

Democracy NC teaches ECU about local politics



Amanda Smith, who interns for Democracy NC, shows brochures and a survey to a student Tuesday.

Interns focus on voting rights and reform

TAWANDA CARLTON
STAFF WRITER

KRISTIN DAY
NEWS EDITOR

Democracy North Carolina, a non-partisan, non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to informing young voters and getting people involved in the political process, is appearing on ECU's campus this summer to promote voting awareness to Greenville students.

Inspired by civil and voting rights movements in the south, Democracy North Carolina is currently focusing on improving voting procedures here in North Carolina. The organization currently has seven full-time staff members and over 10 college students who intern for two months during the summer from all over North Carolina.

Ranging from colleges and universities in the state such as ECU, UNCW, UNC-Chapel Hill, Elon and several others, the students

have hands on participation.

Amanda Smith, 21-year-old rising senior at Meredith College is one of Democracy NC's summer interns working locally.

"I think this is an amazing hands-on internship because you get to see how the process works," Smith said.

Elizabeth Costello, who also interns for the organization, said the flexible hours are ideal for her and the job fulfills her desire to get the word out.

"I joined to be a student intern because I wanted to learn more about local politics and practical ways to get people more involved," said Costello.

The interns regularly walk around campus handing out brochures and surveys that inform students about voting rights and processes.

Peter Walz, community organizer, said this year, the students thought of the survey and put it into action, which has become successful for their purposes. The survey helps them interact with the students and brings up questions people may have concerning the

voting process.

"It's a way to engage people in the issues," said Walz.

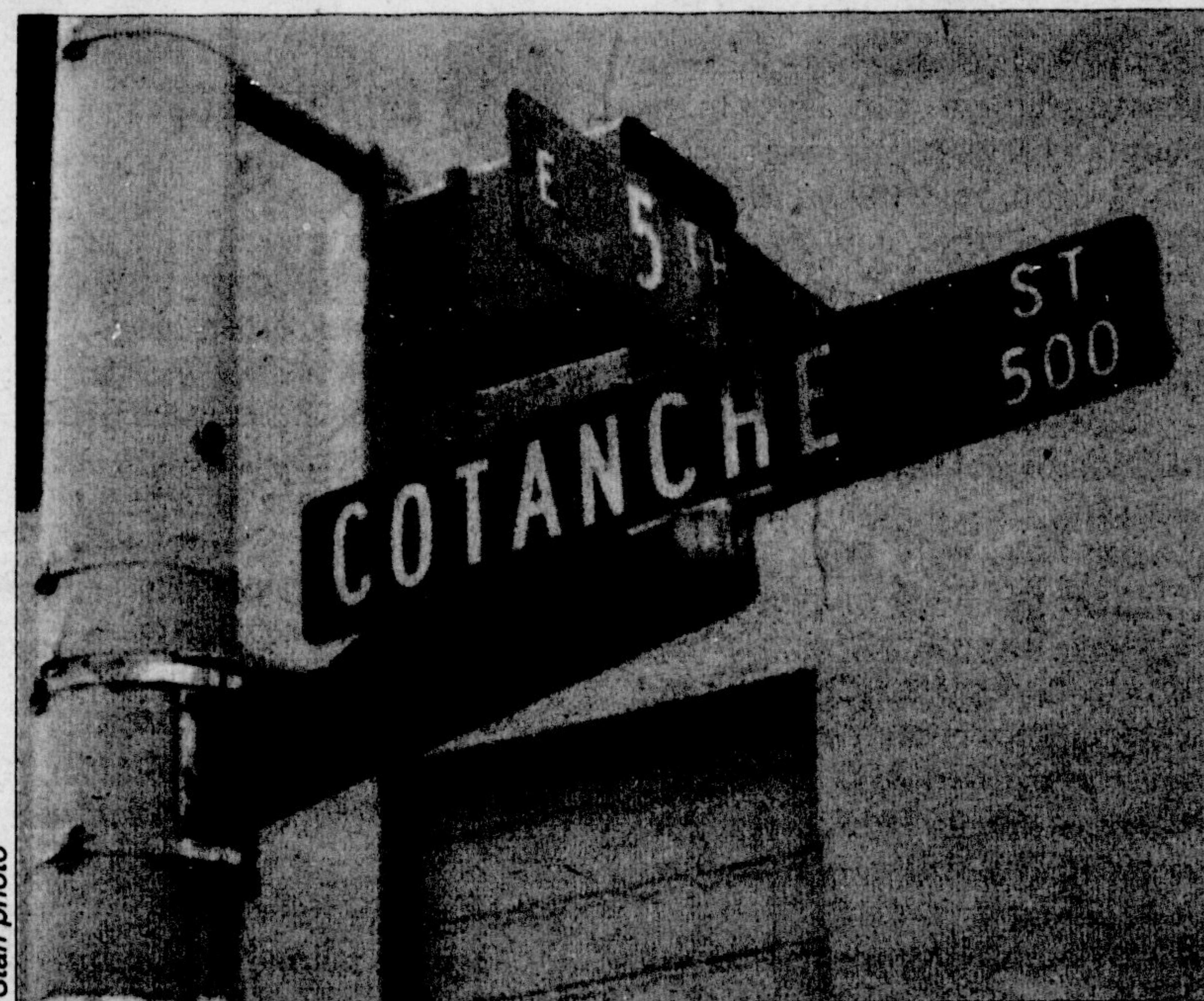
So far, the surveys have shown many students would vote if same-day registration were implemented. These results, once completed, will be presented to legislation in hopes of a change in policy that also includes making the voting process more accessible to ex-convicts and out-of-state-residents and the possible implementation of a same day voting act.

Walz said past interns have given presentations to their classes, state legislatures and organizations such as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to voice not only their opinions about certain issues but also of the feedback from the surveys they administer.

"The goals of the organization is to have an improved democracy here in North Carolina, one way to achieve this is by building a broad base of volunteers and activist," said Walz.

Each summer the interns decide on an issue that they want to take

see **DEMOCRACY** page A2



Police have had to increase security at the area by Fifth and Cotanche.

Downtown violence increased for summer

Students are advised to be cautious of surroundings

SHANNON KEITH
STAFF WRITER

Downtown Greenville, the heart of ECU social life, normally tends to wind down over the summer, but has suffered an increase of violent and aggressive activity during these last few months.

With fewer people frequenting the clubs, downtown takes on a calmer atmosphere during the summer months and the local police report fewer incidents of violence. However, this summer, local law enforcement agencies have actually reported an increase in violent incidents occurring in the downtown area.

The situation was particularly busy for police over the Fourth of July weekend, when police had to block off Fifth Street and forcibly remove people off the street in an attempt to maintain order.

Police said loiterers – many of them underage gang members who are hanging around outside of the clubs, blocking the sidewalks and harassing downtown patrons – are causing the majority of the trouble.

Over the past few weeks, numerous ECU students, most of them female, have reported being verbally assaulted and groped while attempting to enter clubs and restaurants downtown.

"Me and my friends have quit

going downtown for now," said one female ECU student, who wished to remain anonymous.

"We're tired of getting attacked right out in the middle of the street."

Capt. Elizabeth Watkins and Lt. Jason Sugg, both of the ECU Police Department, said the situation downtown is getting progressively worse and students should take certain precautions when going out.

"The number of incidents, especially fights, has definitely increased," said Sugg. "People need to be careful when going downtown."

Watkins and Sugg urge students, especially females, to travel in groups when going downtown and for one or more people in the group to have cell phones ready in case there is trouble.

"It is not a bad idea to have 911 or the police department's number programmed into your phone," Sugg said.

They also stressed the importance of arranging for a ride home ahead of time and to never, under any circumstance, leave downtown and attempt to make it home alone.

"The problem is that people plan to come out at night, but don't make plans to get back home later," said Watkins.

"They end up leaving by themselves, which makes them easy prey."

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

Democracy from page A1

on and they come up with ideas on how to get these issues across to the people who make the rules.

"I think that the youth open the door so that state legislature and other organizations will see that we have an opinion and that we care," said Smith.

Democracy NC's main office is in Carboro, but they have students working in Chappell Hill and Charlotte as well. Walz said the program has been successful this summer. Recently 100 surveys were returned from UNC-Charlotte and so far, approximately 400 surveys have been returned at ECU. They have had 60 students participate so far in the six years they have been working.

Walz and the students will visit the state legislature today and discuss the survey results, which will be released next week.

The interns will also hold a roundtable discussion on engaging the next generation of voters and civic leaders. Because of the surveys that have been issued so far, the interns will be able to take the information that they have accumulated

 **Democracy**

Democracy North Carolina will be holding a roundtable discussion on engaging the next generation of voters and civic leaders Tuesday, July 26 from 6 - 8 p.m. in the Willis Building. The public, of all ages, are invited to attend and participate in this event to bring the community and young people together to discuss empowering youth in the civic and voting process. For more information, please contact Democracy North Carolina at demncgreenville@hotmail.com or 321-7715.

and use this in their forum.

"This has helped us to connect civic leaders with college students so that the youth can get involved," said Smith.

Last year, the organization helped register 1,000 voters. The program, now in its sixth year has had over 60 students participate in the program.

These writers can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.



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SUMMER & FALL 2005

FITNESS PROGRAMS ▶▶▶

AUGUST

Program	Date	Location	Reg. Dates
Gold Rush 2005	8/15 - 9/6	SRC Main Office	Begins 8/15
Exercise Wisely for Faculty & Staff I	8/15 - 10/21	SRC 240	Begins 8/15
Free Group Fitness	8/29 - 9/6	SRC 240	NA
Yoga at Noon - FREE Sample Class	8/30	SRC 239	NA
Dynamic Definition - Yoga & Pilates	8/31 - 10/5	SRC 238	Begins 8/15
Hatha Yoga: Body/Breath/Spirit	8/31 - 10/5	SRC 239	Begins 8/15

SEPTEMBER

Program	Date	Location	Reg. Dates
Tai Chi	9/6 - 10/6	SRC 238	Begins 8/15
Yoga at Noon	9/6 - 10/11	RC 239	Begins 8/15
Jump Start Your Health	9/13 - 11/8	SRC 211	Begins 8/15
Healthy Bodies	9/13 - 11/17	MSC/SRC	Call 328-2632
Self Defense	9/14 - 10/5	SRC 240	Begins 8/15
Manufacturing Muscle: Supplements	9/21	SRC Classroom	Begins 8/15
Get Physical ECU	9/21	SRC Sports Forum	NA
AM Yoga	9/21 - 11/9	SRC 239	Begins 8/15
Power Flow Yoga	9/22 - 11/10	SRC 239	Begins 8/15
Weight Training for Dummies	9/24	SRC Classroom	Begins 8/15
Power Eating	9/28	SRC Classroom	Begins 8/15

ADVENTURE PROGRAMS ▶▶▶

AUGUST

Date	Trip	Reg. by	Pre-Trip	Cost
7/10	Climbing Day Trip to Pilot Mountain	7/1	7/6	\$35/45
7/16	Sea Kayaking at Goose Creek	7/8	7/12	\$225/235
7/30	Wilderness First Responder	NA	NA	\$380/\$450

SEPTEMBER

Date	Trip	Reg. by	Pre-Trip	Cost
9/9-10	Adventure Extravaganza SRC	on site	NA	Free/\$5
9/11	Whitewater Canoe/Kayak TBA	9/5	9/7	\$30/40
	Pre-Trip @ 6:00pm, Pool Session @ 7:00 PM			
9/17	Sea Kayaking Goose Creek	9/9	9/13	\$25/35
9/18	Boat and Board Surfing Carolina Beaches	9/9	9/14	\$40/50
	Pre-Trip @ 6:00pm, Pool Session @ 7:00 PM			
9/19,21,24	Facilitation Training SRC & Challenge Course	8/30	NA	\$10/40
9/24-25	Sea Kayaking Cape Lookout	9/16	9/20	\$55/65
9/24	Rock Climbing Pilot Mtn.	9/16	9/20	\$35/45
9/25	Whitewater Canoe/Kayak TBA	9/16	9/21	\$30/40
	Pre-Trip @ 6:00pm, Pool Session @ 7:00 PM			
9/30 - 10/2	Backpacking Croatan Forest	9/23	9/28	\$45/55

ARISE PROGRAMS ▶▶▶

SEPTEMBER

Program	Date	Time	Location
PAIRS Registration starts	9/6	8am	SRC 128
ARISE Social & Orientation	9/6	4-5:30pm	SRC 202
ECU/NFL Pick'em Begins	9/6	10am-6pm	SRC 103
Wheelchair Basketball	9/8	8-9pm	SRC
King and Queen of the Halls	9/8	4pm-6pm	College Hill
Fall Fiesta & Adapted Water Ski	9/10	9am-4pm	Whichard's Beach, NC
ARISE Committee Meeting	9/13	4-5:30pm	SRC 202
Wheelchair Dodgeball	9/14	8-9pm	SRC
Wheelchair Basketball	9/15	8-9pm	SRC
5K Race-Early Reg. Deadline	9/16	5pm	SRC 128
Wheelchair Rugby	9/20	8-9pm	SRC
5K Race-"Run from the Rec"	9/25	2pm	SRC Outdoor Pool

INTRAMURAL SPORTS ▶▶▶

AUGUST

Program	Date	Time	Location
Flag Football Officials Clinic	8/25	9pm-11pm	SRC 202
Flag Football Reg. Mtg	8/29	5pm	MSC
IM Sports Capt's Certification	8/29	5pm	MSC

SEPTEMBER

Program	Date	Time	Location
ECU/NFL Pick'em Begins	9/6	10am-6pm	SRC 103
Volleyball Team Reg. Mtg.	9/6	5pm	MSC
Volleyball Officials Clinic	9/6	9pm-11pm	SRC 202
Tennis Registration	9/7	10am-6pm	SRC 103
King and Queen of the Halls	9/8	4pm-6pm	College Hill
5K Race-Early Reg. Deadline	9/16	5pm	SRC 128
Wiffleball Registration	9/19	10am-6pm	SRC 103
5K Race-"Run from the Rec"	9/25	2pm	SRC Outdoor Pool
Dodgeball Registration	9/28	10am-6pm	SRC 103

LIFESTYLE ENHANCEMENT ▶▶▶

AUGUST

Program	Date	Time	Location
FREE Body Fat Analysis	7/13	4-5:30pm	SRC 211



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Pirate Rants

5th Generation is playing July 22nd at Scores, July 24th at Courtyard Tavern, and July 27th at Cafe Caribe. Everyone should definitely try to catch this band play, they are really amazing.

How about that Reggae Band 5th Generation... I can't wait until the fall semester starts. This is going to be the band to watch. They are representing our University right. They have been playing shows all over, as far as the Outer Banks!! You guys rock!!

A Toast to the Baddest Frat, A-Phi-A is where it's at, to the brothas of Eta Nu. -That Sponge named Bob

Where is the girl that used to work at Java City in the library?? You made the best smoothies every morning! Please come back!

You all did a story on Shannon McClintock, her attach (robbery) and lack of an ECU Alert to warn other students. My opinion is this, every time there is an ECU alert, the attacker is the same: Tall, Black, Male. What's the point in alerts? Why not just tell everyone to watch out for all tall, black, men?

Whoever wrote the rant about rising freshman attending orienta-

tion last week, thank you! Everyone, lets try and be a little more welcoming to the rising freshman class. Flash back to when you were attending orientation, now imagine how a simple hello or smile would have made you felt. The ranking of upper-and-lower classmen is pointless in college, especially since a lot of people at ECU consider themselves "third year freshman" "second year sophomore" etc. Chances are, you will be in some classes with the freshman. Lets show our new Pirates and their parents (who are paying just as much tuition as our parents) that they are welcome at our university, have a home here and did not make the wrong choice in choosing East Carolina University. Join me in welcoming the class of 2009. Man I'm getting old!

ECU Parking people should just grow horns because they are devils. And they're ugly! Why give me a \$35 ticket saying I don't have a parking pass when I really do and then charge me another \$20 to get a new pass?? You are out of your mind. I'm not parking on campus anymore, and I'm not paying, so you can eat my shorts!

Yes we do have a campus radio station! Turn us on and flip the other guy off! WZMB 91.3

Got something to say?

Send us your Pirate Rants!

E-mail us at editor@theeastcarolinian.com
or submit them online at theeastcarolinian.com

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In My Opinion

Could London's attacks been prevented?

Terrorist attacks add fuel to war's fire

KRISTIN MURNANE
OPINIONATED LIBERAL
NORTHERNER

In case you've been living under a rock for the past week, last Thursday dozens of people died and hundreds more were injured by terrorist attacks in London. Bombs were planted and detonated on the city's subway system, known as the "tube," and also on double-decker buses. It's been said that this was the worst attack on the area since World War II.

The scary thing is that it likely could have happened anywhere.

We've come to the grim realization that no matter how much we fight back and how much we think we're protected from another terrorist attack, as a democratic country, we will always be a target for those who don't agree with our way of living.

I'm from the Baltimore/Washington D.C. area, I'm currently writing from just outside of Maryland's capital city and I ride the area's Metro and Light Rail systems on a fairly frequent basis. I cannot even begin to imagine the damage

that would be done if London's attack was aimed at one of our country's mass transit systems. Not to undermine the importance of London's rail system, but since I've never been overseas, I needed some type of personal reference.

The group known as the "Secret Organization of al-Qaida in Europe" has claimed responsibility for this attack, but it was said in an AP article a few days ago that little is known about this organization. The fact that Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida has sister groups throughout the world has again been brought to the forefront of our minds.

As I was glancing through various newspaper articles concerning this matter, I've read everything from Japan being the next terrorist target to our government leaders raising our terror level to orange. I've been sent pictures of police officers with bomb sniffing dogs and machine guns patrolling D.C.'s mass transit system. But if we think that the sudden emergence of security officers will protect us, I think we're sadly mistaken. Our efforts are reactive, not proactive. Security at airports was stepped up after 9/11 and now security with mass transit systems is beefed up after last week's attack. Do we

have to wait for a disaster to occur before our government decides to protect us?

I'm not trying to be a pessimist, but no matter how many troops our President sends overseas to fight this "War on Terror," these terrorist organizations can't be stopped. But with President Bush's ratings being the lowest yet, this is perfect timing to get the American public to again back his war. Our efforts are focused more in the Mid-East than on our own country and its safety.

President Bush is stuttering his way through a speech about how he's "trying to make the world a better place," and that "Americans know what it's like to be attacked on our own soil." We need to defend our way of live starting with our homeland, not sending our help across the world. I understand that our country is always willing to help others, but while our attention is focused elsewhere, we might again (God forbid) become another target.

In the mean time, let's keep those in London in our thoughts and prayers, especially for those who have lost their lives and their families. Unfortunately, we can feel their pain.

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News Briefs

Local

Police aware of more gangs in NC
CHARLOTTE, NC - Police across North Carolina are aware of more gangs and members than five years ago and are doing more to combat them, according to a new study by the Governor's Crime Commission.

The study counted 387 gangs in the state with 8,517 members last year, up 68 percent when compared to police responses from a 1999 questionnaire. It's not clear how much those numbers signal a rise in gang membership and how much is attributed to police better recognizing gang activity.

Lt. Mark Bridgeman, head of the North Carolina Gang Investigator's Association, said the numbers are conservative.

"Some agencies don't track the data or don't realize they have a gang problem," he said. "And gang members don't check in with us when they join the gang. [They] don't check out with us when they leave."

More police agencies have responded to gang-related crimes - which include vandalism, larceny, drug crimes and murder - by creating special units, according to the study. In Shelby, police have assigned a detective to focus on gang investigations while deputies in Iredell County have begun tracking gang activity, including graffiti.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg police -

covering an area that showed a jump from 15 reported gangs in 1999 to 65 last year - has created a gang intelligence unit, educated its officers about recognizing members and started a prevention program. Gang detective Joel McNelly said he believes the increase in Charlotte's numbers is as much about gang members moving into the city as it is about better tracking.

National

President Bush ignores questions about Karl Rove in leak case

WASHINGTON - The White House is suddenly facing damaging evidence that it misled the public by insisting for two years that presidential adviser Karl Rove wasn't involved in leaking the identity of a female CIA officer. President Bush, at an Oval Office photo opportunity Tuesday, was asked directly whether he would fire Rove - in keeping with a pledge in June 2004, to dismiss any leakers in the case. The president did not respond.

For the second day, White House press secretary Scott McClellan refused to answer questions about Rove.

Rove told *Time* magazine reporter Matthew Cooper that the woman "apparently works" for the CIA and that she had authorized her husband's trip to Africa to assess allegations that Iraq was trying to obtain yellowcake uranium for nuclear weapons, according to

a July 11, 2003 e-mail by Cooper obtained by *Newsweek* magazine.

The e-mail is now in the hands of federal prosecutors who are hunting down the leakers inside the Bush administration who revealed the name of Valerie Plame to the news media.

International

Police raid houses in northern England

LEEDS, England - The bomber responsible for last week's explosion on a London double-decker bus was believed to be among the 13 people killed on board, a discovery that led to raids Tuesday in Leeds, a northern city with a strong Muslim community, news reports said.

In a key development in the investigation into the terror attacks that killed at least 52 people, British soldiers blasted their way into a modest Leeds row house to search for explosives and computers. Streets were cordoned off and about 500 people were evacuated. Hours earlier, police searched five residences elsewhere in the city.

Sky News reported that in addition to the bomber on the bus, attackers carried explosives onto three subway trains, and that all four were killed. Police declined to comment on the report and have said in the past there was no evidence of suicide bombings.

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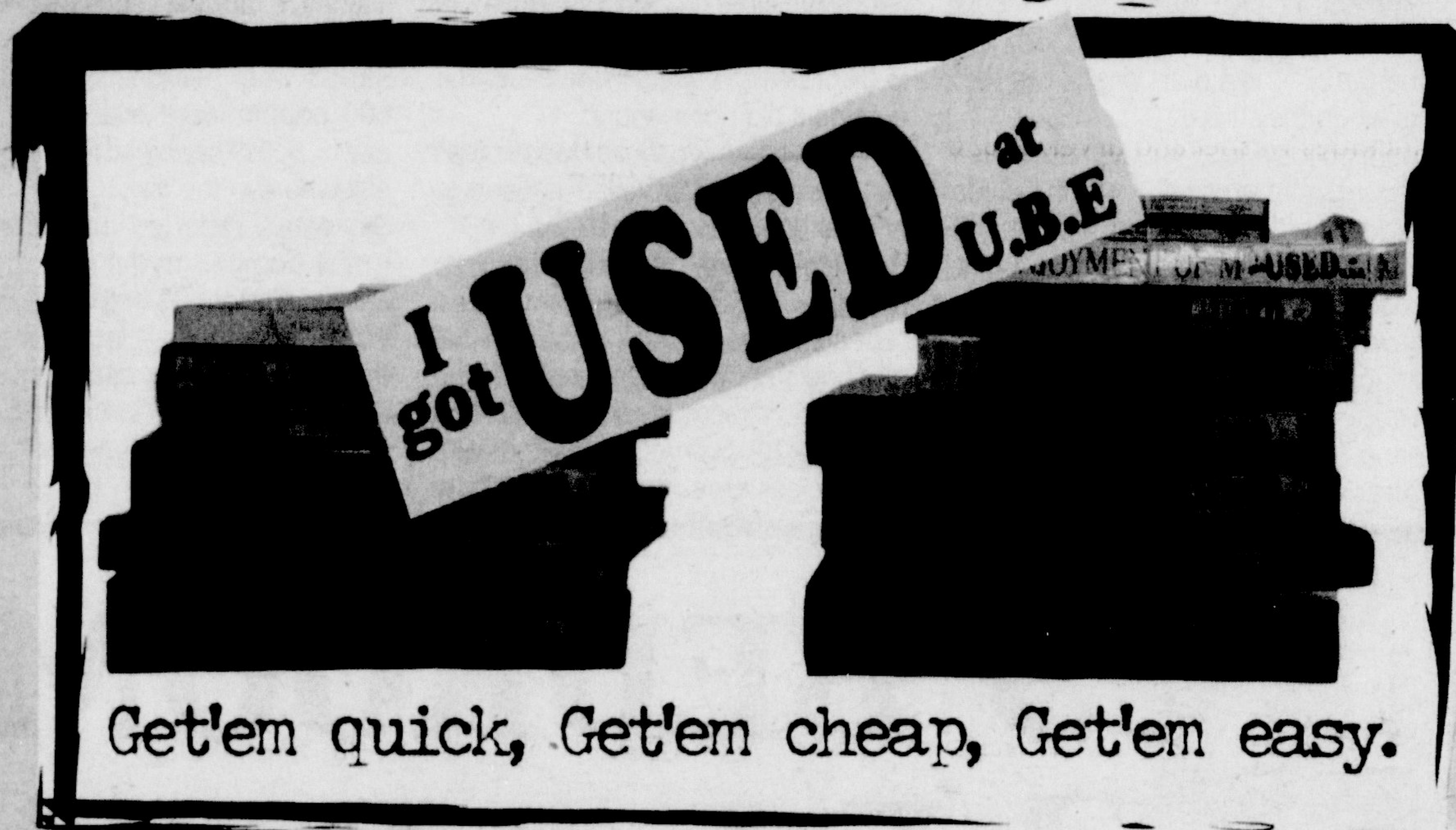
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WEDNESDAY JULY 13, 2005

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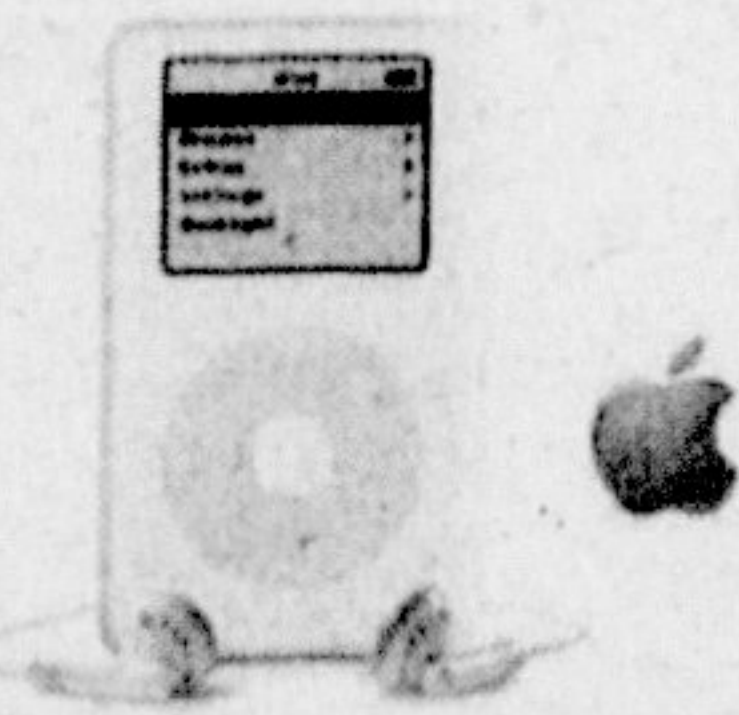
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Life in balance: Using new food pyramid

Version 2005 has a new format and emphasis

SCOTTY WILLIAMS
STAFF WRITER

It's every nutritionist and dietician's favorite polygon. The food guide pyramid has always been a standard in nutritional advice, telling people what and how much they should eat. One pyramid's standards worked for everyone from the athletic jock to the couch potato. The pyramid didn't care how much you exercised - it just gave you a set of standards to follow for healthy eating.

Now, the three-dimensional food failsafe has been updated, and a new pyramid is out to tell the world what to eat. The new guide comes in sizes and even has steps. The newest edition of the Food Guide Pyramid, as released and maintained by the United States Department of Agriculture, has been tipped on its side according to an informational video on MyPyramid.gov. The new pyramid features all run top to bottom, where the old one used to run side to side and build up. What's more, the food groups have been color-coded.

Starting on the very left, the orange colored side of the pyramid is the grains group. A new recommendation is that half of the grains you consume should be whole grains. The typical suggestion is at least three ounces per day. You must also find the word "whole" on the list of ingredients to assure that you are getting whole grains. Cereal, crackers, rice and pasta fall into this group and white bread appears to be out.

Indubitably, vegetables are the green group and second from the left. The new recommendations encourage that you eat more dark green veggies, orange veggies and more dry beans and peas. The important thing is variation: one vegetable alone isn't as good as three or four.

Sitting to the right of veggies are fruits, where once again variety is encouraged. Any kind of fruit, whether they be fresh, frozen, canned or dried, is recommended. Also, as many dieticians have insisted, fruit juices are not suitable as fruit servings and in fact can contain as much or more sugar than some soft drinks.

Taking up a small yellow sliver beside the fruits are the oils, one of the ever-unpopular members of the food guide pyramid. As

always, moderation is the key as well as knowing your fats. Most of the oil you consume should come from fish, nuts and vegetable oils, and solid fats such as butter, margarine, shortening and lard should be limited.

The popular favorite, milk, stays on with the calcium-rich foods. When drinking milk, you're encouraged to drink low-fat or fat-free milk, and if you can't consume milk because of lactose intolerance, you should choose lactose-free sources. Milk is the identifiable source of calcium that is preferred.

Beans and meats are the far-right member of the pyramid, with the recommendation of low-fat or lean meats and poultry. If you're going to eat meat or poultry, it's preferable to bake, broil or grill it instead of frying. You should also vary your choices and have more fish, beans, peas, nuts and seeds.

Physical activity debuts on the food pyramid with steps to the left encouraging people to become active. The new recommendation on the pyramid says that activity should be moderate or vigorous for at least 30 minutes a day. Walking briskly, yard work and bicycling at reasonable tempos are classified as moderate; while running or jogging, fast walking, swimming, heavy yard work and aerobics are classified as vigorous. As an added side note in activity, some physical activities might involve movement but do not increase your heart rate and can't be accepted as exercise.

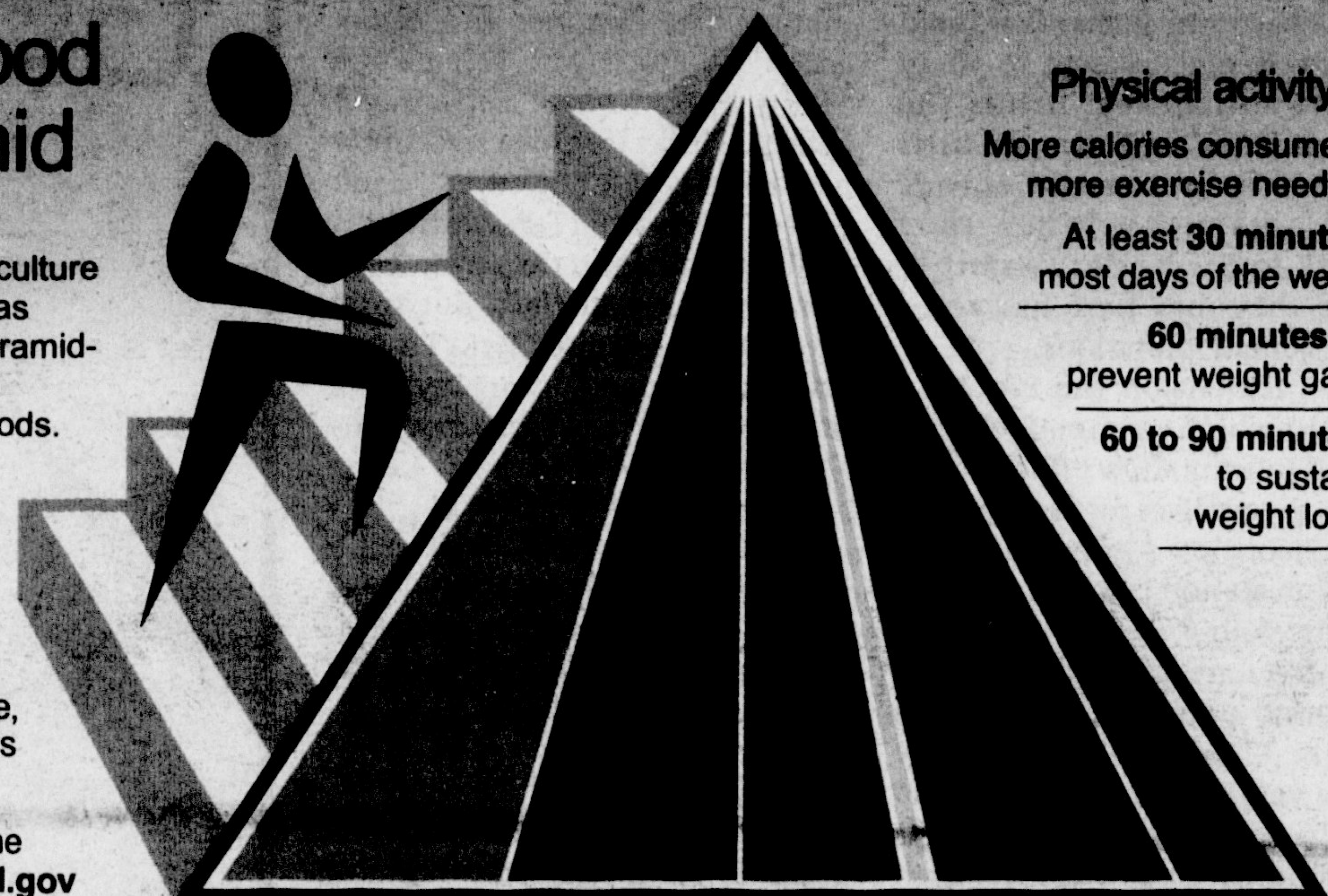
see FOOD page A11

New food pyramid

The U.S. Agriculture Department has updated its pyramid-shaped guide to selecting foods.

Different people, different needs

Guidelines available online at mypyramid.gov



Physical activity

More calories consumed, more exercise needed

At least 30 minutes most days of the week

60 minutes to prevent weight gain

60 to 90 minutes to sustain weight loss

Grains	Vegetables	Fruits	Oils, fats	Milk products	High-protein foods
At least half should be whole-grain	Fresh, frozen, canned, dried, juices	Fresh, frozen, canned, dried, juices	Liquid, not solid	Low- or no-fat, calcium-rich types	Lean meat, poultry, fish; eggs; beans, nuts, seeds; tofu; peanut butter

How much of each group?

Depends on total calories a day person needs to consume

	Grains	Vegetables	Fruits	Oils	Milk products	High-protein foods
1,000 calories	3 oz. (85 g)	1 cup	1 cup	3 tsp.	2 cups	2 oz. (57 g)
2,000 calories	6 oz. (170 g)	2 cups	2 cups	6 tsp.	3 cups	
3,200 calories	10 oz. (280 g)	3 cups	3 cups	11 tsp.		

*1 oz. is equivalent to one slice of bread **These are equivalent: 1 oz. (28 g) lean meat, one egg, 1/4 cup cooked beans, 0.5 oz. (14 g) nuts

© 2005 KRT Source: U.S. Agriculture Department Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Lee Hulteng

A not-so 'Fantastic' superhero film takes box-office out of slump

One of the worst comic book adaptations ever

TREVOR KIRKENDALL
STAFF WRITER

The new film *Fantastic Four* does not meet the standards one would expect from such a high profile comic book superhero adaptation. It does not meet the high standards we've become accustomed to with the recent success from such great adaptations as *Batman Begins*, *Spider-Man 2* and *X-Men*.

Fantastic Four is another adaptation from superhero creator Stan Lee. The *Spider-Man* franchise is probably the best big screen

rendition of anything from Lee's catalogue. *Hulk* was a film that left so much to be desired when it was released in 2003. *X-Men* was a great adaptation, but its sequel was not. As for *Fantastic Four*, comic book fans have been waiting a long time for this one. Is this the film the fans were looking for? No. Come to think of it, I'm still not sure why Stan Lee gave the go ahead to make this film based on the screenplay. This is the worst screenplay written for any comic book superhero movie in existence.

The film opens with Reed Richards (Ioan Gruffudd) and Ben Grimm (Michael Chiklis) attempting to convince science giant Dr. Victor Von Doom (Julian McMa-

hon) to use his space research station so they can analyze a storm moving nearby Earth. Doom is reluctant, but agrees. This all happens in the first five minutes of the film and it happens very quickly. We don't get a feel for anything and before we know it, we're on a space station that somehow has artificial gravity.

Also at the beginning, happening too quickly, is the back story between Richards and Doom's "girlfriend," Storm (Jessica Alba). Apparently they have a history together, but it is only explained to us in dialogue between her and Doom. For people like me who do



The Human Torch

see FOUR page A10

Four from page A9

not keep up with comics such as this, it's like we've been thrown into the middle of the story. It was as though we walked into the theater 20 minutes into the movie.

Nonetheless, everyone goes to space. The storm Richards wanted to study is much closer to them than he anticipated. It hits the space station and almost kills Grimm, who was caught outside when it happens. When they get back to Earth, all five start to believe they may have had some sort of genetic mutations.

An incident on the Brooklyn Bridge in which Grimm, Richards, Sue and Johnny show off their new powers to save lives turns them into local celebrities. A New York City television station labels them "The Fantastic Four."

Doom, meanwhile, uses his new found power for evil. Unfortunately, McMahon doesn't come off as a very convincing villain, so when he walks around in a mysterious fashion, it's more comical than it is menacing. This is the same guy who played Christian Troy on the FX television series "Nip/Tuck." Can you picture him as sinister?

As for the "Fantastic Four," well, they're not all that fantastic. Chris Evans, who plays Johnny Storm, has his moments as the comic relief. Johnny takes all this fame

to his head. And given the screenplay these actors had to work with, Evans is actually the most comfortable in his role.

The screenplay was written by Michael France (whose credits include *The Punisher* and *Hulk*), and Mark Frost (who created the "Twin Peaks" series with David Lynch). This is the worst screenplay based on a comic book ever. I don't expect much from France with his lame excuses for scripts from both *The Punisher* and *Hulk*. But from the man who wrote "Twin Peaks," one of the most mind-bending television series in history, this should have been a much better screenplay.

Creator Stan Lee also had a say in who directs his comic book movies. Sam Raimi was an excellent choice for the *Spider-Man* films because he had proved himself as a master storyteller and a master with the camera.

Will this film rank among the years best? Not even close. Will this film entertain just about everyone who goes in to see it? Just about. Will there be a sequel in a couple years? Unfortunately, yes.

Grade: D+

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

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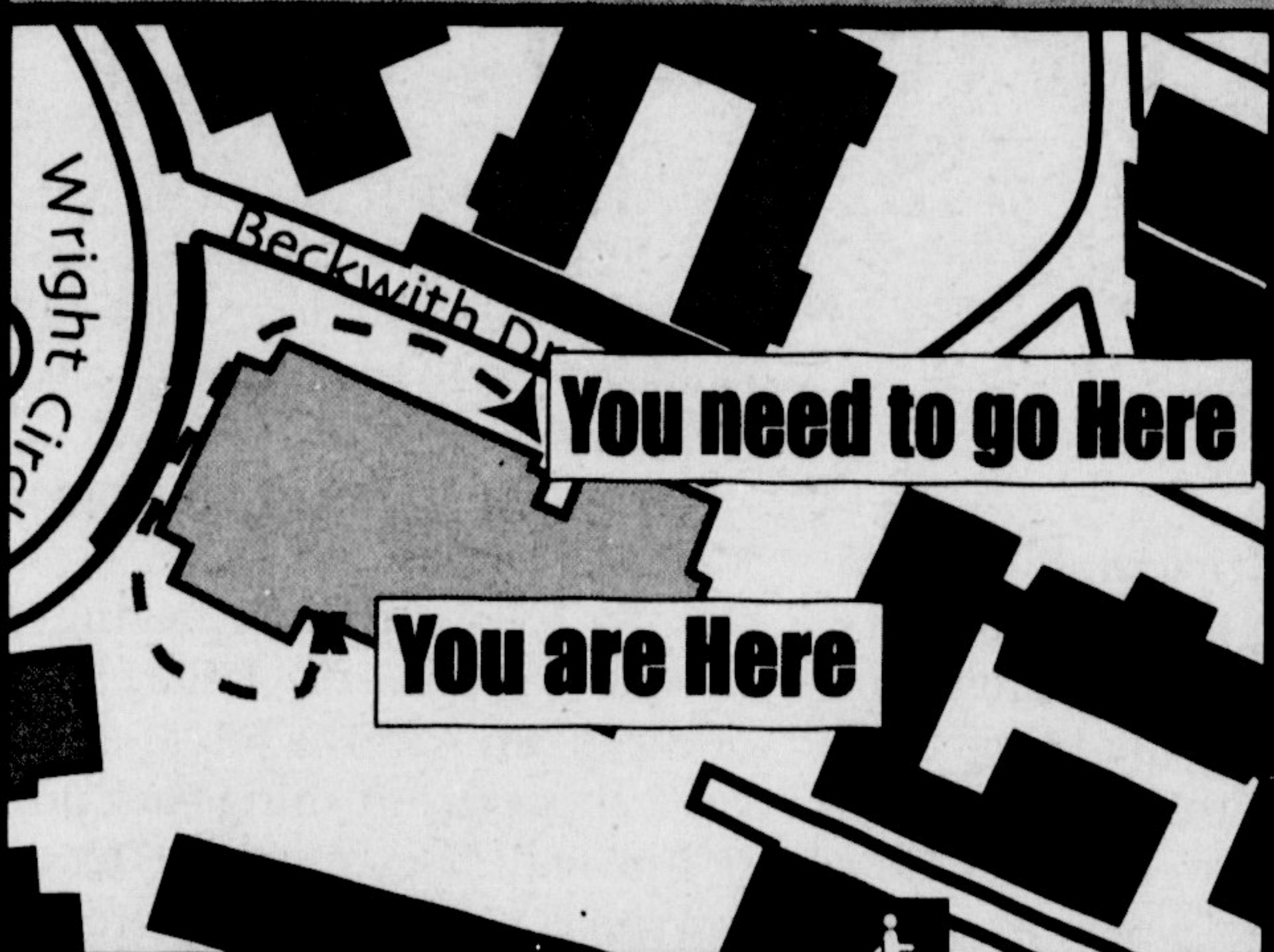
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Food from page A9



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Some activities such as casual walking and light chores would fall into this category. Children and teenagers should get a bit more activity, around 60 minutes every day or most days.

The biggest change to the pyramid is the personalization that now comes with it. The USDA has come up with 12 different pyramids and allowances based on physical activity and how many calories you should consume per day. For a 21-year-old male who exercises 30 to 60 minutes a day, 2,800 calories is the recommended amount, and specific amounts are broken down on the MyPyramid Web site.

Exercise plays a very important role in the daily life of all people. For many, food allowances can change because metabolism is better in more active people. A person who exercises vigorously for an hour a day may not have to watch his eating as much as someone who exercises vigorously for one hour a month. Now the USDA has caught up with the times and issued a personalized pyramid that will help more people lead healthier, happier and, most importantly, longer lives.

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

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Shauntae Hunt participates in one of the many events held during the competition last week.

Gridiron Bucs compete in Strongman competition

Golden's ingenuity provides excitement for Pirates

ERIC GILMORE
SENIOR WRITER

Defensive coordinator Greg Hudson spied from his Yukon from a significant distance as his players were competing on the practice fields. Instead of naturally undergoing practice, remnants of the football team were competition for bragging rights and pride.

Part of Hudson cringed while watching highly energetic and somewhat crazed strength coach Michael Golden challenge his player's bodies in a Strongman competition. The other half of Hudson chuckled as some of his athletes were quickly humbled by the grueling events.

"I liked the way they competed against each other," said Golden. "There were incredible efforts out there."

The competition provided a measuring stick for the team undergoing preparation for fall camp, which starts August 4. The remaining players who have stayed for summer school combined, with incoming freshman, have partaken in daily weight and conditioning workouts throughout

the summer months.

The event was originally scheduled for later this week, but the players were jawing at each other so much that the coaches decided to proceed a week early. Golden, who has been working directly with the football team since his hire, combined with the rest of his weight staff to oversee the event.

In the past, the coaching staff tried to find the strongest individual. Because the physical requirements for a defensive end and a quarterback are so different, it is often hard to judge them apart.

To combat the situation, Golden divided up the entire squad into 10 teams of nine players each. The most prominent seniors were given captain status as Golden drafted the teams with players from each position.

The captains consisted of Gary Freeman, Guy Whipper, Hunter Wood, Richard Koonce, Lorenza Pickett, Shawn Levesque, Chris Moore, Jermarcus Veal, Jason Pender and Chris Sellers. The captains were charged with deciding which players would compete in the nine events. It was an important role because points were given with each first place finish.

"Coach Holtz and everybody else is big on this being the senior's

team," Golden said.

"If they want to win and do well, the seniors have to lead. This is another opportunity for them to use their leadership capabilities."

The nine events included the Military Press (135 lb.), Weighted Sled Run, Sled Push, Weight Stack, Relay Race (800 meters), 25 lb. Hold, Farmer's Walk, Sled Pull and the daunting Blackbeard's Challenge.

The players competed for a trophy, which strangely resembled the Captain Morgan logo. The other teams weren't quite as happy with their prize as the second-place finishers earned a pair of socks while the third-place team grabbed some purple mouthpieces.

It was one of the many simple indications that there is a new attitude among the team that has finished 3-20 the past two seasons. Winning is the goal unlike the past regime that harked on improvement.

A healthy Shawn Levesque captained the winning team. His team included Lance Neisz, Mike MacDonaugh, Zach Baker, Durwin Lamb, Van Eskeridge, Reggie Williams, Wilson Raynor, Wendell Chavis and Erode Jean.

see PIRATES page A13

C-USA Preview: UTEP

Price believes Miners can win conference title

RON CLEMENTS
STAFF WRITER

For Mike Price and his University of Texas-El Paso Miners, 2004 was a season of change and success. Price and the Miners face more change in this year, entering a new conference – and they hope the success from last season will follow them to Conference USA and another bowl appearance.

UTEP, which won eight games in 2004, two more games than in the previous three combined, appeared in just its third bowl game. The Miners were 1-1 in the two previous appearances, winning the 1967 Sun Bowl and losing to Colorado in the 2004 Houston Bowl, 33-28.

UTEP enters this year with a buzz around El Paso almost foreign to the campus. Their goal is to improve upon a second place finish in the WAC last season and win the newly formed Western Division of Conference USA.

"It's definitely different because last year nobody was looking at us," said UTEP Offensive Coordinator Eric Price.

"Even game week, teams weren't saying, 'We need to buckle down, we're playing UTEP this week.' This year is going to be different. We're not gonna sneak up on anybody. We need to improve. We can't be the same team. It's important to us not to just hit reset, and raise the bar a little and continue to improve."

The road is an uphill climb, with the loss of last season's leading rusher, Howard Jackson, to graduation. Jackson led the Miners in

rushing last season with 1197 yards and 10 touchdowns and the team has not made a decision on which ball carrier will be filling his cleats this season.

Senior Matt Austin, sophomore Marcus Thomas and UCLA junior transfer Tyler Ebell are all vying for the starting job. Price believes any of them can win the job and feels good about the running back position overall. He knows the loss of Jackson is a tough one to overcome, but says that the passing game will overcome any troubles the running game may have and could set up an effective ground game.

"Jackson was a big part of our offense," Price said.

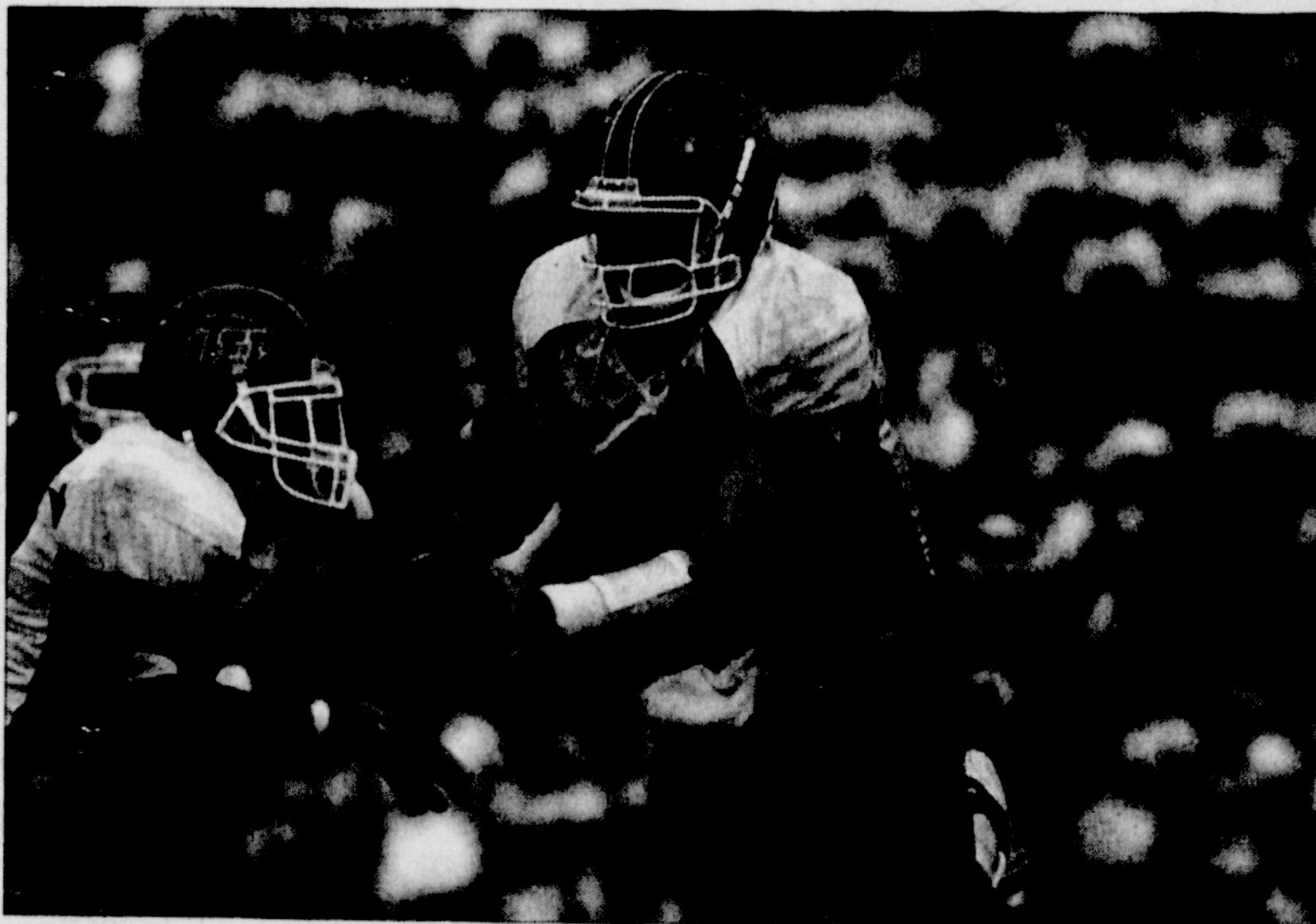
"(All the running backs) are real talented, so we may have to pick up some flack at the receiver position."

That puts more pressure on junior quarterback Jordan Palmer, the younger brother of former Heisman winner Carson Palmer. Eric Price feels like this year will be a breakout year for Palmer, who is entering his second full season as a starter because it is also his second season under head coach Mike Price. Now that Palmer understands the offense a little more, the Miners look to open things up in the passing game, and hope Palmer doesn't revert to the turnover troubles of his freshman season.

"Jordan understands the offense real well, and we're looking for him to really improve," Price said.

"We took it slow with him last year because it was his first year in our offense, but he will progress now without a coaching change and has had more time to learn offense. His mechanics and throw-

see C-USA page A13



Jordan Palmer will lead the way for the UTEP offense this year.



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Pirates from page A12

Though his team didn't win, Lorenza Pickett embarrassed the competition in the Military Press. In 60 seconds, Pickett pressed 135 pounds 49 times. To put that in perspective, try doing 49 jumping jacks in a minute.

The other slated starter at defensive end, Shauntae Hunt impressed despite his disqualification for an improper grip in the Sled Push. The sled's weight was estimated to be a minimum of 250 pounds. Offensive linemen Gary Freeman and Eric Graham held their own in the sled events.

Bryson Bowling and Chris Johnson both sped through the 800-meter relay. Bobby Good and James Pinkney won their respective heats for the Weight Stack competition.

The most interesting and

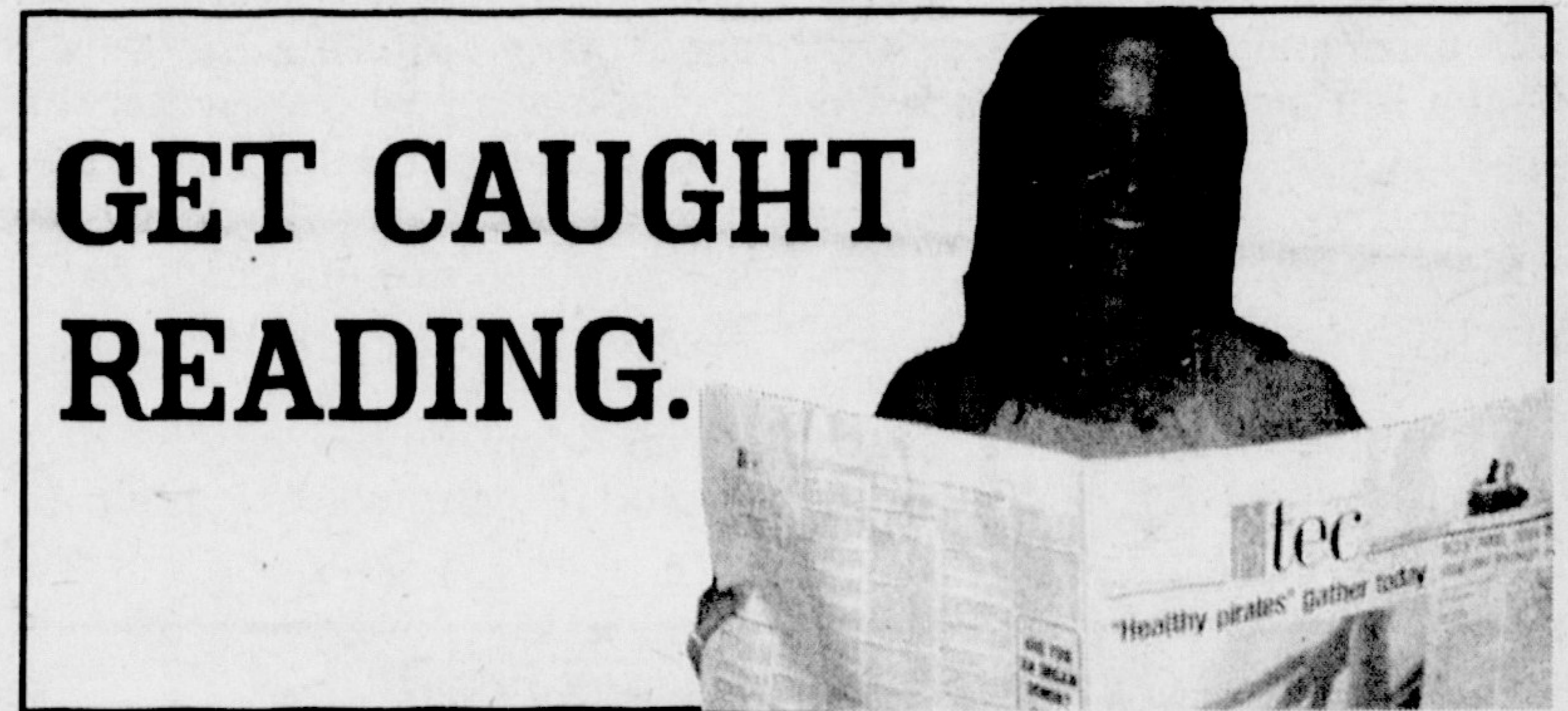
grueling event was Blackbeard's Challenge. It was a Golden concoction of 20 yards of a crab walk, tumble roll, tire roll, sled push and agility cones combined with a 100-yard sprint.

Jarrett Wiggins, Richard Koonce, Zach Slate and Jay Sonnhalter all did well in the event. On the flip side, without naming names, a couple of the participant's legs turned to Jell-O on the return sprint.

"Everybody did a great job," Golden said.

"The guy's legs were falling off and they still had to run 100 yards. Overall, it went better than we expected. More importantly, no one got hurt."

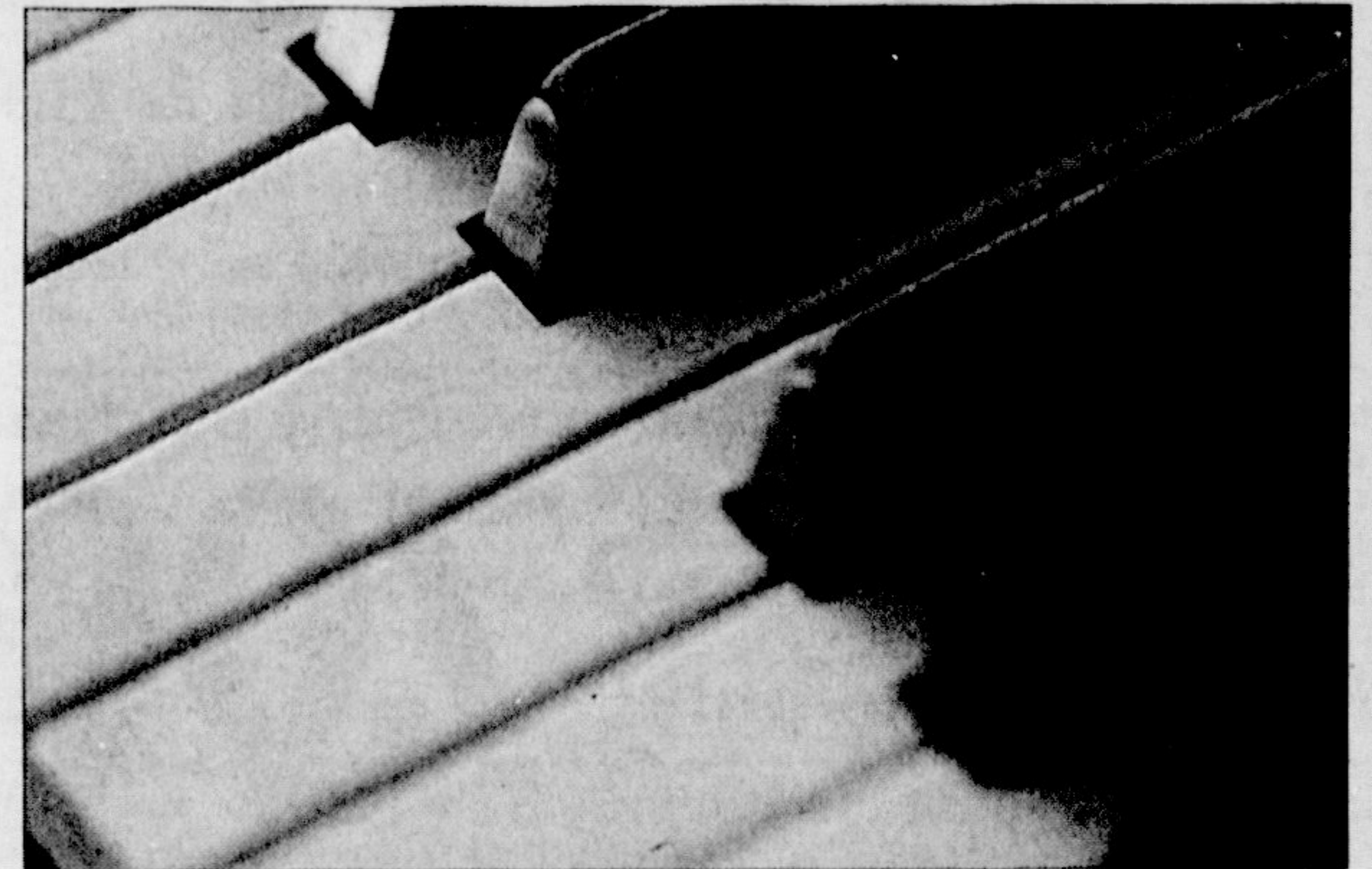
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C-USA from page A14

ing motion continue to improve."

One thing Palmer doesn't need to worry about is talent or experience at wide receiver. With the top three receivers - Jayson Boyd, Johnnie Lee Higgins and Chris Francies - all seeing major playing time last year, Price is high on his receiving corps, which is led by Boyd.

"Boyd is a big tall kid and is a real confident aggressive kid and we're looking to him to have a real breakout year," Price said.

"We've got about four kids that I would take with me anywhere. We've got to have one of the best receiving corps around and they're all big and fast."

Francies enters his year with a 33-game pass-catching streak.

Although the Miners have a bulk of talent at wideout, their true talent gems can be found digging in the defensive trenches. Junior defensive end Alex Obomese and senior linebacker Thomas Howard lead the way.

Howard was named to the Bronko Nagurski preseason watch list for the nation's top linebacker and Obomese is on the watch list for the Ted Hendricks defensive end award. At 6-4, 300 pounds,

Zach West is the run-stuffer in the middle and eats up blockers for Howard to break free to get the backs and for Obomese to get to the quarterback.

The Miners defense does have some holes, however. Outside of Howard, UTEP is thin at linebacker and very inexperienced in the secondary, something Price said they tried to address, but are still waiting to see how things will turn out.

"We needed to fill some holes at linebacker and at corner," Price said, "so we recruited some JC guys. It just depends on how these guys pan out."

Entering the 2004 season, the UTEP Miners took in a new head coach seeking redemption and improvement upon seasons of futility. With a new head coach came a winning season and a bowl appearance. Entering this year's season and a new conference, the Miners are hopeful that their newly discovered success will carry over into another winning season and a possible Liberty Bowl berth.

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

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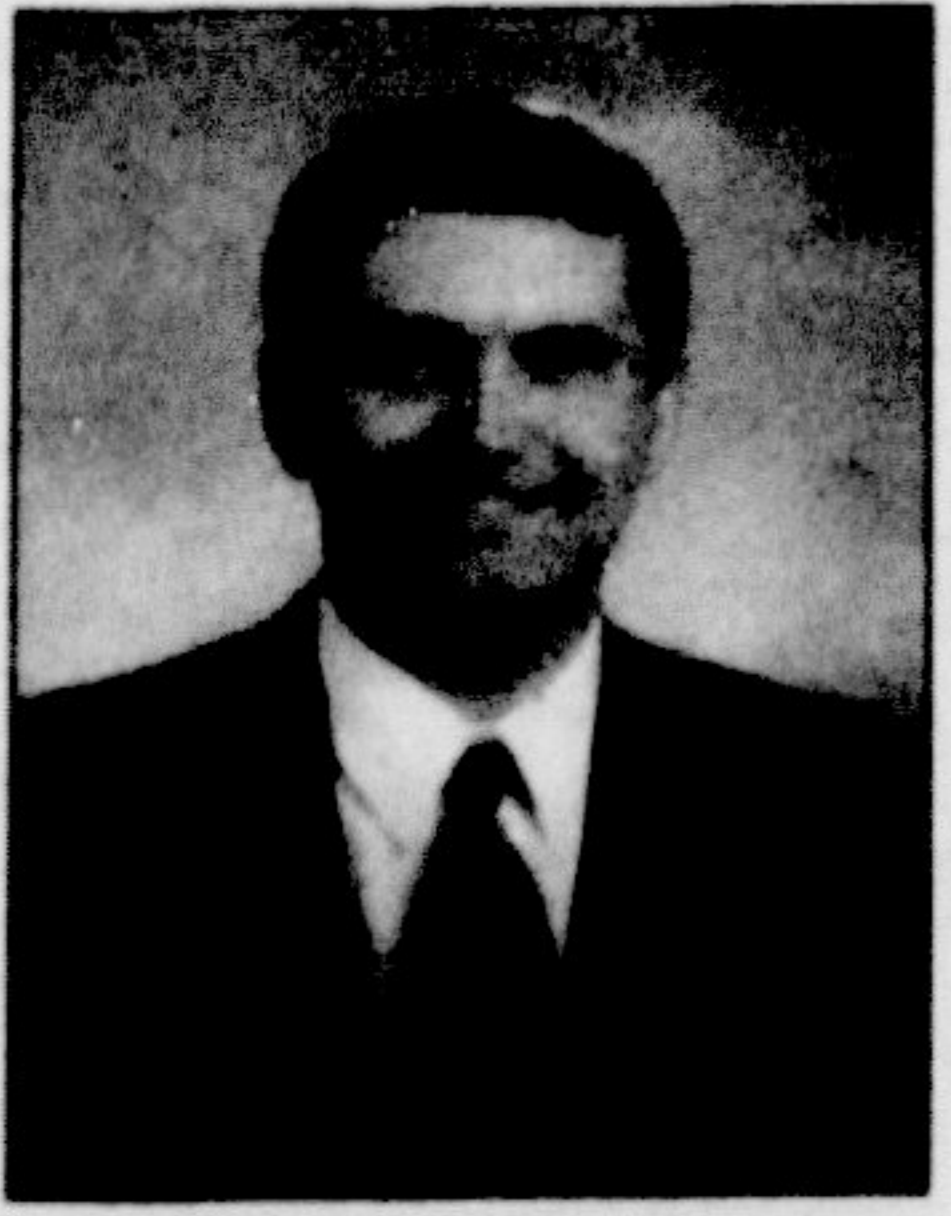
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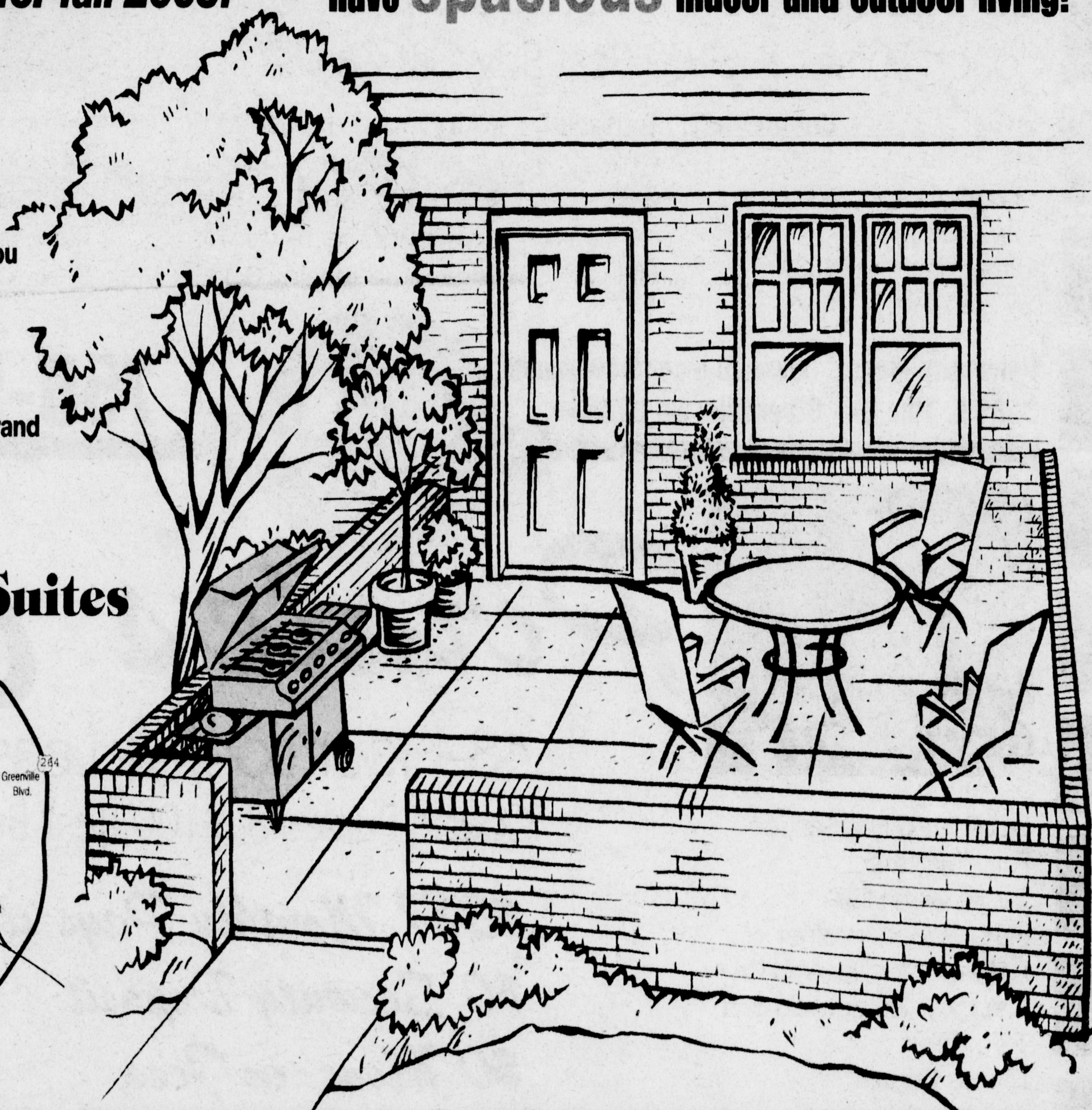
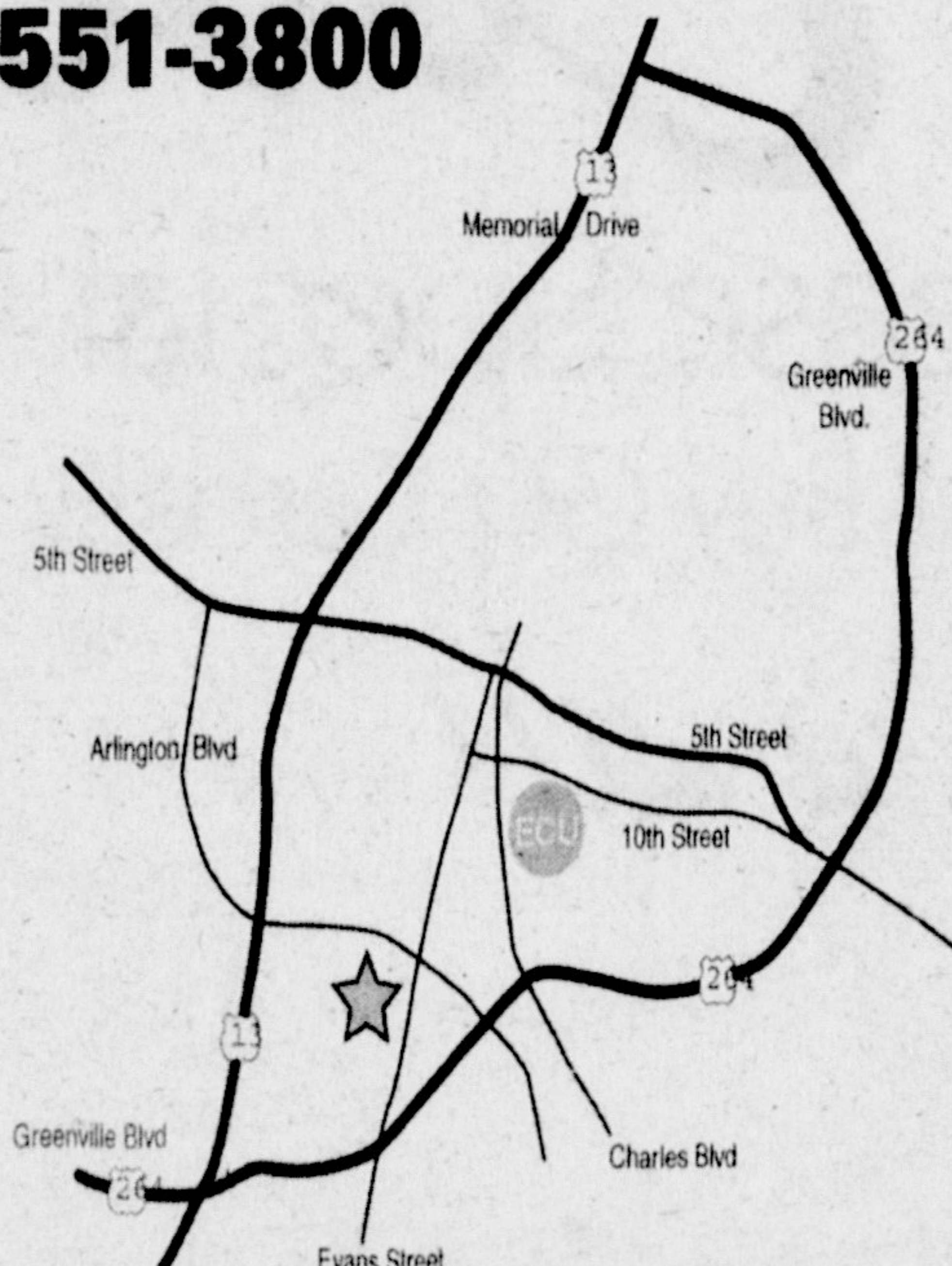
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