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WEDNESDAY

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# From the battlefield to the classroom

Students, faculty  
discuss life as a soldier

KRISTIN DAY  
NEWS EDITOR

While most college students' biggest fear is failing the final, others worry about coming home safely to take the class. Soldiers overseas are not just those who have already dedicated their life to the service. They are our classmates, teachers and friends.

When the Army needs more soldiers, they rely on both the Army reserves and the Army National Guard to send troops, while the governor can also summon the National Guard. Students in the Army National Guard have to balance their education and military duties during times of national emergency and war.

Jake Bowen, junior double major in recreational therapy and psychology and specialist with the Army National Guard, was in northeast Iraq for 10 months in 2004, at "the edge of the crazy part."

For him, there was no typical day, and what he did depended on a lot of things. Usually, he would get up, do his job and spend the rest of the day hanging out, maybe going to the gym.

"It depended on your unit what kind of shift," said Bowen.

Of course there would be incidents, but Bowen said his unit would quickly solve the problem and then return to business as usual.

"We had a couple things happen

in our area ... but it's not what you imagine. It's not like the wild west," Bowen said.

Eric Banks, who was called to duty in the middle of his freshman year at Pitt Community College, was in Iraq until February 2004, 50 miles northeast of Baghdad. As a convoy gunner, he agreed that there was no standard day. He would provide security during transportations to various locations.

"I didn't really have a typical day ... I did a little bit of everything," said Banks.

Bowen and Banks both said the hardest part of war was being away from family and friends.

"It was supposed to be my senior year, so all of my friends wouldn't be here when I got back," Bowen said.

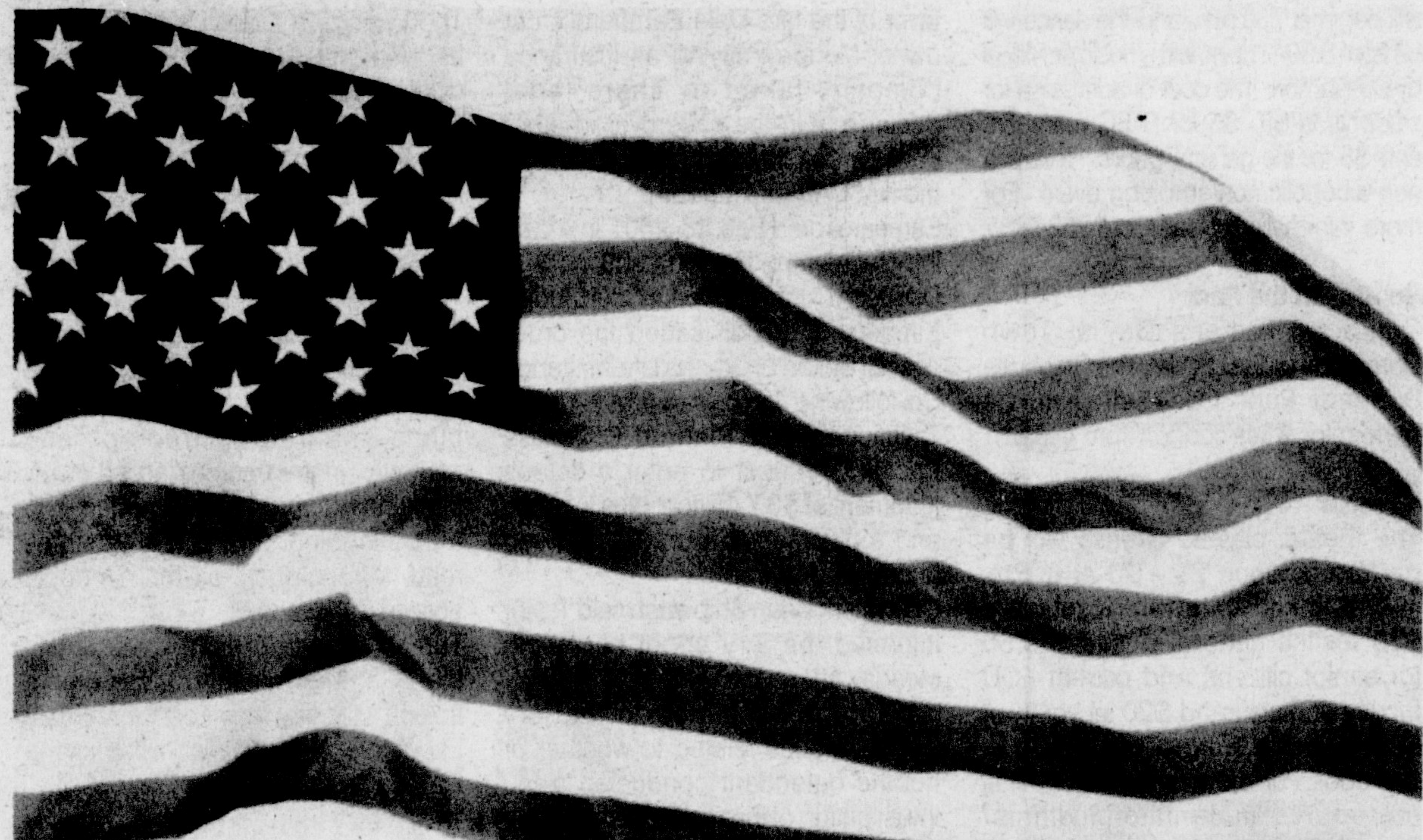
Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy Smith said that while being away from friends and family is the hardest thing for most soldiers who are also students, many still see the service as a growing experience. Seeing new cultures and living in the real world can make them more focused when they return.

"It may have delayed them in what their educational goals were, but it didn't stop them," said Smith.

Banks agreed and said though the job isn't for everyone, he's glad he went.

"I feel like I grew up a lot; it was good experience," Banks said.

Some of the biggest concerns of these soldiers are misconceptions in the media.



CAPT. HEAPE



BANKS



SGT. 1ST CLASS SMITH



BOWEN

"Mainstream media only shows the all negative ... you don't see any of the positive things like the reconstruction," Smith said.

Capt. Dan Heape, assistant professor in military science at ECU and currently on active duty with the Army, said American soldiers brought schools, hospitals and

roads to an area that was in serious need, but you don't see any of that work on the news.

"When we first crossed the border, there were times when it almost brought tears to my eyes [to see] the type of living conditions the Iraqi people were forced to live in by Saddam," Heape said.

Heape said when American soldiers first came to Iraq, they were not allowed to feed civilians because it would draw them to their perimeters. Heape recalled an older man with some children who would follow them and pick

see IRAQ page A6

## Death row inmates give \$5,000 to criminal justice student

Osborne studying to  
become a police officer

SHANNON KEITH  
STAFF WRITER

In April 1992, when Zach Osborne of Jamestown, NC, was only six years old, his four-year-old sister, Natalie, was raped and killed by his mother's boyfriend.

Haunted by his sister's death, Osborne dreamed of one day going into law enforcement.

"Natalie's death has haunted my family since the day she was found," Osborne wrote in an essay.

"Through realizing this dream

[of becoming a police officer], I would play a key role in preventing situations like this from ever happening again."

Osborne's dream is now coming true—and he is receiving a little help from the most unlikely of sources.

Death row inmates from 36 different prisons throughout the country have raised \$5,000 to help Osborne pursue a criminal justice degree at ECU.

Through their bimonthly publication, *Compassion*, the inmates have raised more than \$21,000 to help send murdered victims' family members to college. Osborne's scholarship is the seventh such award given by the inmates.

*Compassion* started in 2001. It was the

creation of Sadique Abdullah Hasan, a convicted killer currently on death row in Perrysburg, Ohio. Hasan wanted to find a way for him, as well as other death row inmates, to help repair some of the damage they had caused with their crimes.

With the aide of the members of St. Rose Parish, a local church in Perrysburg, Hasan started the publication, which features the artwork, poetry and essays of death row inmates from across the country.

The profits of the publication, which is sold by subscription, are used to fund scholarships such as the one given to Osborne.

The inmates receive no compensation or special treatment for

their efforts.

"Despite our bad choices, we still believe in the concept of right and wrong," said Dennis Skillicorn, *Compassion's* editor since 2003.

"We support what is right; our intent is genuine."

Skillicorn, who has been on Missouri's death row since 1998, said the inmates were touched by Osborne's story and his plans to stop future violence.

"We know it may seem extremely weird for a group of

inmates to want to help this kid become part of the same system that put us on death row," said Skillicorn.

"But most of us now believe in the system and believe in the law."

Skillicorn said that he hopes subscriptions for the publication, currently around 5,000, will continue to increase, especially to younger readers.

"For some reason, younger people tend to look up to

see DEATH ROW page A3



OSBORNE

## Announcements

### Summer Salsa Dances

The ECU Folk and Country Dancers are sponsoring a salsa dance Friday, June 17 at 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 from 8:30 - 11 p.m. with music provided by DJ-Ramon. The cost of admission for students is \$3, \$5 for FASG members and \$8 for the general public. This is a non-alcoholic/non-smoking event. For more information, please call 752-7350.

### Sunday in the Park

Celebrate Father's Day at Town Commons on First Street. The Greenville Summer Pops Orchestra will be performing a free concert from 7 - 8 p.m.

### 'Grease'

The theatre classic *Grease* will be performed June 21 - 25 at 8 p.m. in McGinnis Theatre. Tickets are \$30 for the general public, \$27.50 for senior citizens and current ECU faculty and staff and \$20 for youth or ECU students in advance, or \$30 at the door. For more information, visit [ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/mcginnis/SummerTheatre.cfm](http://ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/mcginnis/SummerTheatre.cfm) or call 328-6829 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS.

### Driving for a Cure

The Marley Fund will hold its third annual "Driving for a Cure" golf tournament June 23 at Ironwood. Registration and lunch, provided by Outback Steakhouse, will begin at 11 a.m., followed by the shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. Refreshments will be provided by Coastal Beverage Company and Minges Bottling Group. There will also be a \$20,000 putting contest and prizes including a Harley Davidson and Nissan Altima for hole in ones. Anyone can sign up for a four-person team with a \$400 donation. For more information, call Marley Fund at 215-0925.

Want your event printed in TEC? Send your announcement with date, time, location and any other important information to [news@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:news@theeastcarolinian.com).

## News Briefs

### Local

#### Judge rules in favor of Earnhardt's racing team

CHARLOTTE, NC - A judge ruled in favor of the late Dale Earnhardt's car owner Monday, saying an insurance company failed to share legal documents in the case over whether benefits should have been paid after the NASCAR star's death. Earnhardt died Feb. 18, 2001, in a last-lap crash in the Daytona 500.

Davidson County Superior Court Judge Kimberly S. Taylor issued the order against United of Omaha Life Insurance Co. following 12 days of proceedings. Taylor declined Richard Childress Racing's request to enter a default judgment of \$3.7 million, plus interest, and triple that amount as allowed under state law. Court clerk Brian Shipwash said Taylor informed the jury about her ruling Monday afternoon.

"The judge explained to the jury that the issues related to whether or not the defendant conducted a fair investigation of the matter and whether unfair trade practices had occurred had already been decided in favor of the plaintiff," he said. "The sole issue now is damages."

Jurors will return Tuesday to hear arguments about whether RCR is entitled to the monetary damages. Last week, attorneys for both sides

discovered the legal department of Mutual of Omaha, the parent company of plaintiff United of Omaha Life Insurance Co., failed to share 18 pages of relevant documents before trial.

The Lexington Dispatch reported on its Web site Monday that attorneys discovered the papers were missing June 7, when a special investigator for Mutual of Omaha testified he had reviewed the documents in question.

### National

#### All three aboard cargo plane survive crash near Fort Lauderdale

MIAMI - A World War II-era cargo plane sheared off treetops and narrowly missed homes and a major intersection as its crew guided it to a fiery landing on a Fort Lauderdale road. Miraculously, all three people aboard survived.

The DC-3 cargo flight en route to the Bahamas crashed shortly after takeoff Monday near Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

"We're very thankful" that no one was killed in the crash, pilot Charles Riggs said from his hospital bed.

The survivors were "sitting up and talking on their cell phones" hours after the crash, hospital spokeswoman Maria Soldani said. Two people on the ground also were hurt, one seriously. Co-pilot Charles Wirt told firefighters a

fuel line broke and one of the plane's two engines was in flames before the crash, said Stephen McInerny, assistant chief of operations for Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue.

Wirt and passenger Hector Espinoza were in fair condition late Monday. Espinoza told emergency room personnel that "he jumped from the cockpit and landed on the concrete." Televised images showed firefighters putting out the blaze, the burned-out cockpit and cabin wrecked near parked cars on a residential street. The plane's left wing did the most damage, uprooting trees and flinging broken trunks and branches into vehicles, homes and apartments; several roofs were hit. Jay Huber was in his backyard feeding his birds when he heard a "terrible engine noise."

The plane narrowly missed a major intersection, but Riggs said they did not see that as they aimed for the street. "It flew perfectly right until we impacted the tree and then the ground," he said.

### International

#### South African president dismisses his deputy and heir apparent

CAPE TOWN, South Africa - President Thabo Mbeki dismissed his deputy Tuesday after he was implicated in a corruption scandal, throwing wide open the question of who will become

the next leader of South Africa.

Deputy President Jacob Zuma, who retains widespread support, had been groomed to take over from Mbeki at the helm of Africa's economic and diplomatic powerhouse when he stands down in 2009.

Mbeki noted that Zuma has not been charged, but he said a high court judge's ruling that he had a "generally corrupt" relationship with his financial adviser required the president to act. "I have come to the conclusion that the circumstances dictate that in the interest of the honorable deputy president, the government, our young democratic system, and our country, it would be best to release the honorable Jacob Zuma from his responsibilities as deputy president of the republic and member of the Cabinet," Mbeki told a special joint session of Parliament. Zuma's longtime friend and adviser, Schabir Shaik, was sentenced June 8 to 15 years in prison for corruption and fraud. The high court in the eastern coastal city of Durban found that Shaik made payments to Zuma totaling \$178,000 in violation of anti-corruption legislation to fund a lavish lifestyle.

Judge Hillary Squires said Zuma was also aware of his friend's efforts to secure him a \$74,000 a year bribe from French arms trading company Thint Holdings - formerly Thomson CSF - to deflect corruption investigations related to a massive 1999 weapons deal.

## CMN holds fundraiser in Harris Teeter produce section

### Fundraiser benefits local children in need

LAUREN ELLIS  
STAFF WRITER

Harris Teeter, located on Charles Boulevard, held a fundraiser Wednesday morning to help raise money for the Children's Miracle Network, a charity that specializes

in helping sick children.

Partnered with CMN and Harris Teeter was Produce for Kids, an organization that allows donations to be made to CMN when customers purchase certain produce products.

"One hundred percent of the money stays local," said Cheryl Miller, senior vice president of Produce for Kids

CMN has been helping children for 20 years in the Greenville area and has earned \$8.7 million, while Produce for Kids has only been raising money for three years and has earned \$235,000 nationwide. All the money goes to children who are sick and need monetary help.

Davis Pugh, four-year-old cancer survivor and 2005 NC

ambassador for CMN, attended the event and was evidence that CMN and Produce for Kids really helps any child in need.

"A lot of people have this misconception that it's just for terminally ill patients," said Janna Pugh, mother of Davis. "But it's for any kid that walks through those

see CMN page A3

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**WZMB 91.3**

- WZMB is now accepting applications for all positions.
- WZMB will be at each orientation session this summer, so come out and meet the staff of ECU's college radio station!
- On June 18th WZMB will host "Showing Off For A Good Cause" in the Allied Health parking lot. This event is a car show that will help raise awareness of many health issues. The event will last from 11 AM 1 PM.

**CMN** from page A2

hospital doors. They could have asthma or obesity problems, it doesn't matter. If they're sick, they benefit from this."

Pugh said every child that steps into Pitt Memorial Hospital will be helped.

"My attitude is somewhere down the road you're going to know someone who needs help. It could be a child, a grandchild or just a friend. It's just so great to have community support like this," Pugh said.

CMN holds fundraisers all year long, and June has been especially busy.

"We just had our 20th broadcast fundraiser, and we reached our goal of \$1.5 million dollars," said Rhonda James, CMN coordinator.

Harris Teeter is also thrilled to be a part of this miracle.

"Harris Teeter has always been big with supporting the community," said David Gordon, store director. "We always try to make an effort to help, and it's a great charity."

James said the money from

these fundraisers goes directly to the children and has helped locally many times.

"This money really does help," James said. "Derrek Gaskins, who was accidentally shot when he was 11 at close range by his older brother, then 14. His brother stayed calm and put pressure on the wound... Scott Sagraves, the trauma surgeon, saved him. This is where the money is used; this is why CMN is important."

Davis simply had one thing to say about donating to CMN. Simply put with a smile and a shrug, "It helps me."

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



**Donations**

If you're interested in making donations to CMN, you can call 1-800-673-5437 or visit them online at [pittmemorialfoundation.org](http://pittmemorialfoundation.org).

**Death Row** from page A1

and idolize inmates, especially those on death row," he said. "We want to warn them and to get through to them that the choices we made are not the right ones."

However, Skillicorn also said that the message of *Compassion* is not only one of warning, but one of hope.

"We want to demonstrate to people that even those of us who are in the worst possible circumstances can make a difference," said Skillicorn.

"We want to make every last day count."

This writer can be reached at



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<b>\$1.50</b> MILLER LT-BUD LT	<b>\$2.50</b> IMPORTS	<b>\$2.50</b> HI BALL	<b>\$2.00</b> TUACA	<b>\$3.50</b>	<b>\$3.50</b> MOJITOS
<b>DOMESTICS</b>	<b>\$3.00</b> BAHAMA MAMA	<b>\$2.50</b> IMPORT OF THE DAY	<b>\$2.00</b> IMPORT OF THE DAY	<b>\$2.50</b>	<b>\$3.00</b> HOUSE MARGS
				<b>DUELING SHOW</b> RESERVATIONS SUGGESTED LIT CARIBE PUNCH IMPORT OF THE DAY	<b>\$2.00</b> HOUSE TEQUILA

## Pirate Rants

When did the Pirate Rants become a place for people to shamelessly flirt with each other? If you want a date with a bus driver or the guy who drives the blue station wagon then ask them out! I miss the days when the Pirate Rants were full of witty, observational humor! Come back to me real Pirate Rants!

Isn't the summer supposed to be relaxing and the time to get a tan while lounging by the pool? If it is, then why am I working two jobs, taking summer classes, and spend all my extra time on homework and have yet to see the sun except through the windows in my office?

It's good to see that Peter Kaljian has moved on in terms of his stories to true injustices in the world beyond the injustice of social change and free-thinking that Tony is forever whining about. It would be nice if Tony would realize what's really wrong in the world, and it's got nothing to do with partisanship, democrats or republicans.

Hey, let's all blame the teachers for us not doing well on tests, because we all know they make the tests way to hard anyway.

Who thinks that the jury was wrong in the verdict of the Michael Jackson trial?

Tony McKee, how many readers do you expect to gain when you start your article with

a crude, insulting, self-righteous phrase like "It has been confirmed beyond all doubt: The Liberal/Democrat powers-that-be are racist, divisive, sexist, intolerant, politically incorrect, lying, immoral, immature nut cases"? Perhaps you should take a few classes on writing a strong argument before you write another article.

Well, it is obvious that all of the intelligent, creative ranters have gone elsewhere for the summer. Nobody cares if you think the bus driver is hot or if you blame your miserable classroom performance on the professor. And canceling class when it rains? Get over your lazy self, loser.

We can't get Pepsi either, the machines are empty in Austin!! Please help us out Coca-cola!!!!

How much more do we have to read opinions of Mr. McKee? Don't you have any other people with opinions or does Mr. McKee represent TEC's only opinion? Let's get some new opinions, please!

Who out of us knows that one person who thinks they know everything but is wrong to those of us who DO know everything? You know them too?

Scientology? Ever heard of it? It is a religion that Katie Holmes is now embracing instead of being Catholic as she used to. The power Tom Cruise has over her is remarkable.

## In My Opinion

### Lawsuits plaguing, straining economy

What are the secrets behind these lawsuits?

TONY MCKEE  
CONSERVATIVE CORNER

I received two unsolicited pieces of mail last week that really annoyed me. Chances are that some of you may have received one or both of them also. No, I am not talking about that bane of human existence known as junk mail, although these will end up in the same place. I am referring to information letters about current or pending class action lawsuits that I may (note that word, may) be eligible to join. These are not the first letters of this type that I have received, nor, unfortunately, will they be the last.

Over the last five or six years, I have received more than 10 of these letters. Each one has been essentially the same - time and money wasting attempts by lawyers of questionable ethics to gouge as much as they can from some business based on ridiculous claims of "injury" or some other such crap. There are words for these kinds of actions. Two that are printable are "frivolous" and "lawsuit." And these lawsuits have become a plague on the economy, as well as another stain upon the legal profession. The two solicitations I got are prime examples of this.

One of the letters concerned HP. It appears that somebody did not like the fact that the preloaded version of Windows XP on HP's computers did not include a couple of options that are available on the software that you can buy off the shelf. The fact that HP had done customer surveys, focus groups and other research that determined that the majority of customers didn't use/want those features

doesn't make one bit of difference. Someone saw an opportunity to dip into HP's "deep pockets" and went for it. The other letter I received detailed an even more ridiculous circumstance.

One of the major music services had a class action suit filed against it because it committed the unpardonable sin of not fully outlining in its membership contract that "shipping and handling" included things like labor, materials, packaging, etc. Shame on them! Scandalous! They must be punished! Punished they were, with fairness ruling the day. Kinda.

The case was settled out of court. The settlement stated that all the "wronged" parties (that would be customers like me and the other 99.6% who know that "shipping and handling" is a catchall phrase) will receive either one or two CD's at a 75% discount with free shipping. Oh yeah, they also have to pay lawyers' fees.

And here is the biggest dirty little secret behind these law suits: lawyers getting money. And get their money they do. Lawyers are invariably one of the first people to receive money (and they do receive money), even before the people they sue on behalf of. As a matter of fact, plaintiffs in these class action type lawsuits almost never get money. They end up with coupons for free cereal, free movie rentals, discounts on CD's, etc. Whatever they receive never comes close to what the attorneys rake in.

The attorney's fees for the music case were not specified (care to guess why?). There was just a rather ambiguous statement that the defendant will pay such fees, not to exceed one million dollars. Think about that.

For all you who think that

screwing, er-r-r, suing corporations for the littlest thing is justifiable, ask yourself one question - who ultimately pays the price for these lawsuits? Well? It sure isn't the company. Ultimately, the cost of defending against and/or settling these lawsuits is deferred and comes out of your pockets and mine.

This does not apply just to class action suits. The out of control personal injury lawyers end up causing the same backlash.

Ponder that the next time you wonder why that CD costs so much. Think about it when you notice that the price of cereal, movie rentals, soda, clothes, personal care items or anything else. But really put on your thinking caps and try to compute how much the price went up because of a lawsuit when you see asinine warning labels on products. You know what I mean ... the hair dryer with "Do not use in shower," the electric router with "This product not intended for use as a dental drill," the digital thermometer with "Do not use orally after using anally," and one of my favorites, the sleeping pill box with "May cause drowsiness." You know that most of these, and other, warnings resulted as the result of a lawsuit, threat of a lawsuit, settlement or some knucklehead calling and complaining. And each one costs us money.

So while the lawyers think up new, idiotic and frivolous reasons to sue companies (and rake in the big bucks) under the guise of "protecting" the consumer, and you wander the store aisles laughing at stupid warning labels, remember that you, the consumer, are the one getting the short end of the stick planted in anatomically sensitive areas.

Can you feel it?

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# Got something to say?

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or submit them online at theeastcarolinian.com

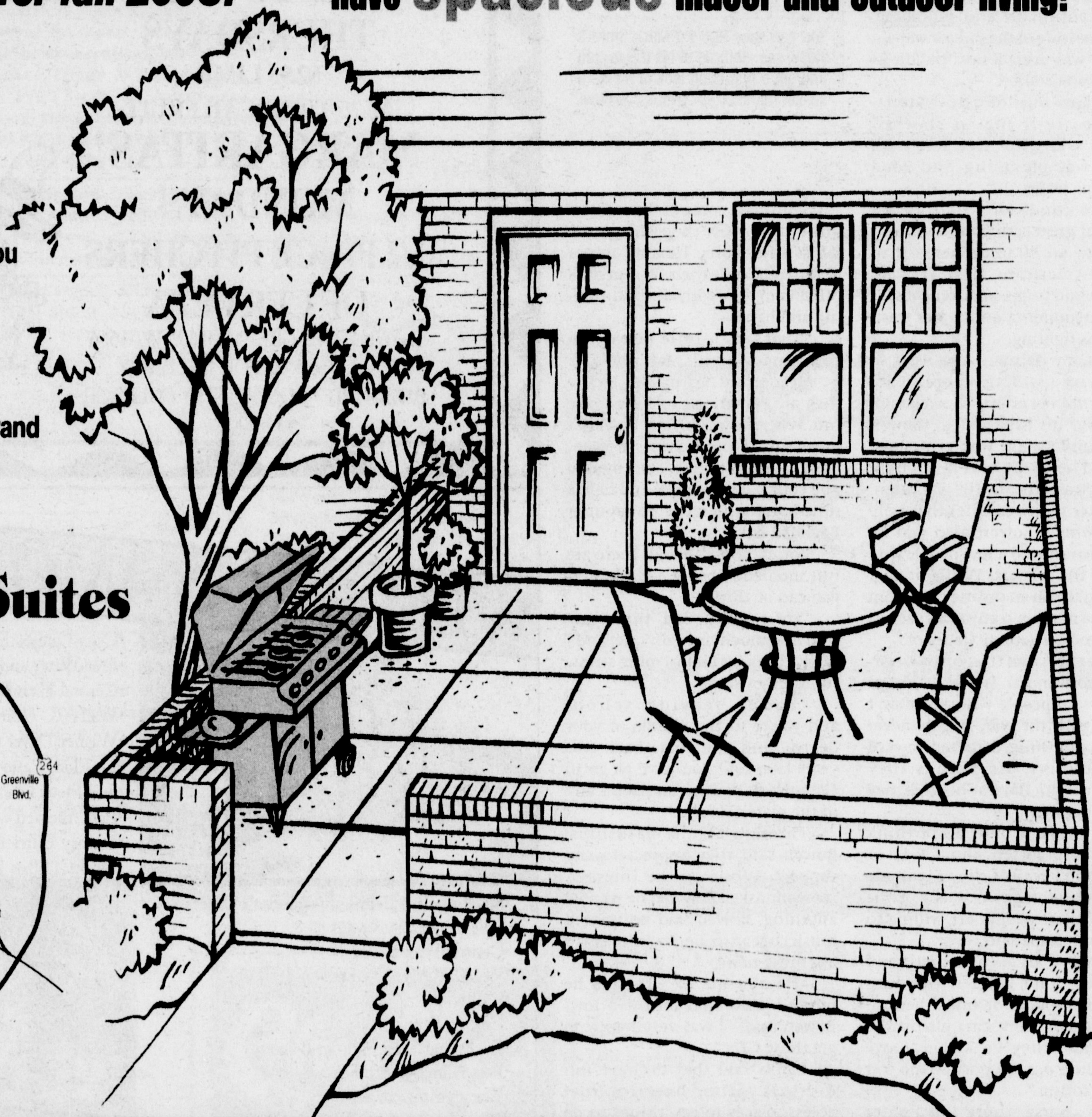
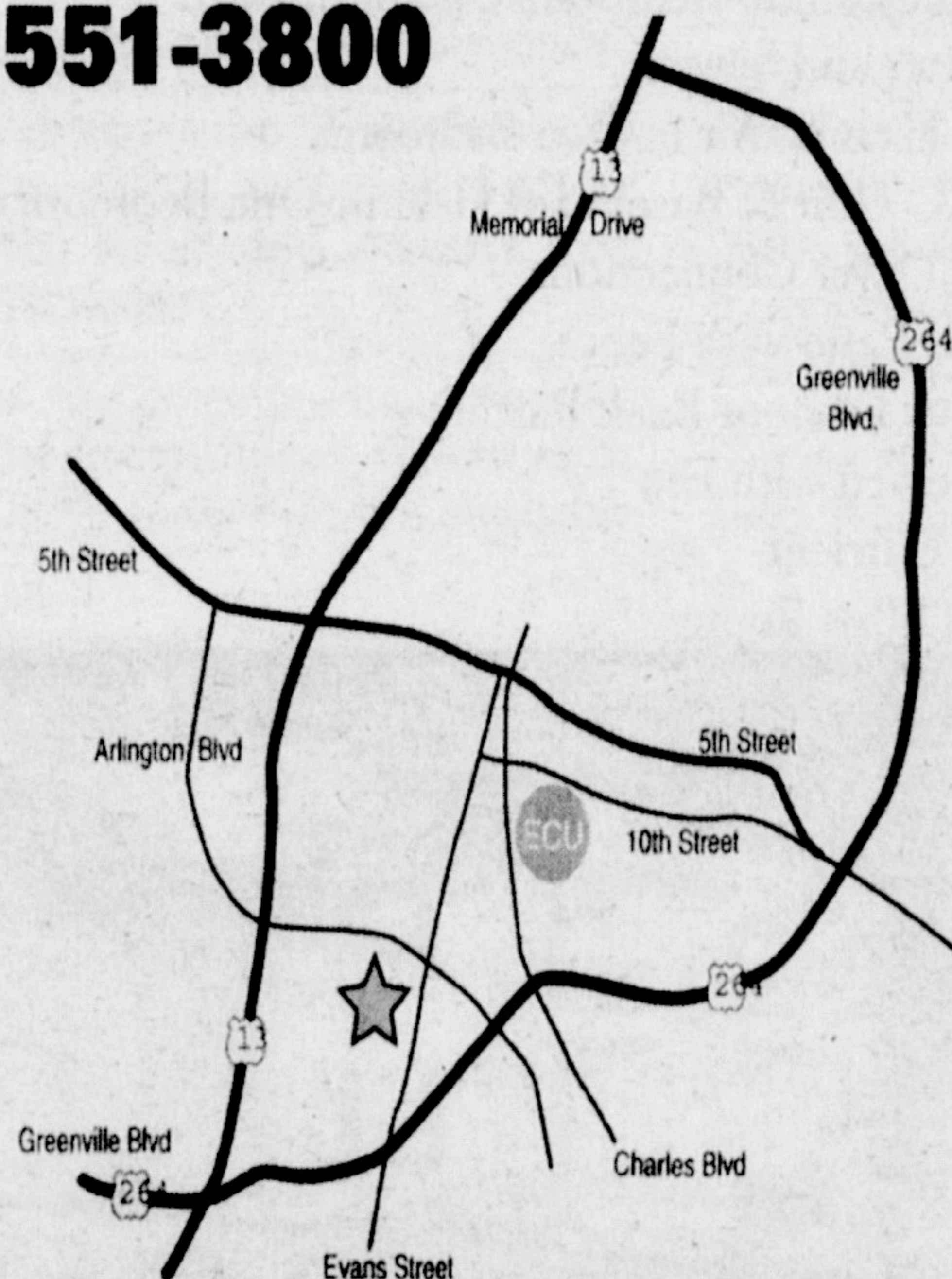
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**Iraq** from page A1

up the scraps left over from MREs. The soldiers soon started leaving food for them.

Heape also told of one of Saddam's palaces they raided. Inside was beautiful art and plumbing, while outside of the palace walls, a family was using a rain puddle as their water source.

"Right outside the walls ... people are living in shacks," Heape said. "Not five feet from them was plumbing and good drinking water."

The conditions in Iraq are still not great according to Heape, but they are 10 times better than when Americans first arrived. Bowen said troops are doing just as much rebuilding and water treatment as fighting.

"In my opinion, this isn't so much of a war anymore. It's a humanitarian effort," Bowen said.

After his experiences, Bowen can't understand war protestors. He said he didn't hear much from the protestors before the war began, but after some tragedies they were everywhere. Bowen also said he has encountered a few people who blame the soldiers. While in Iraq, he would visit an online chat room and see random comments such as "way to be a good little robot."

Heape said the only negative comments he ever heard were from people who just didn't agree with the war, but he never heard anything directed toward the soldiers. He thinks they disagree with the war because they have forgotten.

"I think people don't think they've forgotten about 9-11 or they don't realize the magnitude of what terrorism is about or the extent these people are willing to die for," Heape said.

"We've all seen it first hand ... they don't care. If they can take one soldier or one American with them, they can justify the 15 Iraqis they've killed ... we can't lose our support of the war on terrorism."

Of course, there is a lighter side to being overseas. Banks said that while in Iraq, he and his friends would take free time to play pool and drink a beer - sort of.

"We can't have alcohol, so we had this near beer. It's the nastiest stuff in the world, but we'd order a round of beer and play pool."

### Video of Iraq

You can view Sgt. 1st Class Smith's video, see pictures of his trip to Iraq and get a first hand look at life as a soldier Thursday at 1 p.m. in 339 Rawl.

Smith said some of the soldiers made a tiny coffee shop with plastic tables and chairs. He and one of his friends built their own private office complete with air conditioning and lights.

"That was a little peace you could go to," Smith said.

Heape said no matter where they are, American soldiers make fun. When he was in Iraq, he didn't have any of the luxuries Bowen, Banks and Smith had. They made a golf course in the desert and held a nine-hole tournament the day after Baghdad fell.

Bowen said although there are fun moments, being a student at war can be difficult.

"For a college kid, this situation is so much more unique, and I really think it's almost more stressful," Bowen said.

"You're leaving school and you're in the middle of your degree, and you come back two years later and you have to go to class when you haven't seen any of the material."

Through all the hardships, Bowen said they appreciate any support. While on the Internet, someone asked Bowen if he wanted anything. Bowen said he wanted music because he hadn't heard anything new.

"He sent me six CDs that he burned, and that meant a lot," Bowen said. "I was very happy to get those CDs."

Banks said they do have fun overseas - they have Internet access, places to eat, things to do and air conditioning - but it's back to work for student soldiers once they leave the perimeter.

"They're normal kids, men and women, but they know when to get serious," Banks said.

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

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PAGE A7  
**WEDNESDAY JUNE 15, 2005**

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## 'Mr. & Mrs. Smith' Packs Explosive Action

Pitt and Jolie show dynamite chemistry

TREVOR KIRKENDALL  
STAFF WRITER

With *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*, we finally have a chance to see what kind of on-screen chemistry Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have. They've been in the rumor mills for quite some time, and this is the first chance we have to see the two together.

*Mr. & Mrs. Smith* is a high energy action film that packs enough punch to thrill everyone in the audience. Pitt and Jolie play John and Jane Smith, a couple suffering from some difficulties in their marriage. They seem to be bored and think of their existence together as dull. Having seen the previews, everyone knows what's coming later in the film, but director Doug Liman doesn't jump right into that. Instead, he develops his characters into a couple that is quite possibly a mirror image of many married American couples.

We then discover that both John and Jane work for different agencies that send their agents around the world to kill people who

are threats. As luck would have it, both John and Jane are assigned to the same target, where they discover that they both are assassins.

Liman pretty much puts an end to plot's continuance right here. There are several different ways this film could have been resolved, but all of these possibilities would have been unbearably cheesy. Up until this point, we have grown fond of both Pitt and Jolie's characters, so there is no true antagonist. Instead, the Smiths must resolve their differences alone. The female assassins who work with Jolie try to help, but she doesn't want their assistance. As for Pitt, his friend Eddie (Vince Vaughn) wants to see Jolie dead for his own sake, but he isn't willing to do anything about it.

Written by Simon Kinberg, the screenplay surprisingly leaves few flaws and questions to be unanswered - that is until the last half hour or so. But with that

aside, it seems as if Kinberg wrote this screenplay with the intent on having a real life Hollywood couple play the Smiths. The casting of Pitt and Jolie in these roles was the right choice.

Sure, the screenplay does have its fair share of holes that seem to happen all at once in the last half hour, but that doesn't really matter here. The point that Pitt and Jolie have some of the best on-screen chemistry that has been seen all year makes the film work the way it was intended. At the time this was filmed, both Pitt and Jolie were going through difficult times in their own personal lives, which makes this more believable. The best moments of the film come when Pitt and Jolie are not blowing stuff up, but working out their marriage issues, either verbally or with the use of guns.

Director Liman has now grown out of his earlier comedy films such as *Swingers* and *Go* and into the



Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie and Arnon Milchan at the movie's premier.

realm of great action directors. His previous action flick was *The Bourne Identity*, in which he showed his talents at directing such scenes as car chases. There is a car chase sequence in *Mr. & Mrs. Smith* that is both thrilling and comical, involving a minivan and a series of BMW sports cars. Liman knows what makes action films good, which is why this one works too.

The entertainment level of

*Mr. & Mrs. Smith* is what really drives this film home. Its humor and big budget action sequences make this one of the best films of the summer thus far. It's one of those summer movies that is so enjoyable that you will be glad you forked out full price for admission.

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



## Father's Day: June 19, time is running out

From the beginning

MEREDITH STEWART  
STAFF WRITER

Sonora Smart Dodd from Spokane, Washington was one of six children. Her mother passed away, and her father was left to raise six children alone. His patience, hard work and tolerance inspired Sonora. She decided since all the mothers got recognized on Mother's Day, that fathers should also get a day of recognition. She began working through a Protestant church in her town to promote this holiday in progress. She decided every third Sunday in June would be the day to show gratitude and appreciation to all the hardworking fathers. Instead of wearing a carnation like on

Mother's Day, she thought that a single rose would be appropriate.

Sonora formed many petitions and committees to promote this holiday. Although she put forth much effort, Father's Day did not catch on as quickly as she had hoped. The Associated Men's Wear Retailers of New York began promoting this holiday because they knew the commercial potential. With much advertising and help, President Lyndon Johnson signed a proclamation in 1966 stating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.

A tie and a red rose are two of the most traditional gifts on Father's Day. Tobacco products and shirts follow close behind. In the early 1920s, giving ties as a symbolic gesture of love was only criticized. Today, many dads receive gag gifts such as sexy underwear or practical items such as brownies, plants, socks or pipes. The rose is almost a must on Father's Day, like

on Valentine's Day for girls. A red rose is to be worn if your father is still living and a white rose to remember your father if he has passed.

"I plan on going home to surprise my dad on Father's Day", said Dustin Wilkie, graduate student.

A recent survey showed that clothing was on the top of the Father's Day list with home improvement and gardening items in close second. If your dad loves the outdoors, a tree or shrub would be appropriate. Organizers of all sorts are always a great idea. They will help your dad in the garage, attic or shed. If your dad loves to grill out, consider grilling utensils, gadgets or smokers. Pick your dad's favorite hobby and order a magazine subscription. He's sure to love reading about the things he loves to do.

"Since my dad lives in New Hampshire and I can't go to see him, I ordered him a year sub-



### Top 10 Gift Ideas

10. Automatic card manager
9. Swiss Army knife
8. Fishing equipment
7. Golf equipment
6. Dress wallet
5. Wine
4. Grooming set
3. Facial care items
2. Sport/ concert tickets
1. Watch

For more information on any of these items, visit askmen.com.

scription of *Sports Illustrated*," said Dennis Duff, a communication major.

If you want those pricey gifts, consider golf items, an IPOD, a new watch or a new digital camera. Because many college students do

see FATHER page A11

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# GREASE

ECU/Loessin Summer Theatre Series

TREVOR KIRKENDALL  
 STAFF WRITER

The first performance in the ECU/Loessin Summer Theatre series is *Grease*, the famous 1950s rock 'n' roll musical about the T-Birds and the Pink Ladies at Rydell High.

We're all familiar with the story of greaser Danny Zuko and Sandy, the new naive girl in town. This musical found mainstream success in 1978 with the film adaptation starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John.

The musical itself is co-written by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey. The show debuted off-Broadway in 1972 at the Eden Theatre with Barry Bostwick and Carole Demas starring in the lead roles. It was instantly popular with the public, but not so much with the critics. It was later nominated for nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Between four different theatres, *Grease* ran for a total of 3,388 shows, including shows at the Royale Theatre on Broadway, where it ran from November 1972 through January 1980, a record for the time.

Starring in ECU's production of *Grease* as Danny Zuko is Chris Van Hoy, a Fayetteville native who now lives in New York and tours the country performing in plays and musicals. He has appeared in several national tours, which include *The Full Monty*, *A Wonderful Life* and *Crazy For You!* His credits also include *Ginger* with Donna McKechnie, *Cabaret* and *South Pacific*.

Also starring is Angela Sephton



Contributed photo

Even the 'Grease' posters are fun.

as Danny's love interest Sandy Dumbrowski. Kristin Wetherington, Jake Stewart, Rob Bradford, Aaron Pratt, Kristin Sears, Kristy Young and Clay Boney round off the cast. John Shearin directs the show with choreography by David Wanstreet. This 1950s based rock n' roll musical will feature the classic gum chewing, hubcap stealing, hot rod loving boys and their wise cracking girls, just as in the past. The gang sings and dances their way through the classic scenes we all know and love like the pajama party, the prom, the burger palace and the drive-in movie.

"A lively and funny musical - as well as the dancing one in town ... It's a winner ... The songs ... are dan-



Contributed photo

Chris Van Hoy will play the role of Danny, the hunky T-Bird we love.



Contributed photo

Angela Sephton will play the role of Sandy, the new girl in town.

dies [that portray] the early rockers ... with zip and charm ... The sheer energy of *Grease* carries all before it." says *NY Daily News*.

*Grease* opens Tuesday, June 21, and runs through Saturday, June 25, showing nightly at McGinnis Theatre at 8 p.m. with a 2 p.m. showing on Saturday. Tickets are \$20-30 in advanced and can be purchased at the McGinnis Theatre box office on campus or by visiting the Web site at [ecuart.com](http://ecuart.com). Tickets can be purchased at the door the night of the show for \$30. For more information, call 1-800-ECU-ARTS.

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

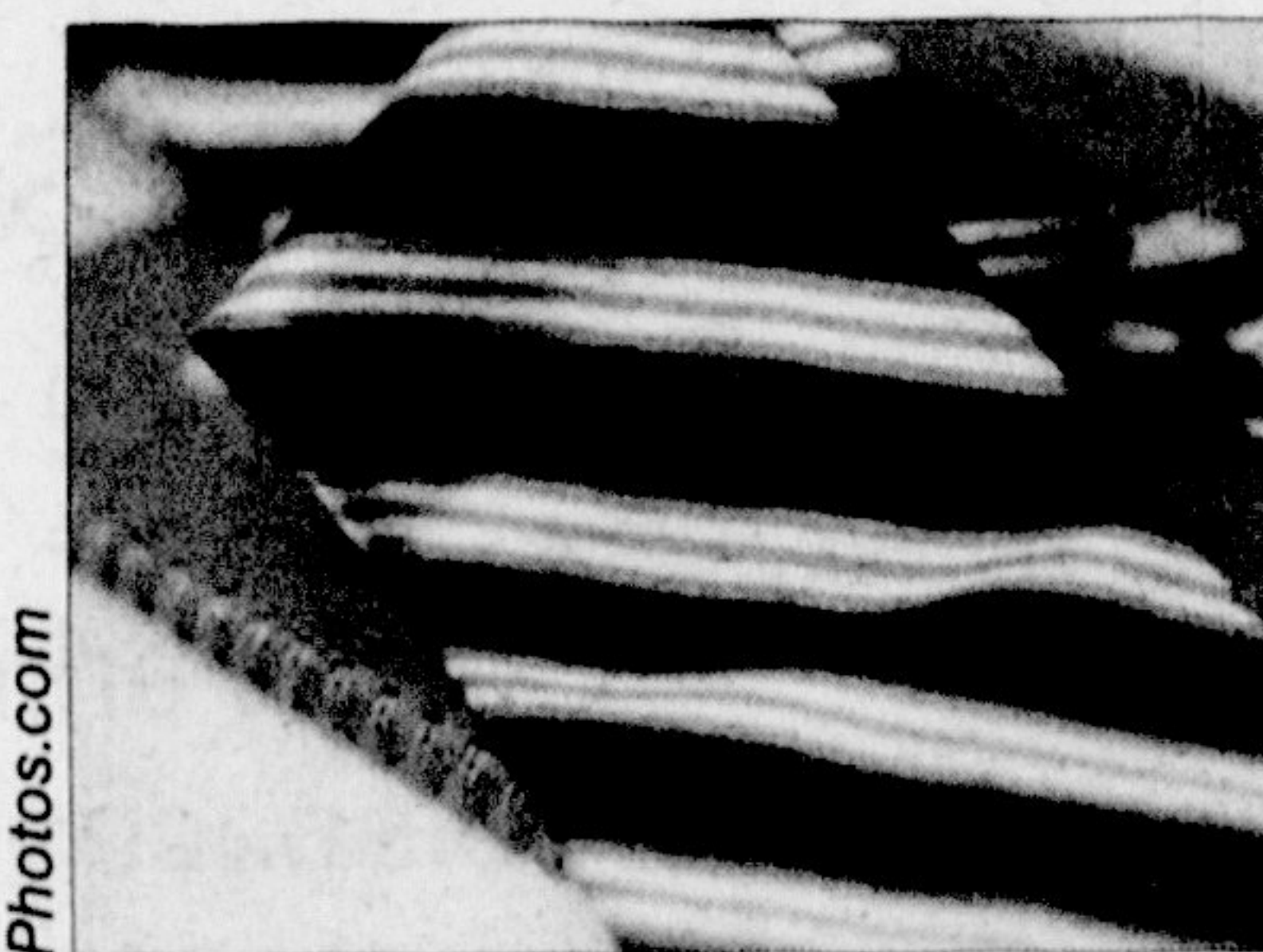
## Father from page A10

not have a lot of cash hanging around for expensive gifts, sticking with a heartfelt gift is always a good solution. Dads love the time put into a gift rather than the actual dollar amount.

Many people have lost their father or their father has been deployed. If that is the case, be sure to remember him by wearing a white rose. It's important to

remember all the things you have learned and gained from him. Some people even honor a man in their life who has been a father-like figure. Whatever your situation, it's very important to let these men in our lives know how much they truly mean.

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



Photos.com

A tie is a classic Father's Day gift.

# Summer heats up with student art

Gray Gallery showcases Textile Talents

RACHEL LANDEN  
SENIOR WRITER

Summer is in full swing, and so too is the latest exhibit at ECU's Gray Gallery. This month, the School of Art and Design is presenting "Showcase: Textile Talents 2005," an exhibition of undergraduate student work from 17 institutions in the southeast.

The show began as an idea at last fall's meeting of the Southeast Fiber Educators Association. In an effort to promote opportunities for fiber artists and educators, as well as examine trends in fiber arts, the group decided to hold an exhibition. More than 50 pieces are on display as part of this show, representing each member institution and a variety of fiber art forms.

"As you can see from the show, the term fiber arts really covers a lot of ground," said art professor and textile coordinator Christine Zoller.

"[It] includes wall pieces, quilts, sculpture, installation, weaving, fabric design, fashion and book arts," said Zoller.

Each member school—including ECU, North Carolina State University, Florida International University and Virginia Commonwealth, among others—selected and submitted three or four pieces of student work. ECU entered work by students Kelly Kye, Kara Maloney, Patricia Mayberry and Jodi Stevens.

These submissions represent an assortment of techniques and incorporate an array of materials, from the deep blue silk Maloney draped on a dressmaker's frame to the mixed media that Mayberry

used to create a hat and earrings.

These four students and their works are also symbolic of a growing and diverse textile program at ECU. There are currently about 18 to 20 undergraduate students and four graduate students majoring in textiles. As is evidenced by the broad range of exhibited art, ECU textile students have interests in all things fiber arts—gallery work, industry, production, fashion and costume.

In fact, the textile classes are popular among all art students, even those who are not specifically focusing on this discipline.

"The classes are usually always full with art students from all areas taking them," Zoller said.

And now, art students have another perspective offered in ECU's textile program. Jan-Ru Wan, hired just last year, brings her expertise in fashion and weaving, as well as fiber installation and sculpture, to the school. Zoller believes Wan, originally from Taiwan, will be a great asset in promoting the program on a regional and national basis, as well as increasing the number of international students studying textiles at ECU.

The current exhibit at Gray Gallery is certainly a good start to exposing the local community and university campus to these art forms, as well as sharing work from each school with educator and student peers.

To view the exhibit until it closes on June 30, visit the Gray Gallery on the second floor of the Jenkins Fine Arts Center. The building is located on the ECU campus off Fifth Street and is open free to the public Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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



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## Movies This Week:

### @Hendrix Theatre

HITCH

Thursday June 16th @ 7pm

Monday June 20th @ 7pm

COACH CARTER

Tuesday June 21st @ 7pm



### @Aqua Theatre

Co-Sponsored by The Student Rec Center

HITCH

Wednesday June 15th @ 9:30pm

Rain Sight:  
Hendrix

## Coming Soon:

Opening Day

AMERICAN BEAUTY

Tuesday June 28th @ 7pm

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Tuesday July 5th @ 7pm

## Events @ ECU

All Students Welcome  
Free admission with valid ECU ID  
One guest per ID

### Vic Henley Live

Wednesday June 15th @ 8pm  
in Hendrix Theatre

Vic Henley's high energy and quick wit combined with his own style of well-crafted southern humor make his stand-up act a hysterical must-see.

This comedy veteran has recently performed on the Late Show and his stand-up special was featured on Comedy Central.



Co-Sponsored by The Student Union, The Office of Student Experiences and The Office of Orientation

Questions? Call: 328-4715, Visit [www.ecu.edu/student\\_union](http://www.ecu.edu/student_union)  
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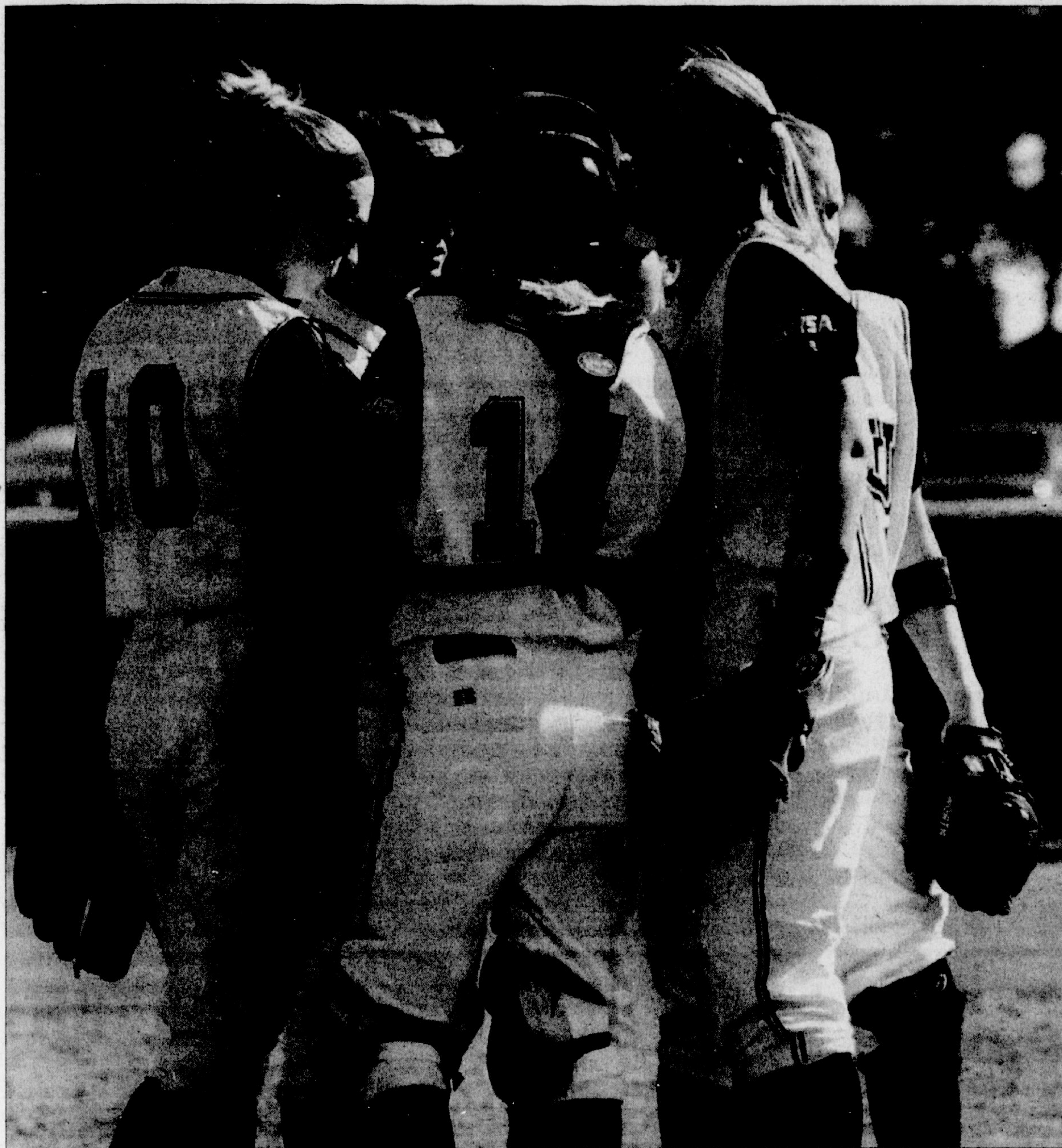


The Lady

Zer



After his first  
deemed E



The Lady Pirates had one of the most successful seasons in ECU softball history this spring.

## Softball Has Four Players Named All-State By NCCSIA

SID — Four members of the East Carolina softball team have been named to the 2005 North Carolina All-State University Division Team as voted upon by the North Carolina Collegiate Sports Information Association.

The Pirates placed the most players of any school on the team after posting a 55-19 record this past season. Senior Kate Manuse, a first team All-Conference USA selection and member of the All-Southeast Region second team, led the Pirates with a .395 average, 14 home runs, 40 RBI and 21 doubles. Keli Harrell, a sophomore pitcher, paced ECU with a 29-11 mark and led C-USA in seven categories including wins, saves and strikeouts. Krista Jessup, a second team all-conference performer, posted career-highs in batting average, runs, hits, on-base percentage and stolen bases. Utility Player Mandi Nichols, an All-Southeast Region first-team member and second team C-USA selection, finished her career ranked among the school's all-time leaders in home runs.

NC State and Elon each placed two players on the team, while

Team Roster		
Pos.	Name	School
P	Keli Harrell	ECU
P	Abbie Sims	NCSU
C	Krista Jessup	ECU
IF	Jennifer Bonilla	UNC-G
IF	Jen Chamberlin	NCSU
IF	Kate Manuse	ECU
IF	Krista Searle	UNC-W
OF	Megan Borgaard	Elon
OF	Dani Concepcion	Elon
OF	Rachael Riopel	G-Webb
UT	Mandi Nichols	ECU

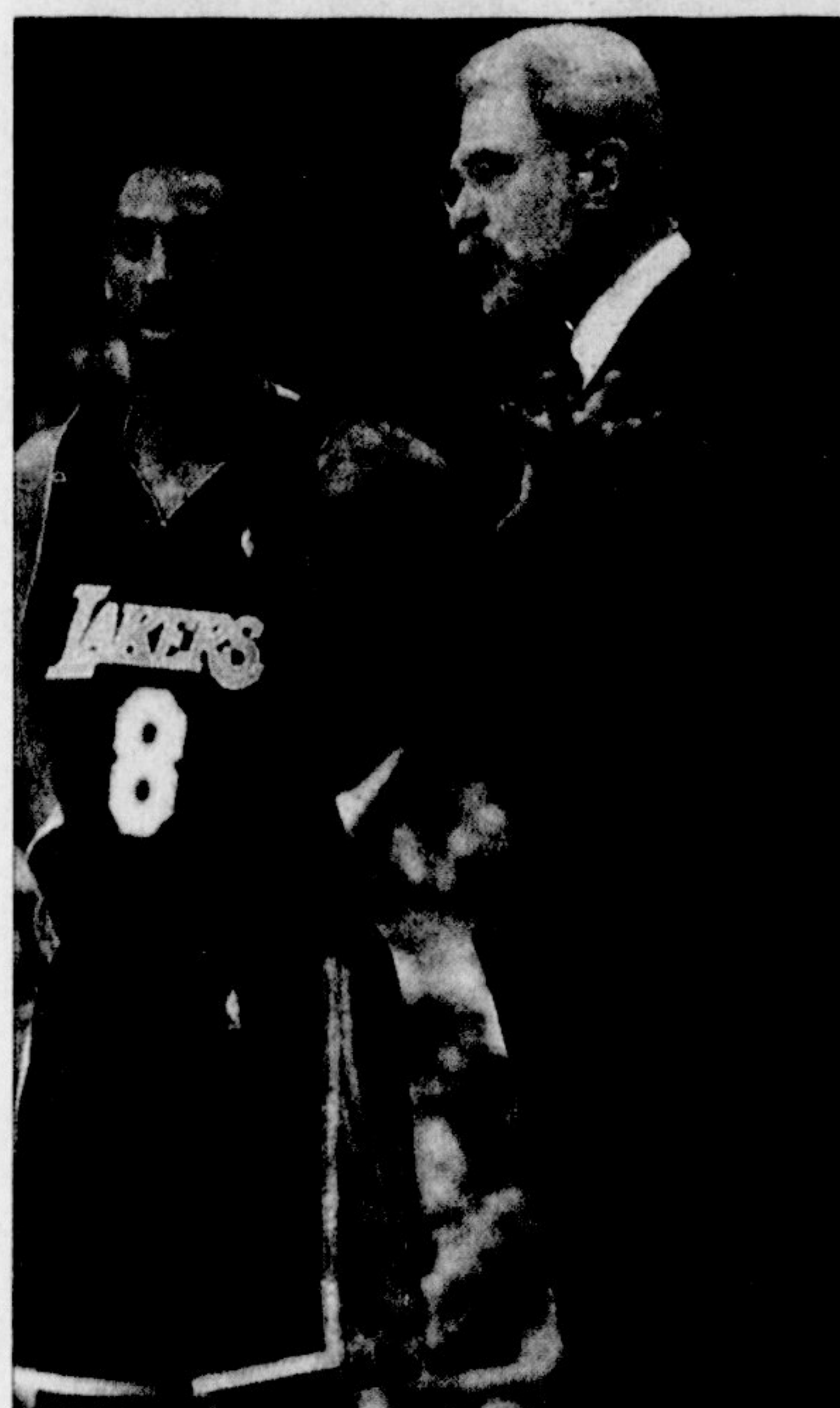
Gardner-Webb, UNC Greensboro and UNC Wilmington each placed one member on the squad.

The team consists of players from NCAA Division I universities and colleges throughout the state. North Carolina sports information professionals submitted nominees. NCCSIA members voted for the all-state teams.

Founded in 2002, The North Carolina Collegiate Sports Informa-

see **SOFTBALL** page A14

## Zen Master back in business with the Lakers



After his first stint with LA, Jackson deemed Bryant "uncoachable."

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Phil and Kobe, together again.

Phil Jackson was back with the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday following a breakup that took a year to mend, and back to coaching Kobe Bryant — a player he once called "uncoachable."

"This is something I never thought could possibly happen," Jackson said Tuesday at a Staples Center news conference. "It's a pleasure to come back."

Jackson, who won three championships with the Lakers in five years, was let go last June 18 by owner Jerry Buss.

The buzz about Jackson's possible return began almost immediately after his replacement, Rudy Tomjanovich, left in February — despite Jackson's book detailing the 2003-04 season in which he made disparaging remarks about

the franchise, including saying his superstar guard was "uncoachable."

"I think it's a matter of trust, a matter of rebuilding the trust that we had," Jackson said of his relationship with Bryant. "And yes, I have talked to Kobe; he actually called me this morning to congratulate me on the job. And I felt confident that he's confident that we can go forward."

Bryant's reaction to a possible return by Jackson seemed lukewarm at best during the past several months. But Bryant released a more positive statement through his agent Tuesday.

"When the Lakers began the search for a new head coach, I put my complete trust in Dr. Buss and (general manager) Mitch Kupchak to select the person they thought was best for the Lakers' organiza-

tion," Bryant said. "In Phil Jackson, they chose a proven winner. That is something I support."

Jackson's latest deal is for three years. Terms were not announced, but it's believed he'll be earning between \$7 million and \$10 million per year, which would make him the highest-paid NBA coach ever.

Jackson said he's been approached over the last three weeks by fans and non-fans asking him when he was coming back.

"One of the reasons why I've returned is the support has been so tremendous in this city," he said. "It is a town that truly supports its team and has a tremendous amount of affection for it."

Jeanie Buss, the owner's daughter and the Lakers' executive vice president of business operations, publicly lobbied for months for the return of Jackson, her longtime

boyfriend.

Jerry Buss said in early May he believed Jackson and Bryant could coexist.

"Oh, definitely. No question," Buss said. "These people want to win."

Jackson, who turns 60 in September, has had health issues in the past and underwent an angioplasty two years ago. He told ABC-TV before the opening game of the NBA Finals that he had a series of tests showing he was "100 percent healthy."

Jackson's dismissal a year ago set in motion a makeover of massive proportions that proved disastrous for the Lakers. Dominant big man Shaquille O'Neal demanded a trade and superstar Bryant opted out of his contract to become a free agent

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**Jackson** from page A13

the same day Jackson's five-year run as coach ended.

The following month, O'Neal was traded to Miami while Bryant stayed with the Lakers.

Tomjanovich succeeded Jackson, signing a five-year, \$30 million contract, but lasted barely half a season, citing health reasons when he suddenly resigned Feb. 2.

With injuries playing a major role, the Lakers lost 19 of their last 21 games under interim coach Frank Hamblen to finish 34-48 and out of the playoffs for just the second time since 1976.

Jackson has coached nine NBA championship teams – six with the Chicago Bulls and in his first three years with the Lakers – from 2000-2002. That ties him with former Boston Celtics coach Red Auerbach for the most in league history.

Jackson also has a record 175 postseason victories and is tied for 10th on the NBA's all-time list with 830 wins in just 14 seasons – nine with the Bulls and five with the Lakers. He has a .723 regular-season winning percentage and a .717 postseason winning percentage.

The Lakers were 285-125 in the regular season and 68-28 in the postseason under Jackson. But this figures to be his biggest challenge since the current team doesn't appear to have what it takes to return to elite status any time soon.

The Lakers are well over the salary cap, restricting their ability to bring in high-priced free-agent talent for at least two years. Their defense was abysmal last season, they had an unbalanced roster with too many small forwards, they had

virtually no inside presence on either end of the court and they were suspect at point guard.

"I'm not the panacea for this basketball club," Jackson said. "It's going to take plenty of hard work and dedication over the course of the summer to change the face of this team."

Jackson spoke to several other teams, including the New York Knicks, but made it clear he would make a decision on the Lakers' job before giving serious consideration to anyone else.

Jackson's decision to rejoin the Lakers should speed up the process of filling other job openings around the league. There are coaching vacancies in Minnesota and Portland, and Seattle coach Nate McMillan's contract expires at the end of this month.

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**NBA may fall victim to labor issues**

Lockout could tarnish rep of struggling league

**MATTHEW SAUNDERS**  
STAFF WRITER

After the dreadful lockout shortened the 1998-1999 season, it looked as if the NBA would do all it could to prevent such an occur-

rence in the future. Unfortunately, history could repeat itself in less than a month. With the NBA Finals now in high gear, and after seeing the bright young stars like LeBron James, Dwayne Wade and Amare Stoudemire coming into their own, the league should be looking at a bright future. This, however, means the league's higher-ups will

do anything to tarnish a league that has just seen its most exciting season since the Michael Jordan glory years.

With Commissioner David Stern and Union Director Billy Hunter leading their respective sides on a new Collective Bargain-

see NBA page A16

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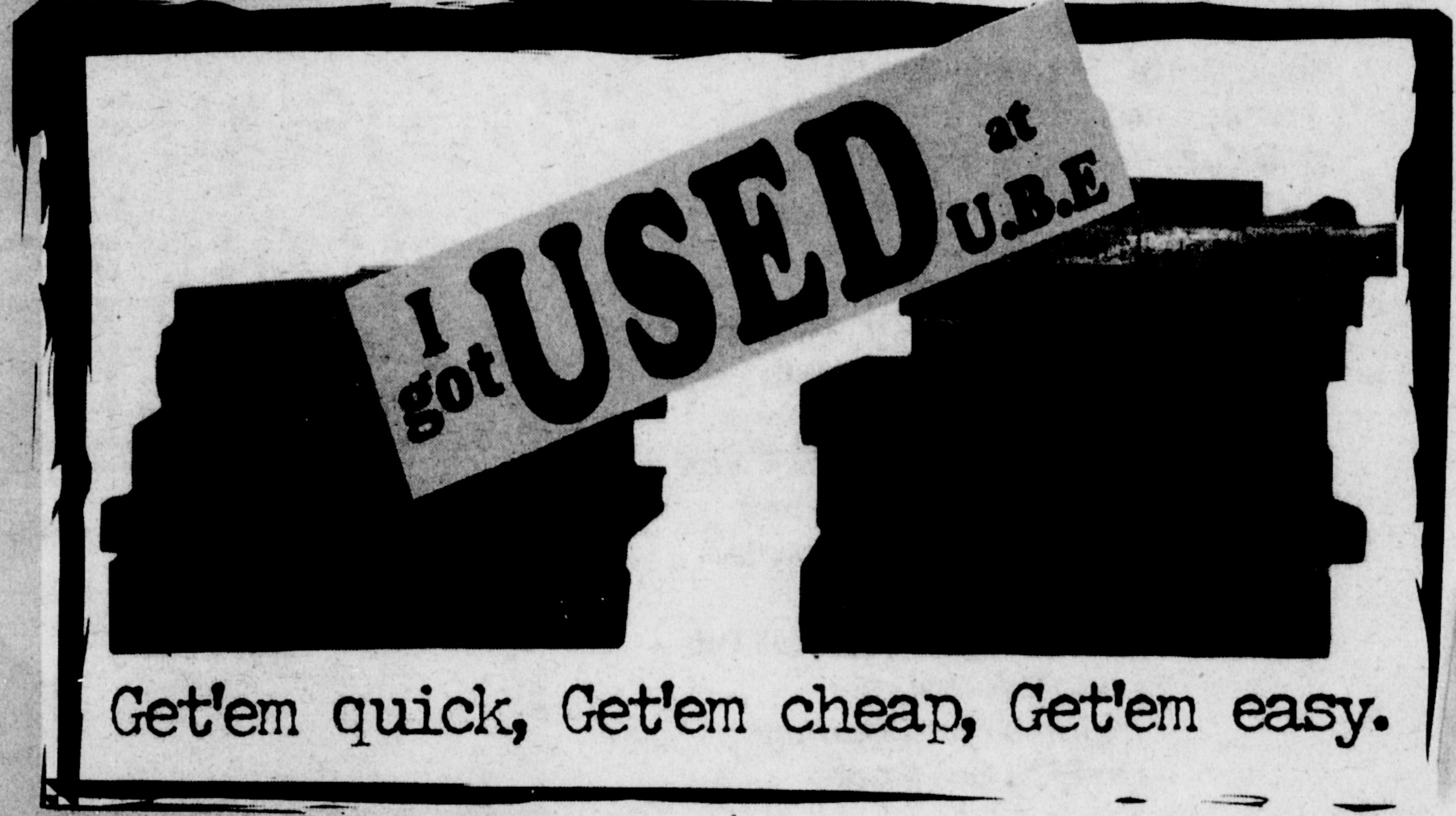
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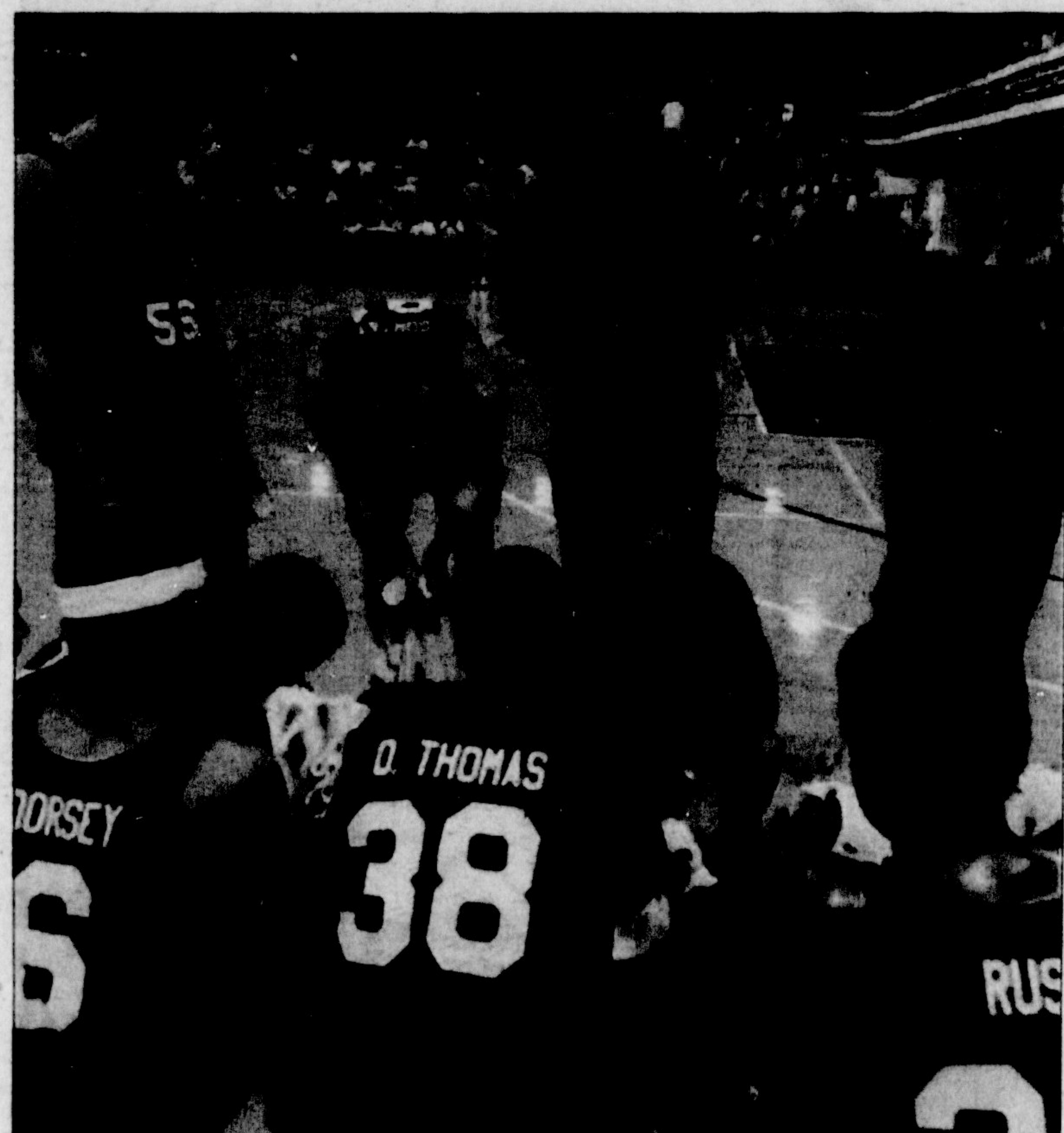
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**NBA** from page A16

It's young players like these pictured at an NBA pre-draft camp who may be hurt the most if a lockout is to occur.

ing Agreement, the negotiations at one time appeared to be going a lot better than the '98 disaster, but then things, of course, hit a snag. The negotiations hit a snag May 18, after constructive talks in March and April, and now the result is anyone's guess. If the talks continue to be unconstructive between now and June 30, the league will most definitely be heading toward its second lockout in less than 10 years, starting July 1.

After all the terrible P.R. the NHL has received from its lockout, it would seem the NBA would do all it could to avoid the same fate. With TV ratings and fan interest still on the decline following its previous lockout in '98, it would seem the NBA would show more urgency during these negotiations. The big issues in these negotiations include a higher age-minimum, lower guaranteed contracts and a stricter drug testing policy. Right now, the two sides can't agree on any of them.

At first, David Stern and the owners wanted the age-minimum to be 20 instead of 18, but no agreement could be reached. Stern and the owners have since made concessions to lower that age minimum to 19. For the contract lengths, Stern and the owners wanted the guaranteed lengths of contracts to be lowered from seven years to four years, but they have since conceded for five years. Drug testing policy issues have gone a little better, but the union still wants the policy to

be less stringent.

If a lockout were to cost the league games, expect things to get rough for the NBA. With the league, at large, still in the midst of a disconnect between fans and players, a lockout would be devastating, especially if it takes away part of the season like it did in '98. The team that would probably be most affected by a lockout would be the second-year Charlotte Bobcats. With a sterling new arena set to open in Uptown Charlotte next season, a lockout would be a crushing blow to a franchise still trying to gain its footing, while at the same time trying to erase the bad memories left behind from the bitter departure of the Charlotte Hornets in 2002. NBA cities, in general, will also feel negative effects from a lockout. If games are lost, employees at NBA arenas would feel the most severe effects.

The league has to go the extra mile to make sure negotiations go as smoothly as possible from here on out. It took a mammoth homerun race between Mark McGuire and Sammy Sosa to get people interested in baseball again and that was, and perhaps still is, this nation's pastime. Basketball is far from a national pastime, and the finals this year alone hurt NBA marketability for the following season. Time to buckle down boys, or you may be on ice much like the NHL isn't.

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

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