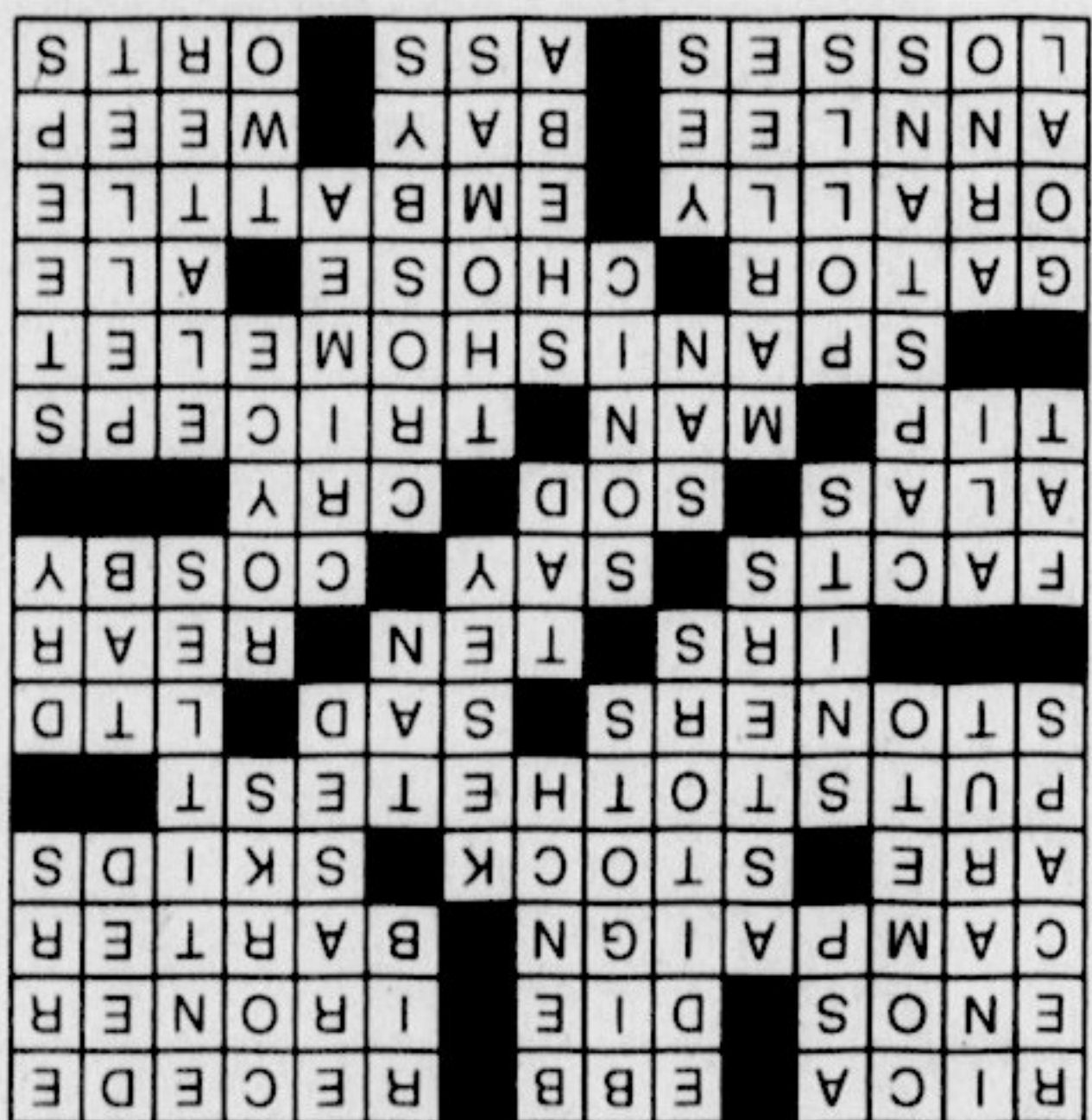
- ACROSS**
- Costa
  - Flow out
  - Flow out
  - Seth's son
  - Bite the dust
  - Man of the press?
  - Pre-election period
  - Cashless trade
  - Exist
  - Inventory
  - Loses traction
  - Conducts an experiment
  - Rock throwers
  - Downcast
  - Brit Co.
  - Gov. tax collector
  - Decimal base
  - Bring up
  - Real information
  - Express vocally
  - Bill of "I Spy"
  - Melodramatic cry
  - Grassy ground
  - Shed tears
  - Pointer
  - Anthropology focus
  - Arm extensor
  - Brunch choice
  - Florida student
  - Picked
  - Stein filler
  - By mouth
  - Prepare for war
  - Founder of the Shakers in America
  - Howl
  - Bawl
  - Casualties
  - Pompous sort
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- DOWN**
- Brief summaries
  - Doing the same old same old
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  - Makes a faux pas
  - Fall blooms
  - Writer Ken
  - States of agitation
  - Summer shade
  - PC key
  - Matter-of-fact
  - Wee lad
  - Philosopher Josiah
  - Blubber
  - Will Smith biopic
  - Anchor hoists
  - Type of boom
  - Black Sea peninsula
  - Antonio
  - Bing and Denise
  - Actress Matlin
  - Doubting disciple
  - Click beetle
  - Shotgun ball
  - Leaves in hot water?
  - Straw votes
  - Queen of
  - Football score
  - Pisa's river
  - Positive reply
  - Tango team



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04/14/05

### Solutions



- 42 Bing and Denise  
44 Actress Matlin  
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57 Positive reply  
59 Tango team

### PAUL



BY BILLY O'KEEFE www.MRBILLY.COM

### A College Girl Named Joe

By Aaron Warner



### The Family Monster

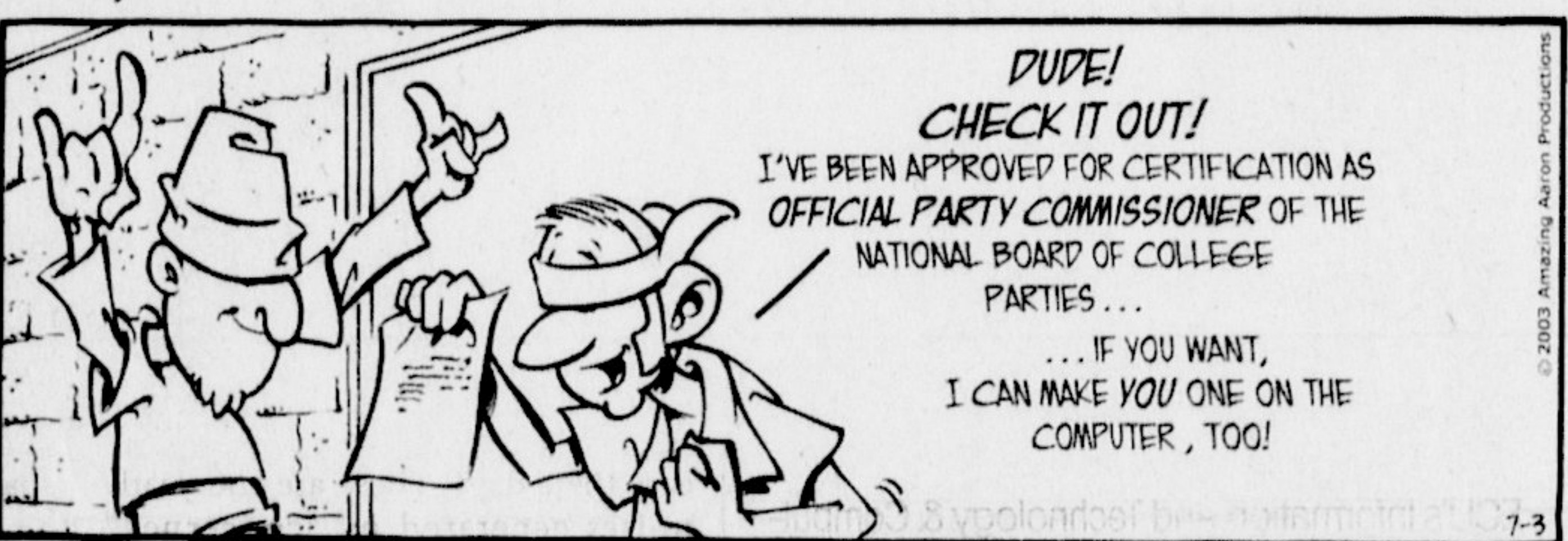
by Josh Shalek



Goes well with peanut butter: www.joshshalek.com kid\_shay@joshshalek.com

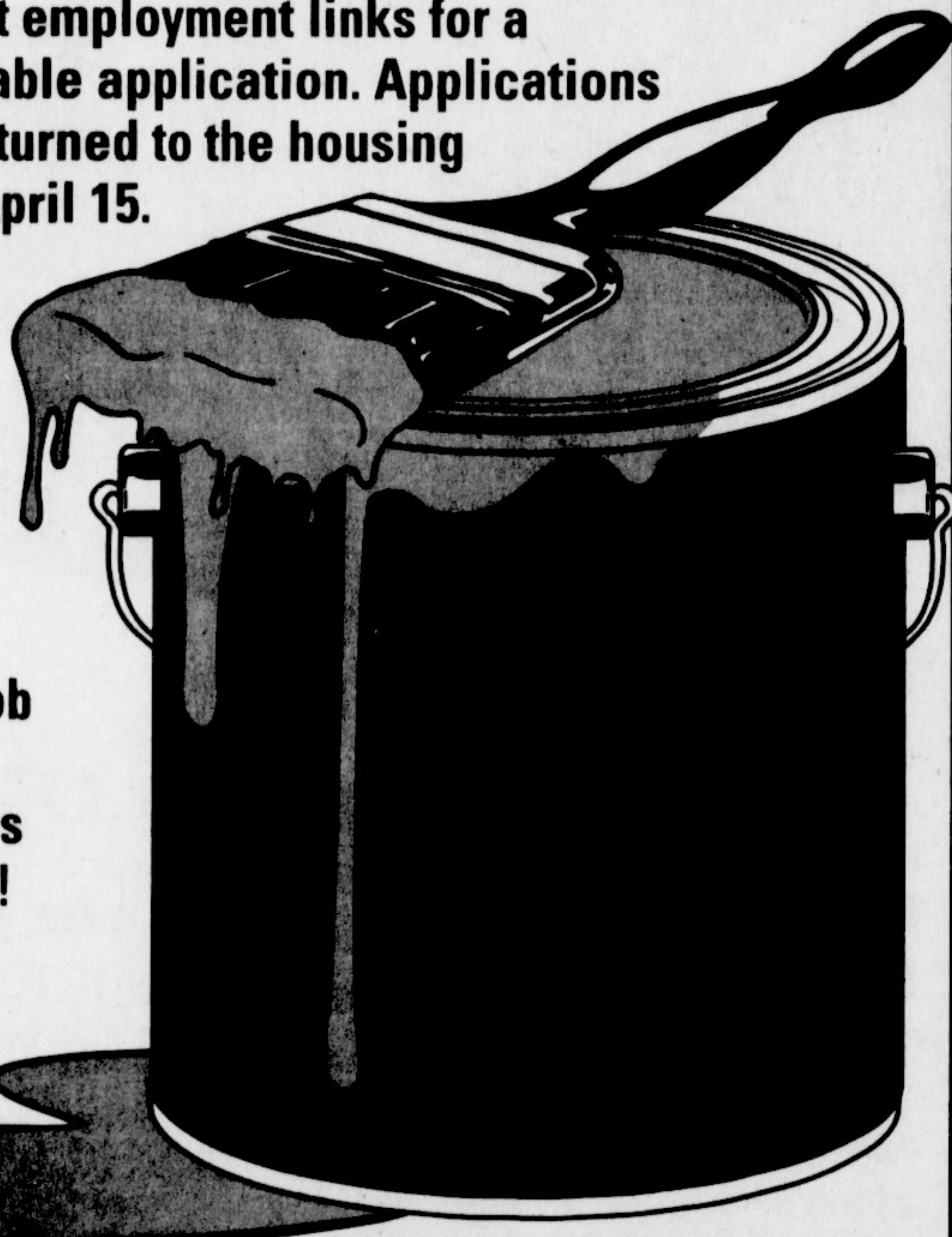
### 2 Dudes

By Aaron Warner



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## Our View

### Music pirating Pirates beware: you could be next

The Recording Industry Association of America targeted college students again Tuesday, releasing their plans to sue 405 students (in addition to the more than 10,000 lawsuits given in the last year and a half) for copyright infringement.

The new lawsuits are aimed at students who illegally trade files on Internet2, a separate network used by colleges. Many students switched from traditional Internet file swapping to this service because of its speed and exclusivity.

In reference to the service, RIAA President Cary Sherman told the public, "This is an emerging epidemic. We cannot allow a zone of lawlessness where the normal rules do not apply."

The Motion Picture Association of America, not to be outdone, also said Tuesday it has plans to sue "several dozen" individuals illegally trading digital movies.

Students could face penalties up to \$150,000 per song or movie copied. Sherman told *The Washington Post* the average number of music files on defendant's computers is 2,300, with some students owning almost two week's worth of music.

While these current lawsuits target Internet2 users, the RIAA is still actively seeking copyright infringers on the traditional Internet. *TEC* encourages students to be aware of what copyright infringement is and avoid it at all costs.

ECU's Information and Technology & Computing Services note on their Web site that the majority of campus copyright complaints have been handled by on-campus authorities, not in courts. This is not to say, however, that at any time you couldn't be subject to the RIAA's or the MPAA's hefty fines.

Ultimately, when you think about it, a dollar per song download is a small price to pay against a price of \$10,000 per song. Download at your own risk.

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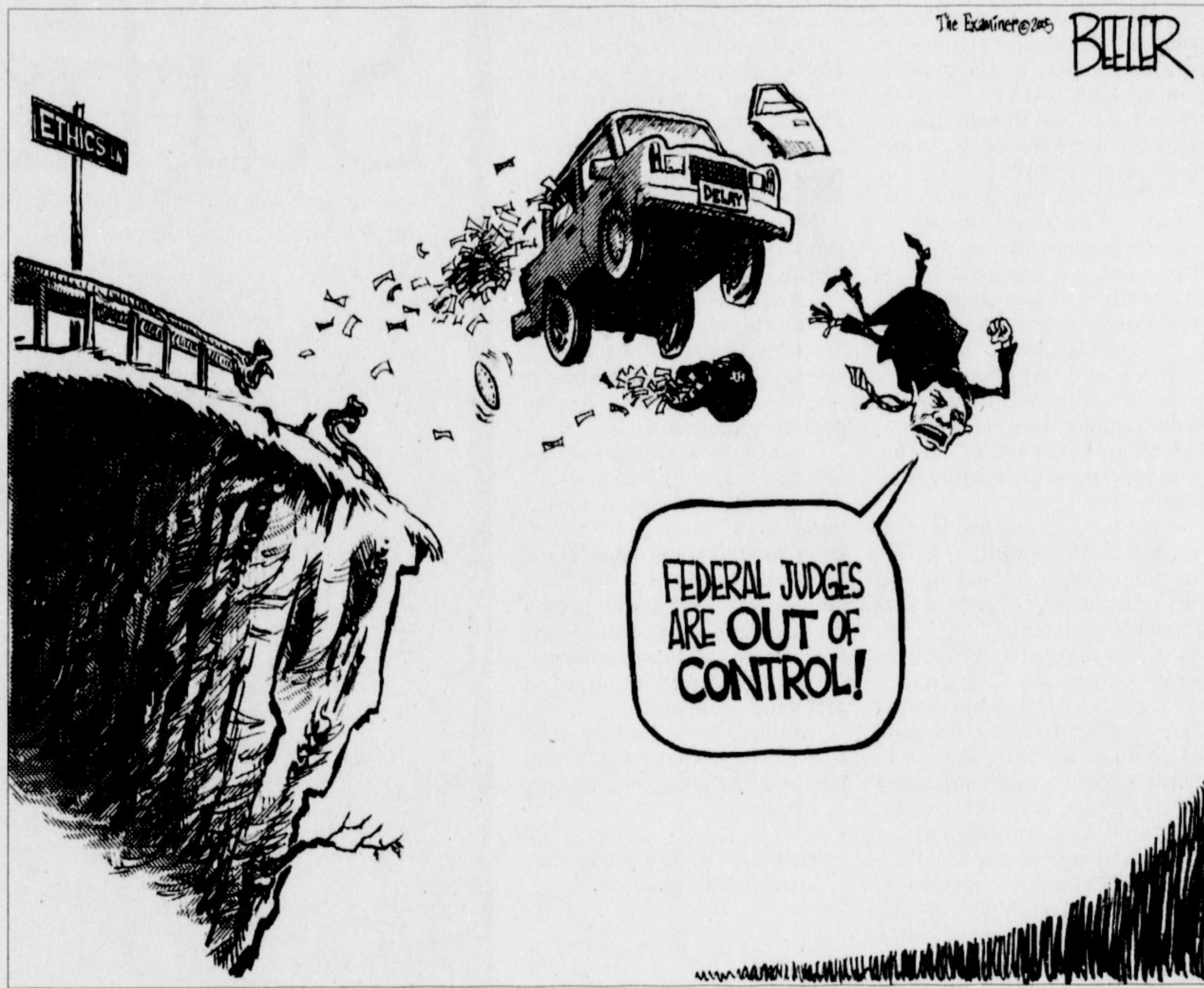
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Serving ECU since 1925, *TEC* prints 9,000 copies every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the regular academic year and 5,000 on Wednesdays during the summer. "Our View" is the opinion of the editorial board and is written by editorial board members. *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

### Preliminary budget causes usual uproar

*How many bureaucrats does it take to run a school?*

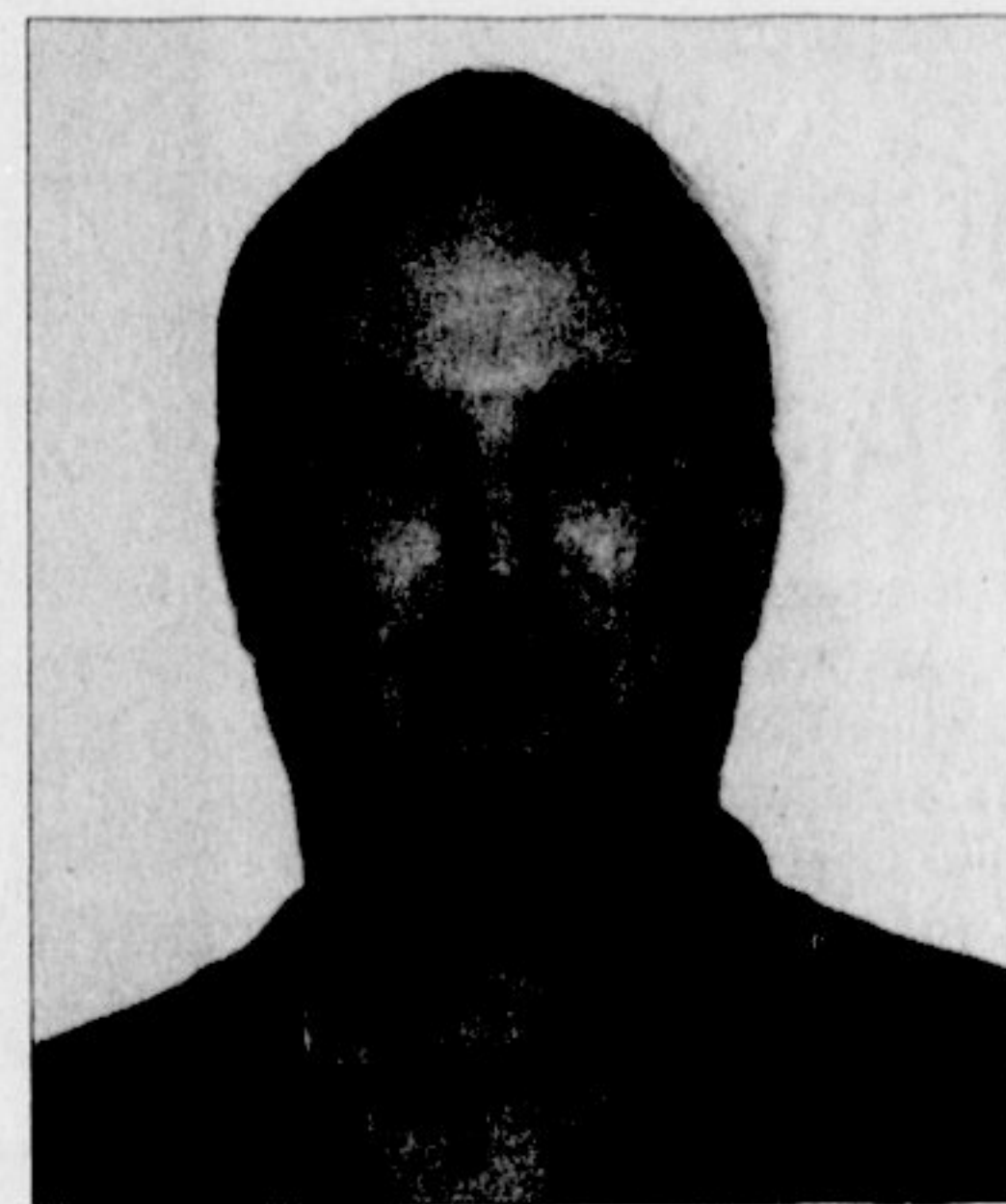
**TONY MCKEE**  
CONSERVATIVE CORNER

Do you hear it? Listen closely ... there. Do you hear the sound of fists thumping on chests? How about the growing murmur of predicted doom? Can you hear the caterwauling of entrenched bureaucrats, the howls of protest and outrage from politicians and pundits of all stripes? Can you hear it?

These should be very familiar sounds by now to anybody who has ears these days. These are the yearly noises generated by "concerned" individuals each time the state budget proposal comes down from the governor's office. It is the same thing year after year after year, especially the last five years. It goes something like this:

The governor's office releases its preliminary (note that word) budget for general viewing and comment. It is "discovered" that, once again, the state has a budget shortfall. The press breathlessly reports this and predicts typically dire consequences. Someone, or a group of someones, blames President Bush and the Republicans for passing tax cuts and "costing" (what a crock) the state money. Oh yeah, someone else says education will have to be cut to help make up for the shortfall, teachers will lose their jobs, classes will be cut, North Carolina will lose its economic edge and the sky will fall. Wait, that's global warming, right? Anyway, disaster will result.

OK, so that's the Cliff's Notes version. Still, this scenario, or something eerily like it, plays out in the public forum every year of late. It gets tiresome, mainly because it is all a farce. Let's look at some oft-ignored facts



shall we?

Every year that there has been a budget "shortfall" recently, the budget has increased from the year before, sometimes substantially. Social programs almost always have their budgets increased or new ones are created, whether they need it or not. This happens no matter how bad off the money situation is. The "More at Four" program, one of Governor Easley's pet projects, is a prime example.

This program was created in another budgetary "crisis" year. There was a shortfall of more than \$1 billion dollars. The education system was going to have to be gutted, people were going to go hungry because social programs were going to be slashed, yada, yada, yada. But despite all this, the money was found for More at Four. As a matter of fact, so much money has been found that some programs have enough extra cash lying around to actively recruit people.

How many radio advertisements have you heard recently telling people the "food stamp" program has changed and encouraging them to go to their local office to see if they are eligible? Think about that: How much did it

cost to pay the people who did that commercial, to have it recorded, edited, produced and aired who knows how many times?

Instead of spending that money trolling for new clients, can you think of any better ways this money could have been used?

Another reality that is never touched upon is most, if not all, of any budget shortfall could be wiped out just by removing or seriously curtailing the "pork" and/or discretionary spending. I won't go into any specifics because I don't have the space, but suffice it to say many challenges would fade away if our esteemed legislators would show some semblance of restraint in spending our money. If you are interested in seeing how much is wasted this way, a simple Internet search using "NC Budget, pork" will get you all the information you need. Back to education ...

Do you realize that, on average, there is one bureaucratic/maintenance position for every teacher employed in this state? Did you know that all these positions, be it teacher, staff, clerical, maintenance, food service, you name it, fall under the general budget category of "Education" and are all paid from the same money pool?

That being the case, why is it that every time the "education" budget is threatened we hear all the knee jerk, Chicken Little cries about losing teachers and classes? Other than to scare us into agreeing to whatever tax increase, bond referendum, tuition increase or other grand scheme to "save" our schools that is? And how often do we fall for it? Every year.

Think about that as the budget battle heats up. Think about it the next time that we are told that there needs to be a tuition increase. Think about it every time you see the fees go up. Think about it and ask yourself this question: How many bureaucrats does it take to run a school?

## In My Opinion

### Government secrecy means less security for us all

(KRT) — Beware all you parents, firefighters, scientists, librarians and others who care about public health, safety and information: Last year the federal government classified information as secret more times than ever before.

In 2004, Washington bureaucrats kept secrets a record 15.6 million times, 10 percent more times than in 2003, and nearly twice as many as in 2001, according to National Archives data released April 5.

Imagine you're a citizen activist or a firefighter concerned about the threat to your community from toxic pollutants or explosives from a nearby chemical plant. Imagine the government denies you the data to verify the nature and extent of the danger. How can you push local officials to fix the problems so your children can be safe at school and home?

Suppose you're an FBI translator who was fired because you blew the whistle on agency incompetence in not acting on evidence that may have prevented the 9/11 attack — and the Justice Department's own inspector general backed up your claims. How can you get the documents you need to get your job back when your entire case has been declared a secret?

Such cases make up the thousands of such denials every year. And ironically, while government hit a record for secrecy, the public made its own record. To gather data from government, the public is using the Freedom of Information Act more today than at any point since its passage: Last year the public filed a record 3 million requests. Perhaps there's a connection. Denied more data from government, the public is forced to resort to using this cumbersome law to get information agencies routinely deny us.

Of course in wartime a few more secrets would be expected, but officials and institutions are too quick to classify information without fully considering the public's need to know it. Often secrecy is used as a smokescreen to prevent embarrassment or hide wrongdoing, as in the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal.

A few more numbers: The new data show that government has also been releasing fewer old secrets. Declassification has dropped 70 percent from 100 million pages in 2000 to 28 million in 2004, the lowest point in nearly a decade.

And secrecy is very costly to taxpayers. In 2003, the executive branch spent \$120 to make and keep documents secret for every \$1 spent to

declassify others. The overall federal budget crunch will make it all worse unless new controls and resources are put in place. (Openness, by contrast, can save money: Whistleblowers helped recoup \$1.5 billion in tax money in 2003.)

On top of all this, federal bureaucrats have for years been keeping some unclassified information from the public by merely labeling it "sensitive." However, if revealing such information could harm national security, it should be classified — and if not, it must be made public. Too often "that's sensitive" or "that's a secret" really means "I have something to hide."

So how do we fix this? Congress and the executive branch must overhaul the way the government keeps secrets. The safety and security of our democracy — from threats to national security and public health — depend on the government's keeping secret only what is necessary and ensuring the public has access to all the rest. Americans deserve a system that holds government employees accountable for decisions to keep secrets, eliminates abuse of secrecy by calling information "sensitive," and reduces overall secrecy.

It is past time Congress and the executive branch put adequate checks and balances on secrecy.

## Pirate Rant

Every time your clear BIC ballpoint pen runs out of ink, you can literally still see ink inside the clear plastic encasement of the pen. What kind of a scam is that?

For the love of god, can you guys please stop whining about people talking during movies? Yes, we get it — it's annoying. Now get a clue and go make it a Blockbuster night instead of whining about the same damn thing over and over.

Thank you to the features editors for last Thursday's paper. Finally someone figured out how to make the Pirate Rants last longer.

The next time you feel it's OK to slam on your breaks and turn off the road without using a turn signal, I'm not going to slam on my brakes again. I'm going to run my ugly Saturn into the back of your 2005 Lexus, tell the police I hit you because you didn't know how to use your signal and let your insurance company buy me a brand new car. Have fun with your new rates.

Who would win in a fight between Darth Vader and Jean-Luc Picard as assimilated by the Borg?

If you have cellulite, don't wear skimpy shorts. It's not flattering.

To the guy who smacks his gum during exams, you should be the poster child for jaw wiring.

Those who can't write, edit.

Hey everyone: UNC won. It's done. It's over, so let's all quit whining and complaining about who should have won and how UNC didn't deserve to win it. I'm not even a Carolina fan but if I hear one more person complaining about how angry they are about the game I'm going to scream. Save the anger for next year, when I'm sure all the teams in the ACC will give us something to get fired up about again.

For those of us who actually go to class during the day and then actually work at night, we need the library open 24 hours in order to study.

To the person who thinks women's studies is a pointless field of study: how dare you tell me what I'm doing here holds no importance? Just because there isn't a specific job that women's studies majors are geared toward doesn't mean that we don't work our a\*\*es off.

To all of you "Southern risers": We won the war. From: "Jersey."

Why couldn't you just back off and leave her alone? Did you really have to go after her? We were friends and you knew she was mine, jerk.

Why do you use KRT articles in the opinion section? I'm sure there are plenty of ECU students who would love a weekly forum. Look at last Thursday's features section, for an example.

Gee, last time I checked my roommate and I were nearly best friends. Yeah and I have a dog, thanks. She's a great friend. Unfortunately she doesn't speak English.

To those of you who throw footballs, baseballs, tennis balls or Frisbees around in the parking lot, please don't hit the cars. I inspect my car every day and I know who you are, so if you ding it, you'll be paying for the damage.

To all of those people with the brand new Red Sox hats: Go back to being Braves fans. That's where you belong.

To the ranter who can't wait to get out of "this crap town" because there's nothing to do except "drink, eat, drink and go to Wal-Mart: You only make this city out to be how you really want it to be. If you have spent three years or more in this place without expending your options, it's your own fault, so stop your bickering.

*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.*

# SGA tickets begin campaigns

Student fees, campus safety among main issues

EDEN SPENCER  
STAFF WRITER

Student Government Association tickets have begun campaigning in preparation for Monday night's debate and the April 19 and 20 elections.

Danny Spuller, presidential candidate for Ticket Three, said so far his ticket's campaigning process has gone very well because they have a strong camaraderie.

"Our slogan is 'One tear, one dream,'" said Spuller.

Among the issues Spuller and his ticket plan to change if elected are a more simple funding process for ECU clubs by initiating an online funding process and effective communication between students and SGA officials by having office hours set up in Wright Plaza. They would also like to address diversity issues by strengthening support systems on campus and campus safety by working with Crime Stoppers to create a neighborhood watch program.

Terry Gore, presidential candidate for Ticket Four, said his ticket has had a successful campaign so far by putting up banners and producing a Web site.

Gore said his main focus is campus safety, the cost of education and finding a way for the SGA to open up and be more accessible to the student body.

"I'd like to try to work with the student media - have my own radio show or my own column published weekly in TEC, so students can see what I'm doing and send questions," said Gore.

Gore said one of the biggest issues he hears among students is the increasing cost of education at ECU. Gore said his ticket would like to make sure students see the benefit from the tuition increase by having the library and computer labs open to cater to students' needs.

M. Cole Jones, presidential candidate for Ticket Two who is running independently, said his campaign has gone well. Jones has been on campus campaigning and talking directly to students.

Jones' platform is "OneCard, One leader, Committed to Advocate, Revitalize and Develop the total campus experience."

"I want to be like ECU's One Card and be with students at all times," said Jones.

Key issues Jones plans to focus on if elected are health awareness, communication through university relations, total equality among students, protecting student welfare and supporting a secure environment for Lady Pirates.

Jones said the most requested change by students is to have an SGA President that is visible and motivated to fight for student rights.

Jones said implementing his platform would enhance the total student experience.

Monday night's SGA debate, which will be taking place in 221 Mendenhall at 8 p.m., has each candidate expecting different topics.

Spuller said he's hoping to see many topics brought up for discussion such as the tuition increase, student life, campus security and diversity issues.

However, Gore said he would like to see the experience and accomplishments of each candidate as one of the topics of the debate.

"Each candidate should be

judged by what they can get done," Gore said.

Jones said he plans to see the big issues that are talked about among students come up in the debate such as parking, student athletics and student fees.

Kortney Smith, junior communication major, said this year will be a very close race.

"There is a lot more promotion and information out there for students. It's going to be an interesting race," said Smith.

Smith, who plans to attend Monday night's debate, said she hopes to see the candidates narrow their platforms and make realistic promises.

"Some of the things they are trying to do will increase our tuition instead of keep it down," Smith said.

Although each ticket plans to focus on slightly different issues, one issue they all agreed on encouraging students to get involved in the voting process.

"Just make sure you all go out and vote," Gore said.

Spuller said for students to be informed on the whole ticket and find a ticket that represents them as a student.

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

## Debate

The SGA candidate tickets will debate Monday at 8 p.m. in room 221 Mendenhall Student Center. Students are encouraged to attend this debate and get each candidate's views toward pressing issues on campus.

# Al-Jazeera broadcasts video of man who appears to be kidnapped American



Jeffrey Ake, shown in this photo, was kidnapped Monday in Iraq.

(AP) BAGHDAD, Iraq — Al-Jazeera showed video Wednesday of a man who the U.S. Embassy said appeared to be an American who was kidnapped earlier this week in Baghdad and the hostage asked Washington to save his life by withdrawing from Iraq, the broadcaster said.

Insurgents, meanwhile, set off a series of explosions, hitting a Defense Department convoy in an attack that killed five Iraqis and injured four U.S. contract workers, the U.S. military said. Another explosion near Kirkuk

killed 12 police officers.

The U.S. Embassy said the man on the video appeared to be Jeffrey Ake, a contract worker from Indiana who was kidnapped Monday while working on a water treatment plant near Baghdad.

The station said the man asked the U.S. government to begin withdrawing from Iraq and to save his life. No group claimed responsibility for the abduction.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said the administration is keeping in touch with the family of the captive contract worker, but he said there would be no negotiating with the kidnapers.

"Anytime there is a hostage - an American hostage, it is a high priority for the United States," he said. "Our position is well known when it comes to negotiating. Obviously this is a sensitive matter."

More than 200 foreigners

have been taken captive in Iraq in the past year, and more than 30 have been killed.

Al-Qaida in Iraq said in an Internet statement that it carried out the deadly car bomb in Baghdad, which the military said damaged two SUVs and five cars. The explosion left charred and burning cars on the dangerous road to Baghdad's airport.

"A member of our martyrdom seekers' brigade mingled in an American military convoy at the airport road and exploded himself, destroying the infidels," al-Qaida in Iraq said in an Internet statement. The statement could not be independently verified.

The car bomb was among four explosions that rocked central Baghdad early Wednesday, the military said. The second was a car bomb that didn't cause any damage, and the third was a "secondary explosion" nearby, the military said.


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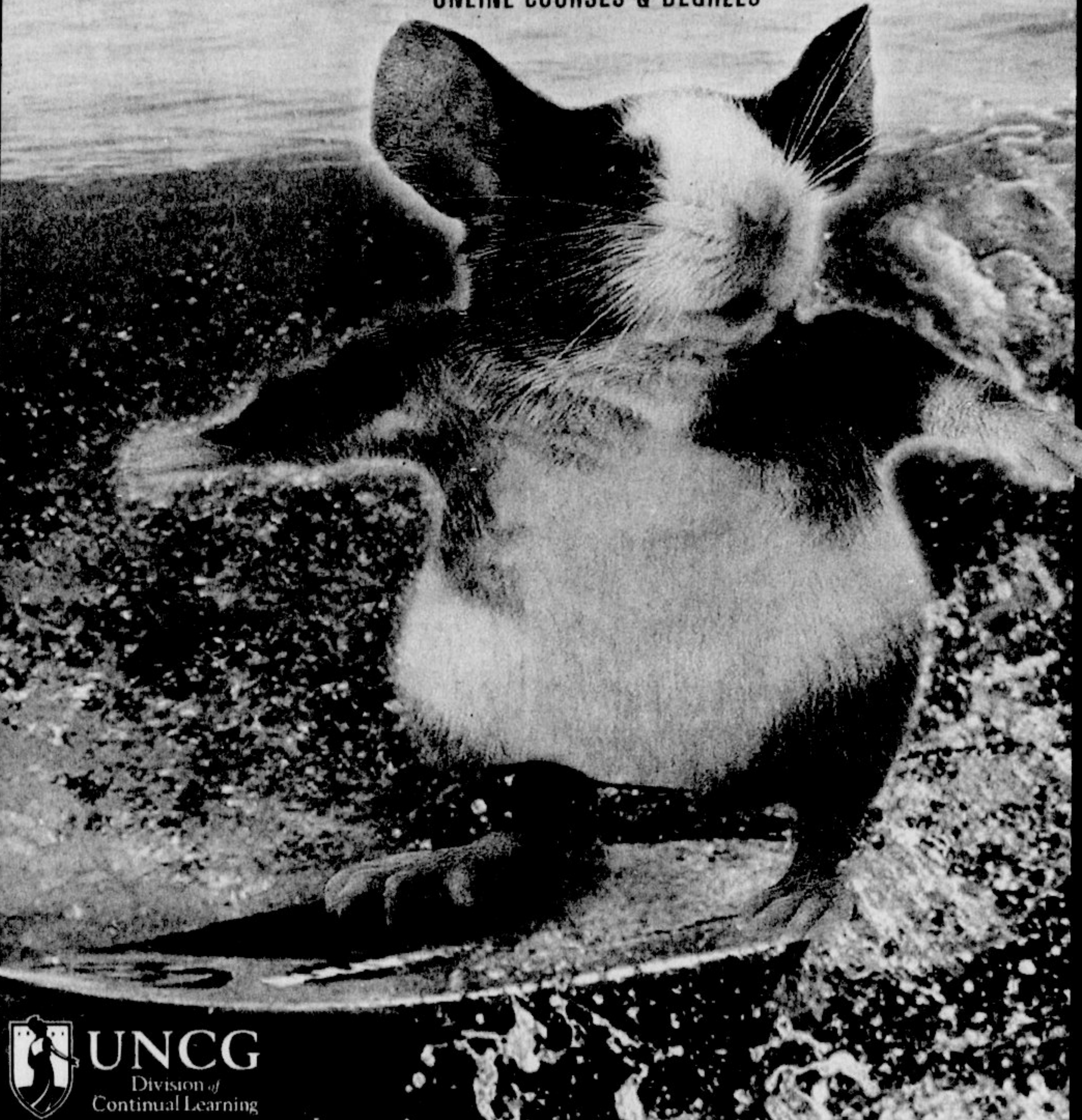
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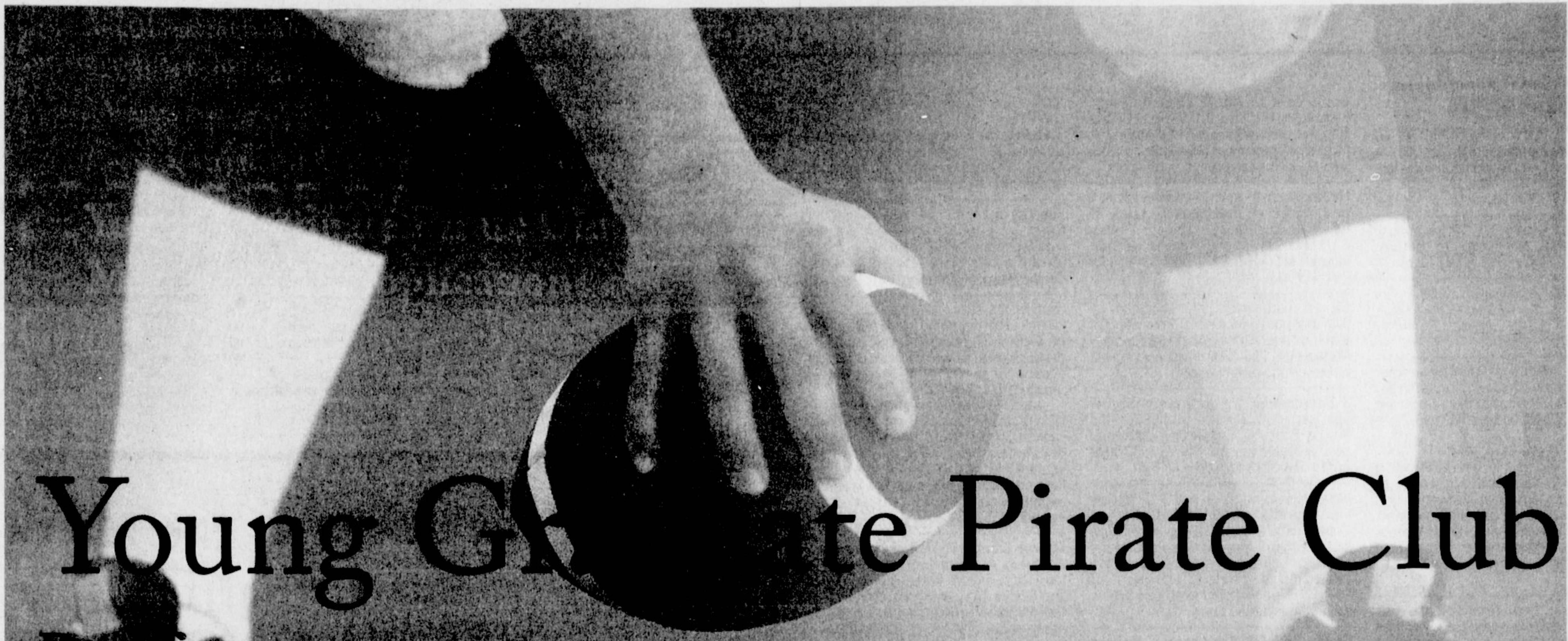
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\*After the third year of Young Graduate Program membership, you are enrolled in the Pirate Club and will receive benefits outlined in the annual fund brochure. Please contact the Pirate Club with any questions you may have.  
[www.ecupirateclub.com](http://www.ecupirateclub.com)

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Rent New Townhouse, 3 bdr, 2.5 bath in Dudley's Grant. Cable & washer/dryer included. Huge patio, Really Nice Place, \$825 252-521-7972 or bwh1116@mail.ecu.edu

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Near ECU 107-A Stencil Dr. 3 BR, 1 BA washer/dryer, dishwasher, refrigerator, stove, central H/A. ceiling fans. \$600/mo 252-717-2858

Pirates Cove Apartment for rent for summer months. Fully furnished and all inclusive for \$360 a month. Includes private bedroom and bath. Call Maegan at 252-813-2234 for details.

1 Needed to be housemate with professional female. Located in Stokes, 20 minutes from downtown. Very quiet and peaceful area. No close neighbors must have transportation. 3BD 1 BATH Central Heat/Air. No deposit required. Total rent \$400 monthly. Available immediately. Call 531-4064.

Pirate's Cove; Four rooms, same unit available for individual subleases. May/June/July. \$370 all inclusive! Tons of amenities! Willing to negotiate. Call Elizabeth (252) 757-0328

3 Bedroom 2 Bath University area. Remodeled. All gas, washer dryer, hardwood floors, parking. Very nice. No Dogs \$930 Available 6/1 752-3816

Walk to campus or ride campus transit. Clean 3BR 1 BATH - Willow St. (Beside Tar River Estates). W/D included, heat/AC, ceiling fans, hardwood floors, excellent management. \$625/month. Call (252) 375-6447.

3BR/1 BA duplex for rent. Close to campus with washer/dryer, kitchen appliances, and fenced back yard. Pets ok. Available August 1, but flexible with move in date and deposit. \$650 a month. Call Andrew @ 752-6859.

College Town Row/Wyndham Court: 2 bedroom duplexes for rent. Close to ECU. Pet allowed with fee. For more information call Wainright Property Management 756-6209 or visit our web-site www.wainrightproperties.com

3 BR, 3 BA, LR, Kitchen, Laundry with W/D. Dishwasher 1st floor, Patio, Central heat/air, lots of parking, 6 blocks from ECU, available May 2005, Brownlea Dr. Call 252-240-1889.

Walk to Campus! 1 Bedroom Apt. at Captain's Quarters Starting at \$375. Includes cable, water, and sewer. Now accepting applications for summer and fall semesters. Hearstside Rentals, 355-2112.

Walk to Campus and Downtown! Newly Renovated 2 bedroom duplex. Hardwood floors, new kitchen appliances, very nice. 111 Holly St. Call Adam 412-8973. \$425 Total Rent.

3 Bedroom house for rent one block from ECU. 804 Johnston Street (next to 4th St.) Everything is new, new central air, new kitchen, new appliances, new bathrooms, new washer/dryer, new dishwasher etc. Super nice. \$950 Call 341-8331.

Gladiolus, Jasmine and Peony Gardens: 1, 2, and 3 bedrooms. Located on East Tenth Street close to ECU. For more information call Wainright Property Management 756-6209 or visit our web-site www.wainrightproperties.com

Houses for rent. From 2 BR 1 BA to 5 BR 2 BA. From \$650 to \$1200. Also 1 BR apartments. Now accepting applications for Fall 2005. Call 252-353-5107 or email wallprop@cox.net

Spacious 2 Bedroom Apt. Water/Sewer/Heat included. Located at 2402 East 3rd St. Small pet allowed with deposit. My special -O- down & 1st Rent of \$400 due June 1st. Too Good to be true? Come check these out! Call 758-7575 Kingston Rentals for more details.

Spacious 2 & 3 bedroom duplexes, walking distance to campus, pets ok with fee, fireplace, limited availability, call today for security deposit special! 758-1921

Spacious 2 & 3 Bedroom Townhouses Full Basement Enclosed Patio W/D Hook-up ECU Bus Route No Pets 752-7738 Available July 1st and August 1st.

218 A Wyndham Circle 2 Bedroom 2 Bath Duplex Close to ECU Available in June No Pets Call 252-714-1057 or 252-756-2778 \$625 Monthly

Pinebrook Apt. 758-4015 1&2 BR apts, dishwasher, G/D, central air & heat, pool, ECU bus line, 6, 9 or 12 month leases. Pets allowed. High speed internet available. Rent includes water, sewer, & cable.

1, 2, & 3 bedroom apartments for rent:

Beech Street, Woodcliff, Cotanche Street, Eastgate, Forest Acres, Park Village. ECU bus stop. For more information call Wainright Property Management 756-6209 or visit our web-site www.wainrightproperties.com

Looking for someone to take over final 1 to 2 months of lease beginning June or July. Walking distance to campus 2 bdr/1 1/2 bath \$640/month water sewer cable internet included. Call 252-412-7393 or 910-345-3071

Cannon Court/ Cedar Court: 2 bedroom 1.5 bath townhouses for rent. ECU bus stop. For more information call Wainright Property Management 756-6209 or visit our web-site www.wainrightproperties.com

3 Bedroom 2 1/2 Bath Townhome. Spacious, 1 1/2 miles from ECU. On Busline, Pool, AC, Dishwasher, carpet, no pets. Available July 1st Call 252-717-1028 or 910-358-5018 \$650/mo.

Now Pre-Leasing: 1, 2, and 3 bedrooms located near campus. Beech Street, Cannon Court, Cedar Court, College Town Row, Eastgate, Gladiolus, Jasmine, Park Village and Woodcliff. For more information call Wainright Property Management 756-6209 or visit our web-site www.wainrightproperties.com

Blocks to ECU, Pre Leasing, Houses - All sizes, Available May, June, July, & August - Call 321-4712 OR collegesuniversityrentals.com

Walk to campus, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, hardwood floors, ceiling fans. All kitchen appliances, washer/dryer, storage shed, attic, large front/back yard, \$650.00 per month. Available August 1st. Meade Street, 341-4608.

2 Bedroom house for rent on Elm Street between 4th and 5th Streets. Really nice inside, washer and dryer included, walk to campus. Great house. Available June 1st for \$650. Call 341-8331

For Rent - 2 bedroom 1 bath brick duplex, central air, Stencil Drive. Walking distance to ECU. \$540/month. Pets OK w/ fee. Call 353-2717

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108 Stencil. Student Special! Walk to Class. 3BR/1BA Duplex. HW floors, W/D hookups, Pets allowed with fee. Available first of May. \$650/month. Call Kiel at 341-8331.

Apartment in Pirates Cove for sublease. Preferably a girl. Utilities included. Rent is \$375, first month free. Please contact me Allison at 757-617-3240.

Pirates Cove Sublease: Three bedrooms available for individual subleases during May, June, and July. \$375 all inclusive with lots of amenities. Call (252) 758-1963 or email km11221@mail.ecu.edu

Now accepting applications for summer and fall semesters at the following locations: Captain's Quarters, Sycamore Hill, and University Terrace. Call Hearstside Rentals at 355-2112.

## ROOMMATE WANTED

Need a place for the summer? Need someone to sublease my apartment. 11th Street, walk to campus, pet friendly, hardwood floors. Rent \$287 + 1/2 utilities. 704-437-1842 adb0806d1@mail.ecu.edu

Extra large bedroom available this May in 3 BD/3 BA at Pirates Place Apartments. \$295 mo. + 1/3 utility and cable. Call (336) 339-7673.

Roommates needed for next year Lease starts June 1st. House is located on 4th and Summit Rent is only \$280 per month. Please call Anna (252) 258-1586 Thanks

2 female roommates needed to share 3BR/2BA Condo in Forbes Woods beginning in July. \$230 rent includes water, sewage, cable. 252-327-2741 or MRC0902@mail.ecu.edu

## FOR SALE

2001 Jeep Grand Cherokee 4 Sale Great Condition. Slate Blue with grey Interior Roof Rack, Towing Package, Alloy Wheels, CD Player, and much more. \$69,000 Miles 112,525 Negotiable Contact: (724)288-0337

1996 Range Rover, Perfect Condition. White, tan leather. 4x4. New cost \$62,000. Only \$9800. AC Sunroof 144k miles. Must see Rusty 717-1028.

## HELP WANTED

Paid Democracy Internship: Help continue the civil rights and voting rights movements. Greenville and Charlotte summer internships for undergrads. Pays \$2000. Contact: www.democracy-nc.org or 888-687-8683 xt. 16

The Green Room is Hiring! Make Quick Cash! No experience needed! Set your own schedule! Will train. Contact us for more info! (252)321-1219 or email: shopgreenroom@yahoo.com

Experienced sitter needed to care for creative 7-year old girl beginning May 31. Sitter must be available by noon M-F and must have driver's license, car, and excellent references. (Passion for playing Barbie helpful, but not required) Call 531-9426

ECU prof. seeks experienced sitter(s) for care of 3 boys at our house or yours. 4 days/week: 14m. & 3yr. all day; 4 1/2 yr, 11:45 pick-up (May), all day (June). Rate competitive. Valid driver's license & references required. Contact: reidj@mail.ecu.edu, 355-8710

Spring Break 2006. Travel with STS, America's #1 Student Tour Operator to Jamaica, Cancun, Acapulco, Bahamas, and Florida. Now hiring on-campus reps. Call for group discounts. Information/Reservations 1-800-648-4849 or www.ststravel.com

Lifeguards, Swim Instructors and Coaches. Greenville, Farmville, Wilson, Goldsboro, Ayden, Atlantic Beach. Call Bob, 714-0576.

We are currently accepting applications for student office assistant in the radio station at ECU. This position is for the first summer session only. Interested students should be good in math and attention to detail. Come by the office in the basement of Mendenhall Student Center for an application. Deadline is April 20, 2005.

Barefoot Bernie's Bar & Grill located on the Outer Banks is now hiring for ALL full and part time positions. Competitive wages & great work environment! Please call 252-251-1008 or email resume to heather@barefootbernies.com You may also go to our website at Barefootbernies.com for an application.

Tiara Too Jewelry Colonial Mall Part-Time Retail Sales Associate Day and Night Hours Must be in Greenville Year Round Apply in Person

Food Delivery Drivers Wanted for Restaurant Runners Part-time Position. Some lunch time and weekend availability required. Reliable transportation a must. Call 756-5527 Between 2-5 and leave message if necessary. Greenville Residents only. Sorry no dorm students.

Need FT \$ but only have PT hours available? I am looking for individuals to help me spread the word about VOIP. Earn up front money and residuals. Graduate with a degree and an ever increasing income stream. Get paid every month for what you do today. Call to learn more about this exciting opportunity. 252-558-4284.

Movie Extras/Models Needed!! Young Faces Needed to Fill a Variety of Jobs! Candidates Needed for Crowd and Background Scenes for Local Productions. No Experience Required!! All Looks Needed! Up to \$22 Hourly!! Call (800) 280-0177 Now for More Info

Want to work at the beach this summer? Clawsons Restaurant in Beaufort is seeking summer employees for all positions. Visit www.clawsonsrestaurant.com for application. Call/email Matt@clawsonsrestaurant.com EOE 252-728-2133 Great money for a little commute to the beach!

Attention College Students National Company 80 years in business now recruiting for Part-time work. Opportunity for \$300-500 per week. Only hard workers need apply. Call 756-3861 10-5p.m. only for appointment.

Need a job? We are looking for responsible people to fill positions for this summer and onward. Part time positions are available for all shifts. Food service experience is desirable. Call Chris at the Tropical Smoothie Cafe for an interview. 252-531-2996.

Work Hard, Play Hard, Change Lives! Girls resident camp looking for counselors, wranglers, lifeguards, boating staff, crafts, nature, unit leaders, business managers, and health supervisor. \$200-340/week! May 28-Aug 7. Free Housing! www.keyauvee.com Contact (336) 861-1198 or keyauvee@aol.com

Bartending! \$250/day potential. No experience necessary. Training provided. (800) 965-6520 ext. 202.

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Primrose School - Raleigh N.C. is looking to hire qualified Child Development graduates. Great compensation package. Fax resume to 919-329-2930 or call 919-329-2929. EOE

## GREEK PERSONALS

Chi Omega and Alpha Delta Pi Annual Pig Pickin' Thursday April 14th at 5:00 @ the Chi Omega House. \$4 to get in and have a good time! Come join us!

The girls of ADPI would like to invite the entire ECU & Greenville public to come out on April 15, 2005 to our first pie-a-pi & BBQ, for just \$1 you can throw a pie in your favorite pi's face, enjoy great BBQ & support the Ronald McDonald House!

See you there!

The sisters of Phi Beta Chi would like to congratulate our new Beta Class: Melissa, Shonda, Janna, Ashley, Brittany and Aimee. We love you girls!

Sigma Sigma Sigma would like to congratulate Heather Barbour for getting a Chair on Panhellenic. We are so proud of you! Today's the last day to sign up for golf tourney-Call Jessica @ 347-6449 to play.

The sister of Phi Beta Chi would like to announce our new sister of the week, President Christi Turner. Congratulations and we love you!

## OTHER

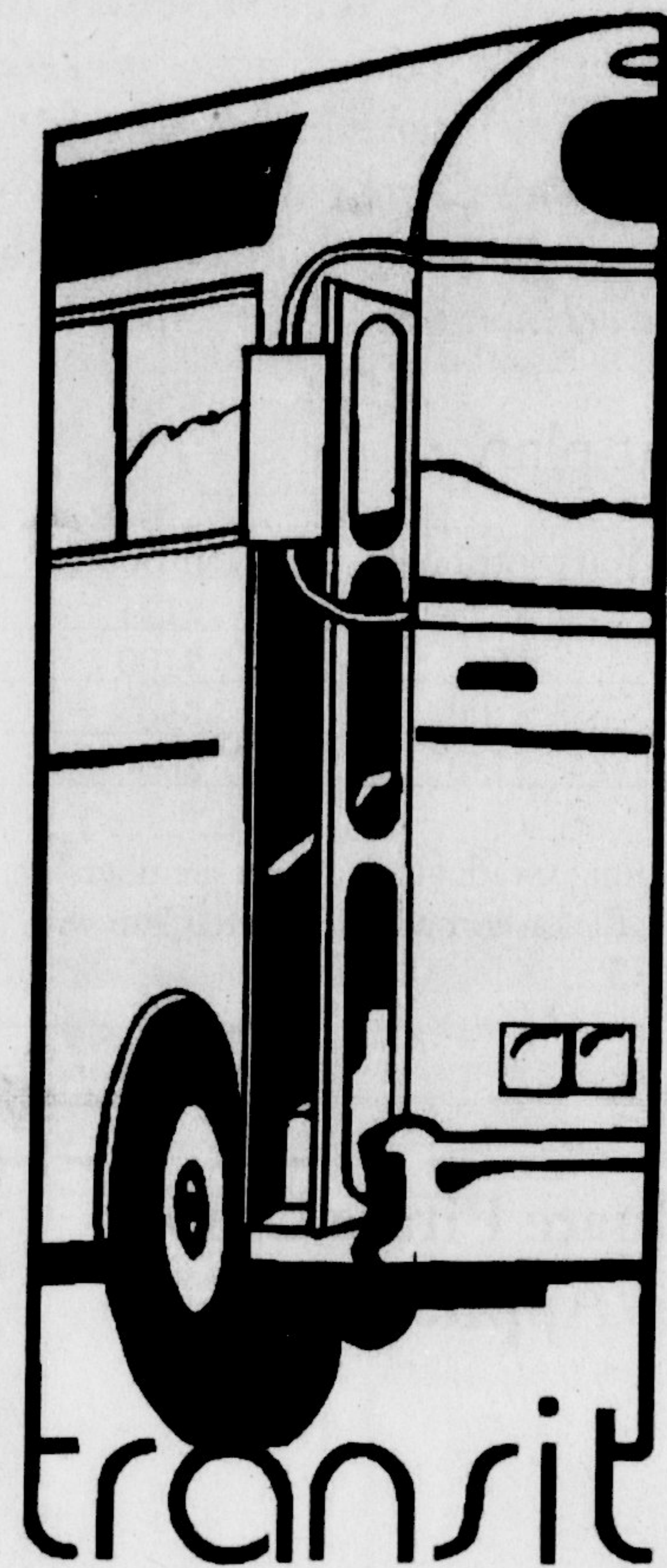
Dystonic Show! Live at Peasants This Friday April 15th. Doors Open 10 PM \$5. Mediocore Rock From OK Musicians. Last Show at Peasants Before Closing.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The fourth annual Minority Student Ball will take place April 23 at 8 p.m. in the Murphy Center. For ticket information contact the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center at 328-6495.

Co-ed Closet Chaos! High Fashion at Low Prices. Downtown Greenville next to Scores. All proceeds benefit the Family Violence Center. Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-6pm.

## The Advisory Board of the ECU Student Transit Authority is currently accepting applications for the position of General Manager.



Minimum qualifications include:

1. Current ECU student
2. Must register for at least nine hours for the Fall 2005 semester.
3. In good standing with the university.
4. Minimum 2.3 GPA
5. Valid North Carolina Class "B" Commercial Driver's License with passenger endorsement

Applications are available from the Transit Garage: 1501 N. Memorial Dr. Greenville, NC 27834

Deadline to submit your application along with a letter of interest is: Monday April 18 10 A.M.

All applications must be submitted to: Scott Alford Transit Advisor 1501 MN. Memorial Drive Greenville, NC 27834 328-4724/328-0254

## RINGGOLD TOWERS

STUDENT CONDOMINIUMS

## OPEN HOUSE

Across from ECU Rec Center, April 16th 2005

635 Cotanche Street, No. 900 Greenville, NC 27858 (252)752-2865

## FedEx Ground

Is looking for PACKAGE HANDLERS to load vans and unload trailers for the AM shift hours 4 AM to 8 AM. \$7.50/hour, tuition assistance available after 30 days. Future career opportunities in management possible. Applications can be filled out at 2410 United Drive (near the aquatics center) Greenville.

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- of appliances that don't work

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- Thursday - El Bocado
- Friday - Tuna Steak Sandwich
- Everyday All day - Island Burger \$4.95

*Includes choice of Onion Rings, Veggie Sticks, Seasoned Fries, Black Bean Soup, Tropical fruit cup, Chicken & Rice soup*

**Events - 9 p.m. until 2 a.m.**

Monday - Karaoke @ 10	Thursday - FREE Dueling Pianos @ 9
Tuesday - Club Night	Friday - Dueling Pianos @ 9
Wednesday - Ladies Night @ 9	Saturday - Live Dueling Pianos @ 10
	Sunday - Live Salsa Dancing @ 9

Located Downtown (Old Sports Pad) • Parking available in back lot

## ITCS surveys ECU on technological services

Survey to find out needs and wants of students

LAUREN DONOVAN  
STAFF WRITER

The ECU Information Technologies Department is conducting a survey for ECU students and staff. "[The survey] is students' opportunity for them to share with us what they need," said Jennifer Raby, information and communication specialist with the ITCS center.

The survey is labeled ITCS and is randomly sent to various students via e-mail.

According to Joe Norris, the ITCS survey has two separate parts. The first part is asking students general questions about their satisfaction with ECU's technological services.

"We just want to know how we are doing," said Norris.

The second part of the survey asks for student opinions about what ECU is doing right or wrong and what types of things students are interested in having in a server.

Things like MP3 access down-

loads and new music servers are common suggestions made by students.

According to Raby, the survey was sent out to 20,000 students and has since yielded a 10 percent response rate.

"We'd like to see a higher response rate percentage," Raby said.

Raby is sending all students a reminder e-mail Friday in hopes of drawing more participants.

The survey is not extensive and only takes about eight to 10 minutes to complete.

Before coming up with the idea to conduct a campus wide survey, information technologies got their feedback from small student committees. According to Norris, the committees were useful, but they wanted more.

"We want a large sample of student opinions. We want to know how we can help and what we could do to make a difference," Norris said.

According to Norris, they got to a point where they were looking at what they offered and then brainstormed what they

should offer.

"We needed to get the feedback from students in order to get legitimate input into the process of improvement," Norris said.

The academic computing team is a team that runs the ACE computing center at ECU. They did most of the organization of the ITCS survey. Along with being submitted to students, the survey was submitted to faculty and staff.

"It will be interesting to compare what the faculty says they need for use in the classroom and what students want to use," Norris said.

The results of the survey are not yet available and students may be finding them in their mailboxes. The results should be in and evaluated by the middle of May. They will be published on the ITCS Web site and will be available to those who are interested.

"I do expect to see some software and services introduced by students that I have never heard of, and that is what we want," Norris said.

Ryan Dougherty, junior physical education major, filled

out the survey.

"I got it and was not really sure what it was. I went ahead and filled it out and I'm glad I did because I like to give my opinion when it is going to be put to good use," said Dougherty.

When all of the student feedback is collected and reviewed, the academic computing team plans to pick out the greatest needs and wants from students and take those to the student government for funding options. With the help and participation of the student body, ECU ITCS is ready and willing to make as many people as possible happy with their service options.

Christopher Jernigan, senior geology major, plans to participate.

"I plan on filling out one of the surveys. There are a few things that I would like to comment on and I'm glad that we get a chance," said Jernigan.

"We are interested in hearing what people need. We have a responsibility to fill those needs," Norris said.

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

### Graduation from page A1

Johnston said.

"Anything done at the departmental level is recognition only."

Although many students may not plan to attend commencement this year, seniors like Kevin Skinner, 22, feel it is an important milestone in their lives.

Skinner, senior construction management major, said he and his fellow graduates deserve to be honored by ECU after all of the time and money they have invested in their education.

"I want to spend as much time as possible reflecting on this part of my life," said Skinner.

"I want to savor the day."

Students who have not yet made reservations for commencement may do so through OneStop. Johnston asks they do so by April 29, so they may arrange for adequate seating for all the candidates.

"We are really careful that day to make sure that everyone gets a seat," Johnston said.

"It helps us in planning."

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

### Tuition from page A1

five years, it would be evident the problems are not going to be solved through tuition increases alone, so universities need to look at other financial resources in meeting their needs.

Ballard said he agrees with the point that there are other resources available universities need to pursue. He said there are 12 sources of revenue and ECU is going to be aggressive on improving all of those sources.

Ballard said ECU is not as good on all of the revenue sources as we need to be, citing private fundraising as one of the sources in need of improvement.

"We have to get better ... we won't get better overnight but we do have to get better," Ballard said.

Ballard said ECU is committed to providing 100 percent of the demonstrated need of our students to ensure access.

"We have no business in asking for tuition increases unless we take access and affordability seriously ... I think we take it very seriously," Ballard said.

Ballard said the question of what to do with tuition is complicated and he would prefer the state providing a higher percentage of the costs of education, but it would be naive for a chancellor in just about any state to rely on state funding to meet the rising demands.

"We have to ask a question of how can we deal with the cost increases, ensure access to our students and also have high quality programs," Ballard said.

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

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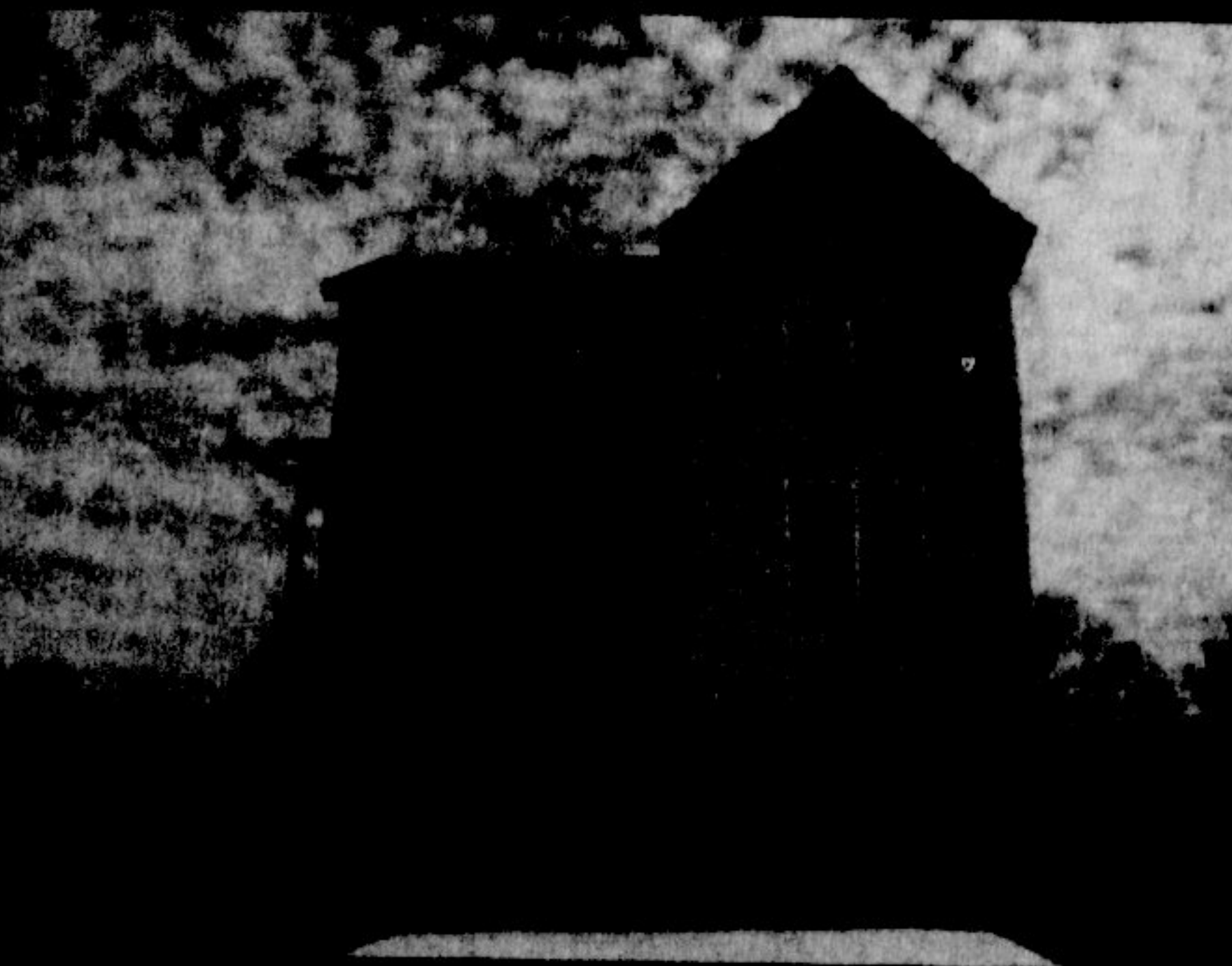
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### What kind of pet do you have and why do you like it?



**JASMIN RODE**  
FRESHMAN ART

"A snake because it doesn't take up a lot of space and it is easy to take care of and because it is different."



**WAYLON BIGSBY**  
SENIOR SCULPTURE

"Pet Rock. I like it because it rocks."



**JON LITTLE**  
SENIOR SCULPTURE

"An obnoxious black cat. I like it for its personality and it's the only cat I have ever seen that drools."



**BRAD EVERTS**  
SENIOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

"Roommates. Trying to clean up after them is a full time job."



**TIM CRUPI**  
FRESHMAN UNDECIDED

"Dog and Cat. The dog is really my sister's and I always have to take care of it, so I usually only think 'stupid dog.'"



**TONY CHAMBERS**  
JUNIOR CLASSICAL GUITAR PERFORMANCE

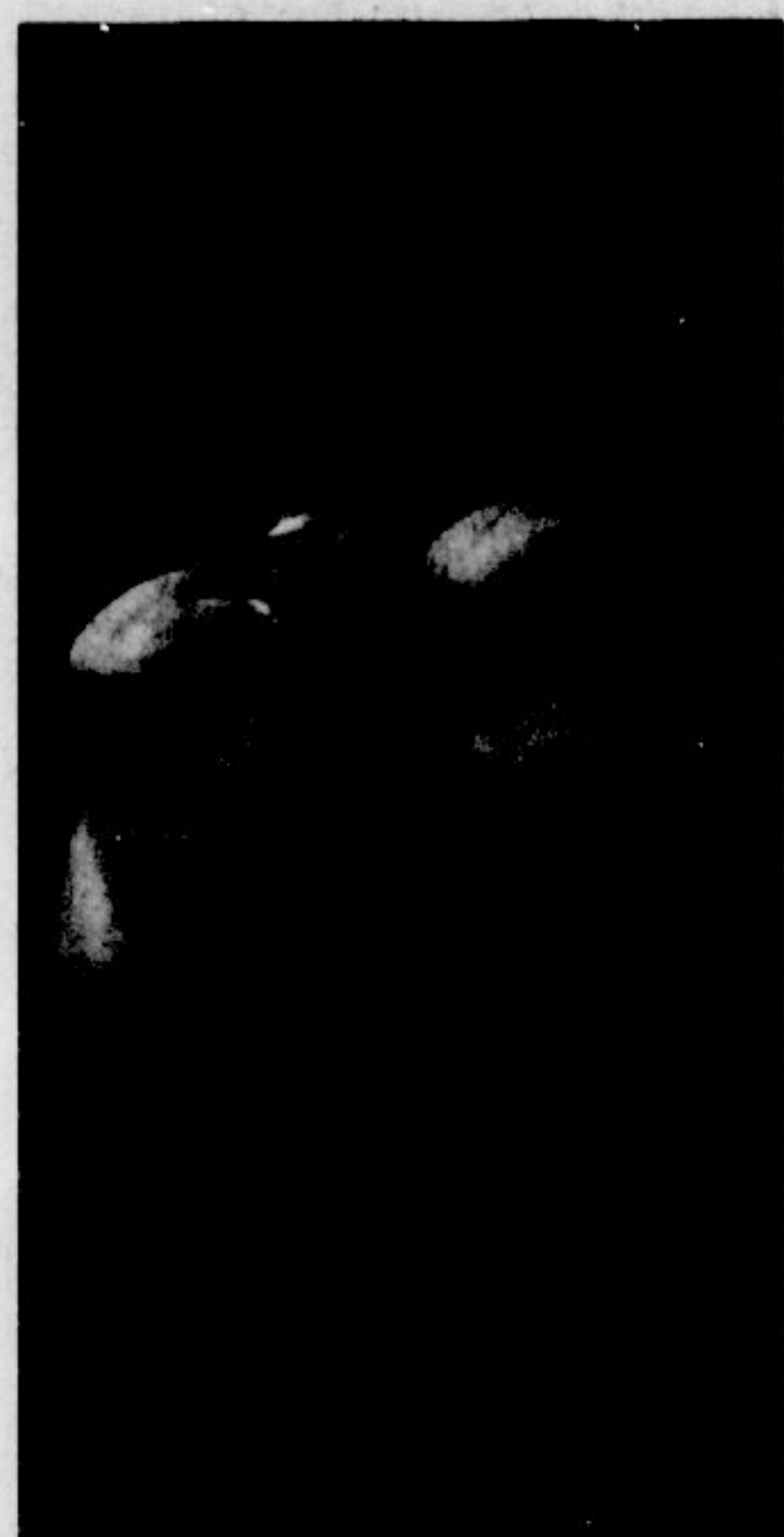
"Dog. I like my dog because he acts like a person. He has a personality, he's not just a dog."



**LATASHA JONES**  
JUNIOR ENGLISH

"Cat. He was a stray and ran in, so I kept him. He has a distinct personality."

All Photos by Kyle Fisher



Social birds enjoy being in pairs.

## Flying feathered friends

Birds fly above the competition

**SCOTTY WILLIAMS**  
STAFF WRITER

Dogs are great animals to have as pets, but they don't have the biggest intelligence of all the animals in the animal kingdom. Cats aren't that sharp either, unless you count those claws they use to tear into furniture and sometimes you. Contrary to what you may have seen in *The Little Mermaid*, fish can't really talk either. They just swim around. As a matter of fact, if one desires a higher breed of pet, where can one go?

Birds are the coolest animals to have as pets. If you reside on campus, you're out of luck in pretty much all pet situations. According to the 2004-2005 ECU Resident Handbook, "pets, except freshwater fish, are not permitted in residence halls."

However, if you're looking to move off campus and are looking for some feathered companionship, consider the benefits of a bird. According to the Humane Society, 19 million birds found homes in households throughout the United States. Birds are fun to watch, a lot more fun than a fish. They can also fill your house or apartment with pleasant sounds, or unpleasant sounds depending on the bird. Sounds vary with the bird, but some bird songs can be quite pleasant to hear. Covering up a bird's cage can cut down on the noise.

The Humane Society does stress that birds are not the pet for someone who is rarely at home. "They can be great companions - they usually attach themselves to one or two people in their lifetimes. If you don't continually hand-train them, they become distrusting of people," said Kathryn McCoy, junior musical theater major, who owns a bird.

"I guess you can call them pretty labor-intensive animals."

They also have one great advantage over other pets: some birds can learn to talk. They can learn some tricks like other animals, such as shaking their heads in positive or negative reaction, waving and some conversation. The African Grey Parrot can understand and use human conversation. Most of their time talking is mere imitation. Male birds are typically easier to teach to talk, and according to McCoy they like to stare at themselves in mirrors. Imitation can be any sound from a phone ringing to a phrase their owners say often.

Buying a bird can be fairly cheap or expensive. Some parakeets can go for as low as \$20 but some of the larger birds with longer life-spans can jump into the thousands. There is also money you'll have to delve out to pay for a cage, toys and food. Costs can pile up, but over time, it's worth it if you really grow to love your bird.

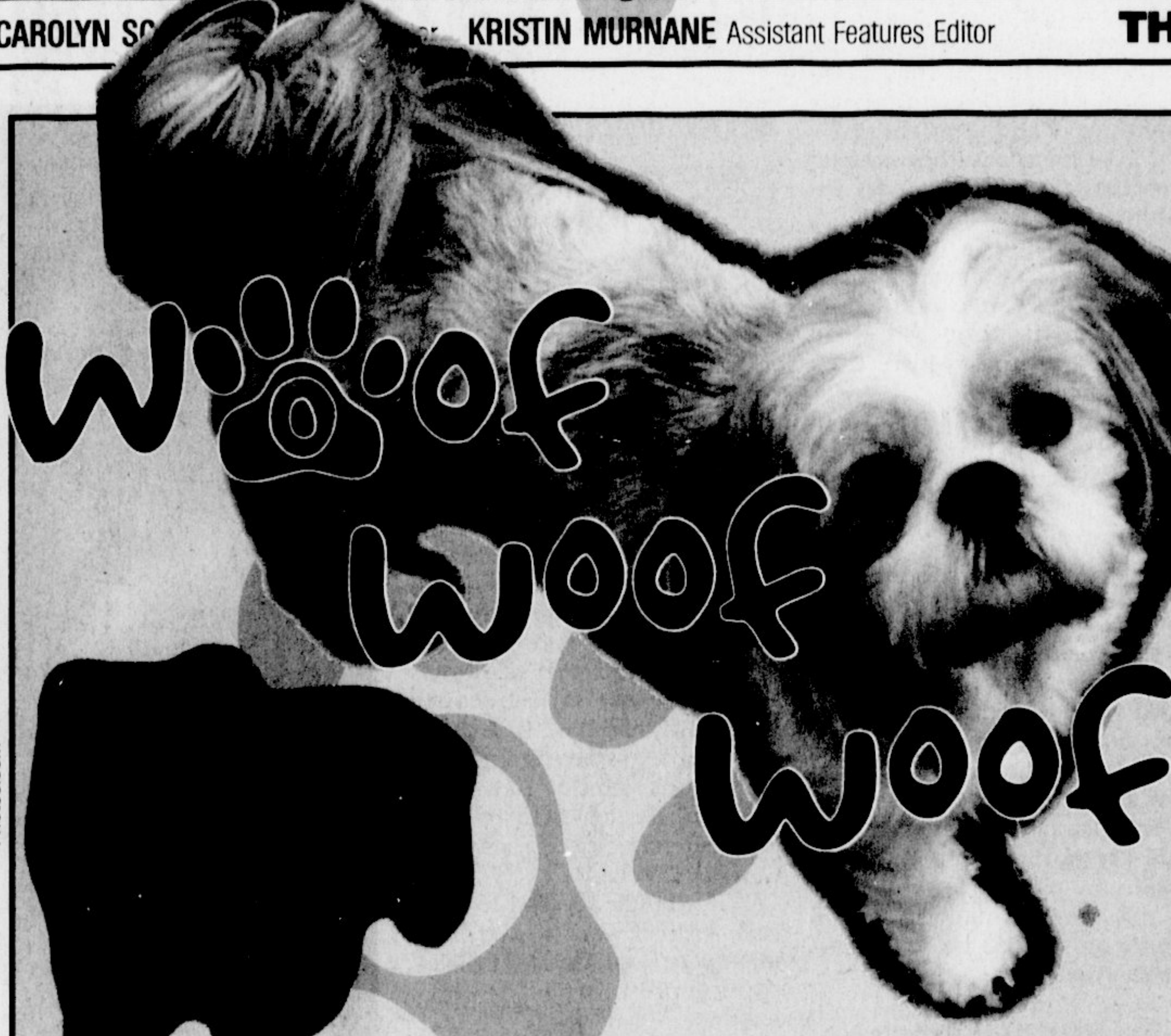
Birds can live for a long period of time. Life spans can be as short as eight years or as long as 120 years. Often birds are bequeathed to family members in wills and stay in families for generations.

The bodies of birds are not as frail as popular thought insists, but they are sometimes prone to catching colds.

A bird can do what any other animal can do: bite, but the trick

see **BIRDS** page B2

# Living



Celebrating man's best friend, the dog

**GARY MCCABE**  
STAFF WRITER

John Gray was a constable in the town of Edinburgh, Scotland during the mid-19th century who owned a Skye terrier named Bobby. Every day, Gray would take Bobby along with him on patrol and when 1 p.m. came around, the two would have lunch at Traills Coffee House, with Bobby sitting at Gray's feet, eating a bone.

However, as the years passed, Gray developed tuberculosis and soon passed away. Gray was buried at the historic Greyfriars Kirk, which was not far from the coffee house. Bobby was seen following the funeral procession and not long after, he was spotted inside the graveyard, sitting near his master's grave, sitting vigil.

Though dogs were prohibited from the graveyard and Bobby was occasionally chased away, he always found his way back to his master's grave, only to leave to have lunch at Traills Coffee House every day at 1 p.m. Eventually a shelter was built for Bobby where he could live and continue to keep guard over his master until his own death 14 years later.

Bobby's story, which later became a children's tale and subsequently a Disney film, is well known to many around the globe, though many do not realize it actually did happen. If you don't believe it, Bobby's bowl and collar are on display in Edinburgh's Huntly House museum and a bronze statue of Bobby resides at the entrance of the graveyard, still standing guard.

This is just one of the hundreds of amazing stories involving dogs, but there is a common theme to all of them. Each story attributes certain characteristics to dogs, which we associate with them today. Loyalty, dependability and intelligence. Above all, these stories exemplify why dogs are man's best friend. These qualities in dogs aren't recent occurrences either. In fact, their loyalty to its master can be traced back more than 1,000 years.

"When Pompeii, the Roman community destroyed by Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79, was finally excavated, searchers found evidence of a dog lying across a child, apparently trying to protect the youngster," according to indianchild.com.

"Cats are traitors, they'd put a knife in their owner's back if they could, but not dogs. Dogs are loyal and sweet and just plain awesome," said Shane Bright, freshman physical education major.

The dog from Pompeii died trying to save her master but there are literally hundreds of instances where a dog has successfully prevented somebody's death, typically in amazing fashion.

Even certified heroes need help sometimes, which was certainly the case for Jim Leonard, who works with the Seneca County Sheriff's Department and has received

five life-saving awards for meritorious performance. After working a late shift, Leonard was sleeping, when his new Rottweiler puppy Zoey, woke him up by licking his face. Even though she was a puppy, it was unusual behavior for Zoey.

Leonard had taken the dog outside only a few hours earlier, so he tried to convince the dog to go back to sleep for a few hours. Zoey was persistent and eventually got Leonard out of bed to take her for a walk. Zoey's behavior remained odd, as she refused to move from the kitchen door, only to be goaded into coming outside with treats.

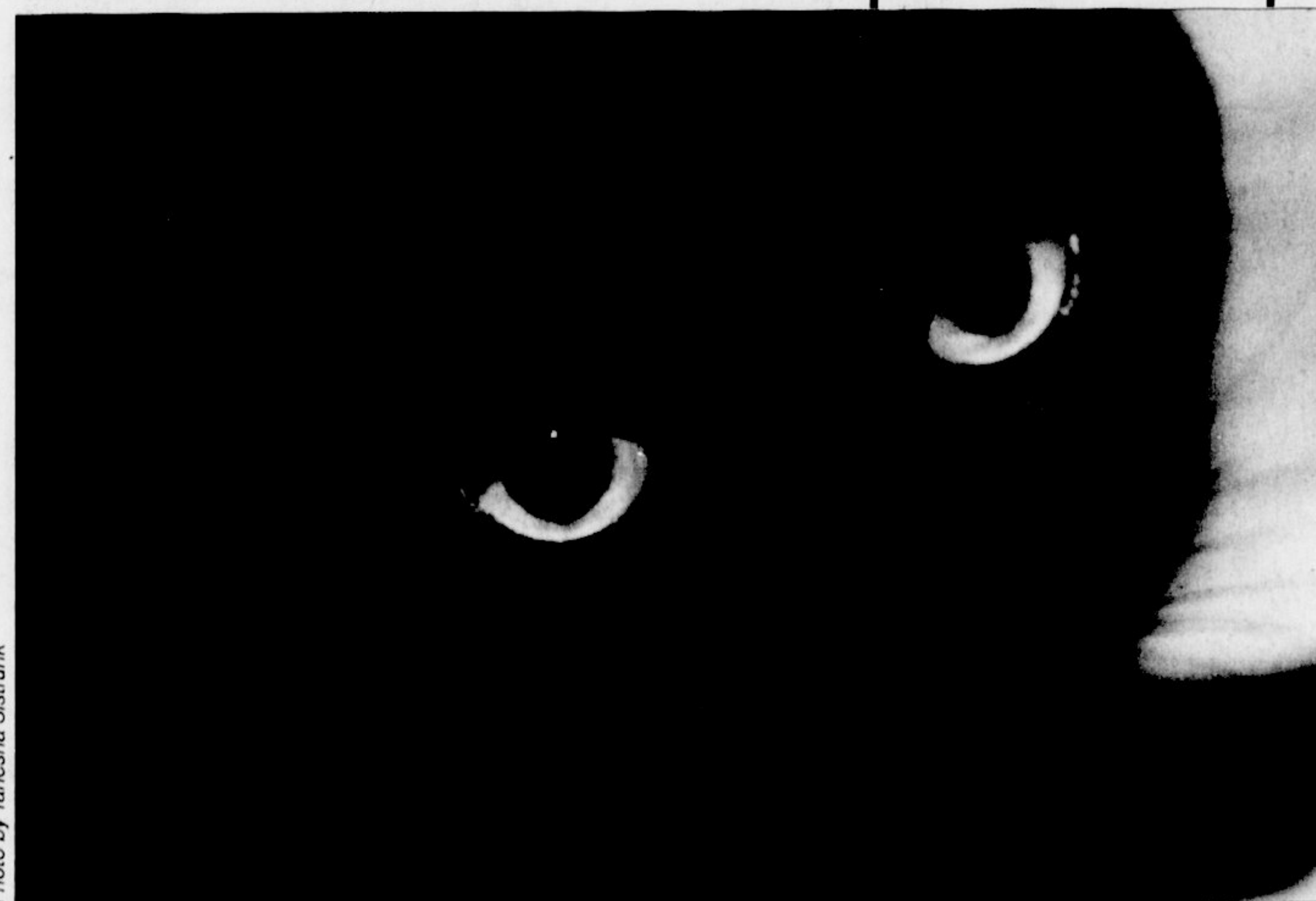
When Leonard went back into his house, he was overwhelmed by the smell of what turned out to be methane gas. Zoey had noticed the smell long before it would be detectable by a human nose.

"She's my hero. She knew it wasn't supposed to smell like that and

see **WOOF** page B3



## Cats: Clean-cut companionship



Onyx, an adopted cat, is described by her owner Tanesha Sistrunk as being "the queen of the house."

The ultimate pet

**KATHERINE DAY**  
STAFF WRITER

A person can prefer either cats or dogs. That's not to say you can't like both, but usually an individual would classify himself or herself as either a "cat person" or a "dog person." Cats, which are traditionally high maintenance, are considered a more feminine pet. They are typically harder to please than dogs and they are particular about everything. Cats tend to be very moody as well.

Dogs, on the other hand, have a tendency to be more play-

ful and fun. Dogs are a "man's best friend" for a reason. They have no problem with dirt or mud and they look better on the back of a truck. While teaching your cat a trick may prove to be more difficult than it would with a dog, cats make up for the fact they are harder to please by having an abundance of class.

As Robert De Niro said in *Meet the Parents*, "Cats make you work for their affection. They don't sell out like dogs do."

What makes cats great pets is the fact that once you gain their affection, it can turn into a loving and meaningful relationship. It's a sense of accomplish-

ment, winning the attention of a very particular cat. Pleasing a cat can prove to be very challenging, but once it happens, it can be very rewarding.

Cats are easy to take care of as well. Leaving one at home for the weekend shouldn't prove to be a real problem. A cat's litterbox can go a few days without being changed and a self-feeder can take care of the cat's food for a while.

Cats are very self-reliable as well. They don't depend on humans the same way dogs do. While walking a dog everyday is

see **CATS** page B3



Small animals make great pets.

## Don't forget about the little ones

Rodents can also be the perfect pet

**JESSICA CRESON**  
SENIOR WRITER

For some people a dog or cat might seem like too much to handle as a pet, especially for college students. If this applies to you, then something in the rodent family might be of better interest.

"Rodents" include rabbits, mice, rats, ferrets, guinea pigs, gerbils, hamsters and chinchillas, among others.

Overall these animals are fairly inexpensive and most are easy to take care of, except rabbits and ferrets. They need more attention and human contact in order to exercise and keep their morale up.

The word rodent is derived from a Latin word meaning "gnaw" since they constantly need something to chew on.

Rodents have incisor teeth, which means they are constantly growing and need something to chew on in order to keep them from getting too long. If they do get too long it can hinder them from eating.

High quality food and fresh water is recommended for all rodent species. Various fruits, such as grapes and apples, and vegetables, like carrots, are also some treats they tend to prefer.

Rabbits are cute, cuddly and soft, which is why they are often a popular choice from the rodent family. They are usually timid and quiet, but are not as easy to own as they seem.

"I had a rabbit once when I was little and I loved that it was soft and cute, but the only bad part about it was that it smelled bad," said Jennifer Bailey, junior social science education major.

They have the same nature as wild rabbits, meaning they chew things and need a lot of room to roam and play. Owners must give rabbits as much attention as possible to build their trust and for them to stay entertained.

Even though they enjoy the company of people, rabbits do not like to be held and should be highly supervised with children. Also make sure they are out of dog's and cat's reach for their safety.

"A few dogs ripped into the cage and killed my rabbit, so make sure the cage is safe," Bailey said.

Ferrets on the other hand no longer have any wild instincts, like hunting. All are domesticated animals.

Ferrets are unusual in that their original color is albino, but they can be bred to be another color.

These animals are very playful, so they need time and someone to play with for a large part of the day. Two ferrets get along well and are not hard to handle.

Males weigh between two and five pounds and females will be half that.

Ferrets love to get into everything, so owners have to "ferret proof" everything and be ready to find them under pillows, in laundry and maybe going through trash cans.

"I've always wanted a ferret. They are so cute and when I was little, I wanted to carry them around with me," said Courtney Steffenhagen, sophomore child development major.

see **SMALL** page B2

Small from page B1

As for the smaller rodents, hamsters are a popular rodent of choice among children and college students. They are not too hard to take care of, but their care entails more than people think.

The main thing hamster owners need to do is make sure they are eating healthily, that they are in an area that is not too hot or cold and that they are in an appropriate area of the household. They are nocturnal, so hamsters need a quiet place to sleep during the day and a place where they can be noisy at night.

Chew toys and a wheel are a must for hamsters, along with constant fresh fruits and vegetables.

Also, do not try to raise more than one at a time - they are violent when they are adults.

Gerbils are probably the easiest rodent to own. They do not startle easily and they are active.

Homes with children or a college apartment would be an ideal setting for gerbils. Often times, they will be seen standing on their hind legs trying to see what is going on around them.

The only thing that sets gerbils apart from the rest is they require a cage that lets them burrow. They do not need a wheel.

Mice and rats are easy and inexpensive pets to own. They constantly groom themselves throughout the day, so as long as the cage is clean, they should not

smell too bad.

Rats, surprisingly, are the most intelligent of the rodent family. Both mice and rats are alert, social and entertaining.

Like hamsters, they are also nocturnal and great pets for children.

Guinea pigs are the most affectionate of rodents. When their owner comes home or is playing with them, they are known to chirp or whistle from excitement.

They are social, but all small rodents need to be handled gently. Guinea pigs are unable to produce Vitamin C naturally, so their diet needs to include things like cabbage, dandelions and sprouts.

All small rodents are sensitive to temperature. They need a place that ranges from 68 - 72 degrees and provided with ventilation, but no draft.

"I would never have a rodent for a pet anymore because I just don't like pets in general. They are way too much trouble," Bailey said.

To see information and find more on various pets visit animalforum.com.

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



# Living with all things cold blooded

## Student friendly?

DANIELLE WIGGINS  
STAFF WRITER

While being away from home, keeping a pet may be an easy way to deal with the most stressful conditions of college life. Although it requires a little responsibility and awareness, pets bring enjoyment and the healing power to cure homesickness. On and off-campus residents experience difficulties when it comes to having certain pets. When you are living on campus, students are only limited to freshwater fish.

"We only limit students to freshwater fish because of health reasons. It is hard when you are living in tight conditions, similar to a hotel environment," said Wayne Newman, director of marketing, Campus Living.

"If you are allowed to have fish, I think you should have other pets," said Amanda Peebles, sophomore business finance major.

"I think it is a little unfair to be limited to freshwater pets, but I think it would also depend on the roommate and also being able to keep a controlled environment," said Latrisha Allen, senior marine biology major.

Freshwater fish are convenient and student friendly, mainly because they don't require a lot of attention or special care and they are easy to feed and maintain, unlike saltwater fish. Other easy to care for pets are reptiles, an ideal off-campus pet, but not recommended on campus. Most of the time, they do not require any special attention - reptiles get the benefit of being left alone. These hypoallergenic creatures do not require much space, but may be a slight pinch in the pocket to feed.

Two of the most common freshwater fish to have are Bettas and Angelfish. A male Betta should be kept in a tank alone to avoid aggression and keep other fish from nipping at their long fins, although female Bettas can be kept in tanks together. It is essential that these colorful creatures are fed with quality flake food, frozen and dried blood



Fish are a common college pet because they are versatile, colorful, entertaining and easy to care for.

worms or even thinly sliced hard boiled egg yolks. Most of all, it is important to be familiar with their habitat. They may be kept in small fish bowls, but arguments have been brought up as to the size of the fish bowl or fish tank.

"I have a Betta named Velvet and it's not hard to care for my fish, but the water on campus sucks, there are too many chemicals in it which results in me having to buy spring water for my fish," Peebles said.

Angelfish are another easy freshwater fish to care for. They may grow up to 6 inches long if properly cared for. Some are silver with vertical designs and others are partially black. They can be kept in tanks with other fish if they are not aggressive or frequent fin nippers. They are also easy to feed because they eat a variety of commercial flakes and frozen dried foods. They also eat romaine lettuce, zucchini and

peas. Even though these creatures are freshwater fish, they are among the most beautiful fish to have.

Captive-bred reptiles are the easiest to care for, but these exotic creatures intimidate some people.

Two common reptiles are corn snakes and leopard geckos. Corn snakes are popular among pet snake keepers and they may come in various colors and patterns. It is important to keep these creatures in well ventilated, sealed cages or even aquariums with ventilated lids. Also consider that corn snakes need shelter to feel secure, so provide an interior shelter or box within its cage. A heating light or heating pad may also be appropriate for keeping these snakes warm. The pocket pinching factor in caring for these animals are providing them with appropriate nutrition. Since they prey on rodents, it is best to feed these animals

pre-killed rodents once a week. Another reptile which may not be quite as pricey is a leopard gecko. They are also available in various colors and designs. These delicate reptiles feed on insects, which can be bought from pet stores, but it is best to figure out where your pet food supply will come from before purchasing a leopard gecko. Glass aquariums are acceptable, but should be between 50 - 60 cm long. Like corn snakes, they should be provided with a small shelter to serve as a dark hiding place. The geckos should be fed three to five times a week.

Take these student friendly pets into consideration when buying a pet. It could keep you out of conflict with your landlord or roommates and also satisfy your desire of having an entertaining pet.

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

## Birds from page B1

is just not invading its space too early or trying to jump into loving it. As a human being, if someone you don't know enters your personal bubble and starts touching you, you might be prone to strike somehow, so that is simple common sense.

However, birds when trained right, can be very friendly and even loving animals. McCoy's bird, a lovebird named Maui, sits on her shoulder and even kisses her, complete with sound. It can also play peek-a-boo.

If you're a clean freak, a bird may not be for you, because around their cage, shedding feathers and waste can be a

problem. If your bird spends time outside its cage, you may also find the occasional waste on furniture.

All in all, a bird is a little more work to maintain and get to warm up to, but once they do you can have a lifetime companion. The birds that can be trained are a lot of fun and another thing to show off to friends. Just be careful what you repeat around them, unless you want your parents to find out what your new favorite word is or what you happen to think of them.

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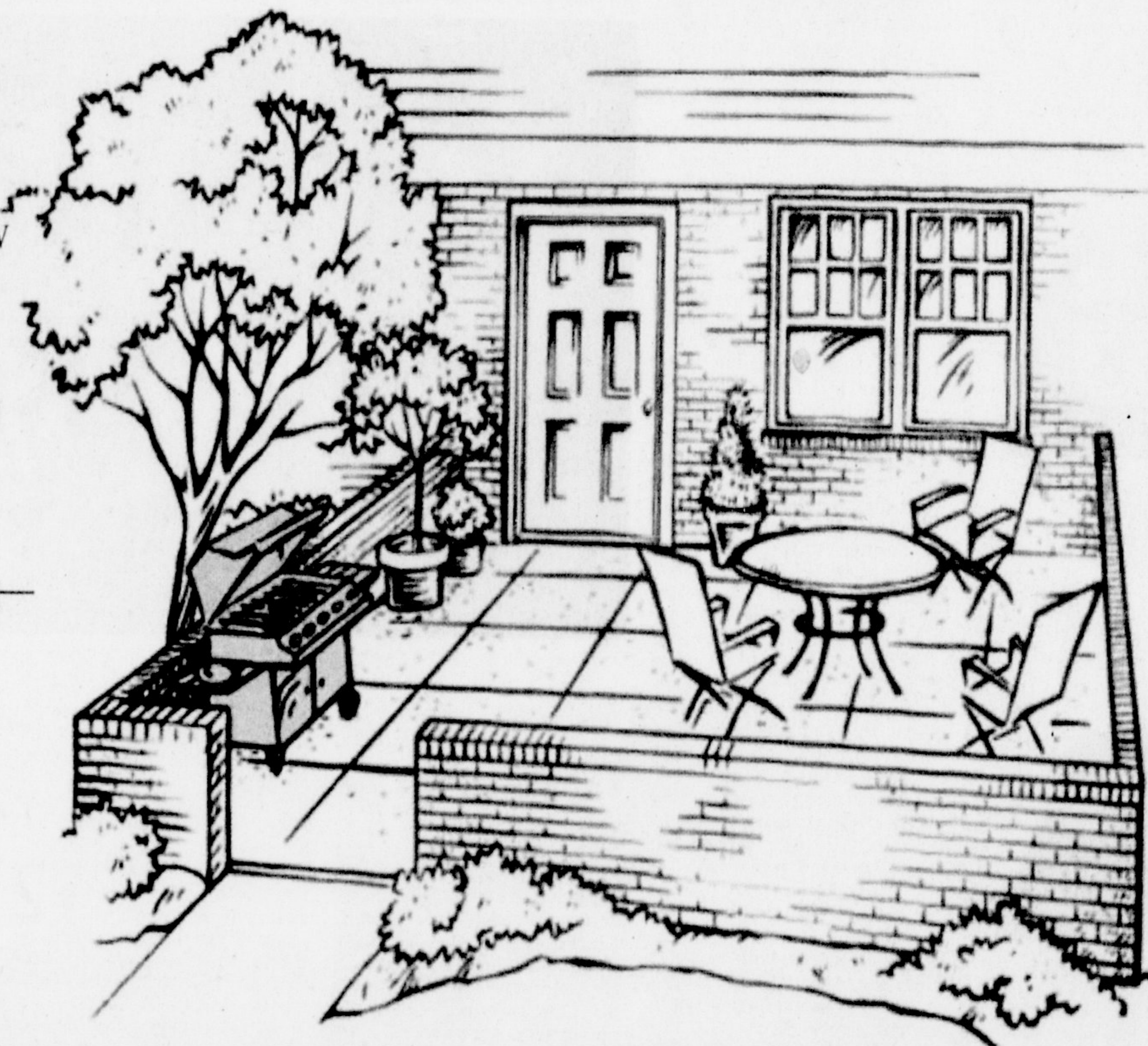
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## ECU par

### Student culture

NICK HEN  
NEWS ED

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# ECU religion class participates in field trip

Students get out of culture experience

NICK HENNE  
NEWS EDITOR

Members of an ECU religion class got their hands dirty for a good cause this past weekend.

Eighteen students, along with several people from the community, chased chickens and learned about farms and environmental issues at "Farm Day." The event was organized on a local emerging organic farm by Calvin Mercer for his Religion and Social Issues class.

Sitting on plastic buckets on the farmhouse porch, participants listened as farmers Joe and Beth Miller described the struggles of the modern day small farmer.

"What really made us start farming was our desire for good things to eat," said Beth.

She compared the experience of eating a fresh organic tomato with a grocery store tomato shipped in from afar and grown with pesticides.

"I grew up on a farm in Pennsylvania and I remember the first time I ate asparagus from a can at a restaurant," Beth said.

"I looked at it and said what is this dark, limp, tasteless thing. Asparagus is bright green, a bit crunchy and good. I found out most of the world does not eat close to the land."

Students showed positive reactions to the day's events.

"Farm Day was a great way to observe the natural functions,

tendencies and maintenance of a variety of organisms, from pecan trees to honey bees," said David Huffman, freshman biochemistry major.

"It is important to sit in the classroom and read books about the issues surrounding modern food production," said Mercer.

"But it can also certainly help to get a hands-on feel for the issues by being on the land and seeing how the academic discussion plays out in real life."

Part of the day involved working on the farm, as students divided up tasks that included weeding blueberries, building a fence, cleaning out a chicken pen, tightening a clothes line, sewing clothes and chasing chickens who escaped from the pen.

Joe's main passion on the farm is making honey which he sells to neighbors and other interested people. He said the process of beekeeping and later at the potluck meal students enjoyed fresh baked bread and honey from the farm.

"I think everyone should eat at least one piece of food a day where they know the farmer's name," said Susan Vickery, one of the participants.

Nursebees Apiary is located several miles from Greenville. In addition to the bees, the farm includes fruit trees, chickens, pigs and many vegetables, including, of course, bright green, crunchy, flavorful asparagus.

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

## Woof from page B1

was smart enough to wake me up," Leonard told dogsinthenews.com.

Smart is a word that comes up a lot when speaking of dogs.

"Dogs are very smart. They're the only animal we would trust to lead blind people around. I've never seen a seeing-eye cat walking down the street," said Kyle Hoffman, freshman biology major.

Smart may be one thing, but

some dogs are brilliant. Rico is a dog featured in newspapers around the country last year. He is a border collie with the vocabulary of a 3-year-old, but most importantly, he can acquire and use language much like a human being. That makes Rico smarter than most chimps. He can do much more incredible things, though.

According to Bill Bishop of statesman.com, "... research-

ers would place 10 items in a room in the house while Rico and his owner waited in another room. Rico would then be told to fetch an item while the humans waited out of sight. Rico retrieved the correct item 37 out of 40 times."

Dogs have been alongside humans since prehistoric times. While the human species has continued to evolve, our strong connection with dogs has never

faltered. Occasionally, there are stories of dog attacks, but typically it is because the animal has been abused or has lived in poor conditions. For the most part, stories and memories involving dogs show them to be bright, friendly and loyal animals, very deserving of the title "man's best friend."

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

## Cats from page B1

great exercise, it is a major chore that may get repetitive or annoying. Taking the dog out and feeding it must be done on a regulated schedule, which may take away the freedom of enjoying a pet. Having to walk your dog constantly makes it impossible to leave it alone for a few days.

The added inconvenience of dropping the dog off at a kennel whenever a vacation is needed can be tiresome. Another option, having to pay a kid in the neighborhood to watch the dog, can be expensive. In the end, the expenses of leaving a dog out-weigh those of cats.

All pet ownership requires a lot of responsibility and money, but taking care of a dog is much more difficult. In addition to that, dogs are louder, take up more space and have a tendency to be aggressive. That is why many apartments in the area prohibit dogs while cats are accepted.

"Cats are very sweet, they are a comforting pet to come home to and they are very easy to take care of," said Maryanne Dotson, freshman elementary education major.

Cats can certainly prove to be reliable, in some cases, they may even save your life one day, as was the case of David Simpson. According to the *Telegraph & Angus* of Bradford, West Yorkshire, UK, David Simpson's cat saved his life when his house caught on fire. The resourceful feline jumped up and down on her owner's bed and screamed loudly until he woke up.

"I would have been dead if it wasn't for the cat because I could not have gotten out of the upstairs bedroom if the fire had been any worse. The cat has saved my life. I was fast asleep and the next thing I knew my cat was screaming, jumping up and down, and running up and down the stairs. I know that if she gets up there, something must be wrong," Simpson said of his miraculous experience.

For the cat lovers at ECU, many local apartment owners realize the ease involved in caring for cats and allow renters to keep them, but not dogs. The Beech Street Villas, located on Beech Street right off of Fifth Street allow cats with a fee. Paladin West apartments also limit pet ownership to

cats for renters. Many students look for apartments with their pets in mind. While it requires a lot of responsibility, living in an apartment with a pet can also alleviate the loneliness.

"When I start looking for apartments in the area, I'm definitely going to keep in mind my pet cat. I really miss my cat from back home, I would definitely like to come home to him every day," said Mark DiMarco, freshman computer science major.

Cats can also be very easy to read. You can tell a cat's mood by their eyes. Whenever a cat is frightened or excited, their pupils will become very large and round and when they are angry, they will narrow their pupils.

Some cats spend most of their time in hiding. Finding a cat once it finds a good hiding spot can take hours and is quite troublesome. A cat can fit anywhere its head can, since they do not have collarbones. You may have noticed a cat sizing a particular spot with its head, to see if it can fit the rest of its body. However, since a cat spends anytime between 16 - 18 hours a day sleeping, it is

unlikely a cat will spend most of its time hiding in a place it finds uncomfortable.

While cats are not always as friendly as dogs, they can be just as affectionate and loving as one. For those of us who absolutely love cats, the rewarding experience of caring for one is well worth it.

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



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## 2005-2006 PARKING PERMITS

All vehicle registration and permit requests will be completed on-line through OneStop.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION & PERMIT SALES FOR 2005 - 2006 ACADEMIC YEAR

Faculty/Staff and Student parking permit purchase / vehicle registration for 2005-06 will be completed on-line through the ECU OneStop system following the schedules outlined below. 2005-06 permits will be mailed beginning Monday, June 13, 2005. To purchase a current year, 2004-05 permit, even if just for the summer term, please visit the parking office.

- Current 2004-05 permit holders in zones A1 and A3 Registration and permit purchase is ONLY available APRIL 18 - 29, 2005 (space will not be held after April 29, 2005).
- Current 2004-05 individuals on WAITING LISTS for zones A1 and A3 BEGINS Monday, May 9, 2005. Parking & Transportation Services will offer in sequential order A1 or A3 permits until set capacity is reached.
- Current 2004-05 permit holders in zones A2, B2, B1, B3, C, and D, and individuals not currently holding a permit: Registration BEGINS Monday, May 16, 2005.
  - ECU OneStop Vehicle Registration will open to accept all permit applications.
  - Applicants may purchase permits based upon availability.
  - If selected permit is unavailable, registrant may place name on waiting list.

INFORMATION YOU SHOULD HAVE BEFORE YOU START THE ON-LINE REGISTRATION PROCESS:

**Vehicle Information:** Registered Owner, Make, Model, License Plate/Tag  
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- Go on-line to <http://onestop.ecu.edu>
- Enter your user ID and password (same as ECU e-mail)
- Click on Vehicle Registration listed under Transportation and Security
- Follow the instructions on the screen
- If you choose to pay by check or cash: you MUST PRINT YOUR PERMIT REQUEST FORM and mail it along with your check or money order to the Parking Office. Payment by cash only allowed in person at the Parking Office. IMPORTANT: If paying by cash or check, your parking permit will not be reserved for you until your payment has been received by the Parking Office.

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**IMPORTANT SUMMER PARKING INFORMATION**

Students who currently hold 2004-2005, Freshman (D Zone) permits may use any B2 or C Zone parking areas for the first summer session, through June 30. A 2005-06 permit, or summer session permit will be required beginning July 1. Students who currently have a D Zone permit but will be living on College Hill during first summer session must contact Parking & Transportation Services to have their permit validated for A2 Zone parking.

If you do not have a current ECU parking permit, you may purchase a summer session permit from the Parking & Transportation Office located at 305 E 10th Street during regular business hours. Permits for 1st session ONLY are \$20. Permits for 2nd session ONLY are \$20. Permits for BOTH 1st and 2nd sessions are \$30.00

For more information on summer session parking and the parking program, visit our web site at [www.ecu.edu/parking](http://www.ecu.edu/parking). If you have questions, contact our office at (252) 328-6294.

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# Pirates prepare for spring scrimmage

Annual Purple/Gold game concludes spring practice during festive weekend

ERIC GILMORE  
SENIOR WRITER

ECU football Head Coach Skip Holtz will unveil his long awaited blueprint for success. The 22nd Annual Great Purple/Gold Pigskin Pigout Party will mark the first chance the public can see the revamped ECU football team. The spring game will be held inside Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium Saturday, April 16 at 3 p.m.

The scrimmage will be the 15th and last spring practice allowed by NCAA regulations. Since March 7 when spring drills started, Holtz and his staff have installed offensive and defensive schemes, defined their first depth chart and seemingly found a starting quarterback.

Redshirt freshman Davon Drew is currently listed as the No. 1 quarterback. The New Bern native passed for 232 yards on 21-of-32 attempts. Drew, listed at 215 pounds, threw his first touchdown in a scrimmage to Robert Tillman on a 28-yard strike.

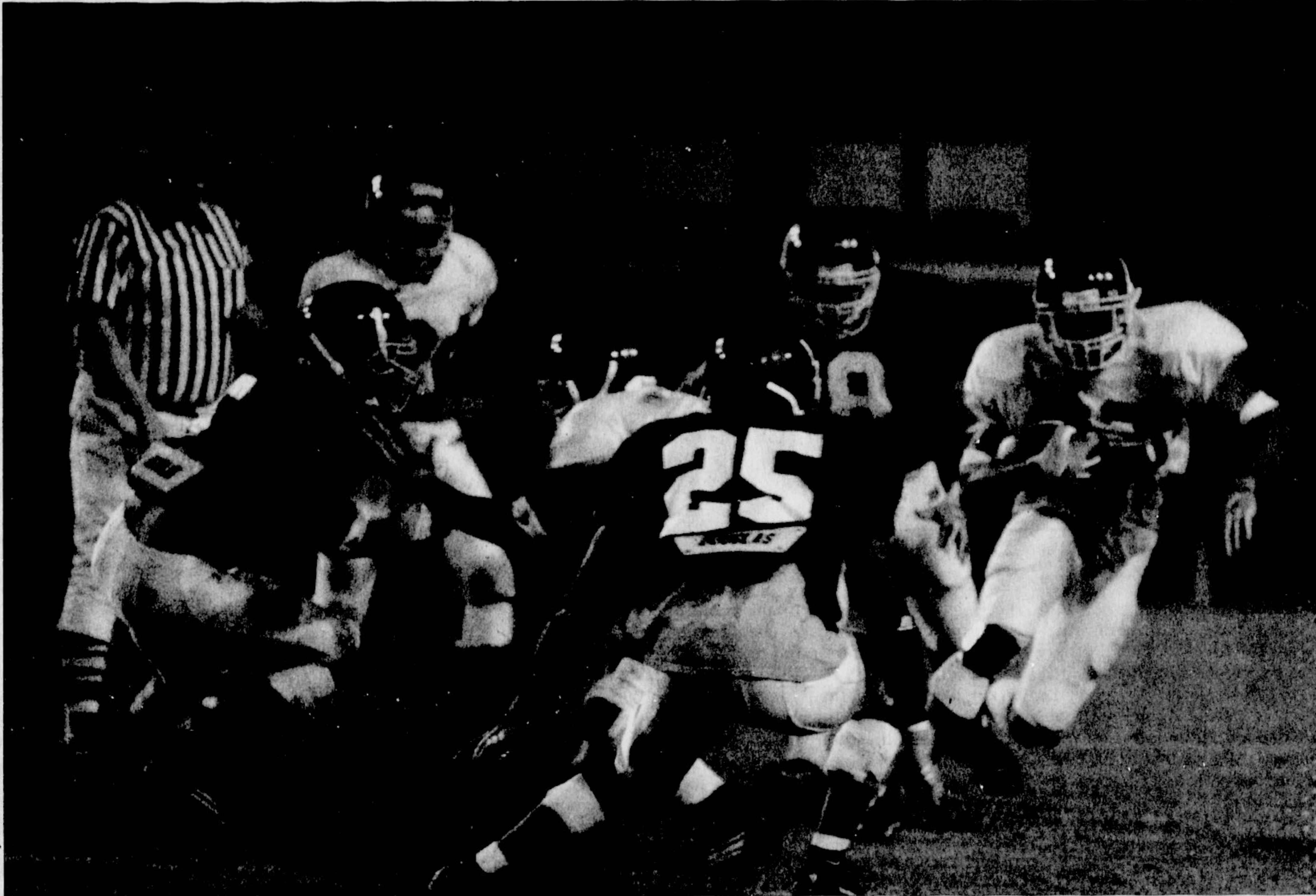
Former JH Rose standout Kort Shankweiler hasn't given up on the starting job just yet. Shankweiler, the son of offensive coordinator Steve, passed for 146 yards on 12-of-25 attempts. The converted fullback also notched his first TD pass totaling 34-yards to junior Edwin Burke.

The coaching staff conducted a player draft to select roster positions after Wednesday's practice. Players will have final chances to be evaluated on the field heading into the fall. The entire secondary and defensive line is still up for grabs as is fullback.

Trash talk is common among players as only pride is on the line. Past coaches have made the losers serve the victors ice cream while wearing aprons. No such wages have been made public.

Holtz hopes that no major injuries occur, as a number of players will not participate because of various injuries. Linebackers Chris Moore, Dashaun Stephens and Pierre Bell are not expected to play as well as receivers Iverick Harris and Bobby Good. Other notables include tight ends Sean Harmon and Shawn Levesque and quarterback Patrick Pinkney.

The spring game is the center of a weekend filled with tradition and festivities. The activities start tonight with the Pigout Golf Tournament Auction/Social at Ironwood Country Club. A hot commodity



The Annual Great Purple/Gold Pigskin Pigout Party will be held Saturday at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. Admission is free with student ID.

on the auction block will be authentic jerseys. On Friday, letterwinners and patrons will participate in the Pigout Golf Tournament held at Ironwood Country Club. Former ECU and NFL great Earnest Byner will be the guest of honor. Past letterwinners will also hold a tailgate party with Holtz at 7 p.m.

Inflatable rides, fireworks and a pig-cooking contest are scheduled for Friday night beneath Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. On Saturday, The Craig

Woolard Band, a local beach music band, will be on hand as well as many different plates of eastern North Carolina barbecue.

Admission to the game is free for students with a valid One Card. However, for the general admission, advanced tickets are priced at \$4 for the game or \$8 with the addition of a plate of barbecue from the Purple/Gold Pigskin Pigout Party. Advanced tickets can be purchased at the ECU Athletics Ticket Office

or by calling 328-4500 locally or 1-800-DIAL-ECU outside the Greenville area. Barbecue plates purchased on Saturday will cost \$5.

An estimated crowd of 10,000 is expected to be in attendance. All event proceeds support the Pirate Club and the athletic scholarship fund.

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

## Student Pirate Club starts spring drive with high expectations for 2005-2006



There are 32 existing Pirate Club chapters and 1,893 students are members of the SPC.

Organization has record goal of 2,500 members

ERIC GILMORE  
SENIOR WRITER

The Student Pirate Club is on a clear mission to be the best student athletic support organization in the country. Using their Spring Drive as a springboard, the SPC plans to sign up in excess of 2,500 members for the 2005-2006 academic year.

"We take a lot of pride in being the largest student organization on campus," said Executive President Seth Horton.

"The more support that we can show to our team and conference commissioners can be important for the future."

The SPC acts as one of the 32 existing chapters of the Pirate Club, also known as the ECU Educational Foundation. In 2004, the 1,893 members served as the second largest chapter

only behind Pitt County. The SPC generated 23.2 percent of the entire Pirate Club membership. In 2004, SPC pledged \$47,230 in donations to benefit the annual athletic fund. With 2,500 members, the SPC would pledge \$62,500.

The SPC provides benefits to members that regular students don't receive. For \$25, students receive a SPC shirt, receive priority for ticket pick-up, invitations to Pirate Club functions and accu-

mulation of priority points for future Pirate Club membership. Other benefits include invitations to meet ECU coaches and players, a subscription to the Pirates' Chest newspaper and invitations to cookouts and socials.

"In football, SPC members sit in Sections 16 and 17," Horton said.

"Next year, we are starting a new exclusive SPC section for basketball that will be some of the best seats in the house."

"Before we had the masses join just to get a ticket and a T-shirt. We need to educate everyone that it's more than a ticket and a T-shirt. The baseball stadium and Murphy Center were both privately funded," said Michael Ward.

The SPC was formed in the early 1990s. Over the years, only a single person has been appointed to serve as a liaison between the students and Pirate Club. However, this year, an executive board was selected by Horton and Assistant Pirate Club Director and SPC Advisor Michael Ward. Eric Gilmore serves as vice president, Rebecca McKenzie as secretary and Julie Eshbach as freshman coordinator. The rest of the board consists of Jonathon Downs, Melissa Hamm, John Perdue, Traye Smith, Justin Wal-

see SPC page B6



McCants announced his decision to declare on Wednesday.

## McCants leaving North Carolina for NBA draft

(AP)—North Carolina junior Rashad McCants said Wednesday he will enter the NBA draft, after helping the Tar Heels win their fourth national championship this season.

McCants, the team's second-leading scorer at 16 points a game, said he was in the process of hiring an agent, a move that would prevent him from returning for his senior season. But he said he would continue working to earn his college degree.

McCants said he came back to school after his sophomore season to win a national championship. He also said he wanted to follow in the footsteps of Michael Jordan, who helped North Carolina win a national title before leaving for the NBA as a junior.

"I felt like my whole reason for coming back last year was to get those goals accomplished," McCants said at a news conference. "And I did."

McCants' announcement made official a decision that had been expected for more than a week. Less than a day after the Tar Heels beat Illinois 75-70 in

the NCAA final, coach Roy Williams addressed McCants' future by saying, "We could lose some guys, there's no question about that. And we are going to lose Rashad."

Williams said Wednesday that McCants had his "complete support" in jumping to the NBA.

Others might soon follow. Fellow juniors Sean May and Raymond Felton, and freshman Marvin Williams are also considering their plans for next season.

On Tuesday night, Felton said he made a decision but wasn't ready to announce it. Williams said he was leaning one way, while May, the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four who has said he plans to stay in school, wouldn't commit to returning for his senior year.

If all four underclassmen leave along with seniors Jawad Williams, Jackie Manuel and Melvin Scott, the Tar Heels will lose their top seven scorers.

Players who want to enter the NBA draft early must file by May 14. The draft is June 28.

## Pirate Club provides funds for athletics



Pirate Club members discuss several issues at a recent meeting.

Over \$3 million raised for athletic program last year

ERIC GILMORE  
SENIOR WRITER

The Pirate Club, also known as the ECU Educational Foundation, serves as the backbone of private financial support for ECU's athletic department. A multi-million dollar market

annually, the Pirate Club is continually faced with prying money from donors in order to facilitate growing budget costs, undergo special building projects and maintain athletic support scholarships.

"The Pirate Club is the friend raising and fundraising arm of Pirate athletics," said Executive Director Dennis Young, who has served in that capacity since Sept.

1, 1991.

"First and foremost, the Pirate Club is a business. On average, anywhere from \$5 - 8 million in annual contributions flood through this organization. There is never a dull day."

As of now, the Pirate Club has 8,132 members in 32 existing chapters ranging from Florida to the Washington Metro region. Each chapter has a volunteer community director, who serves as the representative in charge of getting and retaining current members as well as identifying and signing up new members. The chapter heads are challenged to doing a fundraiser each year, which accounts for nearly \$130,000 in annual support, according to Young.

Athletic director Terry Holland equated the volunteers to being "on the front lines of ECU athletics" in a letter to representatives dated Feb. 19. He went on to say that every Pirate

Club member is "worth his or her weight in gold."

The Pirate Club's goal is to develop support for ECU from the 108,500 living alumni. The fundraising can be done in a number of ways. An annual auction, held on May 21, usually raises \$70,000 while Trade Oil Company puts on a golf tournament each year and it raises \$50,000, according to Young.

The Pirate Club was formed by former Chancellor Dr. Leo Jenkins in October 1961. Almost a year later, the construction of a new football stadium was underway. Numerous donors such as Dr. Ray Minges, Walter L. Williams and Bill Clark have helped pave the way for construction of new athletic facilities and athletic scholarships.

In the past five years, the Pirate Club raised \$10.2 million of the total \$12 million

see PIRATE CLUB page B7

# Twelve-game football season might soon become norm after final vote



(KRT) — An annual 12-game season in major college football is one step from reality. The NCAA's Division I management council threw its support behind the schedule change in Division I-A and I-AA starting in 2006 during meetings this week in Indianapolis. That and other legislative proposals approved by the council will be forwarded to the board of directors for a final vote on April 28. Current legislation allows for scheduling 12 games only during infrequent years in which 14 Saturdays fall from the last

weekend in August through the end of November. That happened in 2002 and 2003 and will next occur in 2008. If approved by the board, schools will be able to play 12 games in the normal 13 weeks that fall in that period. The Big 12 Conference sponsored the proposal along with the Big East Conference. Big 12 commissioner Kevin Weiberg said the league seeks greater scheduling flexibility. Weiberg said conference football players prefer playing 12 games rather than having two off weeks. The conference and the NCAA say research shows injuries don't significantly increase by playing 11 or 12 games over 13 weeks. The only Division I-A league to vote against the proposal was the Atlantic Coast Conference. Ron Wellman, Wake Forest athletic director and the council's new chairman, said the league's

primary objections centered on academics. "We believe the season is long enough at 11 games," Wellman said. "And we actually enjoy having a bye week or two." Weiberg said he doesn't expect the proposal to sail easily through the board of directors, a collection of 18 university presidents and chancellors chaired by Kansas' Robert Hemenway. Weiberg said an added home game would mean an average of \$1 million more for a Big 12 school. Some members would benefit by as much as \$4 million, he said. The council also approved allowing men's basketball players to be redshirted even after playing in preseason exhibitions. It didn't support allowing basketball coaches to watch their players play before practice begins. Another proposal sent to the board would allow athletes

admitted as academic partial or non-qualifiers to regain a fourth year of eligibility if they have completed 80 percent of credits toward a degree after their fourth year in school. The council approved requiring athletes in their final season to pass six hours to be eligible for postseason play that takes place during the same semester. For example, a senior football player would have to pass six hours to play in a bowl. The council also OK'd adding scholarships for gymnastics, soccer, volleyball and track and field. Other than supporting the 12-game football season, the council didn't act on changing the length of season in any other sports. Nor did it deal with attendance requirements for Division I-A football membership that were tabled at the January convention at the Gaylord Texan.



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### SPC from page B5

lace and Allison Walters. "We have an unbelievable Board of Directors put together this year that will make the SPC go to the next level," Horton said. "We have 10 students that are diehard Pirate fans that will help to make us one of the best student athletic organizations in the country." The board holds bi-monthly

meetings and helps to maintain the current donor database. The board has drafted a proposal to the SPC for purple Pirate Pride wristbands. Other ideas have included members being able to print tickets online, more exclusive seating arrangements and more socials. "When you have an organization as big as the SPC, it's easy to

make people a number," Horton said. "It's important that we keep our focus on each individual member. We want every member to be able to interact with the coaches." Currently, the Spring Drive is aimed at returning students. Signing up now will allow for members to pick up their T-shirt,

football tickets and membership cards in one package during the first week of school. Applications can be found on the Web site, [ecupirateclub.com](http://ecupirateclub.com). If Horton, Ward and the Executive Board meet their goals, it might be a very long line. This writer can be contacted at [sports@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:sports@theeastcarolinian.com).

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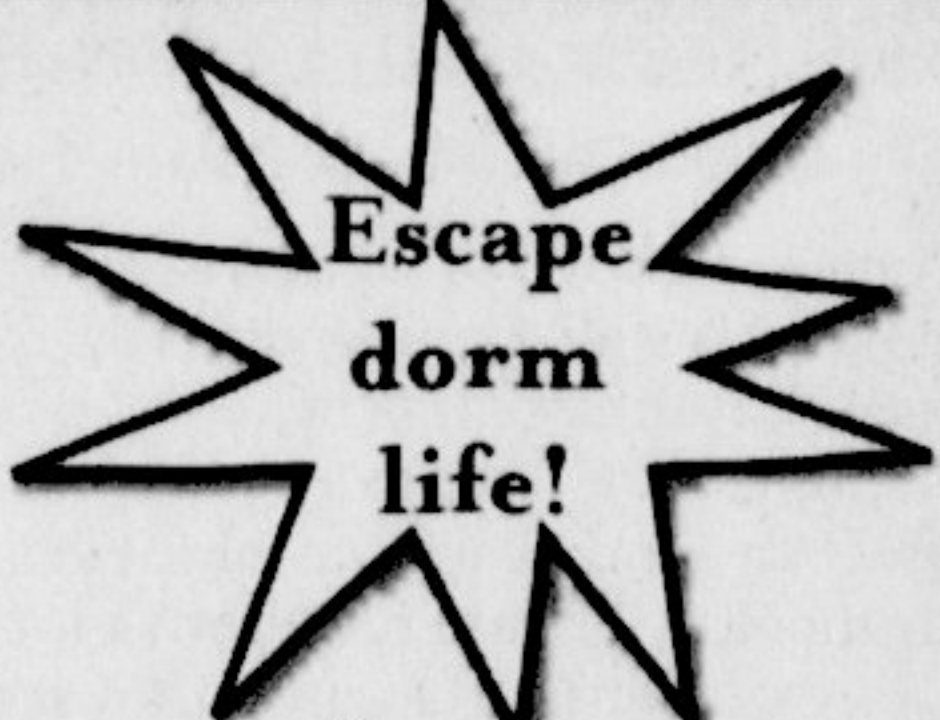
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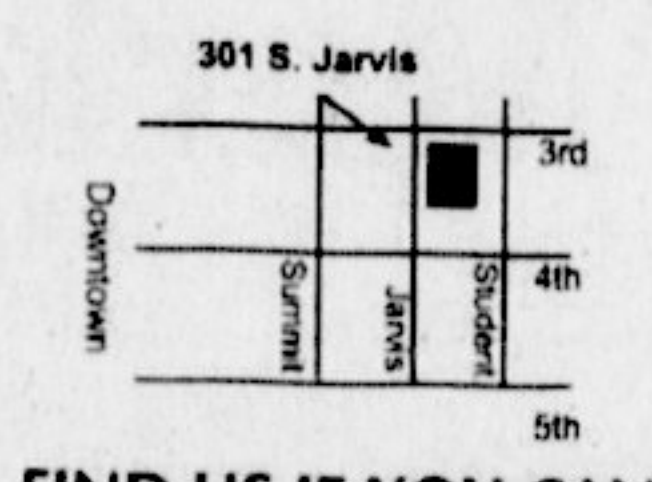
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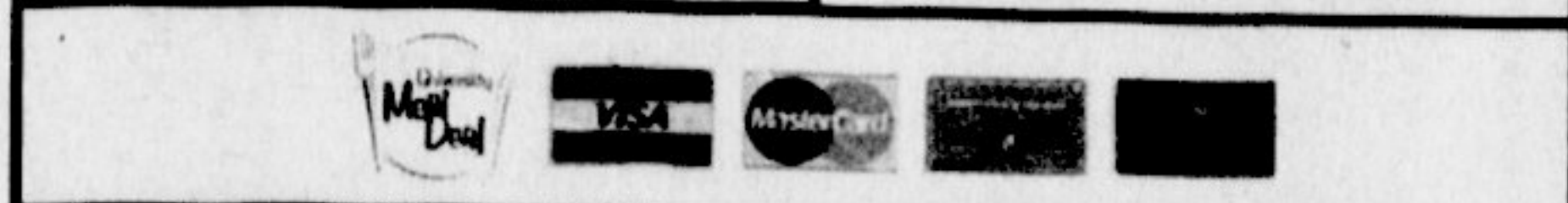
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# Cubs' fans have pet curse of their own

(KRT) — The Boston Red Sox finally ended their so-called Curse of the Bambino by winning the 2004 World Series. So Chicago Cubs fans hope it's their turn now. After all, it's been 96 years without a World Series title.

If only that (fill in your expletive here) Billy Goat Curse hadn't gotten in the way, Cubs fans think. "We would have won it in 2003." Ah, yes, the Billy Goat Curse, the root of all evil for Cubs fans.

Once upon a time, the Cubs were perennially good. They were the first team to win consecutive World Series, 1907-08, and played in two more World Series in the next decade, plus another five in the years 1929-45, although they didn't win any.

According to local legend, the Billy Goat Curse began in 1945 when William "Billy Goat" Sianis, owner of the Billy Goat Tavern and a Cubs fan, bought two tickets to Game 4. Hoping to bring his team good luck, he took his pet goat, Murphy, with him to the game.

"At the entrance to the

park, the ushers stopped Sianis from entering, saying that no animals are allowed in the park. He appealed to the owner of the Cubs, P.K. Wrigley, who said, "Let Billy in, but not the goat."

"Sianis asked, 'Why not the goat?' Wrigley answered, 'Because the goat stinks.'"

The Web site goes on to explain that Sianis was so upset he exclaimed, "The Cubs ain't gonna win no more. The Cubs will never win a World Series so long as the goat is not allowed in Wrigley Field. The Cubs were officially cursed."

You might not believe in curses, but let's note that the Cubs did not make it to postseason play again until 1984, when they lost the National League Championship Series in five games to the San Diego Padres.

In 1989 the Cubs lost the NLCS to the San Francisco Giants, and in 1998, they were swept by the Atlanta Braves in the NL division series.

Every near-miss was interpreted by Cubs fans as evidence of the curse. In 1969, for example, when the Cubs led the National League East by eight games in early August, they eventually lost to "The Amazin' Mets," an expansion team that had been the laughingstock of baseball.

It didn't help that during a key series against the Mets in New York, a black cat crossed in front of the Cubs' dugout.

In 1973, the Cubs lost 49 of their final 76 games to go from first in the division to next-to-last. And in that 1984 NLCS loss to the Padres, the Cubs won the first two games in what was then a best-of-five series.

Then, it happened again in 2003 in the infamous postseason that made Steve Bartman the scourge of Chicago. The Cubs had won the division series against the Atlanta Braves and took a commanding 3-1 lead in the NLCS against the Florida Marlins. The last two games were in Chicago, with Cubs aces Kerry Wood and Mark Prior scheduled to pitch.

With the Cubs leading 3-0 in the eighth inning of Game 6, things began to go awry. Bartman, a fan seated near the wall on the left-field foul line, reached out for a foul fly ball that outfielder Moises Alou might have caught for the second out.

Instead, the out was denied, shortstop Alex Gonzalez soon botched a ground ball, and the Cubs came apart at the seams during the Marlins' eight-run inning. Florida won the sixth and seventh games to take the National League pennant.

"Curses," screamed the *Chicago Sun-Times* on its cover.

With Prior and Wood having arm problems this spring, and closer Joe Borowski out for at least the first six weeks, there is speculation that The Billy Goat

Curse is getting an early start on the 2005 season.

But first baseman Derrek Lee said, "I don't think too many people in here believe in the curse. I don't. I guess when you don't win a World Series in 100 years or whatever it is, they want to blame it on something."

There have been many attempts to exorcise the curse. In 1950, according to *ducure.com*, Wrigley sent a letter of apology to Sianis in hopes he would reverse the curse.

Sianis said he was ready to lift the curse in 1969. His nephew, Sam, who now owns the Billy Goat Tavern, has brought a goat to Wrigley Field with the blessing of the Cubs several times, including before the 1984 playoffs.

In the spring of 1997, the Cubs held a curse-removing news conference at the Billy Goat Tavern. And in February 2004, the hated "Bartman" ball was blown up in an attempt to erase the hex.

"Harry Caray's," the Chicago eatery named after the former Cubs announcer, even cooked the ball's remnants and blended them with Budweiser for a "curse-ending sauce" that was served over spaghetti to Cubs fans in February.

Thus far, nothing has worked. Perhaps Cubs shortstop Nomar Garciaparra has the best way to deal with it. "I don't believe in curses," he said. "I'm from California."

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## Pirate Club from page B5

for the Murphy Center while they exceeded their \$6 million goal and donated \$10.2 million of the \$11 million total for Clark-LeClair Stadium.

There are 11 different membership levels ranging from Golden Sabre, which pledges \$15,300 or above to the Crew level, which promises \$75 - 149 annually. As the contribution rises, so does the amount of perks.

Each Pirate Club member is given a membership number and registered in a database. The database amounts priority points over the span of a lifetime, which help members to receive better tickets and parking places.

The Pirate Club needs every member possible. As of the 2004 budget, each scholarship costs \$15,300 on average. Currently the Pirate Club can only fund

76 percent of its total budget, which amounts for a \$1.3 million shortfall.

The Pirate Club and its contributors serve a purpose that can't be counted in money. According to Young, the substantial rise of the Student Pirate Club is a bright light to the future of ECU athletics.

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

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# Doing what you love to do shouldn't kill you



Al Lucas' teammates huddle in prayer following his injury.

(KRT) — I suppose the worst thing, other than the fact that Los Angeles Avengers player Al Lucas will never go home to see his wife and child again, is that there is no one or nothing to blame.

It seems that Lucas' tragic death in Sunday's Arena Football League game was the result of nothing more than a freakish injury that hurt his spinal cord so badly, it caused his death.

It's the saddest cliché in life, a person dies while doing what he loved to do.

Well, I'm sorry, but doing what you love to do isn't supposed to kill you when simply playing a game is what you love doing.

You're not supposed to die from making a tackle in football. You're not supposed to have your life and the lives of those around you irreparably shattered because you were seeking marginal fame and minimal fortune entertaining fans as a player in the Arena League.

It looked routine. On a seemingly ordinary kickoff return, television replays showed Lucas bending down to make a tackle when the ballcarrier for the New York Dragons and a blocker tumbled over his head, with the blocker's leg appearing to hit Lucas in the head.

You see that sequence a hundred times in a football season, and every player gets up just fine.

When Lucas did not move, I'm sure those around the 26-year-old him thought immediately of possible paralysis.

This, however, was much more tragic. The unthinkable had happened.

The 6-foot 1-inch, 300-pound lineman, who had played two seasons with the Carolina Panthers, was taken off the field, and efforts to revive him immediately began at the Staples Center. He was quickly taken to California Hospital Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead when continued efforts to revive him failed.

It was a routine tackle, something you see millions of times while watching football at any level, the very essence of the game.

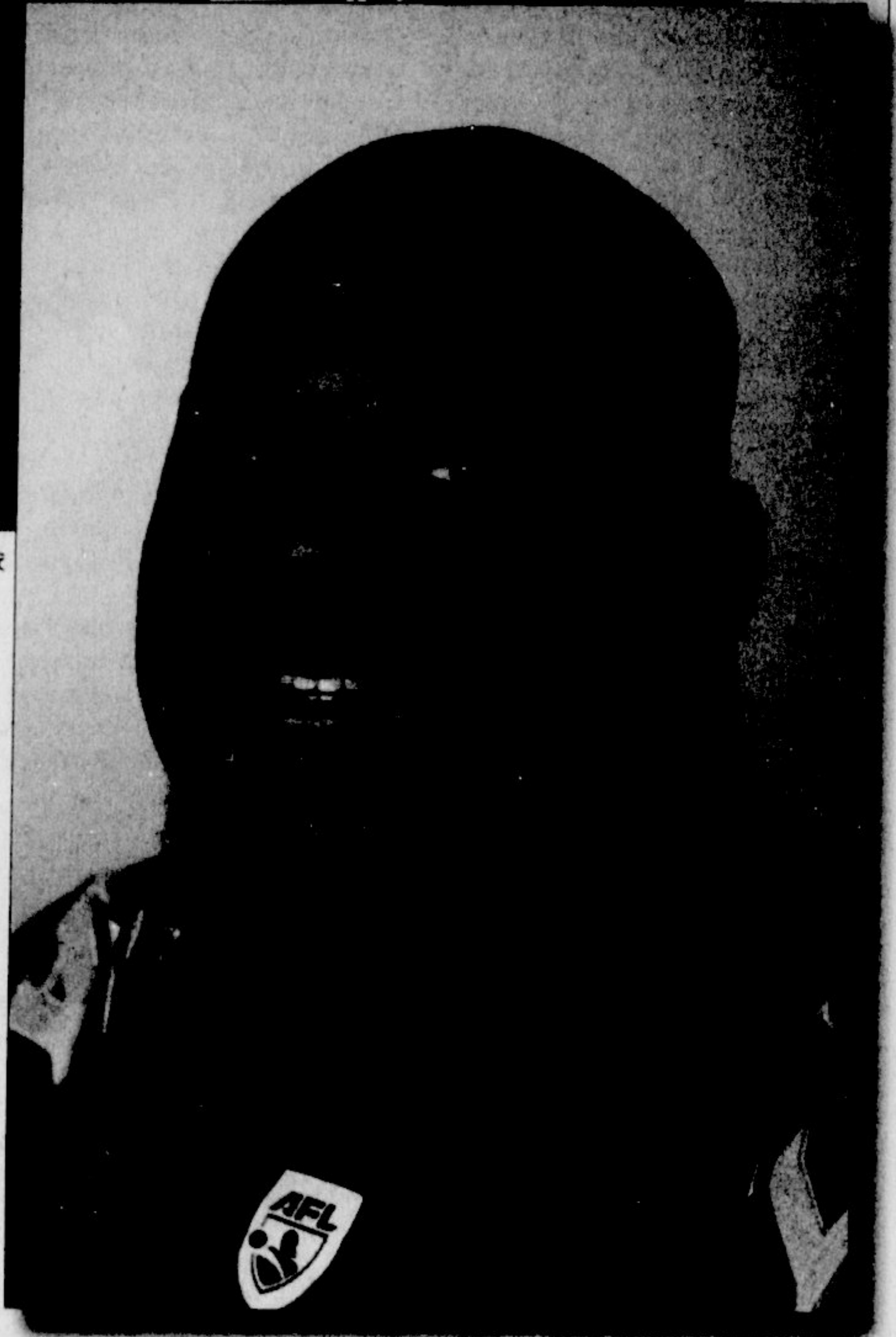
Had Lucas been a step slower, had he been a half-inch to his right or left on the tackle, had anything been ever so slightly different, so that he was not in that exact spot at that exact moment, it very well might have finished as just another routine play.

And that's frightening, because that's the only difference between what happened Sunday and what has happened on billions of forgotten tackles in football history.

Other than banning tackling, how do you legislate safety into a situation like that?

You can't. "Something like this is completely out of our minds as a worst-case scenario," Chris Jackson, a former Avengers teammate of Lucas, told the Los Angeles Times. "A season-ending injury or career-ending injury, but never this, never, never this."

Because only a few NFL and college football players have died as a direct result of in-game injuries, we tend to forget that football isn't a just a contact sport but a high-collision sport.



LUCAS

Because season-ending and even career-ending injuries are accepted risks, we forget that the body was not meant to sustain the violent impacts that consistently occur during football game.

The physical attributes players use to survive football games are the ones nature gave our ancestors to survive in the wild, when each day was a life-or-death struggle.

Whenever I go into a locker room after a football game and I see the mangled bodies of the warriors who have just performed a gladiatorial spectacle, one of my first thoughts is, "This is a hard way to make a living."

Broken bones, chronic pain that will hamper the quality of life long after the final snap, possible paralysis, perhaps even shortened life spans all are

accepted risks of playing football. But not instant death.

I believe that boxers and race-car drivers are the only athletes who understand that death could be the result every time they step into the ring or start their car engines.

Don't misconstrue what I'm saying, because I'm not ranting about the inherent dangers of football or calling for the sport to be investigated.

I love football pretty much as it is. I don't think there is some great need to overhaul the game and make it safer. All things considered, it's probably about as safe as it can be.

What happened to Al Lucas was a freak occurrence a tragic, seemingly unavoidable consequence of a man just playing a game he loved.

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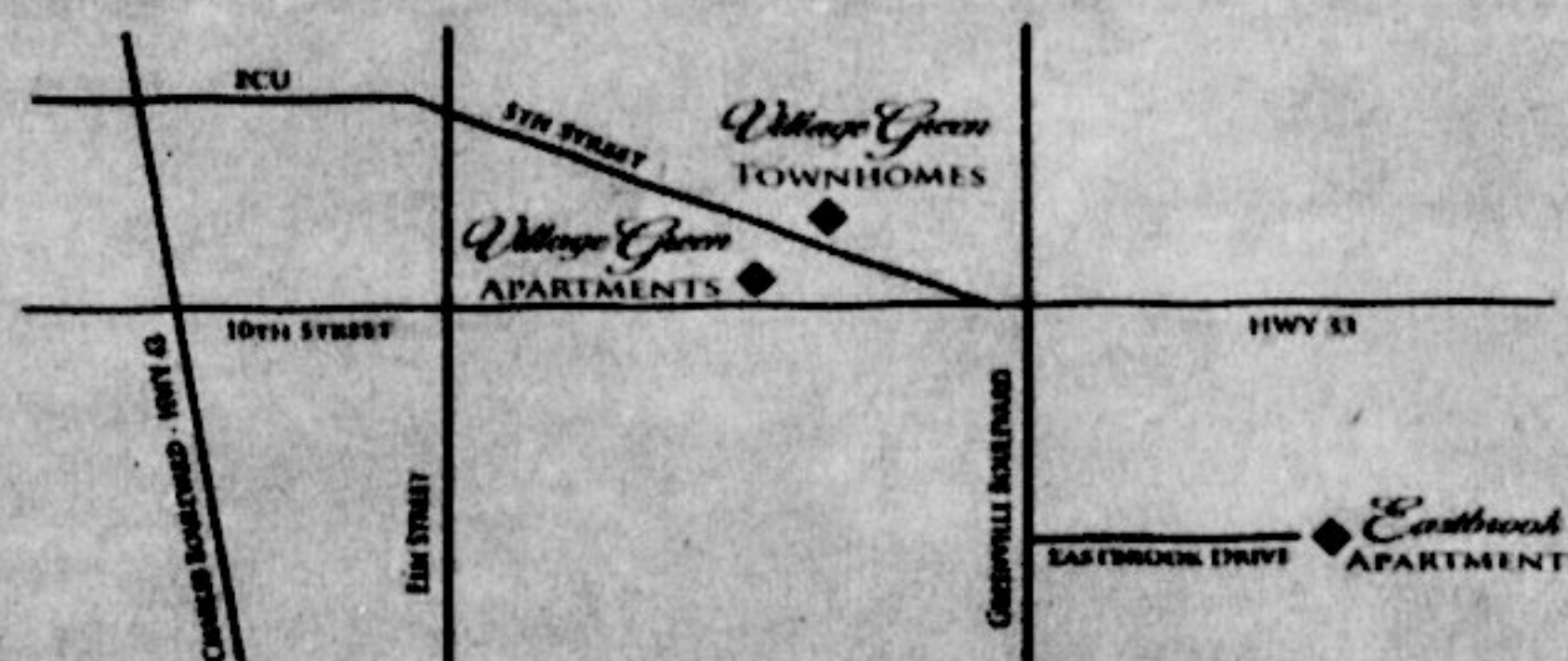
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- April 15: Comedian: Steve Hofstetter 8pm Multi-Purpose Room
- April 16: Blu Moon Film Festival (Student) 5PM Hendrix
- April 16: The Amazing Race: 2nd Annual SU/RHA Scavenger Hunt- registration begins at noon in Wright Place
- April 18: Polynesian Luau 3PM MSC Brickyard
- April 19: Philadelphia 7PM Hendrix
- April 20: Lemony Snicket (Blockbuster)  
Bad Education (Mercury) April 20-April 24
- April 23: Moulin Rouge Midnight in Hendrix
- April 23: Rockit 2 on 2 Breakdance Competition Rec Center 6PM
- April 24: Mae with Baumer and Burning Through 2pm MSC Brickyard
- April 27: Meet the Fockers April 27-May 1

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