



The group of seven MBA students and 13 undergraduates pose in front of major landmarks while they are visiting Sydney, Australia.

Students met with ECU graduate turned Iraqi ambassador

KRISTIN DAY
NEWS EDITOR

Students taking courses with ECU's College of Business took a once in a lifetime trip to Australia where they learned about local business and culture, as well as met with the ambassador to Iraq.

The highlight of the trip was speaking with Ghanim Al-Shibli, Australian ambassador to Iraq and ECU graduate.

"He was called up ... and he ended up going to Iraq. During the transition, he left to go to Australia to serve in that role as Iraqi

ambassador," said Jim Westmoreland, associate dean of the college of business.

The students also spoke with his wife and daughter, who went to J. H. Rose High School. One student realized she had been a high school classmate when they were in Greenville.

Westmoreland said it made the students' day to see these people who came from Greenville and are now very important citizens of another country.

"All of our students went in [his home], he had fed us and opened up and talked for a long time," Westmoreland said. "All the students got to ask him everything about the war ... [and] how they're feeling about their safety."

When asked about ECU, the

ambassador had fond memories.

"He loved it," Westmoreland said. "He missed it - his daughter, too."

ECU students can participate in this program through the international business curriculum. They have visited Australia for about four years because it gives students a good look into international business.

"[Australia] tends to provide an international experience - it gets you into the area where you're talking about parliament," Westmoreland said.

During their stay, speakers from Australian companies like an advertising agency and videoconference company conversed with students.

Much of the arrangements were in collaboration with the University of Queensland, who made many

of the arrangements. Westmoreland said everything was very well planned, and Sydney was larger than he expected.

The seven MBA students and 13 undergraduates were there for 21 days. They had three weeks of class in Greenville to prepare their presentations before they left. Some topics presented while overseas included the role of technology in business, Australian political systems, tourism and taxation regimes.

About half of the students who went have traveled outside the United States before.

This program only occurs in the summer and students receive three hours of credit.

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

SGA reaches summer students

Meet ECU leaders Thursday

KRISTIN DAY
NEWS EDITOR

In an attempt to keep in touch with summer school students, SGA is holding their first outreach event this week.

The event is in collaboration with the student recreation center. SGA officers and some cabinet members will be available to meet and speak with students July 28 from 4 - 7 p.m. at the SRC outdoor pool.

"We're going to try and be more available for the students," said Morgan Lamberson, student body secretary.

"[The outreach] is to let students know we're here and we're thinking about them."

Music will be playing throughout the event and there will also be refreshments provided by Aramark.

"We are hoping this event will be a success," Lamberson said.

Cabinet members are also a major part of student government as they are chosen from different organizations on campus and will participate in the events SGA holds throughout the year.

The next cabinet meeting will be July 26, when they will begin assigning projects.

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

University transit keeps ECU buses running safely

In wake of London, Transit explains bus safety

KRISTIN DAY
NEWS EDITOR

It was taken as a joke when ECU Transit driver Joseph King walked through the buses for foreign packages the day after the London explosions. Safety, however, is taken very seriously in ECU transportation.

Freshmen coming to ECU are told to always have their One Cards on the buses, but they are rarely checked. In theory, anyone who looks like a student can get on the bus.

Wood Davidson, general manager for student transit authority, said the large amount of students that ride the bus make it impossible to ID everyone. However, anyone suspicious gets checked.

"If the driver thinks that this person might not be a student, or



Flowers accumulate at the British embassy in Washington, D.C.

if there's some kind of problem ... then they would ask to see a One Card," said Davidson.

If something suspicious does occur, drivers will investigate and call the ECU police if they need assistance. So far, drivers have only had a few incidents concerning verbal altercations. The police are called rarely and it's usually due to a passenger being playful, and then getting serious.

"Virtually none of it, in my opinion, is malicious," said Scott Alford,

transit advisor. "It's just playful stuff that gets out of hand."

Surprisingly, most of these happen during the day, and not from local bar patrons. Students coming from downtown know that they are getting a safe ride home, and are the most gracious. Alford said they are probably thanked more than anyone in the world.

According to Alford one thing that

see **TRANSIT** page A6

Announcements

Deadline for Fall semester

The last day to submit appeals for readmission for the Fall 2005 semester is Friday, July 29. On Friday, Aug. 12, fall semester fees will be accepted, but with a late processing fee. Schedules will be cancelled for all students who have not paid fees by 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 17. Faculty meetings will begin Aug. 22. Advising, registration and schedule adjustments will take place Tuesday, Aug. 23.

Home Expo

Interested in buying a home of your own? Progressive action and restoration community Development Corporation is holding the Home Expo Saturday, July 30 in the Willis Building in partnership with the City of Greenville planning and community development department and self-help credit union. Meet with housing representatives, general contractors, insurance companies, realtors and lenders. Registration is required. For more information, contact Missy Hill at 329-8141 or Gloria Kesler at 329-4226.

Sunday in the park

The Emerald City Big Band will provide entertainment with swing music this Sunday, July 31 during Sunday in the park.

Police Auction

The Greenville Police Department will be holding an auction of unclaimed property Saturday, August 6 at 9 a.m. behind the police department. Items will be sold to the highest cash bid. These items include over 100 assorted bicycles, televisions, stereos, calculators, VCRs, CDs, tools, cell phones, DVD players, lawnmowers, video games, furniture and more.

Walk to D'Feet ALS

The sixth annual Down East Walk to D'Feet ALS will be held Saturday, Sept. 17 at the Greenville Town Common. Registration will be at 9 a.m. and the 5K walk will begin at 10 a.m. Registration information is online at www.cafishchapter.org or toll free at 877-568-4347.

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

News Briefs

Local

Rowan County spends \$23,000 on investigation into letters

SALISBURY, N.C. - Rowan County officials paid private investigators more than \$23,000 over the past five years to search for the writer of anonymous letters criticizing county spending. And, according to the private eyes, that person turned out to be one of their own.

The Board of Commissioners never discussed or approved the spending for the investigation at any formal meeting. Only County Manager Tim Russell, his assistants and possibly two commissioners' chairmen knew of the investigation, The Salisbury Post reported. Russell said he hired the agency because of the threatening tone of the letters.

The investigation was revealed after Kiker Investigations of Salisbury issued a report claiming that County Commissioner Arnold Chamberlain wrote the letters and postcards addressed from the Department of Common Sense. Chamberlain denies writing the letters and has hired attorneys. Chamberlain said he learned of the investigation when he was given a copy of the Kiker report last week.

"This was sprung on me," Chamberlain said. "I am shocked and amazed, shocked that I am being accused and

investigated, amazed that taxpayer money is being spent like this." Chamberlain said he has received many letters and cards from Common Sense.

"I never felt threatened," he said. "I chalked it up to discontent, somebody with plenty of time on his hands." Kiker has investigated more than seven Rowan County residents since 2001, according to invoices that total \$23,044.

National

Gay Games add gold to pot at end of the city rainbow

CHICAGO - Rainbow pillars welcome revelers to a vibrant neighborhood of gay bars and nightclubs in a city whose mayor supports same-sex marriage and an openly gay alderman serves on the City Council.

Chicago has spent years cultivating its gay-friendly image, down to appointing a liaison to the gay community. Its annual Gay Pride parade drew a crowd of 450,000 and the city stands to profit next year when athletes and spectators from around the world pour in for Gay Games VII.

The weeklong Olympics-style games could pump \$50 million to \$80 million into the local economy, organizers say, while giving Chicago another chance to appeal to a lucrative market with

billions of dollars in estimated annual buying power.

"We like to have our share of that," said Bill Greaves, the city's liaison to the lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender communities.

Major events like the Gay Games give the city unmatched national and international exposure - major league soccer's World Cup did it in 1994, the Democratic National Convention drew the national media in 1996 and major league baseball's 2003 All-Star Game brought in fans from all over.

The 2006 Games could draw 12,000 participants from 70 countries and more than 50,000 spectators, said Kevin Boyer, an official with Chicago Games Inc., the local not-for-profit group putting on the event.

International

Blair: Britain won't 'give one inch' to terrorists

LONDON - Prime Minister Tony Blair said Tuesday that Britain would not "give one inch" to terrorists on his policy on Iraq and the Middle East, while police said two suspects in last week's failed bombings were emigrants from Somalia and Eritrea. Blair made his comments after a rare meeting with opposition party leaders to discuss new anti-terror legislation aimed at preventing a repeat of the

July 7 suicide bombings that killed 56 people, including four attackers.

The opposition, however, had reservations about increasing the time to hold such suspects, saying it could erode civil liberties.

At his monthly news conference, Blair said the response by Londoners to the July 7 bombings and the failed July 21 attacks against identical targets had been "magnificent."

"London is being tested but standing firm," he said.

When asked whether the British-backed and U.S.-led invasion of Iraq had fueled terrorist attacks around the world and in London, Blair said, "there was no excuse or justification" for the actions of the bombers.

"Whatever excuse or justification these people use, I do not believe we should give one inch to them, not in this country and the way we live our lives here, not in Iraq, not in Afghanistan, not in our support for two states, Israel and Palestine, not in our support for the alliances we choose including with America. Not one inch should we give to these people," Blair said.

"Sept. 11 for me was a wake-up call," he said. "Do you know what I think the problem is? A lot of the world woke up for a short time and then turned over and went back to sleep again."

Greenville Ulster Project promotes religious tolerance



Students participating stop to pose during the Ulster Project.

Teens from Northern Ireland, America interact

CHRIS MUNIER
STAFF WRITER

Since June 20 Greenville has been the site for the integration of Protestant and Catholic teens from Northern Ireland.

The Ulster project was designed to ease tensions between Northern Irish teens by bringing them to the U.S. to work on service tasks as well as have fun together. There are 28 different projects taking places in cities across the country.

Numerous sites in Northern Ireland feature this project as well. Greenville's program is the only one in North Carolina.

"The fact that we are the only project in the state speaks well for us," said Andrea Peters, president and co-coordinator of the Ulster project.

Peters has been involved with Ulster since 2001 and Greenville has hosted the program since 1990 (annually except for last summer).

There is evidence that suggests Ulster, in its 35-year history in the U.S., is helping its participants become more open to other faiths.

"No child that has participated in the project has ever joined a paramilitary organization," Peters said.

The program has also given American teens an opportunity to build kinships with kids the same age as them from another culture. Each child involved is between the ages of 14 and 16.

"There are two [teens] from Northern Ireland and two from America, a male and female from each country; basically all kids are represented," said Sylvia Dieu, American counselor and senior psychology major.

Dieu encourages other ECU students to become a part of the

project.

The group has already done service projects at various Catholic and Protestant churches. Before the program concludes on Wednesday, they will visit King's Dominion and Camp Trinity. They also worked a carwash to raise money for charity.

Each of the counselors and kids involved had good remarks about their experience with Ulster.

"I enjoy watching the different relationships form between the [members of] different religions," said Richard Moore, Irish counselor.

"It is helping the situation in Northern Ireland," said Laura Fitzpatrick, Irish counselor.

Connor McLaughlan, a 16 year old from Northern Ireland, and Allie Gabbianelli, 15, from the U.S., both enjoyed meeting people and being in an environment where people do not judge one another by face value.

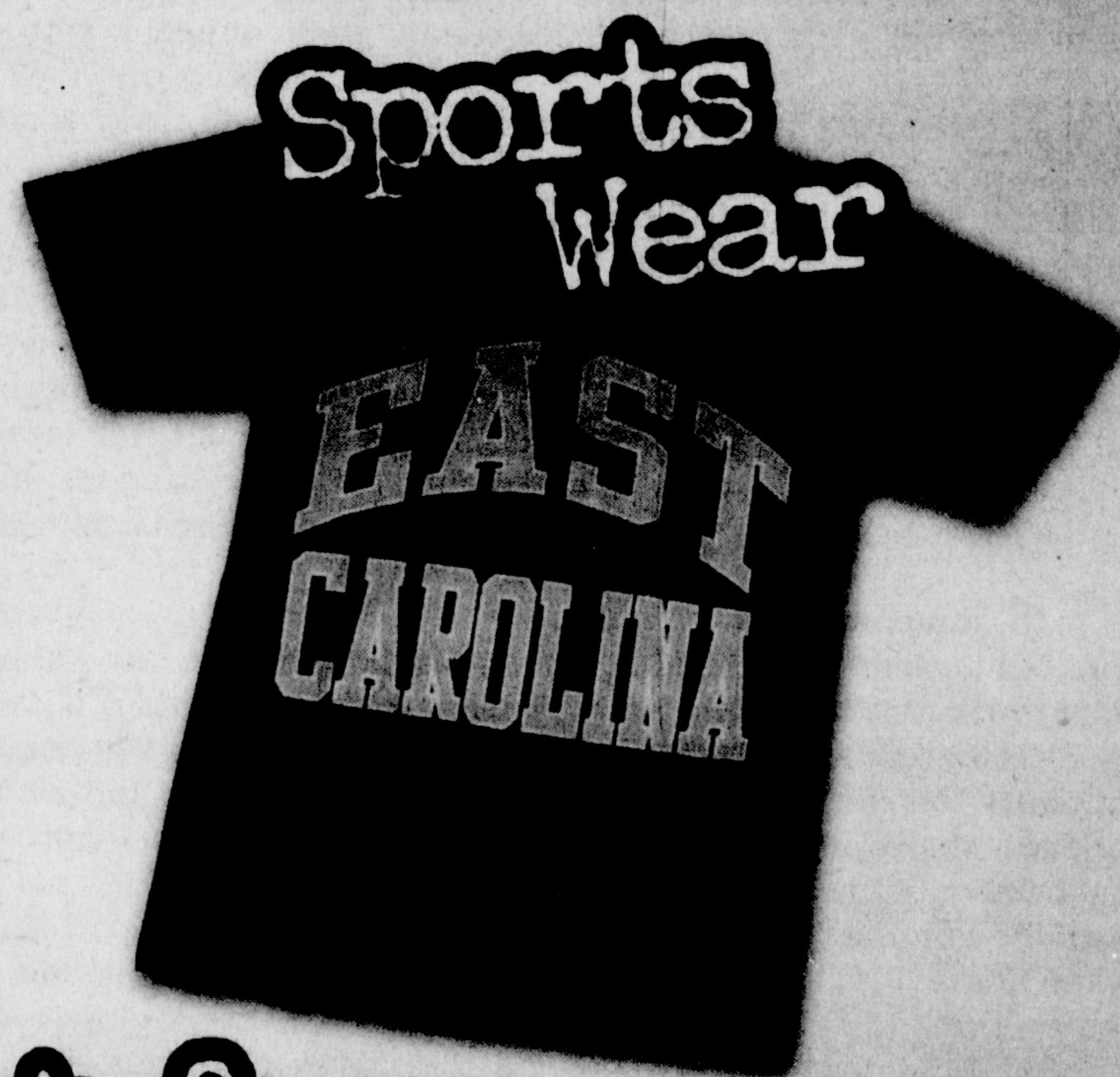
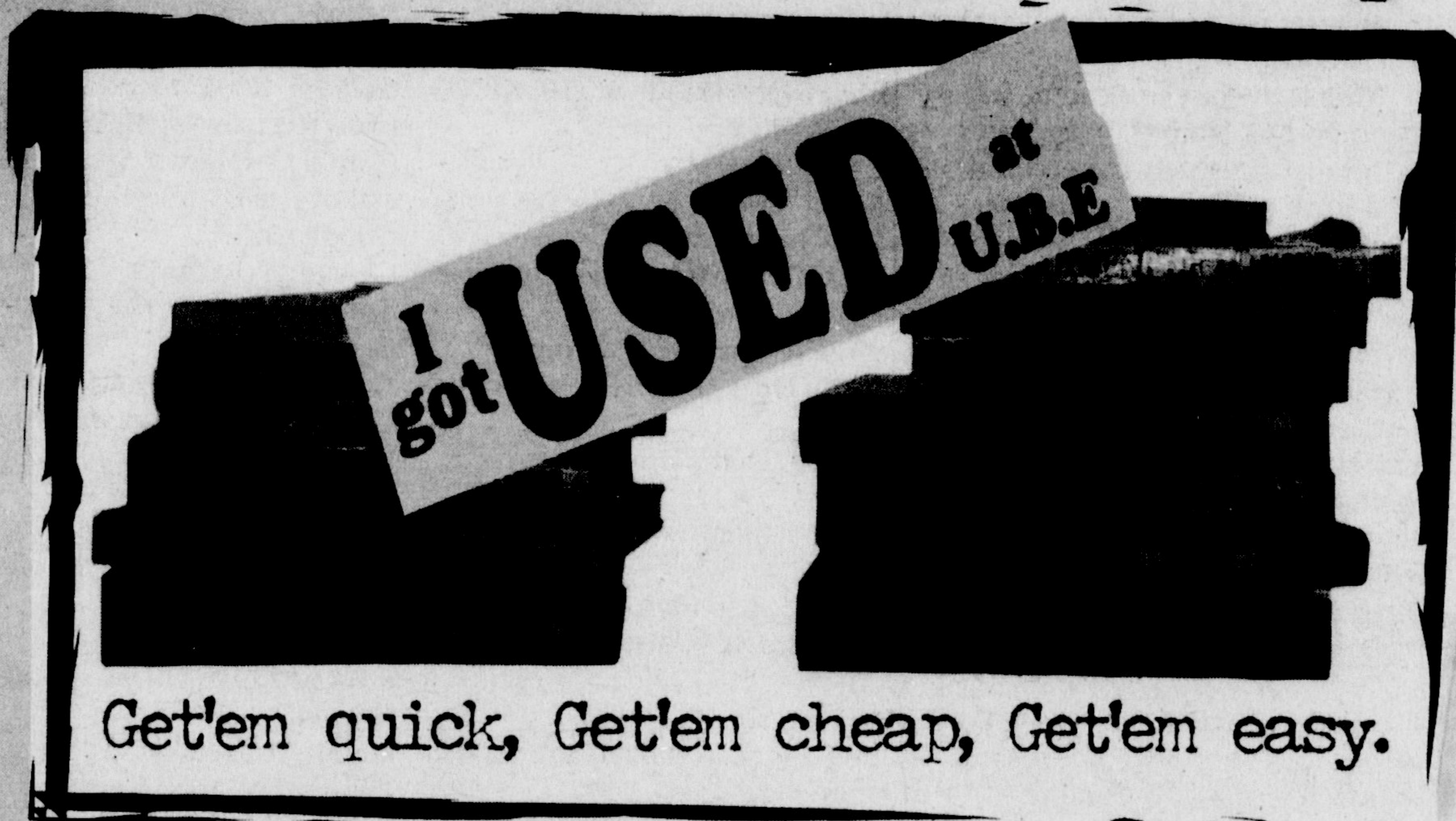
John Metcalf, American counselor and ECU alumnus, has experienced Ulster in the capacity as a kid in 1997 and as a counselor

see ULSTER page A6

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Pirate Rants

I know you want to kiss me so just do it!!!

To all the men who are intimidated by a strong independent woman, get over it. It's not impossible to have a relationship with her. You just need to have your stuff together.

Forget the bus drivers, what about the hot manager?? I hope he is still around.

To the ranter who sent the "Test Rant:" No, there is no way to tell who you are therefore there was no way to reply no.

To all those students who complain about getting parking tickets and being towed, this wouldn't happen if you actually learned to park where you're supposed to park. And from those of us who work at Parking & Transportation, don't assume we all give tickets. Just because we work there doesn't mean we give tickets.

To the ranter who wants a little more "Chocolate" in her "Milk"; If you think style is wearing white tee shirts 6 sizes too big, and wearing pants that follow that same standard, then you need to have your head examined ... trailer park anyone??!! Brothaz' Pull 'em up!!! NO MORE BUTTCRACKS!!!

Why do we have to pay more money during the summer to

use the Rec. Center if we aren't enrolled in summer school? We give ECU enough money during the school year; we shouldn't have to pay even more during the summer. Doesn't ECU already make enough money off of us poor college kids?

Going downtown these days is not the same place it was. Fights, robberies and sexual assaults galore. I go down there with friends and it seems like I have to constantly be on my guard at every corner. One bar seems to be the only place that doesn't allow a certain group of people who are committing a great number of these crimes.

Every time I go downtown it's like I've walked onto a Lil John or 50 Cent video shoot. Why are so many people just standing on the corner "hollering" at girls and starting trouble with the college students? Go back to your shanties! Freedom of speech is awesome, so post this!

Maybe there are some things that just shouldn't be ranted about. I know everyone has his or her opinions about race and who is right or wrong but what is the point of trying to make a big issue out of it through the newspaper? These students are trying to produce an informative paper and everyone is making it into their personal discrimination soap-box.

In My Opinion

Bringing the semester to a close

Final thoughts, a little fun

TONY MCKEE
CONSERVATIVE CORNER

As the sun scorches the Old North State and elsewhere in this great country, causing Liberals to say this proves the Global Warming theory, as sweat pours by the bucketful from the brows of those unfortunate enough to be outside, as tempers get short and even the dogs wish for the days of summer to depart, we approach several milestones.

This is the last week some will spend on this campus. The classes are almost finished; the accumulated junk of four years (or more) is either packed or in the trash and the rush is on to get the last few dollars for the textbooks you haven't been able to sell yet.

Some may have jobs waiting for them to go to next week. Some may still be on the prowl for the "perfect" job. Some may have all but given up, despairing that they will ever find a job that will allow them to use the knowledge gained through their (fill in the blank) degree. Some may not have the slightest idea what they are going to do, when they are going to do it or how it is going to be done.

Still others may have already achieved their goal in coming to college: meeting, and marrying, Mr. or Mrs. Right. For those in this category, my congratulations and best wishes for a happy future.

Some still have semesters and semesters and semesters to go, wondering if that light off in the distance is the one at the end of the tunnel or a freight train ready to flatten us where we stand, reducing us to nothing more than an oozing pile of rotting flesh and bones ...

Sorry about that. The heat

must have gotten to me.

Anyway, this being Finals Week, the last issue of the paper until the Fall semester, and just too blasted hot, I decided to not run the column I had prepared for this week. Instead, let's have a little fun and let me share something I came across surfing the web a while back.

So without further ado, for your reading enjoyment, shamelessly copied in whole from the Web site <http://www.freewebs.com/lfriedma/funny.html>, is

"WHO'S ON FIRST FOR THE NEXT GENERATION"

George: Condi! Nice to see you. What's happening?

Condi: Sir, I have the report here about the new leader of China.

George: Great. Lay it on me.

Condi: Hu is the new leader of China.

George: That's what I want to know.

Condi: That's what I'm telling you.

George: That's what I'm asking you. Who is the new leader of China?

Condi: Yes.

George: I mean the fellow's name.

Condi: Hu.

George: The guy in China.

Condi: Hu.

George: The new leader of China.

Condi: Hu.

George: The Chinaman!

Condi: Hu is leading China.

George: Now whaddya' asking me for?

Condi: I'm telling you Hu is leading China.

George: Well, I'm asking you. Who is leading China?

Condi: That's the man's name.

George: That's who's name?

Condi: Yes.

George: Will you or will you not tell me the name of the new leader of China?

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: Yassir? Yassir Arafat is in China? I thought he was in the Middle East.

Condi: That's correct.

George: Then who is in China?

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: Yassir is in China?

Condi: No, sir.

George: Then who is?

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: Yassir?

Condi: No, sir.

George: Look, Condi. I need to know the name of the new leader of China. Get me the Secretary General of the U.N. on the phone.

Condi: Kofi?

George: No, thanks.

Condi: You want Kofi?

George: No.

Condi: You don't want Kofi.

George: No. But now that you mention it, I could use a glass of milk. And then get me the U.N.

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: Not Yassir! The guy at the U.N.

Condi: Kofi?

George: Milk! Will you please make the call?

Condi: And call who?

George: Who is the guy at the U.N?

Condi: Hu is the guy in China.

George: Will you stay out of China?!

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: And stay out of the Middle East! Just get me the guy at the U.N.

Condi: Kofi.

George: All right! With cream and two sugars. Now get on the phone.

God Bless all of you and I'll see you in the Fall.

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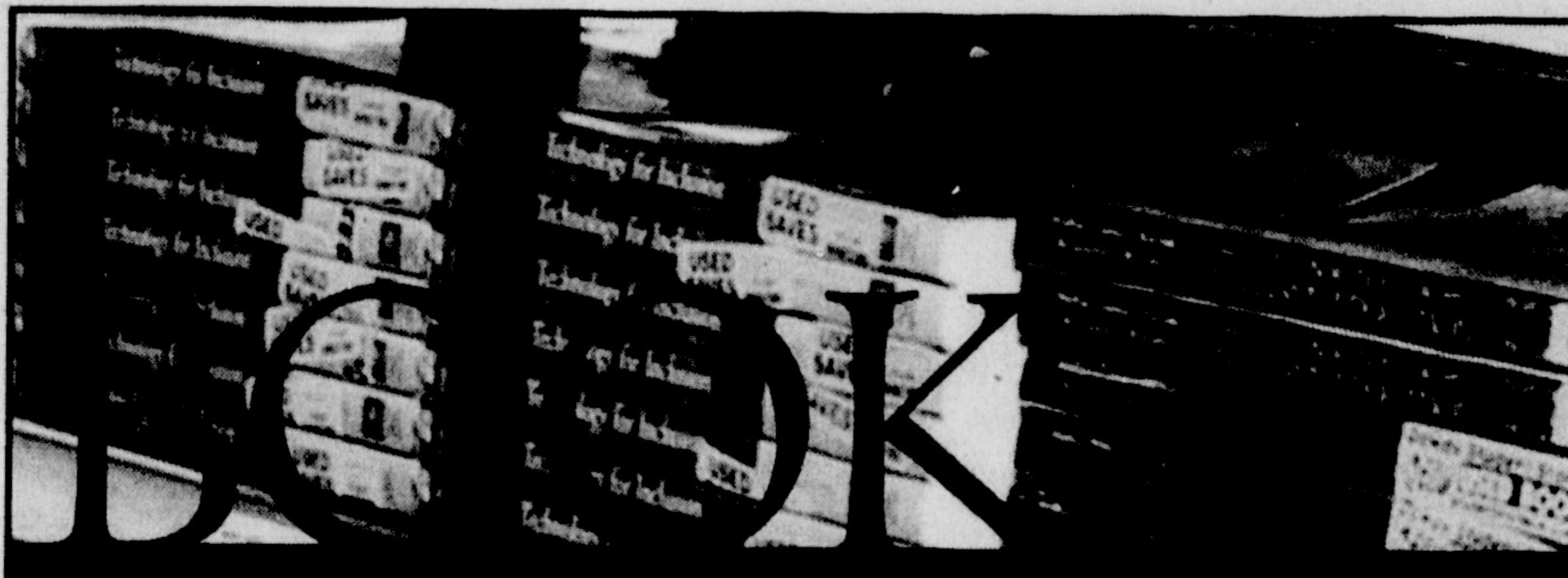
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GOT PROBLEMS?

The East Carolinian will feature an advice column for fall 2005 and we would like to hear from you. Visit www.theeastcarolinian.com to make an anonymous submission



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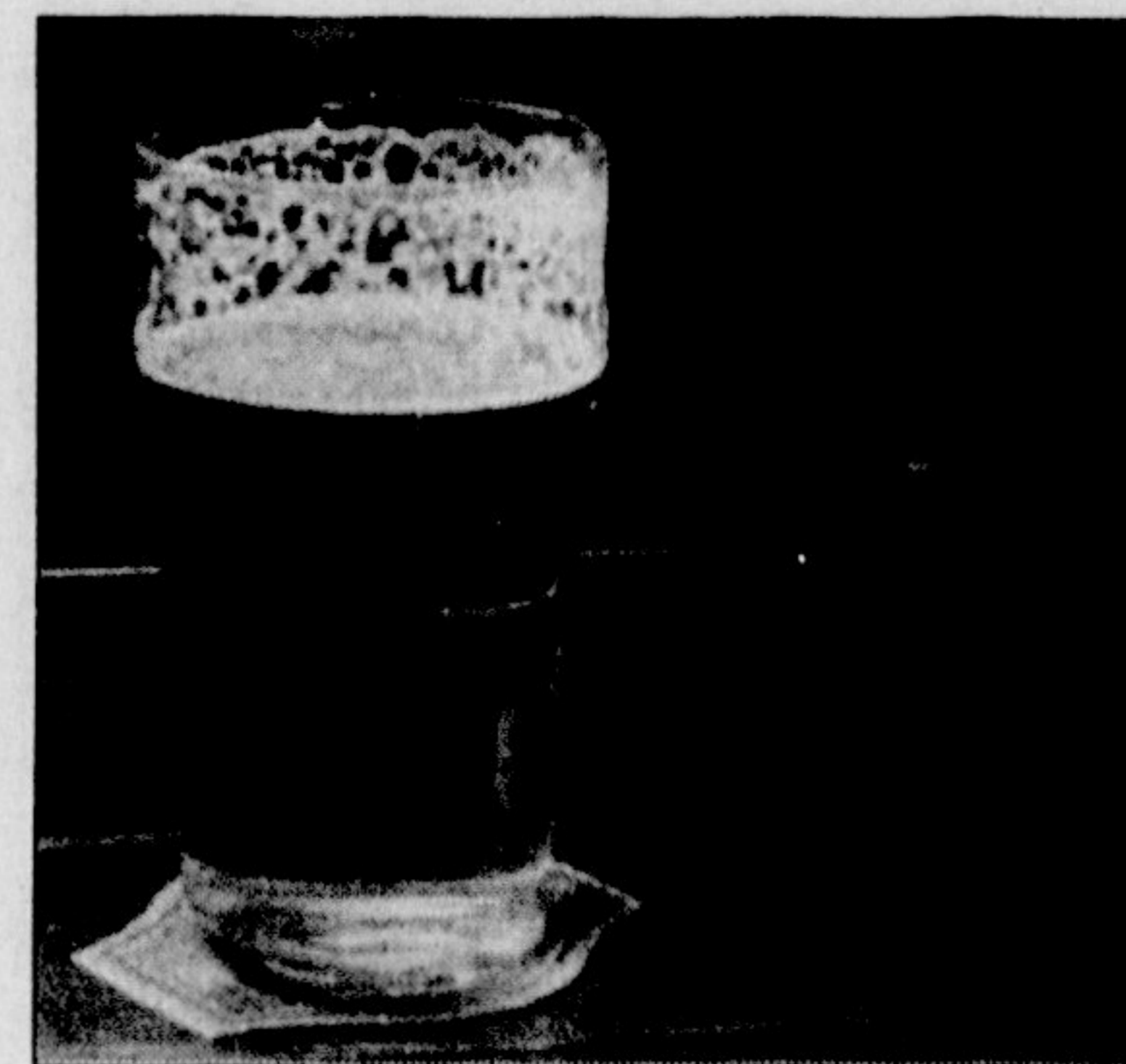
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Drunk driving top crime for ECU PD



photos.com

Problem stems from visitors, not students

LAUREN ELLIS
STAFF WRITER

It's summer time and that means bathing suits, cookouts and lots of alcohol, of course. While classes are taking a break, the ECU Police Department isn't.

"We usually have one to two traffic stops related to alcohol a night, but most of the people stopped during the summer are visitors and not students," said Major Frank Knight with the ECU Police.

"They'll park in ECU parking lots, go to the bars and clubs and then do something like run over a curb or just cause a scene. That gives us grounds to pull them over."

It's not just parking lots that the ECU PD have jurisdiction over either. All adjacent streets to ECU's campus are their responsibility too. They can follow suspicious drivers further than most might expect if an incident happens on university property.

Last year, ECU Police reported 82 DUIs - 60 percent of which were students and 40 percent were visitors.

Getting a DUI from an ECU police officer is not a lesser offense either. If pulled, the driver is subjected to a field sobriety test, a chemical sobriety test and, if arrested, the driver will go through the civilian court. Many times, the driver must pay of fines that can sometimes cost more than \$1000, lose their license and enroll in a program at ECU called OSCAR (Office of Student Conflict and

see CRIME page A6

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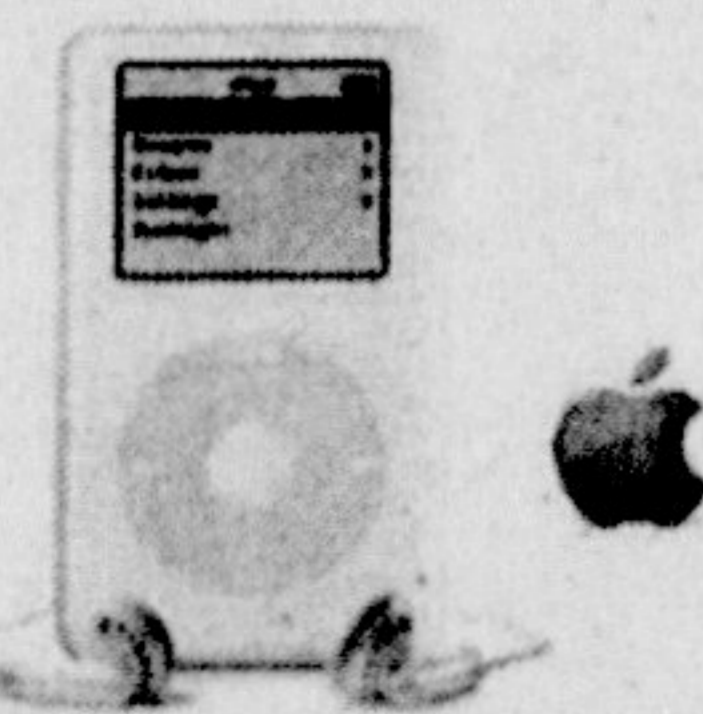
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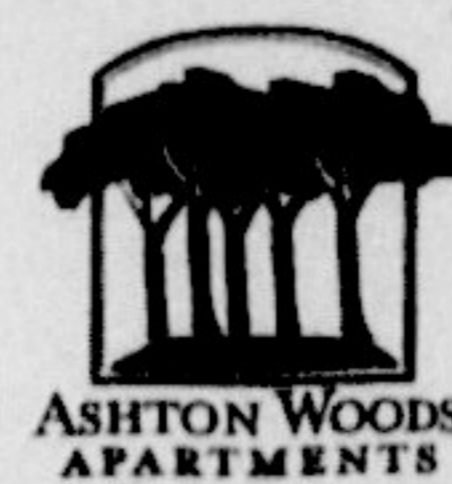
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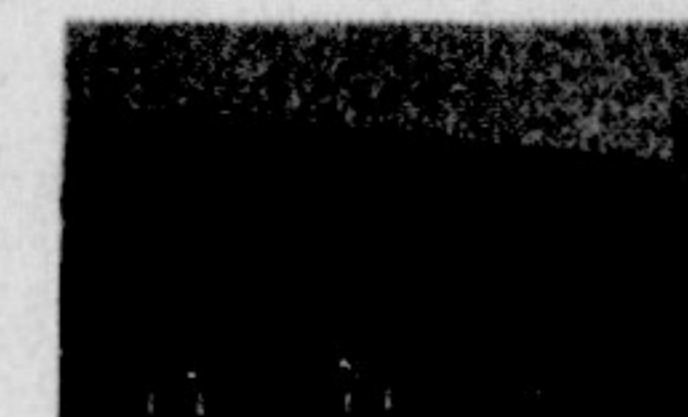
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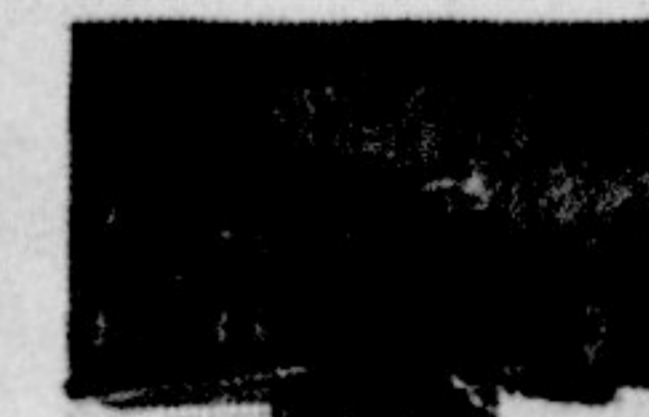
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ECU holds first student convocation in decades, focuses on freshmen

'Explore ECU' to collaborate with event

KRISTIN DAY
NEWS EDITOR

In order to familiarize new and old students with the university, ECU is holding the first student convocation in years Aug. 21 in Wright Auditorium at 1:30 p.m.

Garrie Moore, vice chancellor of student life, is heading the event as a request from the chancellor.

Don Joyner, associate vice chancellor for the academic advising and support center, said they are still in the midst of finalizing everything for the program, but the event is something the chancellor and vice chancellor feel very strongly about.

"We needed an opportunity to welcome the freshmen, and all the students, to ECU," said Joyner.

Provost Jim Smith, SGA President Cole Jones and a representative from the athletics department will join Moore on stage to speak to the attending students. The ROTC will also be participating during the procession at the beginning.

Joyner said their purpose is to make newcomers feel welcome and like part of the university community.

"It's going to be a really nice event," Joyner said.

The event will collaborate with the "Explore ECU in 3-D" program after the convocation.

Karen Slough, who is working with "Explore ECU", said this event will include 24 sessions designed to

help students with this transition period. Faculty and staff members will be hosting these sessions that will cover topics such as academia, balancing work with life and being a student, leadership skills and how to keep relationships with people back home. Attendants choose two of these sessions to visit at 3:30 and 4:30 p.m.

Scholarships worth about \$150- \$200 to the bookstore will also be given out.

After the convocation and "Explore ECU", dinner will be provided and possibly a comedic performance. If a student attends all of the events, they will automatically be among the first ones in the theatre to see the show.

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

Transit from page A1

helps the transit system, but might hurt students is that students are creatures of habit. Bus drivers learn their passengers quickly, so they know when someone is new or suspicious.

"The drivers are our first line of defense," Alford said.

If found without a One Card, a driver will typically ask a passenger to bring it next time; however, they can be told to leave if they were disruptive.

Drivers are taught first to drive safely, be aware of their surroundings and not ever get involved in a confrontation. They also are told to regularly walk through the bus and to check for anything suspicious.

To increase transportation safety even further, Wood said two of their four new buses have a new camera system installed. Each bus has five on-board video and audio cameras that have been recording bus routes this summer. It is a test program that will be implemented on buses with night routes.

Alford said this gives students a better sense of comfort in an awkward situation. If someone suspicious is with them on the bus, they know someone is watching them. So far, they have only had to look at one incident, and it was not related to the driver.

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

Ulster from page A2

in 2005.

The name "Ulster" is the historical name for Northern Ireland. It is a six-county-province that is northeast of the Republic of Ireland.

Ulster has gotten a great deal of its support from churches and private donations. They also used the Greenville Boys and Girls Club for activities.

According to Ulster's Web site, their goal is, "To build tolerance, trust and ongoing positive relationships between potential leaders from the different Christian Traditions."

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

Crime from page A5

Resolution).

In OSCAR, offenders must do community work, pay more fines and enroll in an alcohol awareness administration program.

"We know students are going to drink and we try to give them the benefit of the doubt," Knight said.

"But it's a serious offense when you put your life and other's lives in danger."

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

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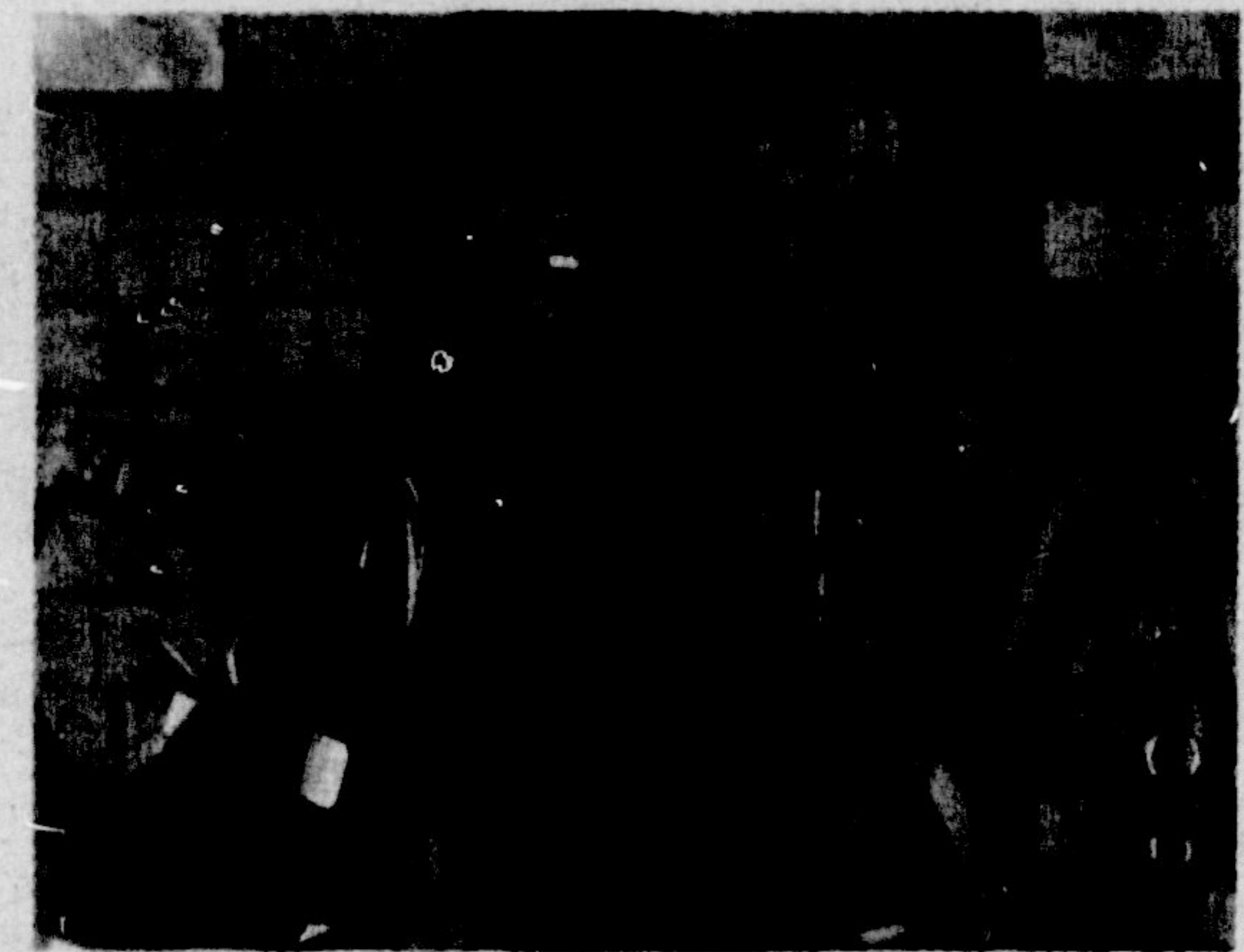
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FEATURES

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CAROLYN SCANDURA FEATURES EDITOR

Escape to 'The Island'

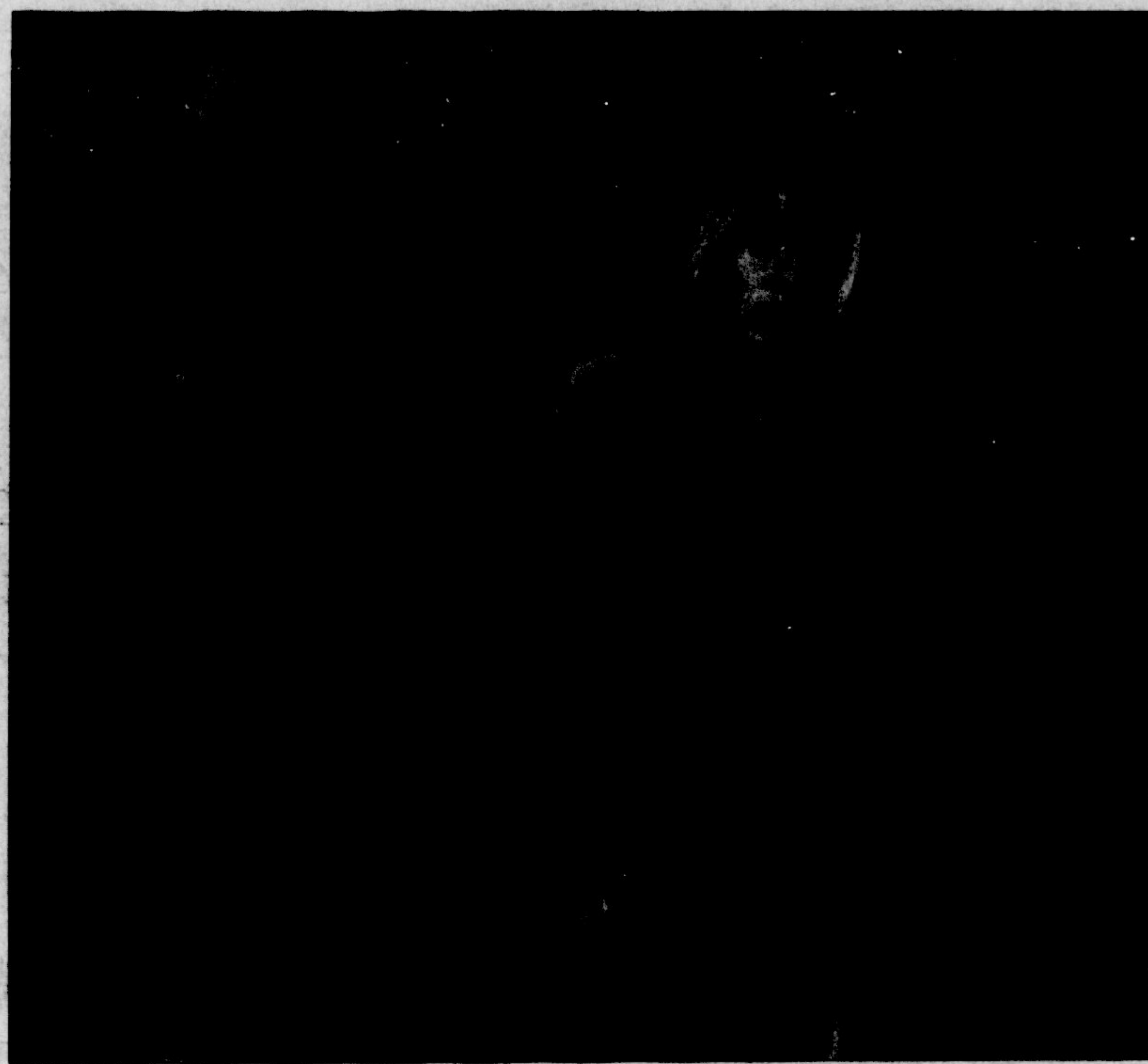
New Michael Bay thriller serves up great fun

TREVOR KIRKENDALL
STAFF WRITER

Loud. Fast. Crazy. Obnoxious. Pointless. All words people use to describe a Michael Bay movie. From *Bad Boys* to *Armageddon* and *The Rock* to *Pearl Harbor*, Bay's films are just that. Loud, fast, crazy, obnoxious and pointless films are only there to show big explosions and people running around really fast.

But with his latest action flick, *The Island*, Bay seems to have chosen a bit more wisely this time around. He chose a sci-fi flick that had an intriguing plot line, put his own style on it and was still able to keep it looking halfway decent.

The Island stars Ewan McGregor as Lincoln Six Echo, a resident of contained society kept locked away from the world which has become "contaminated." Everyone looks the same. Residents dress in white and supervisors in black. This color separation reminded me a lot of George Lucas' first film *THX-1138*. The only place in the world that is unharmed is known as "The Island." Everyone wants to go there and everyone will go there. Everyone is chosen at random through a lottery, and one day, Lincoln's friend, Jordan Two Delta (Scarlett



Ewan McGregor and Scarlett Johansson travel to the deadly island.

Johansson), is selected to go.

But Lincoln has questioned his existence here for a while. He believes there is more out there than he's being led to believe. One night, he finds his way into a location he was never meant to see. He figures out that the whole story of "The Island" is fabricated. A trip to the Island means you will die, but for what reason?

Lincoln escapes the compound with Jordan and they go in search of a supervisor that Lincoln knows named McCord (Steve Buscemi) who informs them they are nothing more than clones of people in the real world. They're simply insurance policies.

Sean Bean (*Lord of the Rings*, *National Treasure*) plays his typical, evil dark self as the antagonist Mer-

rick, who owns the company that makes the clones of everyone willing to pay the right price. They have been doing this for years, and they use the promise of "The Island" as a way to make everyone go quietly into surgery when their outside client needs a spare part. When Lincoln and Jordan go missing, Merrick enlists the help of Albert Laurent (Djimon Hounsou) to track them down.

Now begins the chasing. Hounsou chases McGregor and Johansson around Los Angeles for the last hour of the film. It is in very typical Michael Bay fashion that this happens. It does get a bit monotonous after a while, but our attention is never completely lost. Bay doesn't reuse anything that has already happened before. Once a car gets destroyed, no other car will be wrecked in the same way later in the film.

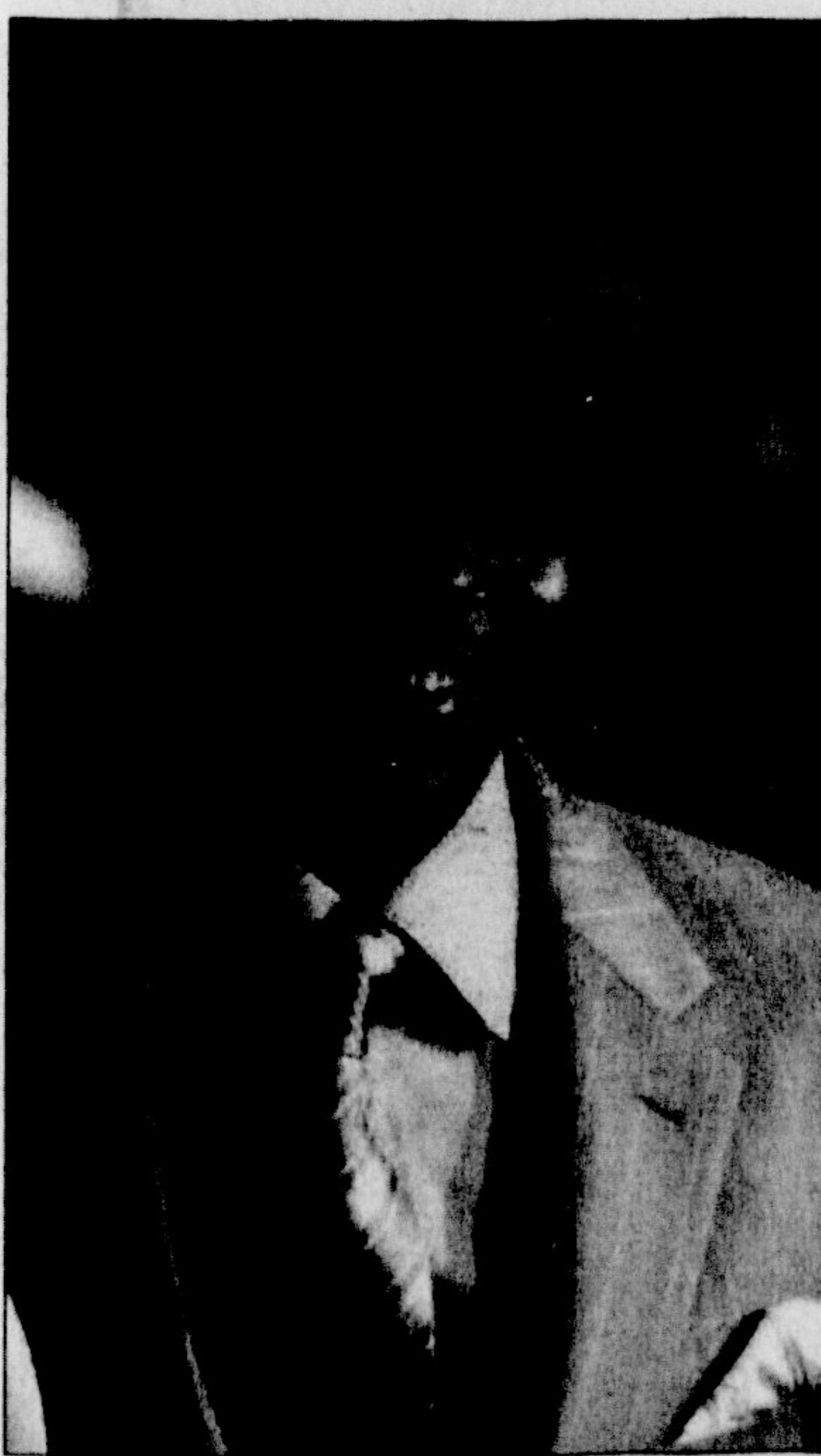
The screenplay was written by Caspian Tredwell-Owen, Alex Kurtzman and Roberto Orci based on a story by Owen. Owen's story is essentially two separate movies - the first hour being a science fiction film and the second hour being a chasing film. Both stories flow seamlessly and work very well. There is no clear end of the sci-fi part and no clear beginning

see ISLAND page A10



Johansson sparkles on the island and screen as Jordan Two Delta.

'Hustle & Flow' dreams big at box office



Terrence Howard plays pimp DJay.

The Sundance Audience Award winner is one of the year's best films

TREVOR KIRKENDALL
STAFF WRITER

If you can dream it, you can achieve it. We've all heard this phrase before in our lives. It's part of the American Dream. Anyone can do anything if they are willing to work for it.

This is the principle behind Craig Brewer's award winning film *Hustle & Flow*. The film follows a Memphis pimp named DJay (Terrence Howard). He has become tired of pimping ladies out of his hooptie. He even lives with the girls he pimps (Taryn Manning, Taraji P. Henson and Paula Jai Parker). He's also a fan of a rapper named Skinny

Black (Ludacris), who is also from Memphis and got out of there by building a name for himself with demo tapes he made in his basement. DJay thinks that if Skinny can do it, he can do it too.

He meets up with an old friend named Key (Anthony Anderson) who just so happens to be a sound engineer now. DJay shares some of his thoughts with him and Key agrees to help him get those thoughts from paper to a record. They start recording some of DJay's ideas with the help of Shelby (DJ Qualls), a "light skinned brother" as Key calls him.

Soon, DJay's songs about pimping take on a whole new light. The beats behind the words work and soon the songs start to sound amazing. DJay only knows about a life of pimping, so his songs follow that life. His titles include "Whoop

That Trick" and "It's Hard out Here for a Pimp."

DJay is in a hurry to get these songs finished for the Fourth of July so he can give his demo tape to Skinny Black when he'll be back in Memphis. His dream is to give the tape to Skinny, Skinny will listen to it and love it and he'll invite DJay on the road with him on his way to rap stardom.

Writer/director Craig Brewer won the prestigious Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival with this story line. *Hustle & Flow* is one of the best films to be released this year.

Actor Terrence Howard has done a lot of work before, but it has been in smaller roles and in low budget films. His breakout performance came earlier this year in Paul Haggis' film *Crash* (which still remains this year's best film)

as a television director whose wife is accosted by a corrupt police officer. Howard gave an emotionally charged performance in that role and now he follows it up with *Hustle & Flow*.

Howard plays this role to blistering perfection which is better than any other actor this year. It's an Oscar caliber performance, and he should be recognized as one of the best actors this year. He conveys every emotion on the spectrum. You can see it in his eyes, what emotion it is that he is feeling. It's a performance on the same lines as some of the previous Oscar winners such as last year's Jamie Foxx in *Ray*, Sean Penn in *Mystic River*, Adrian Brody in *The Pianist* or Denzel Washington in *Training Day*.

Brewer's screenplay is also very

see HUSTLE page A12

Island from page A9



Members of 'The Island' crew Sean Bean, Djimon Hounsou, Michael Bay, Scarlett Johansson, Michael Clarke Duncan and Steve Buscemi.

to the second, which is why this works so well.

Think of Stanley Kubrick's *Full Metal Jacket*. The first hour took place in boot camp and the second hour in Vietnam. This is very similar to the plot structure in *The Island*. But in *Full Metal Jacket*, there was a clear distinction at the point where one story ended and another began. So in some respects, the plot in *The Island* flows better, which makes it much easier to follow and stay interested in.

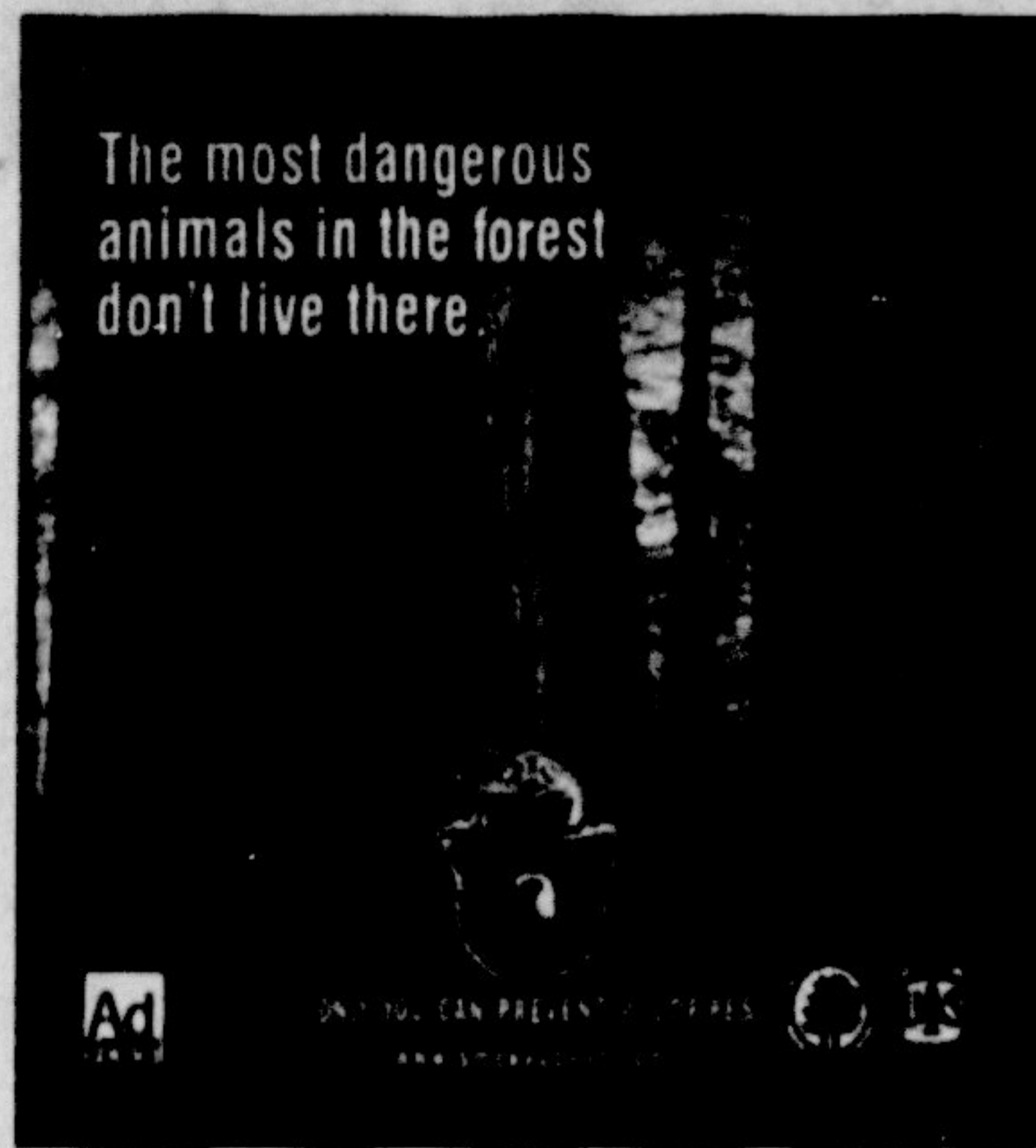
The first part of *The Island* contains an interesting blend of films. It reminded me of a mix between *A Clockwork Orange*, *The Matrix*, *THX-1138* and there was even a hint of *The Truman Show* in there too.

Then the second half took over and that reminded me of every single Michael Bay movie ever made.

But this story works. It is nothing more than the classic summer blockbuster flick that Bay is famous for putting together. Unfortunately for Bay, he has never made a decent film (except maybe for *The Rock*), but we shouldn't hold it against him forever. He may not be the best director out there, but credit should be given to him this time for putting out such a fun and exciting film.

Grade: B-

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



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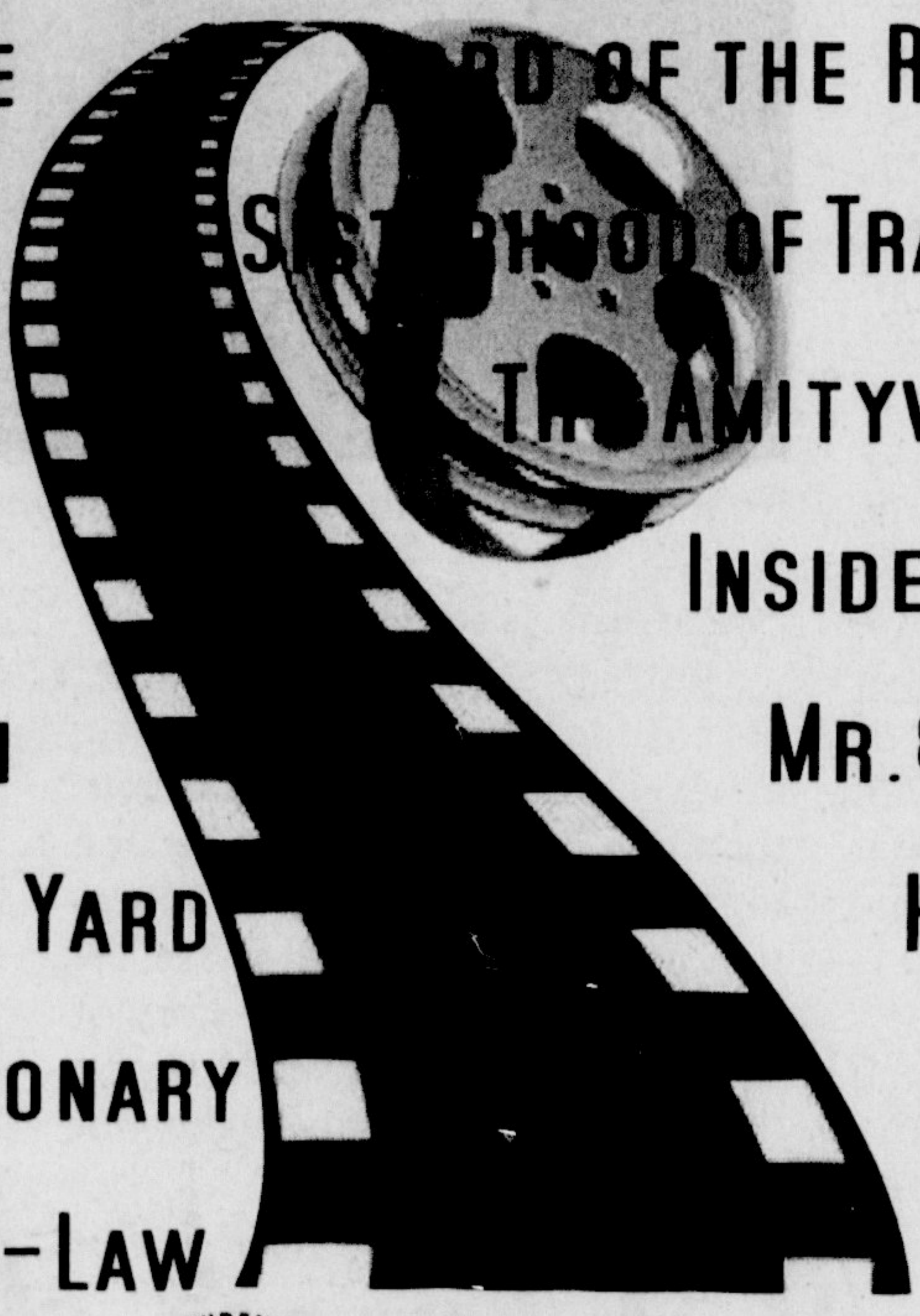
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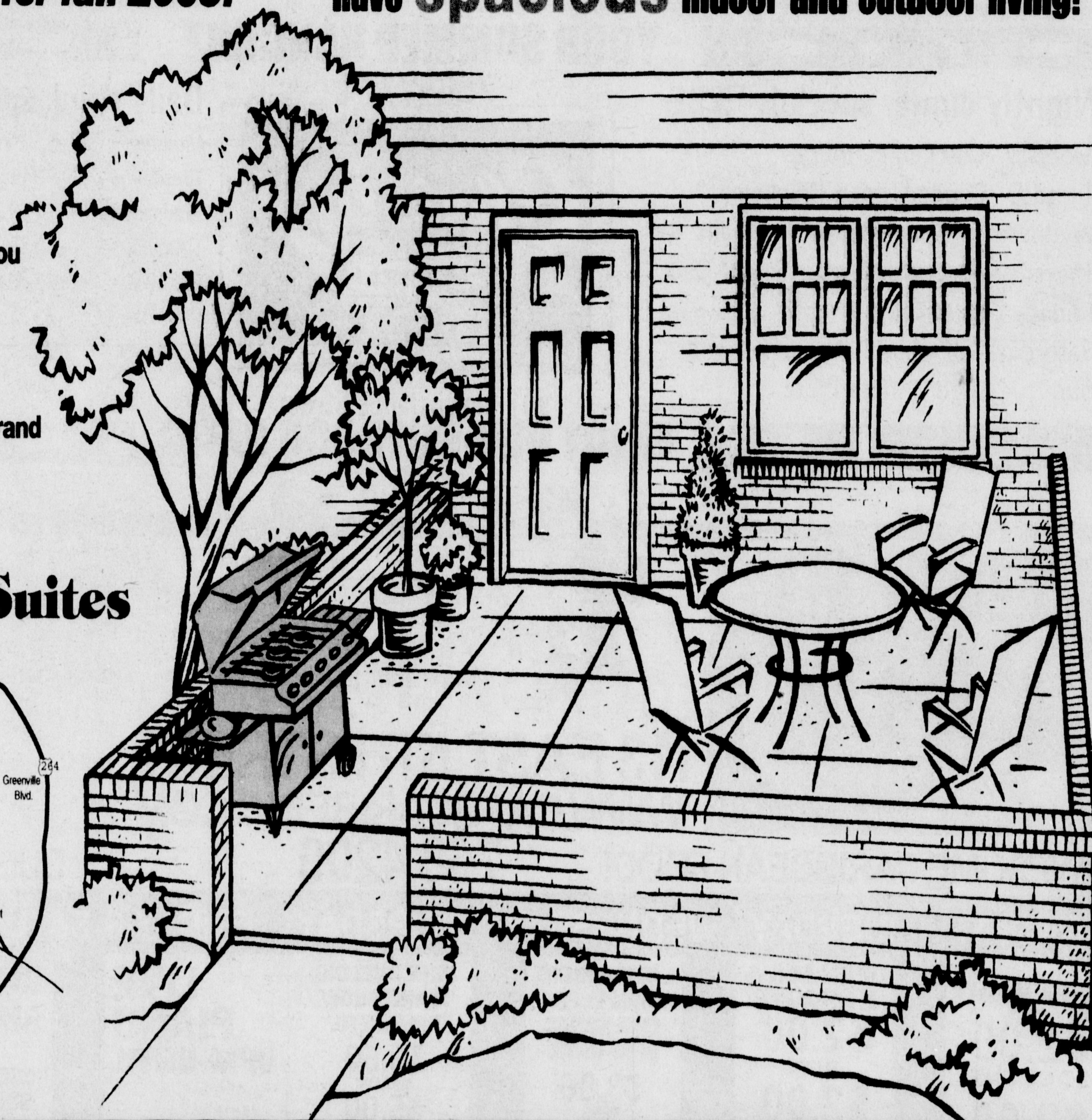
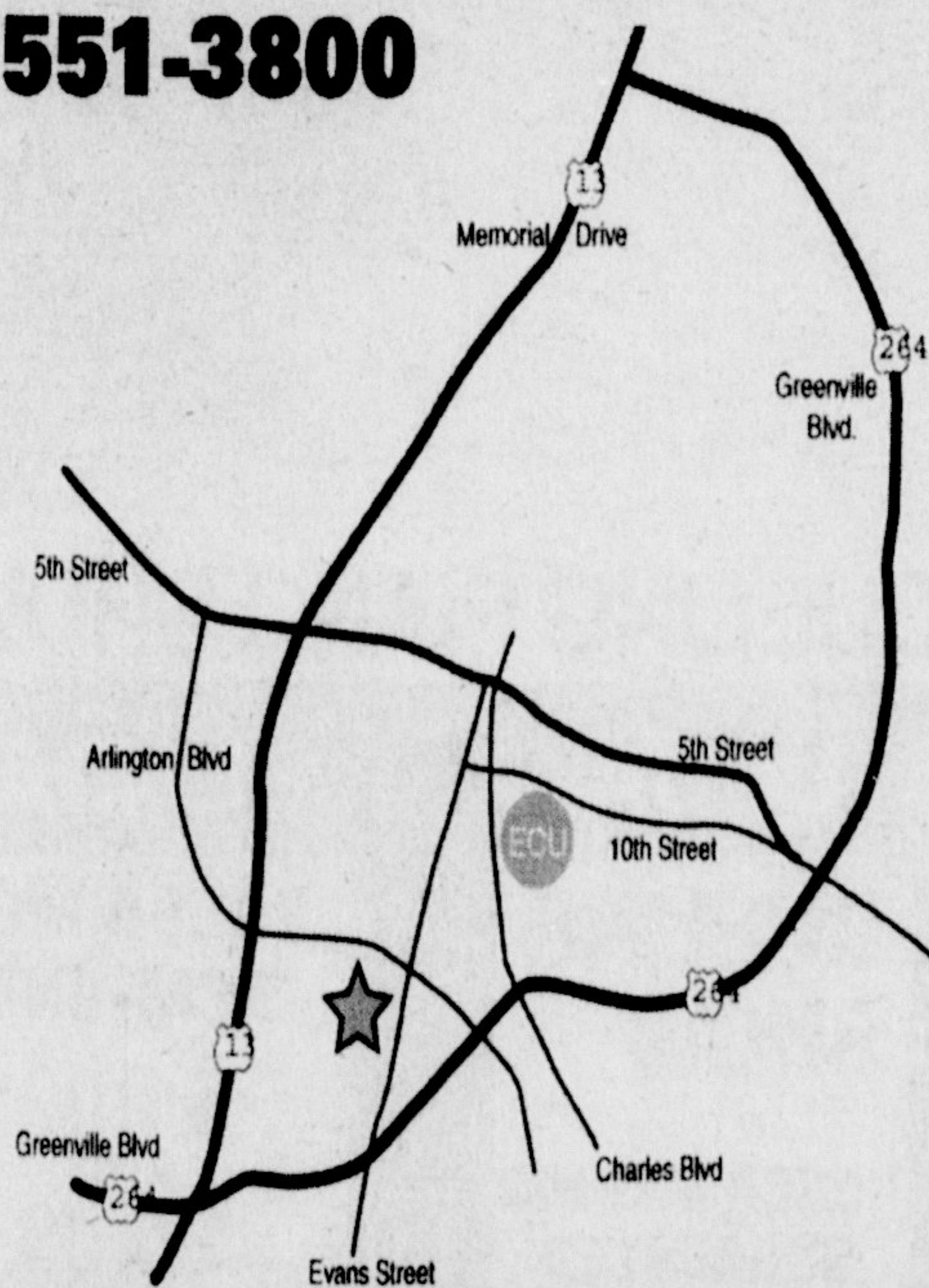
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Hustle from page A9



'Hustle & Flow' is one of the most successful roles Howard has played.

solid. This is the first big credit to his name. That is what the Sundance Festival does to young filmmakers. They come in with hopes that their film will be the one to be bought for that seven-digit figure and make them the next big thing to hit Hollywood. Brewer's success is somewhat displayed in this story. He and DJay are almost parallels. Brewer's screenplay shows this very well. It is an unbelievably solid script and should be remembered as such when the award season rolls around and nominations are being made.

Hustle & Flow is one of those films that is going to make you remember all the dreams and ambitions you had when you were younger. What did you want to do with your life? What was your dream? According to Brewer, it is never too late to go after it. DJay chases his dream and Brewer chased his all the way to Sundance.

Grade A+

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

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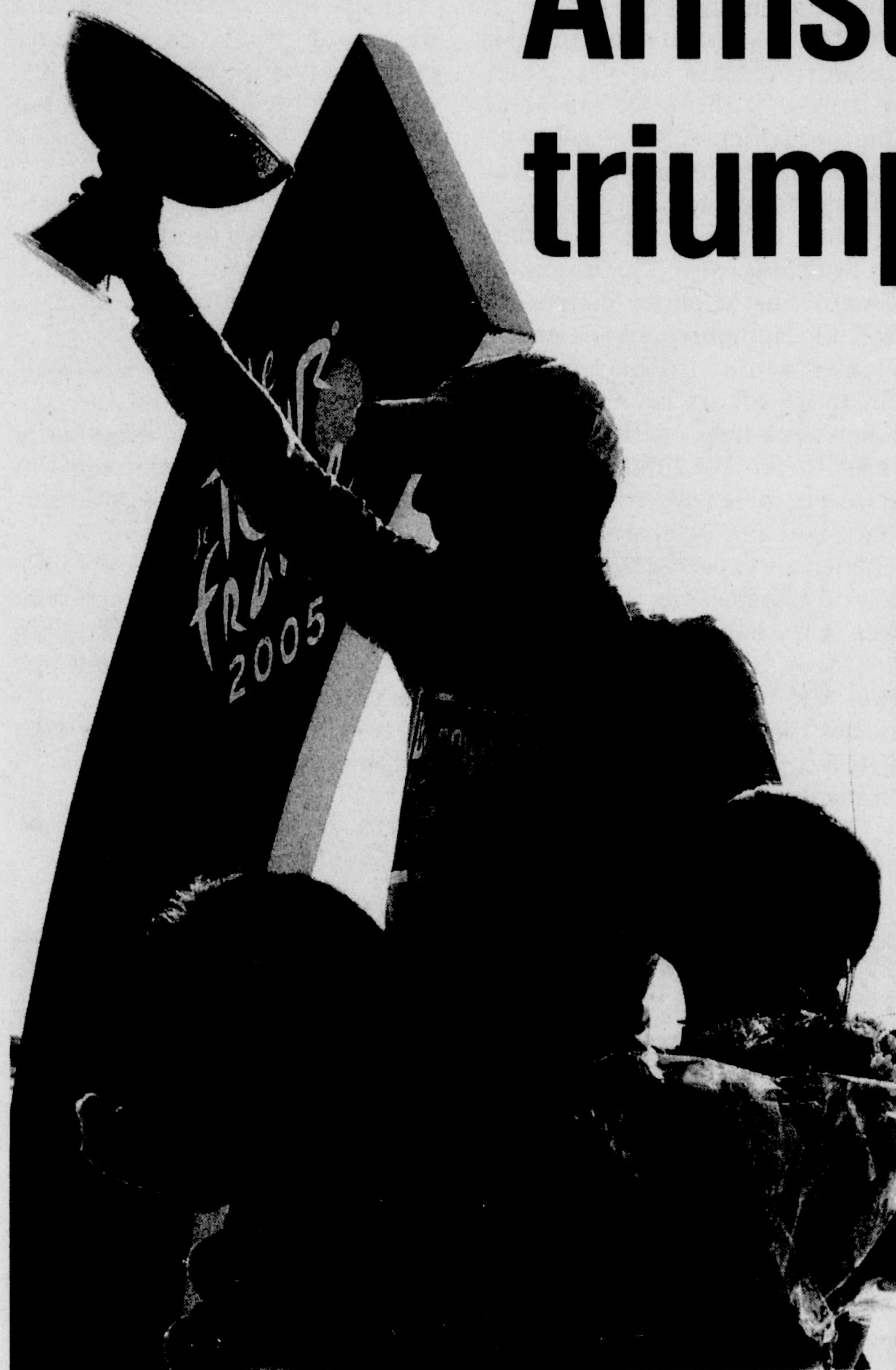
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SPORTS

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TONY ZOPPO SPORTS EDITOR

Armstrong makes final triumphant ride into Paris



Armstrong celebrates with his children following his 7th victory.

American rider easily captures seventh straight Tour de France

(KRT) — In the gloom, mist and rain of the early afternoon, Lance Armstrong's mood seemed as bright as the jersey he was wearing.

As Armstrong rode toward Paris in the ceremonial final stage of the Tour de France, something like a Sunday drive, he shook hands with rivals, photographers on motorcycles and officials of other teams.

He took sips of champagne and touched glasses with his team director, Johan Bruyneel, driving the Discovery Channel car. He toasted with the teammates riding on either side of him, Paolo Savoldelli of Italy, who won one of the race's 21 stages, and Yaroslav Popovych of Ukraine, whose 12th-place overall finish would win the white jersey as best rider under age 25.

Three hours later, the sun had come out on the man a French newspaper once called, "The Sun King," for ruling like Louis XIV over a race whose champion wears yellow. But in the warm, late afternoon glow of the Champs-Élysées,

Armstrong's emotions no longer seemed those of a man celebrating the end he wanted, on top of the Tour de France for an unprecedented seventh straight year.

He crossed the finish line with a blank expression and no gesture to acknowledge the moment. A half hour later, in speaking to the crowd from the victory stand, Armstrong delivered a defense of his sport in a parting shot that rang out as both defiant and embittered.

"The last thing I'll say to the people that don't believe in cycling, the cynics, the skeptics, I'm sorry for you," Armstrong said. "I'm sorry you can't dream big, and I'm sorry you don't believe in miracles.

"This is a great sporting event, and you should stand around and believe, and you should believe in these people (the riders). I'm a fan of the Tour de France for as long as I live, and there are no secrets. This is a hard sporting event, and hard work wins it. So Vive Le Tour forever."

Armstrong's words clearly were meant as a tongue-lashing to everyone who has focused on cycling's well-documented problems with doping, which turned the 1998

Tour de France into a scandal from which one-third of the teams either withdrew or were expelled for illegal drug use.

That cloud hung over the race when Armstrong won his first Tour a year later, and it has not dissipated. Allegations that Armstrong has used drugs, made by people who worked with him and a cyclist who once rode with him, have rained on his victory parade ever since.

They began in 1999, when Armstrong tested positive for a banned corticosteroid but was cleared because he had a medical authorization to use it as treatment for saddle sores. He never has tested positive since.

In Sunday's edition of the French sports newspaper, *L'Equipe*, an article with the main headline, "Who Then is Lance Armstrong?" had a smaller headline saying, "The American leaves cycling today with another Elysian triumph. And with seven years that have provoked more questions than he will have answered."

Such words likely provoked

see **PARIS** page A15

Greenville transforms on Pirate's game day

ECU football provides plenty of entertainment

ERIC GILMORE
SPORTS WRITER

For five or six fall Saturday's every year, Greenville transforms. The usual sedate college town becomes abuzz with diehard fans, 'partygoers' and souvenir vendors. Normal grass parking lots usually reserved for weekend soccer games become littered with pig cookers, Pirate flags and decked out RVs.

For fans, ECU football is a gathering place for the entire community. Dowdy-Ficklen becomes the heart of the town while highways 11, 43 and 264 become arteries. Business partners congregate in their luxury suites, past friends reunite and local charities solicit money.

The scoreboard dictates the mood of the town for the entire off-season. Lately, Greenville has been more somber than in the mid-1990s. If the Pirates win, nevertheless, the blood runs deep purple.

There is no other sports season for Pirate fans to look forward to. It's caused disappointment too many times. Unlike ECU's western neighbors who share the same state boundaries, football is the main draw. A botched play or call will be talked about for the entire off-season.

At other schools, fans park minutes before kick-off and to rush into the game. At ECU, it is an injustice if you simply walked to the game. One has to partake in eastern N.C. barbecue, watch the Purple Haze entrance and yell-out "Pirates" every time the team gets a first down to fully understand

game days.

For students, the home games are experiences that provide lifetime memories. Each individual experience is different and unique to the specific game. However, the actual game is just a minute part of the entire process that students

Game days usually start with an early morning wake-up call. With noon games, on-campus students often awake to a marching band blasting outside their window. Each year, "band day" clogs up College Hill when 20-some odd bands roll into town.

Once the student is properly attired in a purple ECU shirt (no exceptions), they fill their cooler up and head out to their respective tailgates. Students tailgate with organizations, close friends or parents. It's often hard to choose which group a student wants to socialize with

hours prior to the game.

The tailgates are all different. A fraternity and sorority may be welcome in their alumni. Loyalists deep fry turkeys, tangle with Bojangles biscuits or the aforementioned barbecue. Some "professional" tailgaters have deep rooted traditions that span over 30 years.

Walking into the game, students are often unprepared as to the amount of people who make their pilgrimage to Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. On certain Saturdays, Dowdy-Ficklen will hold 43,000 screaming fans.

The actual game provides plenty of entertainment as well. Students sit in their special Student Pirate Club sections virtually on top of the action. They banter with the opposing team on the near sideline (usually the kicker) while still cheering the Pirates on. High-fives

are exchanged on good plays and moans on bad ones.

Most diehard students lose their voices by halftime. But it is the collective unit, powered by the marching band, which dictates the amount of noise the stadium generates. Last year, when the Pirates drove down the field with time dwindling against Tulane, it was the student section that spearheaded the noise.

The waning moments provide drama (hopefully). After the game concludes, students cross to the south stands to congratulate the team as they trod back to their locker rooms inside the Ward Sports Medicine Building. Directly after the game, the raw emotions of the players are captured. Last year, running back Marvin Townes was

see **FOOTBALL** page A14

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Football *from page A13*

visibly crying after a tough loss ended his eligibility.

Depending on the result of the game, students either go home dejected or to find a place to celebrate. The ladder provides a great opportunity for students to find the nearest party or go downtown. But the majority of the students are so spent from the day's activities that they simply retreat to their beds.

Home football games provide nearly a \$40 million boost to the local economy. However, no amount of money can replace the memories created when students experience traditions and tailgates of football games.

The Pirates have five home games this year. The schedule has been significantly improved for the next couple of years when West Virginia, Virginia and UNC will all travel to Greenville. But for now, Duke and Southern Mississippi highlight the home schedule. After all, what else do the Pirates have to look forward to?

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

SMU makes switch into Conference-USA**Mustangs will join newly formed Western Division**

RON CLEMENTS
SPORTS WRITER

For the Southern Methodist Mustangs, there is only room for improvement in 2005 coming off a disappointing 3-8 season in 2004.

On its schedule in 2005, the Mustangs face a few changes, the largest of which is SMU's move from the Western Athletic Conference to Conference USA. SMU has road games at Marshall and UAB.

The Mustangs will also travel to head coach Phil Bennett's alma mater of Texas A&M September 17 – a game Bennett is looking forward to. He realizes to get better is by playing the better opponents, which is another reason why the trip to College Station is important.

"We want to return SMU to where it was," Bennett said in an interview earlier this year.

He also said the move to Conference USA will cut down on travel

expenses and he likes the regional alignment and feels his team has a lot in common with the other teams in the newly formed C-USA Western Division.

The Mustangs return most of their starters on offense, including the team's starting quarterback, its top two receivers and the top two rushing leaders. SMU runs an offense with two quarterbacks and returning are senior quarterback Jerad Romo, who led the team in rushing with 434 yards, and senior QB Tony Eckert, the team's leading passer from 2004 with just 1400 yards and six touchdowns with 13 interceptions.

"It's pretty hard to defend two quarterbacks, Bennett said. "Romo has 4.5 speed while Tony is more of a pure passer, but we would like one of them to step up and be the guy."

SMU's offense was anemic in 2004, on par with the disappointing offense of East Carolina last year. The team's top running back Cedrick Dorsey netted just 431 yards. On the ground as a team the

Mustangs had just 1377 yards last season – something in need of dire improvement in 2005.

"We had a predominantly 'redshirt' offense last year," Bennett said. "I think we can be an improved offense. We've got to get our running game to where we can be more balanced."

SMU brings back some talent on its defense also. The team's top defensive backs, Jamey Sharper and Rolando Humphrey, and its leading tackler, senior linebacker Alvin Nnabuife, all are back. The Mustangs need help on the defensive front to protect Nnabuife. JUCO transfers, defensive tackle Adrian Haywood and defensive end Troy Therien are expected to step up and have an impact on the defensive side of the ball.

"Troy is a very athletic addition who will give us a speed pass rusher," Bennett said. "Both players will have a chance to contribute immediately."

The Mustangs recorded only 10 sacks as a team in 2004, a

number Haywood and Therien are expected to help increase. SMU's offensive line gave up 27 sacks and Bennett will expect the offensive line to improve in 2005, not just in the pass protection, but in clearing holes for the running backs also.

"We're moving (Ben) Poynter to center and we've moved our starting center to guard," Bennett said. "We're just looking for our best combination."

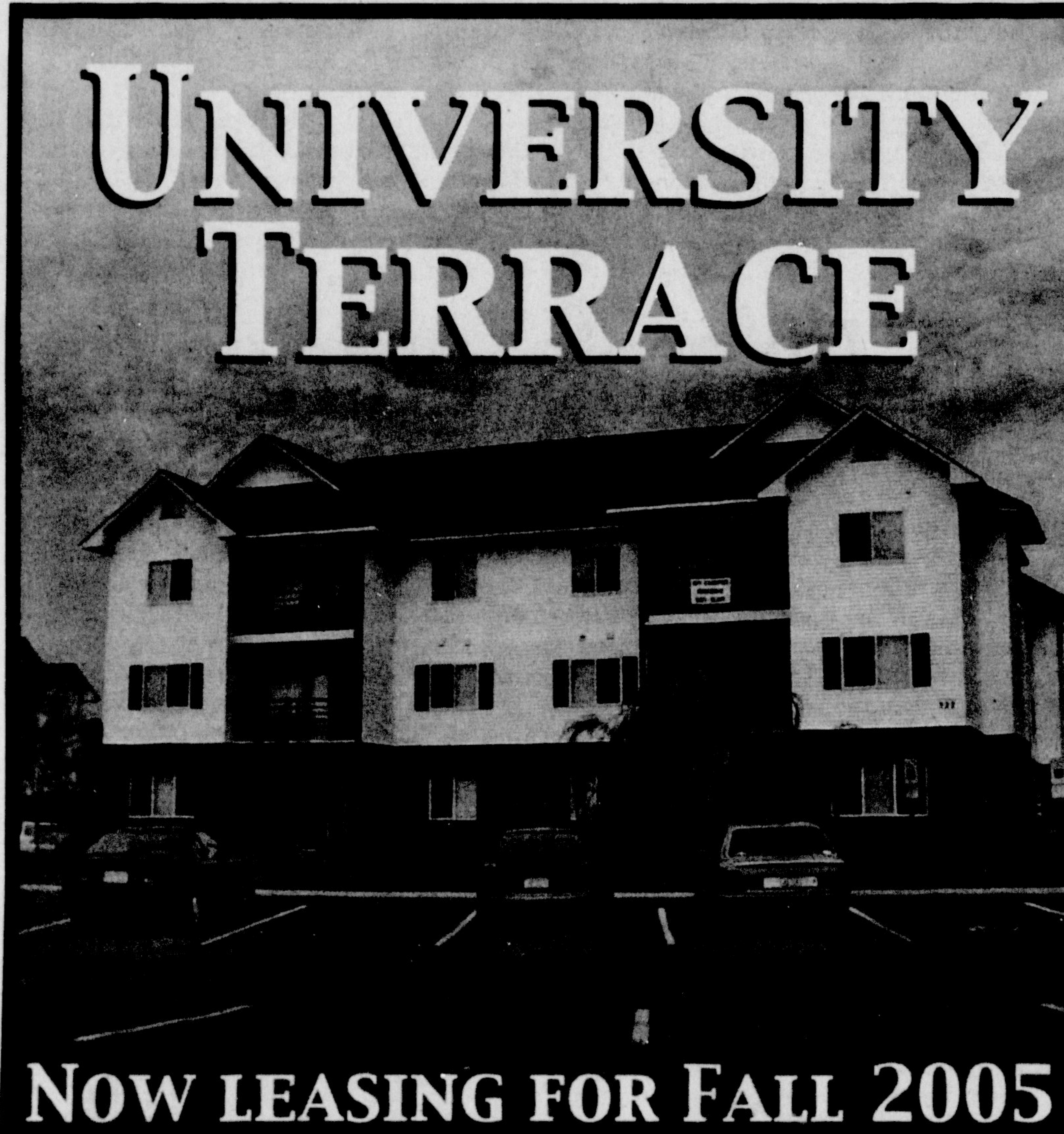
The expectations in Dallas are to have a winning record and contend for a bowl game. Whether or not that comes to fruition remains to be seen, but Bennett is optimistic of his team's chances.

"I expect us to be a much improved team," Bennett said. "For the first time since I've been here, we've got six home games and you've got to win at home."

SMU will play host to ECU October 15.

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

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Paris from page A13

Armstrong's farewell rebuke. Such a final attack on his detractors is consistent with the way he has handled past accusations of doping and insinuations that it took more than a miracle for a man who had overcome nearly fatal cancer to win the Tour once, let alone seven times.

He won the seventh with his second smallest victory margin, 4 minutes 40 seconds, with CSC team rider Ivan Basso of Italy second and T-Mobile's Jan Ullrich of Germany third. Armstrong covered the 2,239 miles at an average speed of 25.8 m.p.h., winning one individual stage and the team time trial.

Armstrong led for the last 12 days, which included the big mountain stages. He never was really threatened, leaving the feeling he could win again if he were not committed to retirement at age 33.

"You wait for the battles in the mountains, watching guys at their limits testing each other," said Outdoor Life Network commentator Frankie Andreu, an Armstrong teammate in the 1999 and 2000 Tours. "This year, Lance never got tested, never looked like he was suffering.

"It is not only getting to the race

at a physical peak. It is also how he managed over the years to avoid the sickness and accidents that seemed to hit other riders."

Armstrong needed to take his right foot off the pedal to avoid going down after skidding into three teammates who slipped on the wet pavement as the riders crossed the Seine River near Paris. The conditions made race organizers stop the clock before the main group of riders, including Armstrong, began their eight circuits of the Champs-Elysees.

T-Mobile's Alexandre Vinokourov of Kazakhstan, who had started the race as one of the favorites, sprinted to a win in the final stage. That gave Vinokourov a time bonus that moved him past Levi Leipheimer of the United States and the Gerolsteiner team into fifth place overall, 11:01 behind Armstrong.

Before the Tour, Armstrong said he wanted to leave the impression "for my own good" of being able to win another Tour if he wanted. After apparently underscoring that Saturday by winning the individual time trial, he said there was no way to tell when age might catch up to him.

"It wouldn't be fair to next

year's winner to say, 'You're just lucky I didn't show up, you're just lucky I retired,'" Armstrong said.

The truth is he and Bruyneel had developed a formula for winning the Tour that seemed simple enough to work a couple more years. "One attack and two good time trials," Armstrong said.

The one attack this year came in the first Alpine stage, and it gained him more than a minute on Basso and Ullrich. He also gained more than a minute on each in the prologue stage time trial. By the second, he needed only to avoid a big mistake.

Reducing three weeks of racing to such cold and minimalist calculations also left Armstrong open to confounding criticism he lacked panache or style.

"If you attack too much and win too many stages, they say you are arrogant and hogging all the victories," he said. "If you don't attack enough, they stick a microphone in someone's face and the guy says, 'He has no panache. He hasn't won.'"

"Seven Tours gives or takes panache."

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