

The rising cost of tuition has worried some ECU students.

Student, faculty reactions mixed on tuition increase

Many understand monetary need

NICK HENNE
STAFF WRITER

The \$300, three-year proposed tuition increase was amended and passed as a one year increase of \$225 by the Board of Governors last Friday, but students and faculty have mixed feelings about the outcome.

Jordan Mills, junior geography major, said he doesn't like how ECU's tuition is continually rising but can understand the need for the increase.

"Everyone needs money, is the reality, and there is inflation," said Mills.

Mills said paying the higher cost would be difficult for him and his family.

"My dad died, so now it's just

my mom and I," Mills said. Mills said he does not feel ECU has "cut him any slack" in paying tuition despite his family problems.

"I think they just see it as a black and white issue," Mills said.

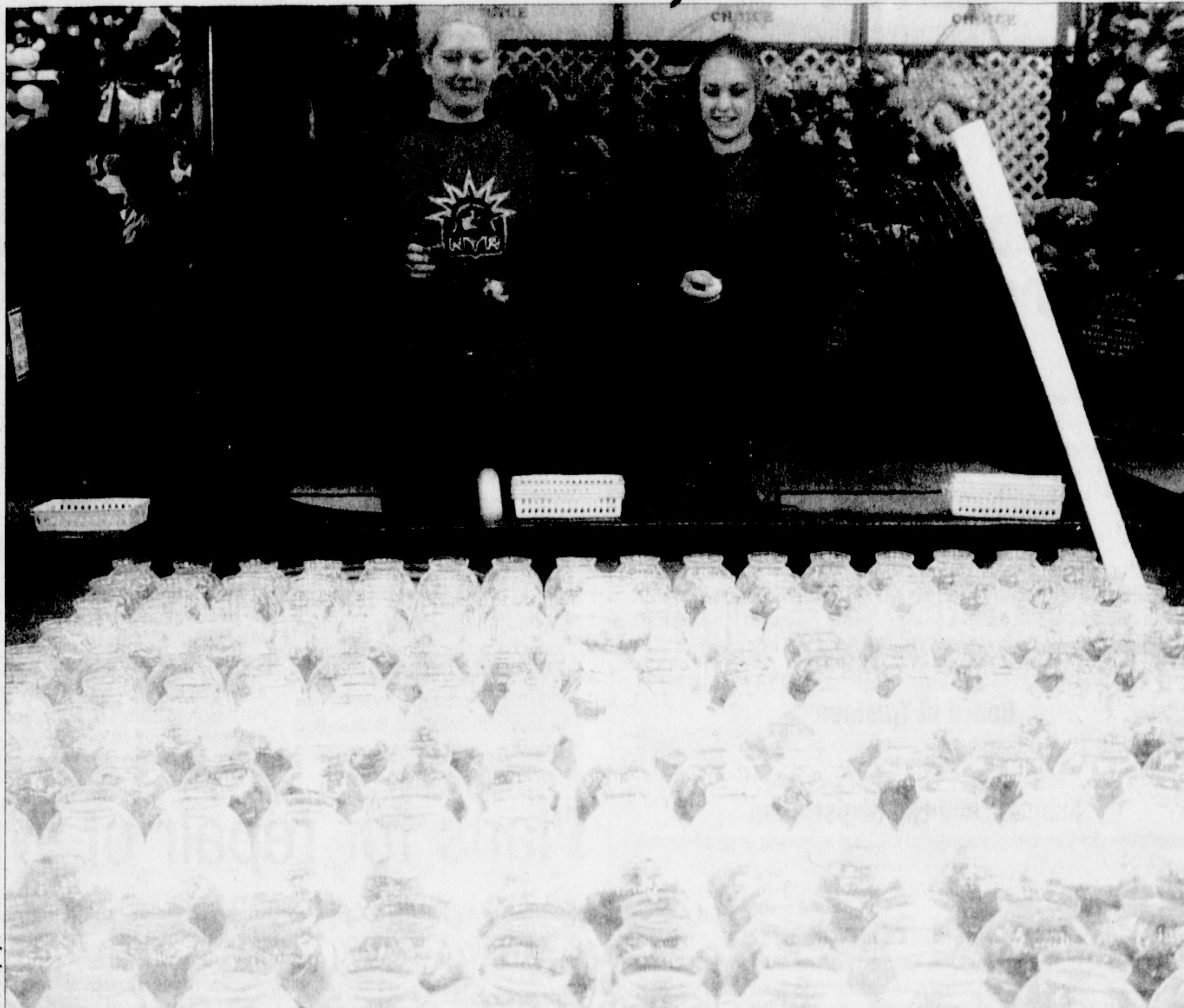
Meredith Fortescue, senior marketing major, said she thinks the decision is fair because part of it is going to financial aid, which will help more students attend college. She said the increased faculty salaries would give the professors more of an incentive to work at ECU.

"If I was here next year, it wouldn't affect my decision to come here or not," said Fortescue.

Brandon Benfield, senior construction management major, said he does not feel ECU is spending the students' money appropriately with the tuition

see **TUITION** page A3

Fair tests luck, stomachs



Jessica Draper, junior English and women's studies major, and Celia Wells, sophomore English major, throw Ping-Pong balls into fish bowls during the fair that will run through Sunday, March 28, in the parking lot of Carolina East Mall. The fair offers more than 10 rides, including a Ferris Wheel, Tilt-a-Whirl, Zipper, Spider and an old-fashioned carousel.

SGA tickets launch campaigns

Tuition, communication tickets' top priorities

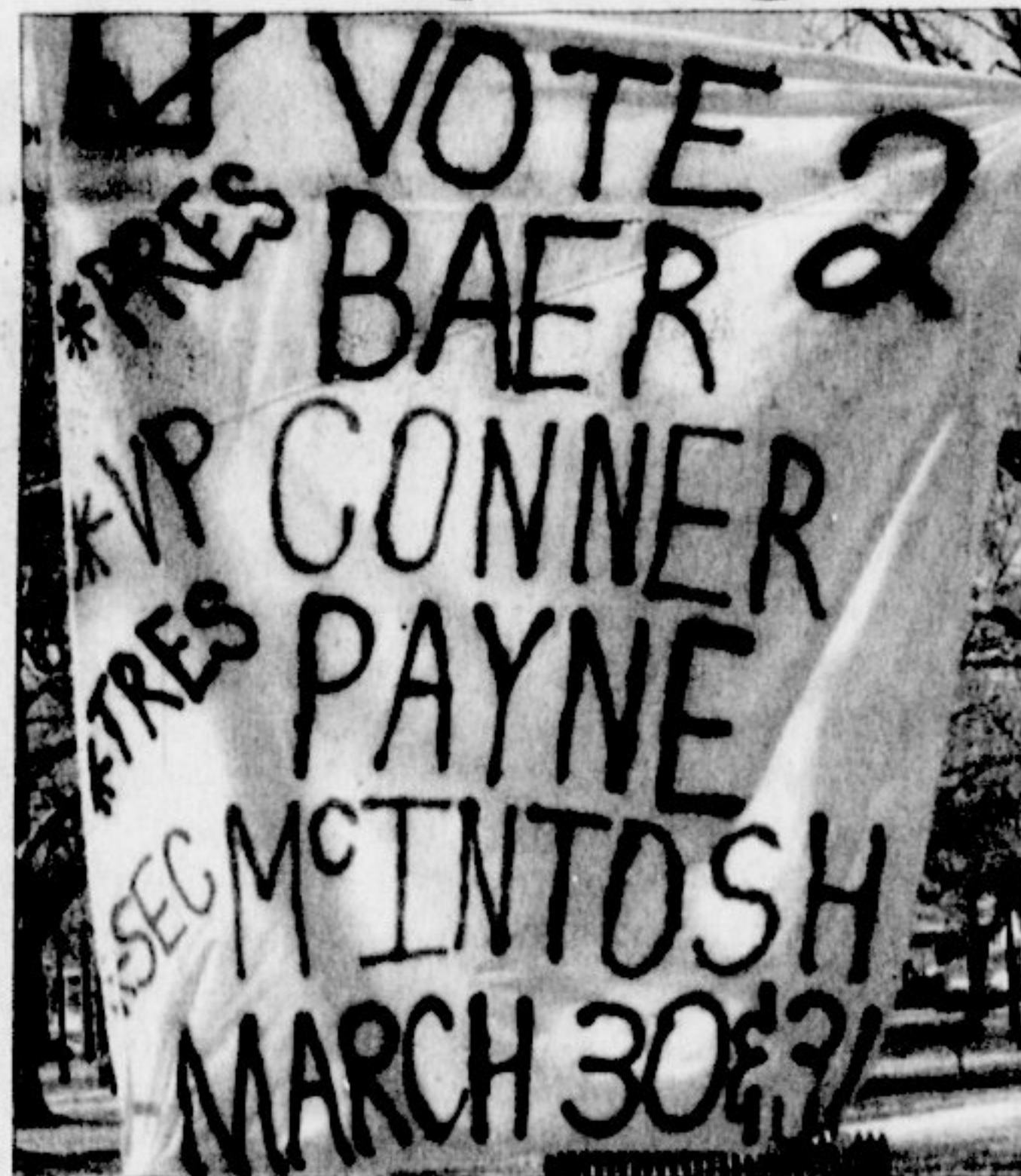
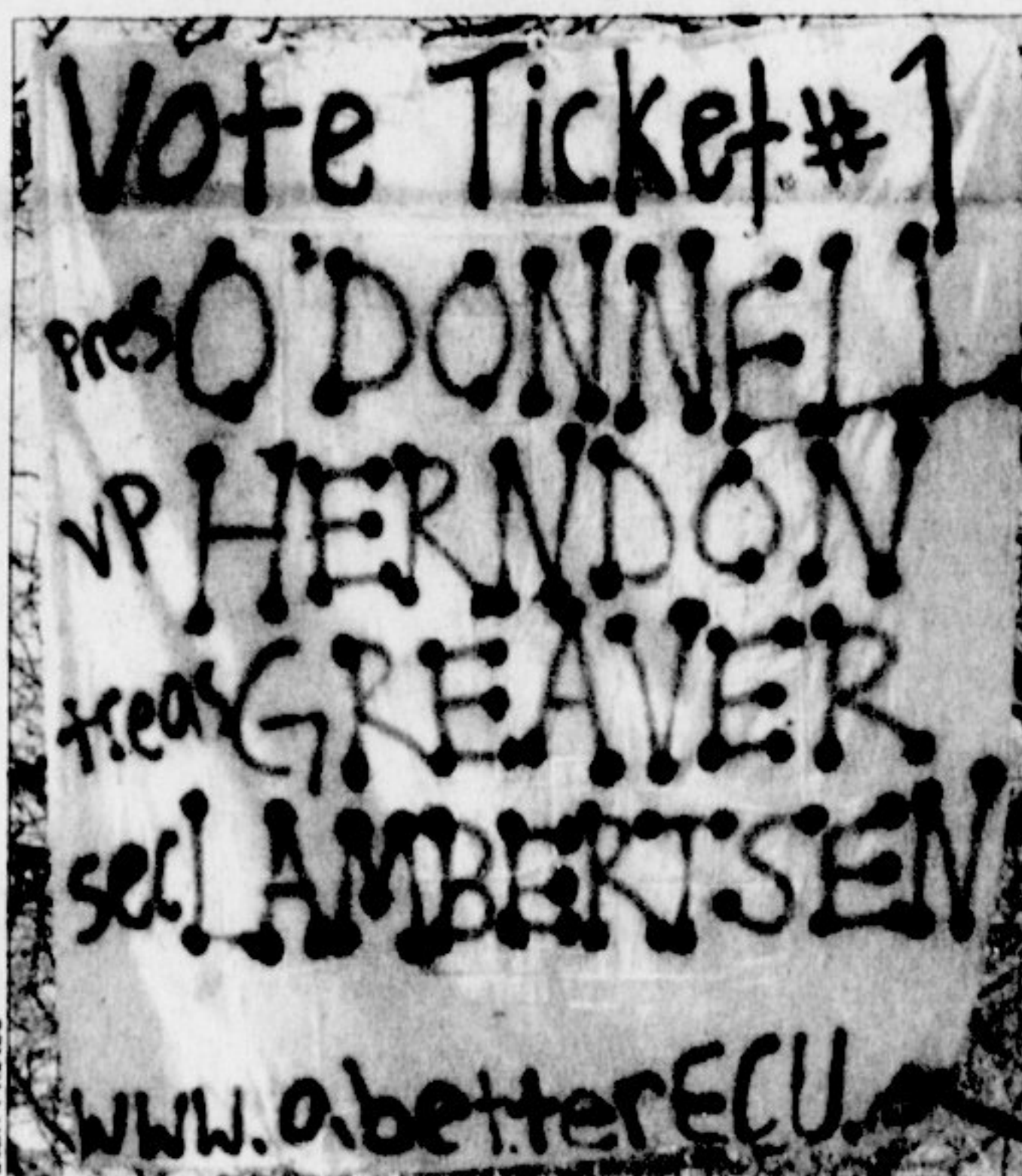
DANIEL SHUMAN
STAFF WRITER

The Student Government Association elections are approaching quickly, and the two tickets are racing to have their approaches to issues like tuition, safety and student government-student body relations heard.

Current SGA Secretary Shannon O'Donnell is running for president on Ticket One this year.

She said since the tuition increase was decided upon by state legislators and the Board of Governors, the best way for students to combat the increase is to become registered voters and get involved in state elections. Part of her ticket's platform is to sign up 2,004 voters during the year 2004.

The other candidates on Ticket One are David Herndon for vice president, Brad Greaver



Candidates from Tickets One and Two have decorated ECU with their campaign materials.

for treasurer and Jackie Lambertson, current Pan-Hellenic president, for secretary.

Ticket Two consists of current Student Body President Ian Baer for reelection, Marcus "Wayne" Connor Jr. for vice president, current Treasurer Joseph Payne for reelection and Victoria McIntosh for secretary.

"One of the things that's

important to me personally, and important to my ticket, is keeping education affordable for students," said Baer.

If reelected, Baer said he promises to continue fighting tuition increases.

He also said he would like to improve communication between the student body and SGA officers. Part of this plan

involves the development of a new Web site he said should be up in April.

"I guarantee we'll have more outlets for communication next year ... like a campus e-mail," Baer said.

He said he wants to increase student awareness of the services available through

see **LAUNCH** page A5

Executive candidates face student body in '04 debate



Candidates answer students' questions at the Wednesday debate.

Tickets' platforms split

TABATHA JAMES
STAFF WRITER

The executive offices met for debate Wednesday night and disagreed over which issues pose the biggest problems for ECU.

Ticket One is composed of Shannon O'Donnell, David Herndon, Brad Greaver and Jackie Lambertson.

Their platform concentrates on improving the safety and security of students on campus, while also maintaining representation.

"The main thing we need to work on is definitely safety," said Shannon O'Donnell, student body secretary and candidate for president.

"We have had two rapes on campus, and this is something we must protect ourselves from. We implemented the safety walk, and we got out there and suggested things that needed to be changed."

Ticket Two is running Ian Baer, Marcus "Wayne" Connor Jr., Joseph Payne and Victoria McIntosh.

Their platform concentrates on bringing more attention to the increasing tuition and fees imposed on the student body.

"Tuition and fees are huge issues," said Ian Baer, student body president and candidate for reelection.

"Our families, our brothers and sisters, our friends are suffering from the burden of tuition. We have been trying to get the amount of tuition and fees reduced because students do have a voice regarding tuition."

When asked to grade 2003-04 SGA administration, O'Donnell said because of personal issues and lack of dedication to its positions, their administration deserved a C minus.

"We're a paid position. When we don't do our jobs, we're robbing you [students] of your money ... but right now we're not working as hard as we can for the students. Trying to provide more for the students is what drives me and my ticket," O'Donnell said.

Baer said he chose not to use a letter grade to judge his administration because there is always room for improvement.

"I plan to reach the students by bringing more forums next year, bringing more students together and asking them what they want. And also putting more editorials in the newspaper to inform students of what's going on," Baer said.

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

Campus vandalism raises concerns

Police, conflict office say penalties vary

KEITH S. BYERS
STAFF WRITER

An increase in vandalism has struck ECU recently.

The destruction of posters on a bulletin board in Slay Hall celebrating Black History Month - posters of famous African Americans - was discovered Feb. 27. Someone drew nooses around the necks of the people depicted on the posters in red magic marker.

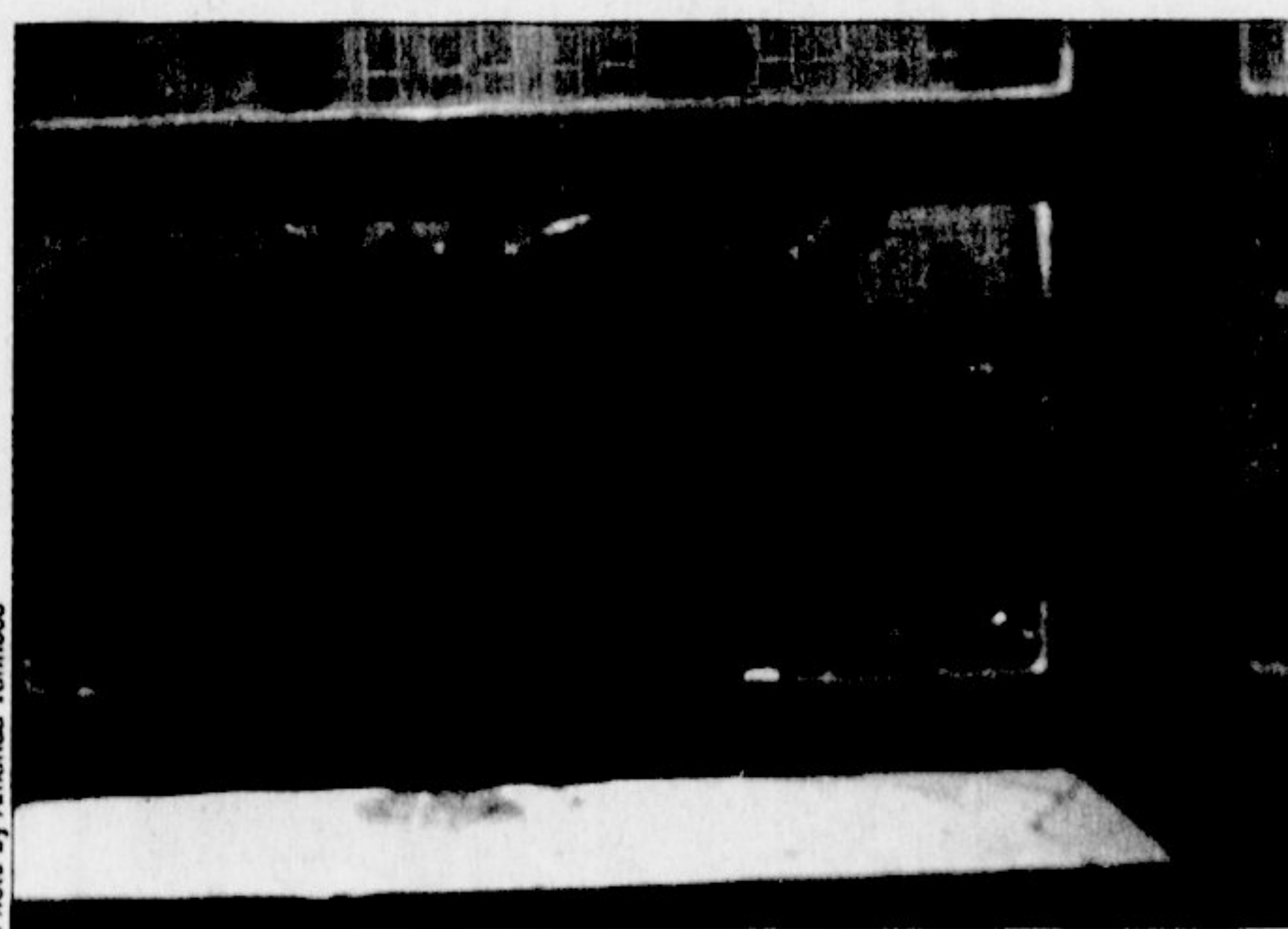
On March 22, a student reported an undetermined

object was thrown at a window in Scott Hall, breaking it.

A woman reported damage to the windshield of her car, which she parked at Reade Street, Lot 3. In other incidents, a student reported on March 4 that someone stole his hubcaps and damaged his windshield while the car was parked near Minges Coliseum; the same day, someone reported there had been writing scratched into the wall of the government document section at Joyner Library.

One night the tires of 11 vehicles were slashed.

see **CRIME** page A5



A window was broken in the Old Cafeteria Building when someone threw an apple at the glass.

Nutrition Awareness throughout March

- Commercial salts are highly processed and contain silicate that deposits on the interior walls of arteries. Sea salt is the healthiest type of salt a person can consume.
- The average American eats enough fat daily to equal the amount in a stick of butter.

<p>Forecast Partly Cloudy High of 74</p>	<p>TEC REQUIRED READING</p>	<p>Online Visit www.theeastcarolinian.com to read the testimony of President Bush's former counterterrorism chief.</p>	<p>News page A2 Repairs are planned to fix the problem that has been causing Wright Fountain to sink.</p>	<p>Features page B1 Grilling season is here! TEC takes a look at basic tips to make a meal that will make your mouth water.</p>	<p>Sports page B6 The Pirates will hold their annual Purple-Gold game this weekend at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.</p>	<p>FYI Don't forget: The undergraduate symposium is Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. on the second floor of Mendenhall Student Center.</p>
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tec
NEWS

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Announcements

Graduation Fair

The Dowdy Student Stores hosts a fair for May graduates today from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Graduates will be able to pick up their cap and gown and obtain information about commencement, alumni benefits, careers and student loan repayment.

Undergraduates Symposium

The Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Committee hosts the second annual undergraduate symposium Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. on the second floor of Mendenhall Student Center. Research from different academic fields will be presented. Refreshments will be served.

Board of Trustees

The ECU Board of Trustees will meet Friday in 2W 38-40-50 Brody at 8 a.m.

Summer and Fall Registration

Registration for summer sessions and fall 2004 semester begins Monday, March 29.

Sophomore Survey

Students who have completed 45-60 credit hours, 30 from ECU, must take the Sophomore Survey before pre-registering for summer or fall 2004 semesters. The survey is available online at OneStop.

Women Inventors Presentation

Ethlie Ann Vare, co-author of *Patently Female: From AZT to TV Dinners, Stories of Women Inventors and The Breakthrough Ideas* will present a free account of the women behind familiar products, discoveries and innovations Tuesday, March 30 at 7 p.m. in Hendrix Theatre.

Co-ops and Internships Workshop

Career Services offers a co-op and internship workshop Tuesday, March 30 from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in 1012 Bate.

Writers Reading Series

Ethelbert Miller, director of the Afro-American Resource Center at Howard University and author of the poetry collection "Buddha Weeping in Winter," will speak Tuesday, March 30 at 3 p.m. in the Mendenhall Social Room and at 7 p.m. in the Willis Building.

File Sharing Discussion

School officials and students will participate in a discussion about the positive and negative aspects of peer-to-peer file sharing Tuesday, March 30 from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. in 221 MSC.

Whichard Lecture

Whichard Distinguished Professor of Humanities David Armstrong, Ph.D., will give a lecture on "The Scope and Limits of Human Knowledge" on Tuesday, March 30 at 7:30 p.m. in 1032 Bate. A reception will follow the lecture.

Habitat for Humanity Run

The Home Run 5K Road Race and One Mile Fun Run to benefit Pitt County Habitat for Humanity is Saturday, March 27 from 7 a.m. - noon at the City Hotel and Bistro. Participants can register the day of the race beginning at 7 a.m. or in advance at www.habitathomerun.com. Volunteers are also needed. Call 758-2947 for more information.

Cash for Cats

Volunteers are needed to collect donations to provide medical care for cats on Saturday, March 27 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. at local Food Lions. Contact Greg Smith at 717-6339 for more information.

Parents Council Nominations

The Office of Advancement for Student Life and the Parents Council Nominations Committee are seeking nominations of parents for the 2004-05 Parents Council. Call Cheryl Kite at 328-9585 for more information.

Commencement Registration

Degree candidates who wish to participate in the May 8 ceremony must make a reservation through OneStop.

Deadline

Monday, April 5 is the last day to remove incompletes given during fall semester 2003.

Stroke Clinic

Volunteers are needed to perform various tasks including registration, health assessment, cholesterol and glucose labs, blood pressure and counseling at five community stroke clinics. Contact Terry Congleton at 847-0162 for more information.

ECU Child of Faculty Scholarship

Current or accepted ECU students who are children of active or retired faculty qualify for the \$1,600 ECU Retired Faculty Association Undergraduate Scholarship. Applicants must have a projected or actual collegiate GPA of 3.0 and be pursuing their first undergraduate degree. Applications are due by April 9. Contact Vicky Morris at 328-9573 for more information.

Paper Person

The student at the top of today's paper is Joanna Mosley, freshman nursing major.

News Briefs

Local

UNC settles part of 1998 lawsuit from soccer player

CHAPEL HILL (AP) - North Carolina will pay a former soccer player \$70,000 and enroll its women's soccer coach in sensitivity training in a partial settlement of a 1998 sexual harassment lawsuit, school officials said on Tuesday. Debbie Keller was one of two former Tar Heel players who filed the \$12 million lawsuit in 1998. In the lawsuit, Keller and Melissa Jennings contend Coach Anson Dorrance sexually harassed them by asking questions about their sex lives. Keller further alleged that Dorrance made unwanted phone calls and physical contact that amounted to assault and battery. Keller claimed in the lawsuit that Dorrance interfered with her attempt to win a spot on the 1999 U.S. national soccer team. Jennings' side of the lawsuit is scheduled to go to trial in U.S. District Court in early October.

Gay couple sues Durham County after being denied marriage license

DURHAM (AP) - A gay couple sued Durham County on Monday after being denied a marriage license. Richard Mullinax, 36, and Perry Pike, 41, walked into the Durham County Register of Deeds Office on Monday, completed an application and were denied a marriage license. The couple of five years then walked across the street to the courthouse and sued the county.

The couple's lawsuit contends that the county has to issue the marriage license, even though it would have only symbolic meaning. State law invalidates any claim of marriage between people of the same sex. "Having an invalid license, to us, is a part of the process of having a public dialogue," Mullinax said. Register of Deeds Willie Covington said the law gave him no choice.

National

U.S. Embassy closes in Emirates after 'specific threat'; Embassy in Saudi Arabia closes temporarily
DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) - The U.S. Embassy in the Emirates closed Wednesday after a "specific threat" against it. Anti-American protests and fears of a terror attack prompted tighter security at other potential U.S. targets in the Mideast.

The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, briefly closed Wednesday after rumors spread of an explosion. Security was tightened even further near the embassy in Cairo, Egypt, and protesters were chased away from the embassy in Bahrain.

Security was heightened after Israel's assassination of Sheik Ahmed Yassin, founder of the Hamas militant group in the Gaza Strip, prompted calls for revenge against Israeli and American targets. The United States, while expressing concern about the killing, is widely viewed in the region as Israel's protector and as unwilling to curb its actions against Palestinians.

Mars rocks formed at shore of long-gone body of saltwater

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) - A salty pool of liquid water once sloshed on Mars, ebbing and flowing in an environment that could have supported life eons before a NASA spacecraft visited the now dry and frozen spot, the space agency said.

The Opportunity rover turned up the evidence while probing an outcrop of finely layered rock at its landing site on Mars, where the six-wheeled robot landed two months ago. Scientists said the rock likely formed in water, which evaporated to leave layer after layer of sediment behind.

"If we are correct in our interpretation this was a habitable environment," said Cornell University astronomer Steve Squyres, the mission's main scientist.

"These are the kinds of environments that are very suitable for life." Opportunity previously found clues that water once soaked rocks at Meridiani Planum, a broad and flat region of the planet. Those initial results left it unclear whether it was ground or surface water.

World

European Union hits Microsoft with record fine, orders business changes

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) - The European Union declared Microsoft Corp. guilty of abusing its "near monopoly" with Windows to squeeze competitors in other markets and hit the software giant with a record fine of 497.2 million euros (\$613 million) Wednesday.

The EU's antitrust authority said that "because the illegal behavior is still ongoing," it was also demanding changes in the way Microsoft operates.

It gave Microsoft 90 days to offer computer manufacturers a version of Windows without the company's digital media player, which lets computer users watch videos and listen to music and is expected to be an important market as such Internet content becomes even more pervasive in coming years.

World leaders join Spain at state funeral for Madrid bombing victims

MADRID, Spain (AP) - World leaders joined Spanish royalty and families of the 190 victims of Madrid's train bombings on Wednesday for a state funeral paying tribute to those killed in the nation's worst terrorist attack.

As a cold drizzle fell on the Spanish capital, King Juan Carlos and the rest of the royal family shook hands with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and other dignitaries as they filed into the 19th century Almudena Cathedral for a midday mass.

Spaniards have suffered from Basque separatist attacks for decades, and the highest death toll was 21 in 1987.

But the March 11 rail attacks, in which Islamic extremists are the prime suspects, have dwarfed that figure. Besides the dead, more than 1,800 people were injured when 10 bombs concealed in backpacks ripped through four crowded commuter trains during the morning rush hour.

Plans for repair of Wright Fountain in works

Landmark could cost ECU up to \$400,000

LUKE SPENCER
STAFF WRITER

If you've noticed that something doesn't look quite right about the fountain at Wright Circle, you're correct.

Ken Kisida, executive director of Facilities Services, said there is a sinking problem with the fountain.

Though the exact nature of the problem is unknown at the present time, it appears that a leak in one or more of the pipes beneath the fountain is contribut-

ing to erosion of the soil around the pipes and the earth beneath the fountain itself.

To determine what the problem is, Facilities Services has inserted a camera into the fountain's drainage system. But even with the camera, making an exact diagnosis of the leak's location has been difficult.

"It's just tough to find exactly where the problem is because there a lot of different things underneath it," said John Gill, assistant director of Facilities Services ground services.

Kisida said Facilities Services has been filling in the earth while

see WRIGHT page A6



Cameras were placed under Wright Fountain to find a leak.

Confusion hampered CIA efforts to stop bin Laden

WASHINGTON (AP) - CIA efforts to stop Osama bin Laden before the Sept. 11 attacks were hindered by confusion over whether intelligence officers were allowed to kill the al-Qaida leader, a federal commission said Wednesday.

The CIA also had depended too much on Afghan indigenous groups to attack bin Laden and CIA Director George Tenet understood its chances of succeeding were only 10 percent to 20 percent, the federal commission on the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks said in a preliminary report.

If officers at all levels of the agency questioned the

effectiveness of the most active strategy that policy-makers were employing to defeat the terrorist enemy, "the commission needs to ask why that strategy remained largely unchanged throughout the period leading up to 9/11," the report said.

Tenet appeared before the panel Wednesday, the second day of hearings with Bush and Clinton administration officials as the commission examines diplomatic, military and intelligence efforts to stop al-Qaida before the Sept. 11 attacks against New York and Washington.

The commission's findings

are to be released this summer and are likely to provide fodder for both Republicans and Democrats in their fall election campaigns.

Also appearing Wednesday was Richard Clarke, counterterrorism adviser in both administrations. In a newly published book, Clarke accuses President Bush of ignoring the threat posed by al-Qaida until the day of the attacks.

Clarke's charges were strongly rebutted Tuesday by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell.

They said they were going

beyond past practices of carrying out retaliatory strikes and had been developing a strategy for defeating al-Qaida.

Tenet told the commission, "Clearly there was no lack of care or focus in the face of one of the greatest dangers our country has ever faced."

In August 2001, the CIA gave Bush a highly secretive assessment on whether terrorists might attack the United States.

It included no "specific, credible information about any threatened attacks in the United States," according to a second report released by the commission Wednesday.

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Supreme Court takes up Pledge of Allegiance case, new poll shows public supports salute

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans overwhelmingly want the phrase "under God" preserved in the Pledge of Allegiance, a new poll says as the Supreme Court examines whether the classroom salute crosses the division of church and state.

Almost nine in 10 people said the reference to God belongs in the pledge despite constitutional questions about the separation of church and state, according to an Associated Press poll.

The Supreme Court was hearing arguments Wednesday from a California atheist who objected to the daily pledges in his 9-year-old daughter's classroom. He sued her school and won, setting up the landmark appeal before a court that has repeatedly barred school-sponsored prayer from classrooms, playing fields and school ceremonies.

The pledge is different, argue officials at Elk Grove Unified School District near Sacramento,

where the girl attends school. Superintendent Dave Gordon said popular opinion is on their side — but that's not all.

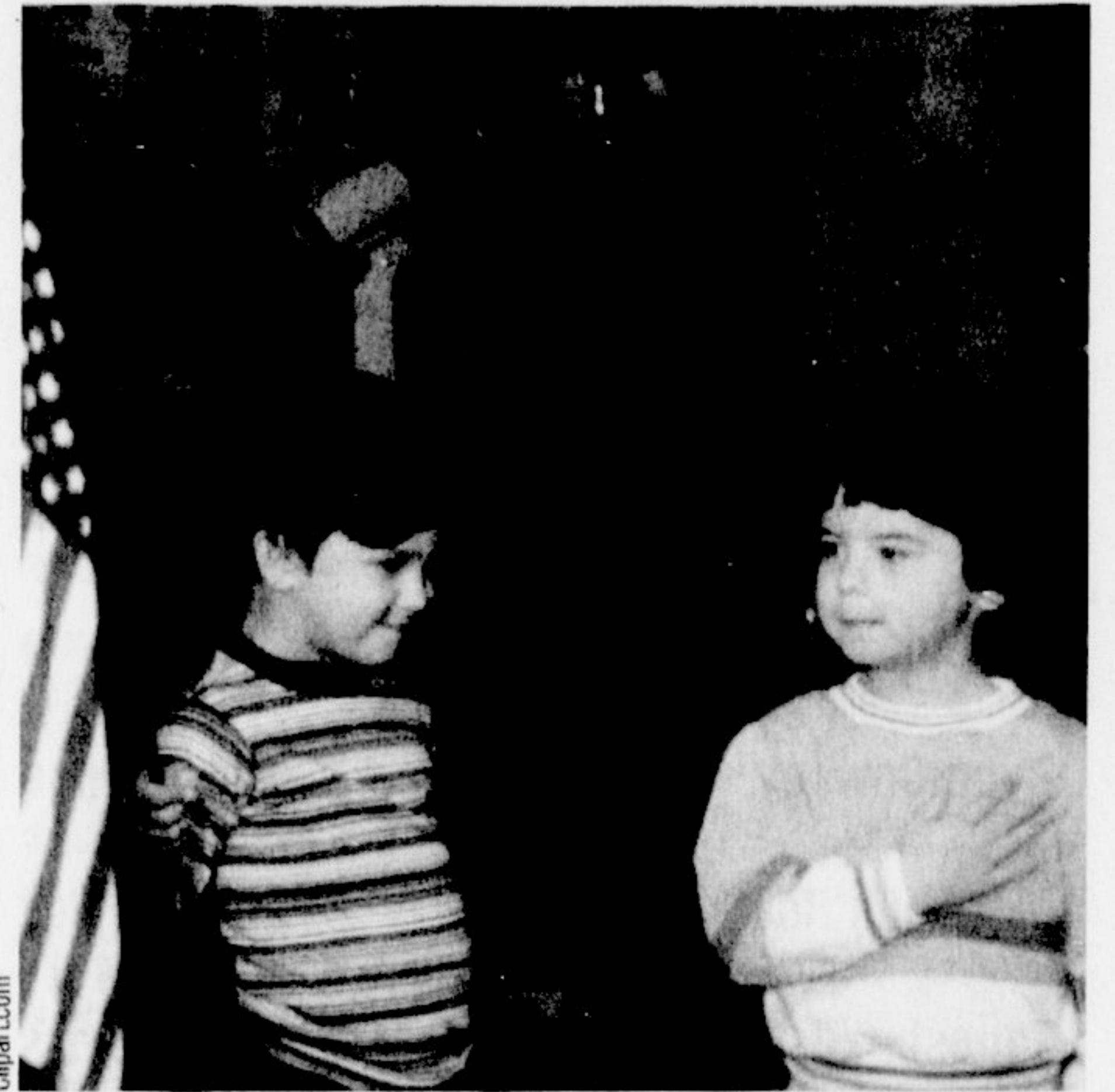
"It's not a popularity contest. If something is wrong, it should be corrected. No matter how many people support it," he said.

"The argument that 'under God' in the pledge is pushing religion on children is wrong on the law. It's also wrong from a common sense perspective."

Dozens of people camped out on a cold night, bundled in layers and blankets, to be among the first in line to hear the landmark case.

"I just wanted to have a story to tell my grandkids," said Aron Wolgel, a junior from American University.

Supporters of the pledge began the day outside the court, under sunny skies, reciting the pledge and emphasizing the words "under God."



"Under God" is OK in pledge, said 90 percent of Americans.

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Tuition from page A1

to work at ECU.
 "If I was here next year, it wouldn't affect my decision to come here or not," said Fortescue.
 Brandon Benfield, senior construction management major, said he does not feel ECU is spending the students' money appropriately with the tuition increase.
 "I feel ECU is overlooking the most obvious needs of its students," said Benfield.
 "With the several rapes and armed robberies that have occurred in the dorms this year, ECU needs to use its funding to increase the security on campus."
 Benfield said he would like to see the students' money used to ensure student safety, and other funding should come from other sources.
 Parents may be reluctant to send their kids to school here if safety is not a priority, Benfield

said.
 The Board of Governors did not approve a system-wide tuition hike for UNC schools. Chuck Hawkins, senior associate vice chancellor for financial services, said the majority of the need for the UNC-system increase was due to the state of the economy.
 "The economy is improving in North Carolina but still lags in the rest of the country," said Hawkins.
 The ECU increase will be distributed to professor salaries, financial aid and improved advising programs.
 Hawkins said ECU's tuition still remains relatively low compared to other state schools in the nation, and the increase should not deter students from coming to the university.
 "We are still adding money to financial aid and we are still in the lower 25th percentile of tuition rates in the country

for four-year public schools," Hawkins said.
 David Bjorkman, assistant chemistry professor agreed.
 "The state of North Carolina has always been extremely generous in giving money to education to make it available to as many students as possible," said Bjorkman.
 North Carolina universities benefit the economy by luring out-of-state students whose native states' institutions have higher tuition.
 "North Carolina makes money by educating New Jersey students who find it cheaper to pay out-of-state tuition in North Carolina than in-state tuition in New Jersey," Bjorkman said.
 Bjorkman said he feels the tuition increase is the result of a decreased amount of federal money available, which affects more than college tuition.
 "Greenville raised property tax because federal money is drying up," Bjorkman said.
 Joseph Hagan, associate professor of accounting, agrees the tuition increase is a result of the absence of federal funds.
 "The political reality today is a state has more responsibility from the federal government," said Hagan.
 Hagan said the state must either raise taxes or cut spending, and at the political level they refuse to raise taxes, so they have to cut spending.
 Hawkins said the BOG understood the need for an increase and was able to make the right decision despite pressures from students and governor of North Carolina not to raise tuition.
 "I think the BOG did a good job with all the pressures on them and [the tuition increase] will help but we still have a ways to go," Hawkins said.
 This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Our View

A message to the MLBPA: Everywhere in baseball, front office or MLBPA, you always hear about "the good of the game, what is good for the game."

Stick by what your mission statement says. If you want to do what's best for the game and the athletes that play it, support a change in drug testing.

want to do what's best for the game and the athletes that play it, support a change in drug testing. There is no room for steroids in any sport, let alone baseball. Protein supplements and such are fine if you want to give your body a boost in building muscle, but anything past a simple nutrient assistant is cheating - period.

Almost everyone in baseball shares that opinion in some way, shape or form and those that don't probably grew a few hat sizes in the last couple of years.

The drug testing that the MLB has in place now is a joke, and it won't change as long as the players' union keeps fighting a change in policy. Not to mention the simple fact that the organization is fighting a change is a hypocritical stance.

When you sit back and say that your organization wants what's best for the game and its players, that includes making it 100 percent clear that cheating will not be condoned nor tolerated.

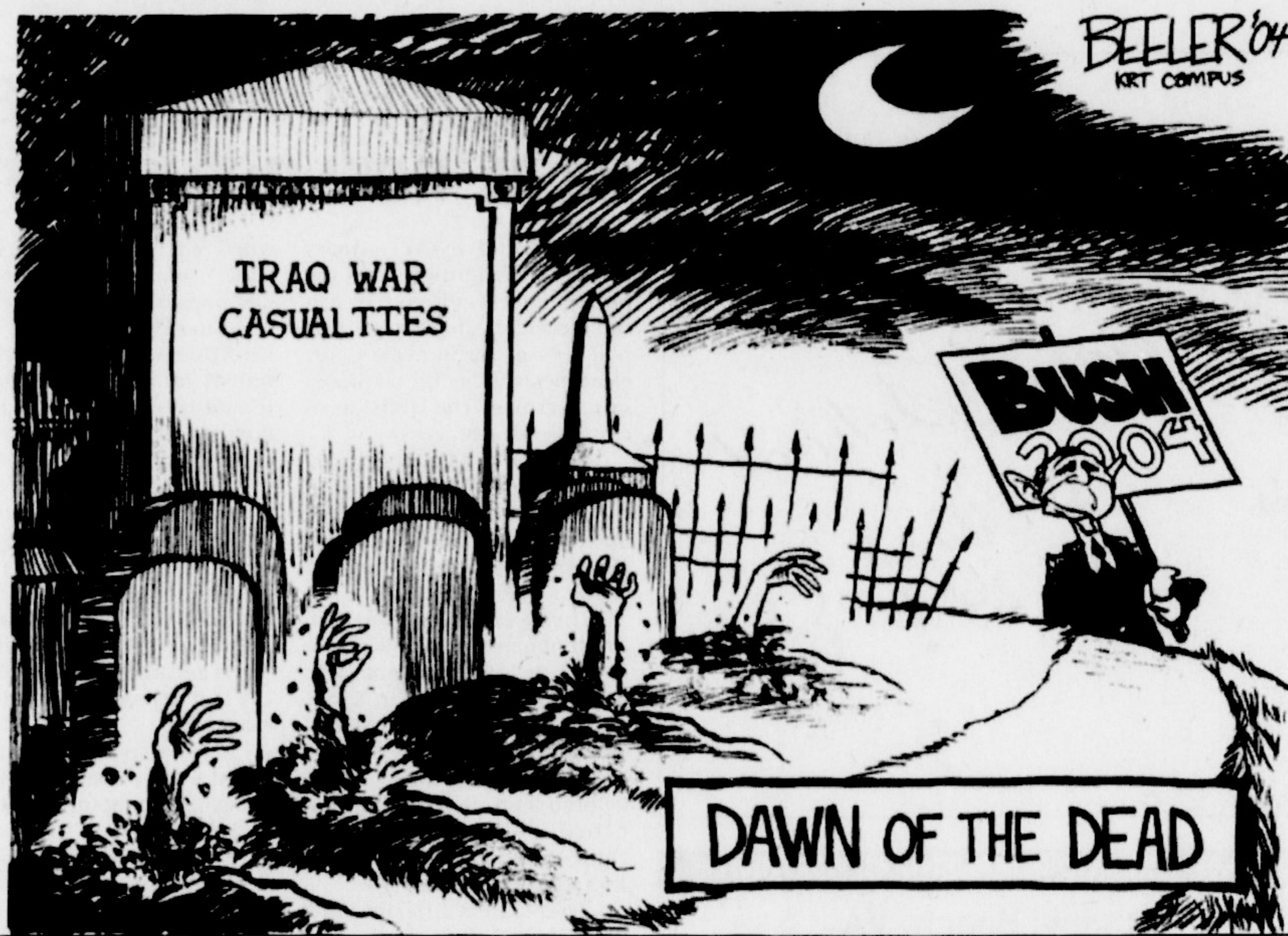
Steroids are cheating, in perhaps its most heinous form. In addition to hurting the game, it hurts the players.

Anabolic steroids are not something to kid around with; they have serious negative effects on the body. Although athletes may be performing better for a few years, their health will decline severely with continued use - or any use, for that matter.

A message to the MLBPA: Stick by what your mission statement says. If you want to do what's best for the game and the athletes that play it, support a change in drug testing.

Bring in a third party to test the players in the off-season, have more random tests during the season, and try to remove the taint that may very well cover baseball for a long time if nothing is done soon. It's for the good of the game.

The purpose of TEC's opinion pages is to invoke conversation in ECU's community. To respond to an opinion on this page, please send your letter, with your contact information for verification, to editor@theeastcarolinian.com.



Opinion Columnist

Just when you thought it couldn't get any worse

California politicians living in a fantasy world

ANTHONY MCKEE
STAFF WRITER

I suppose it's nice to know that some things never change. The sun rises in the east, the earth orbits the sun, you pay taxes, and California politicians live in a fantasy world.

Two notable occupants of this altered reality are apparent from recent events. First, of course, is ex-governor Gray Davis, removed from office for brazenly lying to voters and spending the state into near bankruptcy. Second, and my current favorite, is California state Senator John Vasconella.

Senator (then Assemblyman) Vasconella gained notoriety in the early 1980s by proposing and championing the creation of a "California Task Force to Promote Self-Esteem," which was actually created in 1987. He was also an early proponent for legalizing what he apparently already has a lot of experience with: marijuana. For "medicinal" use only, of course.

Senator Vasconella introduced a proposed amendment to the California Constitution on March 8 that is being called the "Training Wheels for Citizenship" bill. This proposed amendment would extend the right to vote to children as young as 14 years of age. That, in and of itself, is enough to require a reality check, but the good Senator took his idea one step further. He suggested that 14 and 15-year-olds would only count for one-quarter of a vote. Children 16 and 17 would be granted a whopping



one-half of a vote.

How is this concept any different than counting slaves as three-fifths of a person as was done early in our history?

Senator Vasconella's plan takes a segment of the population and officially recognizes them as less than full citizens. And this is the man who championed the "Self-Esteem Task Force!"

He wants to tell hormonally-hyper teenagers that for the most part are trying to find their self-esteem that they are not "deserving" of full recognition. And this plan is actually receiving support from his fellow Democrats. Three of them, Sen. Edward Vincent and Assemblywomen Carol Liu and Sarah Reyes signed on early, and more are following.

The Democrats portray themselves as champions of sensitivity, compassion and personal rights, yet they are perfectly willing to assign 14 to 17-year-olds less than full "rights" when it suits their purpose. And make no mistake, this proposal is not about "compassion" or any other catchy phrase that someone will undoubtedly come up with, it is about political

power, pure and simple. But instead of delving into the nefarious reasoning behind the bill, let's examine why it is such a terrible idea. I'll try to keep the list short.

First, the idea of counting anybody, for any reason, as less than a full person is repulsive. For that reason alone, this proposal should fail and Senator Vasconella should be required to attend "sensitivity training" for his transgression.

Second, the U.S. Constitution does not allow anyone younger than 18 to vote. If this proposal passes, 14 to 17-year-olds will have a say in the election of U.S. Senators, members of the House of Representatives from California as well as the president. Will those election results be honored since they are not legal by Federal standards? Will they be told that they may not vote in these elections? Would they be allowed to vote only to have their votes discarded? Will the Constitution have to be amended to allow these votes?

Third, the cost of enacting this would be astronomical. All current computer voting/touchscreen machines would have to be reprogrammed at a minimum.

More than likely, however, they will need to be physically modified or replaced, since there has to be some place for the voter to enter their age. All the tabulating machines, whether for punch card or computerized ballots, would need to be updated to accommodate the changes. Training would have to be provided for election workers, the list just goes on.

Fourth, the chance of error or outright fraud would be immense. How would the Election Board ensure that the ballots for 14 to 17-

year-olds were not counted as full votes either accidentally or intentionally? Then there is the issue of counting the fractional votes. How would they be handled? Considering this is California, I can envision the following scenario: If the voter is Democrat, any total over a whole number would be rounded up. If the voter is Republican, it would be rounded down.

Fifth, those of you with brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, cousins, whatever that are between 14 and 17 (or somewhere around that age), do you think they are ready to vote on major, life-changing issues that will affect the country for years afterwards? I only ask because if this proposal passes in California, it is only a matter of time before the insanity spreads east, like it always does.

Sixth, and finally, this will open the doors to redefining current laws. Just a few that could be affected would be statutory rape, age of consent, sex crimes, drinking age, driving age, marriage age, gun ownership, child labor, etc. Every one of these laws, and many, many more, have age standards. Lowering the voting age would allow a crack to form in these protections.

And it has been proven so many times in this country in recent times, if you allow even a little crack to form, someone will keep forcing it until the door is gone. Are we as a society prepared to take that chance?

So, even though this is mainly an attempt to pull more votes into the Democrats' column, once again the future consequences were not fully considered before proposing changes. Or were they?

Opinions In Brief

TEC EDITORIAL BOARD

Wal-Mart needs better customer service

On a recent trip to Wal-Mart the following three events happened to me:

First, I waited in a line of five people at the Customer Service desk to return an item. Only one person was waiting on the customers, while two other Wal-Mart employees looked on and gossiped behind the counter.

Next, I went to the paint counter to have some paint mixed. It took at least 10 minutes for me to find an employee, and then another 10 minutes for that person to find someone who actually knew how to mix paints.

Finally, I went to pick up photos that had been dropped off for one-hour film processing. It had been exactly one hour and my film had not been touched. I left the store and returned two hours later to find out that my film, surprise, had yet to be developed.

After such an experience I have come to the conclusion that a few cents saved is not worth having your time wasted and to be treated like you don't matter. You can bet I'll be taking my business (and my film) elsewhere.

Maybe I'll walk

With gas prices on the rise, it makes me want to park my car so I won't have to visit the gas station once a week. I remember when I first got a car, and I could fill the gas tank up for \$10 to \$12.

Now it takes at least \$20 to \$25 to fill the gas tank up. As if that weren't bad enough, it makes me even more upset when I take friends here and there with no offer from them to help pay for gas.

I think it would be common courtesy to offer to help me pay for gas, especially when gas prices are so high.

I love having a car so that I can go when and where I want; but it must be nice to be able to get to these places without driving and without paying to get there.

Vegetarian meals aren't equally distributed on campus

Studies have shown eating healthy doesn't mean eating meat, but finding nutritious, vegetarian meals on campus can be hard depending on where you live.

During my first semester at ECU, I lived in Fleming Hall, near Wright Place, Mendenhall Cafeteria and The Spot. Finding healthy options in Mendenhall was never that hard, thanks to the buffet and salad bar set-up, but The Spot and Wright Place were a little trickier. Meals at these two locations were limited and mealy (e.g.—a veggie sub at The Spot consists of tomato, lettuce, cheese and onions).

It wasn't until I moved off campus that I first ventured to the eateries on College Hill. There, the selection of vegetarian fair is noticeably greater than the Central Campus locations. Pirate Market has entire sections devoted to organic and meat-free choices.

I wonder why this imbalance exists and further, why I was never informed of the other options available. Dining Services needs to either equalize the dietary offerings across campus or improve their publication of product availability at specific locations.

Bush administration credits Sept. 11

If the president wants to be re-elected this fall, then the administration had better find something positive to focus on heading into election season.

The current use of terrorism to promote himself is shallow and hurtful. The administration has nothing else to hang its hat on other than how they reacted to Sept. 11. This administration uses the attacks as both a crutch and a sling. Why is the economy down? Well, it's because of Sept. 11.

Some of the families of the victims of the attacks were hurt and angry at the use of 9-11 imagery in the political ads. I don't want to look back on the attacks anymore.

There is not one thing that is better about this country than before they came into power, and the president knows this. He includes heavy references to the attacks every time he opens his mouth.

I want to know the plan for the job market is. I think the millions of laid off workers deserve a better explanation as to why they no longer have jobs, rather than an invitation to take advantage of slightly lower prices. There are a lot of people being hurt by the current economic strategy.

I am also tired of hearing about middle class tax cuts and how much they have helped the country.

My father got \$400 back on the tax cuts. Thank goodness, now he can finally buy that new lamp he needed to secure his future.

Increases mean bigger trouble for middle class

The Board of Governors recently passed tuition increases for all 16 UNC-system schools, and some increases were as much as \$1,500.

Board members justified this increase, claiming the majority of funds would go toward financial aid. Now this is great for those who are underprivileged, but what about students from middle class families?

We may be denied financial aid because our parents are said to make too much money but we, too, are the ones that leave college with loans, credit card debt and a history of struggle.

The \$1 million bill

A Georgia woman tried to use a gift card worth \$2.32 to buy \$1,675 of clothing at Wal-Mart a few weeks ago. When that didn't work, she pulled out a fake \$1 million bill, saying that was all she had and she needed change.

The clerk immediately noticed the bill was fake, and the store called the police to have her arrested. Police later found two more of the bills in her purse.

The three bills were supposedly given to her by her husband for her birthday. In court, her plea was ignorance. In her mug shot, the tattered woman is seen smiling. I'd be smiling, too, if I got \$3 million for my birthday.

She blamed the U.S. Treasury, saying, "You can't keep up with the U.S. Treasury."

If I thought I really had a \$1 million bill, I sure wouldn't go to Wal-Mart for my shopping spree. Where was she planning on spending the other two? Kmart and the Dollar Tree?

What a birthday!

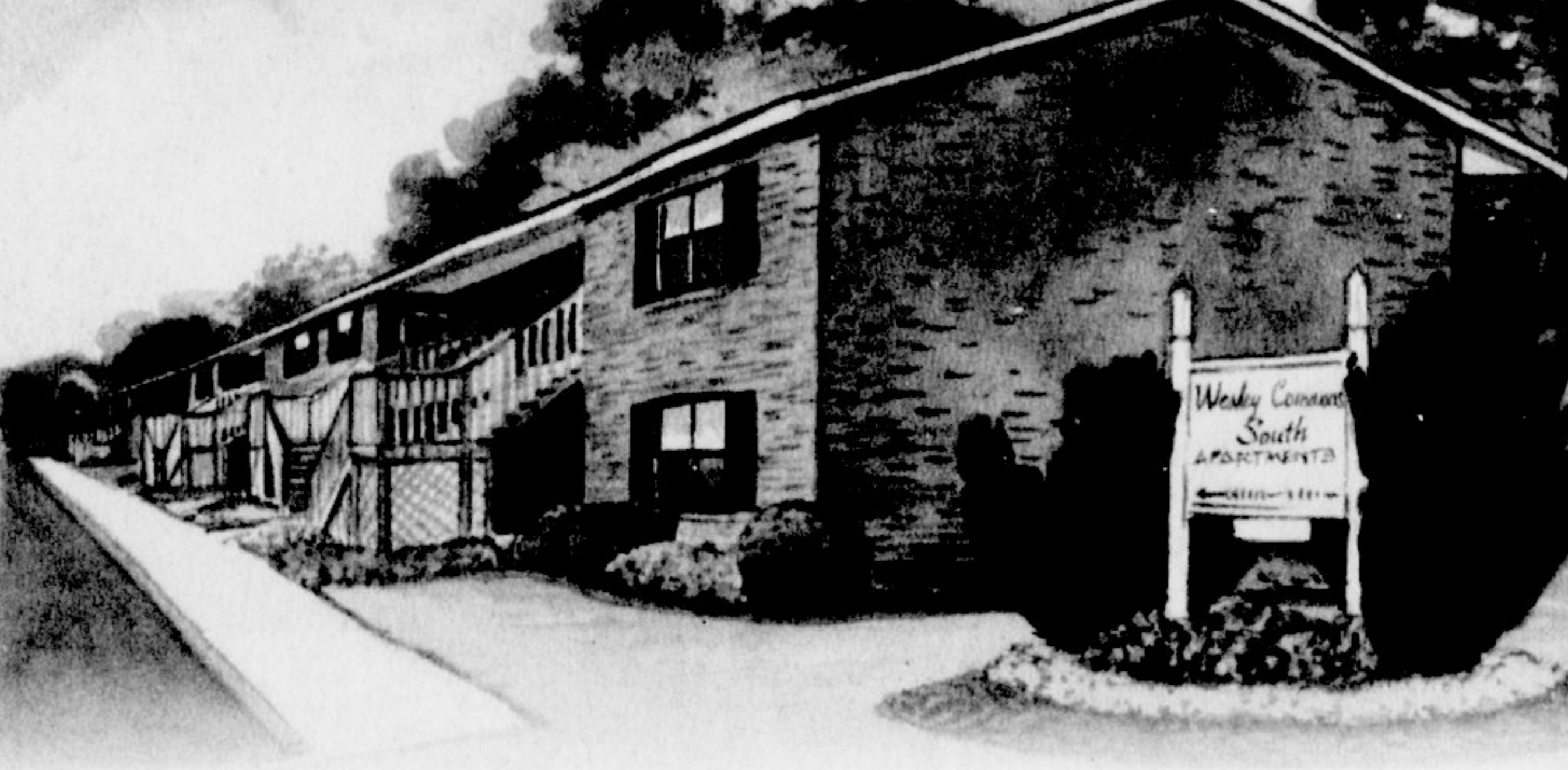



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Mendenhall Student Center
Second Floor

8:00-8:45 am	Registration
8:45-9:00 am	Opening Session
9:00-11:00 am	Poster and Presentation Sessions
1:00-3:00 pm	Poster and Presentation Sessions
3:30-4:00 pm	Awards and Closing Ceremony

Undergraduate students will present their original research in the following categories:

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- ❖ Sciences
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- ❖ Neuroscience
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Launch from page A1

SGA – such as legal advice and cash loans up to \$50, review the constitution and bylaws that govern SGA to see if revising them will benefit students and continue to look for ways to improve campus safety. O'Donnell said she also wants to increase communication between SGA and the students. "We've become really detached from the issues and from the students. This year, if we're elected, it's going to be about going out there and getting the students," said O'Donnell. To foster continuity within student government, Ticket One intends to enact a student government training program, called Fish Aids, that would orient and train interested freshmen in how campus government works and how to get involved. To benefit students, Baer said he would like to develop a "pirate card" that would have a list of local businesses that offer discounts or special deals to ECU students. O'Donnell said her ticket wants to find a way, in collaboration with The East Carolinian, to inform the student body of

what their elected SGA officers and the senators are doing to benefit them. O'Donnell said Lambertson is working on a way to put the senate role online so students can see if their representatives are fulfilling their duties by attending meetings, and Greaver plans to put SGA's spending online. "It will show exactly where the money is going," O'Donnell said. "We're going to work on fiscal accountability." With the increased number of students at ECU, O'Donnell said there are more organizations asking for funding from student government. To bring in the money necessary to fund these additional organizations without raising student fees, she said she plans to work on setting up an endowment that would grow to provide additional money. She said SGA would work with local businesses to see if they could contribute. A professor rating Web site is also being proposed. Different from RateMyProfessor.com, it would show an instructor's grade distribution, course drop rate and other relevant information.

Last year, Baer and O'Donnell ran together on Ticket A – the ticket that had all four of its candidates elected. Despite running against each other this year, Baer said there was no difference of opinion that led to the split. "[There are] no ill feelings at all, and hopefully at the end, when the election is over, we can support each other in whatever role we take on," Baer said. "What I encourage the student body to do is to look at experience. Experience is what really matters. Look at each ticket slot-by-slot. Has each person been in SGA? Do they have the leadership skills needed to do the job? My passion is for student government and helping students, not the title." That is one area where the two candidates for president agreed, O'Donnell said she wants to "return to an organization that serves the students." "I love student government, and I love the potential it has for the university," O'Donnell said. The SGA elections are scheduled for March 30 – 31, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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

Crime from page A1

The East Carolinian noticed vulgar statements written in several of the men's bathrooms in Joyner Library. J.P. Smith, administrative captain of the ECU Police Department, said vandalism could be categorized in several ways. "There is malicious vandalism, damage to real property and damage to personal property," said Smith. Smith said the penalties depend on the category in which an act of vandalism falls. The defacing of the posters in Slay Hall could fall under several classifications and the charges could be threefold. Smith said a distinction would have to be made whether to charge someone with "damage to real property" – houses or buildings – or "damage to personal property," meaning damaging or defacing something a person owns. "You would also have to look at [whether it] ... is a hate

crime. That would be another issue. Certainly the penalty for that would be greater than damage to real property or damage to personal property," Smith said. Vandalism tends to occur more often during football season, Smith said. Smith said the bronze statue of PeeDee the Pirate located at the stadium had been painted purple and yellow. The "culprits" used water-soluble paint, and the statue was not damaged. To maliciously vandalize property someone would have to willfully and deliberately deface, desecrate or destroy property, said Christine Russell, JD, a lawyer and visiting communication assistant professor. "It usually means deliberate intent to cause damage or emotional injury to the owner, or the property itself," said Russell. Penalties for vandalism can vary from fines and restitution to community service, said Margaret Olszewska,

assistant director for the Office of Student Conflict Resolution. Olszewska's office handles violations of the ECU code of conduct. "We [students and counselors] would talk about what happened. If I don't hear a violation, then the case is closed," said Olszewska. "If I did hear a violation, typically I would propose sanctions – restitution or community service if it's something fairly minor." Olszewska said if a student vandalizes something off-campus, the conflict resolution office would issue university punishment since the person violated ECU's code of conduct. If a person chopped down a 200-year-old oak tree on campus, for example, they may have to pay restitution, fines or under recommendation of forestry services, plant trees.

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

SGA

Spring Elections

**ONLINE VOTING FOR
EXECUTIVE OFFICE**
(President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary)

**POLLS OPEN
MARCH 30 AT 9:00 AM**

**POLLS CLOSE
MARCH 31 AT 5:00 PM**

Weird News

4-year-old brings crack to school
INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - A four-year-old boy brought crack cocaine worth up to \$10,000 US to his preschool class Monday, authorities said.

Police said the boy took rocks of crack cocaine out of his backpack and showed them to other children in his Head Start class, saying the drugs were flour. Teachers realized it was cocaine and called authorities. Police searched the boy's home, but did not find the parents, Sgt. Russell Burns said.

The boy and his sister were placed in protective custody and arrest warrants were issued for the parents, Burns said. No names were released.

Panda gets crash course in reproduction

BEIJING (AP) - Chinese veterinarians have begun showing American-born panda Hua Mei sex-education videos featuring pandas mating to prepare her for "blind dates" with Chinese suitors, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Tuesday. The four-year-old animal, whose name means "China-America," arrived in China from San Diego in February. Now that her month of quarantine is complete, officials are hoping she will quickly mate with a panda at

her new home, the Wolong Giant Panda Protection Research Centre in southwestern China.

"We hope she can get pregnant by the end of March. But first of all, she should have some sexual education," said Wei Rongping, assistant director of the research centre, quoted by Xinhua.

Juror brings pot to court

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) - A juror was arrested after officers noticed he was trying to carry marijuana into a courthouse, police said.

Jimmy Andre Thompson, 30, was trying to re-enter the Charleston County Courthouse Thursday when he was asked to empty his pockets before going through a metal detector, police said.

Officers saw Thompson pull out a small plastic bag containing a green, leafy substance, police said. He quickly shoved the bag back into his pants and pulled out a bag of peanuts.

Police said Thompson had about 18 grams of marijuana worth about \$90.

"This is a first," said prosecutor Ralph Hoisington.

"We've had an occasional pocketknife before, but no jurors have ever brought drugs in as far as I know."

Wright from page A2

attempting to determine the best way to fix the problem.

Facilities Services has put in a request for funds to completely repair the fountain, a project that would require extensive digging and time, Kisida said. The estimated cost of the project is around \$400,000.

Kisida said he expects to receive approval for the project in late March.

Some students are supportive of the repairs and hope the fountain will return to complete functionality soon.

"I think [the fountain] is a great addition to Wright Circle," said junior biochemistry major Ryan Phillips.

"It really adds a degree of class to ECU's campus."

Still others were exasperated at the thought of more construction on campus.

"It's almost impossible to get to class as it is, and now they're probably going to have to close the street right there at the fountain, and it's going to be another major headache," said Matt Roehrich, sophomore music performance major.

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

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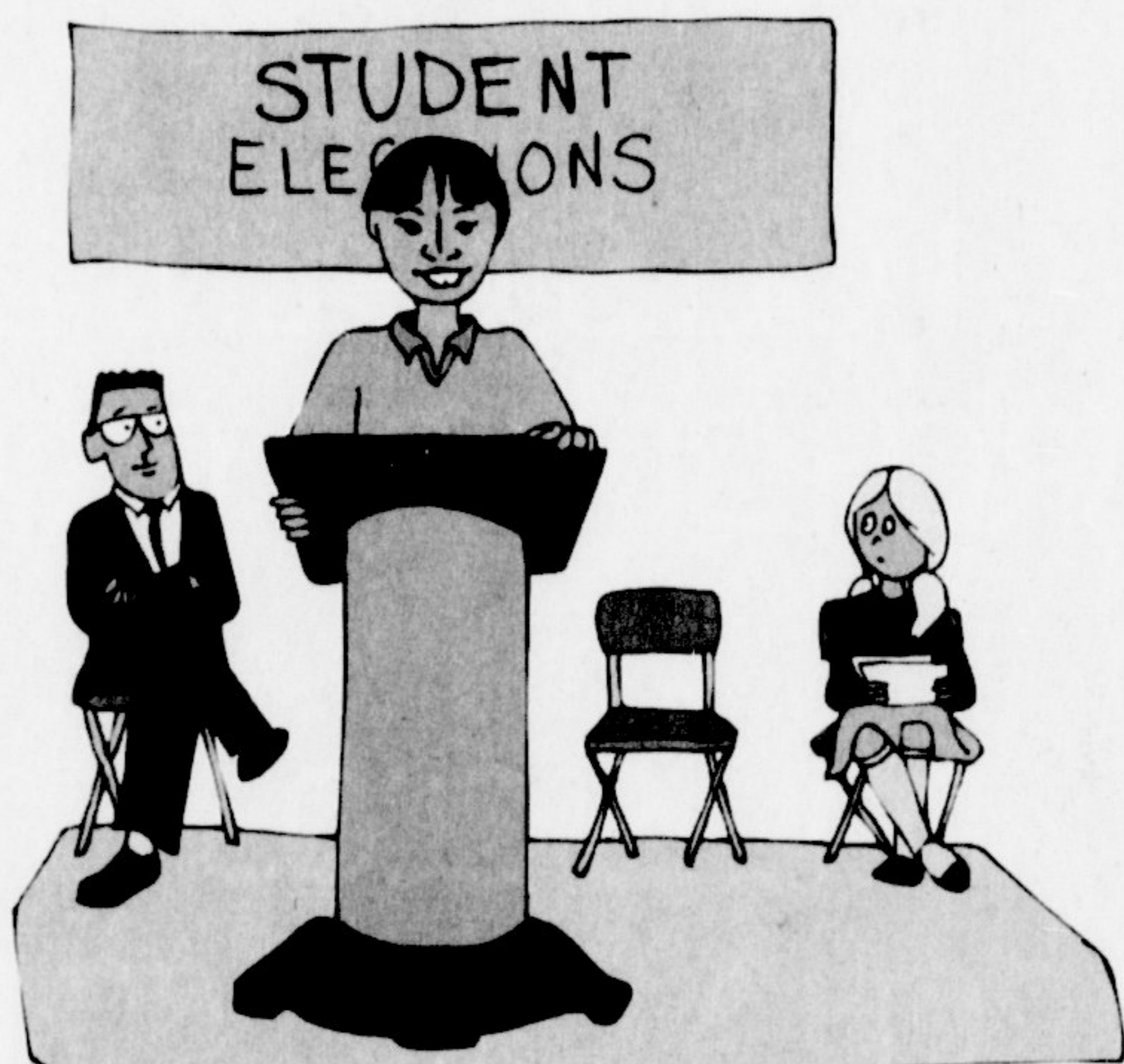
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East Carolina University

FOUNDERS WEEK SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



Join the entire East Carolina community as we celebrate the ninety-seventh anniversary of the founding of the university.

COMMUNITY DAY *Monday, March 22*

7:30 a.m.	Community Leaders Breakfast*	Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church
10:00 a.m.	Chancellor's Forum on Health Care—Raising One Healthy Generation	Brody SOM Auditorium
12:00 noon	Lunch—Celebration of the Country Doctor Museum Acquisition (by invitation)	2W-40 Brody
1:30 p.m.	Opening of the Historic Collections Facility	Laupus Health Sciences Library

STUDENT DAY *Tuesday, March 23*

3:00 p.m.	College of Education Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Reception	Willis Building
3:30 p.m.	Student Celebration of ECU's Birthday	Brickyard
6:00-9:00 p.m.	Iron Pouring	Rear Courtyard behind Jenkins Fine Arts Center
8:00 p.m.	Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival*	Fletcher Music Recital Hall

STUDENT DAY *Wednesday, March 24*

11:00 a.m.	Military Service Celebration	Victory Bell by Christenbury Gymnasium
3:00 p.m.	Debnam Hunt Early Reading Room Dedication	Joyner Library
5:30 p.m.	ECU Arts at the Amphitheater	Greenville Toyota Amphitheater, Town Commons
8:00 p.m.	Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival*	Fletcher Music Recital Hall
8:00 p.m.	Student Comedy Show*	Hendrix Theater

UNIVERSITY DAY *Thursday, March 25*

10:00 a.m.	Founders Week Convocation and Awarding of the Jarvis Medal	Wright Auditorium
11:30 a.m.	Lunch on the Mall*	
1:30 p.m.	Brody Lecture on Health Care	Brody SOM Auditorium
All day	Health Sciences Photo Retrospective	Brody SOM Lobby
3:00 p.m.	Dixie Koldjeski Lecture on Nursing	Monroe Center
6:30 p.m.	Founders Awards Dinner*	Murphy Center

ALUMNI AND PATRONS DAY *Friday, March 26*

8:00 a.m.	Board of Trustees Meeting	2W-40AD Brody
9:30 a.m.	Seeing the Future Display and Pre-Groundbreaking Reception, School of Allied Health Sciences	Brody First Floor
11:30 a.m.	Groundbreaking for Learning Village	N. Emergency Drive
All day	Health Sciences Photo Retrospective	Brody SOM Lobby
6:30 p.m.	Founders Week Celebration (by invitation)	Science and Technology Plaza
8:00 p.m.	Moscow Festival Ballet*	Wright Auditorium

ALUMNI AND PATRONS DAY *Saturday, March 27*

10:00 a.m.	Bus Tour of Campus for Alumni Reunion Participants	
6:00 p.m.	College of Human Ecology Alumni Awards Dinner	Sweethearts, Todd Dining Hall
6:30 p.m.	Alumni Reunion Social*	Minges Coliseum

*Ticket Required

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Twin Oaks townhouse, 2 BR, 1 1/2 bath, end unit on ECU campus bus route. Patio, pool, W/D hook-up. \$525 per month. Call 864-346-5750 or 864-228-3667.

pinebrook apt. 758-4015- 1&2 BR apts, dishwasher, G/D, central air & heat, pool, ECU bus line, 9 or 12 month leases. Pets allowed. Rent includes water, sewer, & cable.

Now Preleasing for Fall Semester- 1,2 and 3 bedroom duplexes &

townhouses. College Towne Row, Verdant Street, Cannon Court, Cedar Court, Lewis Street and 2nd Street. All units close to ECU. Pets allowed in some units with fee. For more information contact Wainright Property Management 756-6209.

Any female looking to rent at Pirate's Cove? I have a room \$360/month includes everything. Contact Brenda at 704-202-2775 or BGL0923@mail.ecu.edu.

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

ROOMMATE WANTED
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Female roommate needed to sublease bedroom in three bedroom three bathroom apartment at Riverwalk Lease rens until July 29, 2004 Apartment is on ECU busline. Rent is \$321 + 1/3 utilities. March's rent is paid for! Contact Jess 252-349-5360.

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do you need a good job? The ECU Telefund is hiring students to contact alumni and parents for teh ECU Annual Fund. \$6.25 hour plus cash bonuses. Make your own schedule. If interested, visit our website at www.ecu.edu/telefund and click on JOBS.

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GREEK PERSONALS
Congratulations Adrian Wilkinson on being Kappa Delta's sister of the week (March 8-12)! You are an awesome president and a wonderful sister! We love you lots!

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Come join us for the March 26 contra dance! Live, old-time and Celtic music by a string band. Lesson: 7:30 pm; dance: 8 pm - 10:30 pm. Band: Sandy Ridge Ramblers; Caller: Roger Robbins. No experience needed; we'll teach you as we go along! Come alone or bring a friend! \$3 (students) \$5 (FASG members)


\$8 (general). Co-sponsors: ECU Folk and Country Dancers (752-7350) and Folk Arts Society of Greenville (795-4980). An alcohol and smoke-free event. www.geocities.com/ecufolkandcountrydancers/ Location: Willis Bldg., 1st & Reade sts., downtown.

The daily Reflector is making two \$2,500 annual scholarships available to undergraduate students at East Carolina University who are interested in pursuing a career in a media-related field. Fields of study may include but are not limited to journalism, advertising, art, accounting, and computer services. The recipients of the scholarship are also invited to compete for a possible internship with the newspaper. Scholarship requirements & guidelines: must be at least a junior at ECU with a minimum of two full-time semesters remaining until graduation (this does not include summer school), be able to demonstrate interest in pursuing a career in a media-related field, have a minimum 3.0 collegiate GPA in the last academic year and no grades below a C in area of academic major, submit scholarship application and supportive materials to ECU by April 1, 2004. Applications can be obtained from: Mrs. Vicky Morris, Director of Donors Stewardship, University Development, Greenville Centre, Suite 1100, 2200 South Charles Blvd. Greenville. NC 27858. Phone: 252-328-9573.



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Crossword

ACROSS
1 Pittfall
5 Pippin or Rome
10 Home of Iowa State
14 Fuel-line element
15 Sharply defined
16 Stellar blast
17 Jot
18 Rocky watercraft
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24 Mall happening
26 UAE constituent
29 Fishing boat
33 Chicken caller
34 Sandra or Ruby
35 Fury
36 Favre's flock?
41 Arbor of Michigan?
42 Regret
43 Gold bar
44 Come back in
47 Vocations
49 Verdi heroine
50 Nursery rhyme opener
51 Prepare for the bout
54 Liveliness
58 Ringer
59 Spicy Mexican dish
61 vera
62 Feed the kitty
63 Atelier stand
64 Pocket bread
65 Crude cross
66 Mild expletive
67 Tarot interpreter

DOWN
1 "Gun for Hire"
2 Underground development
3 Movie dog
4 Partridge perch
5 Stress
6 Nebraska river
7 Writing tools
8 Thai Buddhist
9 Before, to a bard
10 A Carnegie

11 Additional
12 All tied up
13 Epic tale
21 Master
22 Chicken/king connector
24 Part of a procedure
25 Zone
26 Ventriquoist Bergen
27 Seine tributary
28 Goddess of peace
30 Feudal lord
31 Blooper
32 Takes ten
34 Anil or wood
37 Engendered
38 Nimbus
39 Approximately
40 Patellas
45 Caught red-handed
46 Soft metal
47 Like a snake ready to strike

Solutions

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48 Blacksmiths' blocks
51 Ski lift
52 City on the Truckee
53 Choir part
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57 Calendar length
59 Average grade
60 Shrew

CHRYSLER



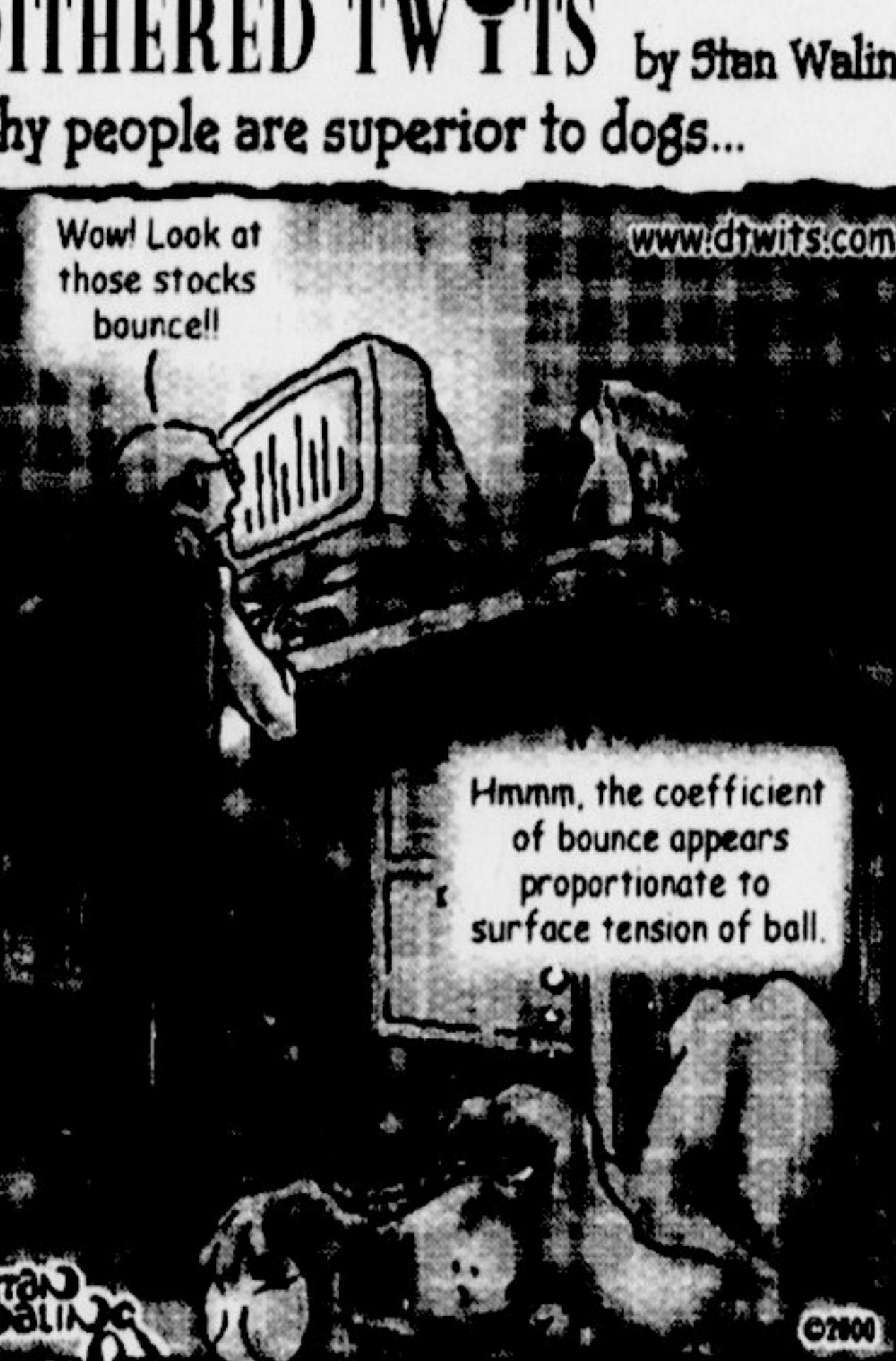
"Are you nuts - I ain't pullin' over so you can use a Porta-John!!!"

A HORRIBLE REALIZATION

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DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling
Why people are superior to dogs...



Wow! Look at those stocks bounce!!

Hmmm, the coefficient of bounce appears proportionate to surface tension of ball.

...we got the chairs.

Brain Link by Amy K.R.

When leaving a tip at, say, Starbucks or Caribou, i often do so with exaggerated gestures or take a bit longer than necessary to place the dollar in the dish, just to make sure they know what a nice and generous customer i am.

clunk! shuffle, shuffle.

CAPTAIN RIBMAN in Smart Citizen
by Sprengelmeyer & Davis

IN THE PRIVACY OF HIS CITY OFFICE, CHIEF VIGILANTE CAPTAIN RIBMAN LAUNCHES A STEALTH P.R. CAMPAIGN ON HIS OWN BEHALF!

Letter to the Editor: Meatropolis should be proud that Captain RibMan protects us! He's a better superhero than Christopher Reeves or Michael Keaton. Sincerely, A Smart Citizen.

LATER THAT DAY... GREAT! A REPLY FROM THE DAILY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER REGARDING MY LETTER!

Dear "Smart Citizen": Your IP address is the same as Captain RibMan's. We forwarded your e-mail to the City Attorney for prosecution. You have committed fraud. That's an impeachable offense, Captain. Sincerely, The Daily Weekly.

THIS SHOULD BE A GOOD TEST OF THE THEORY THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS BAD PUBLICITY.

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FEATURES

AMANDA LINGERFELT
Features Editor

JOHN BREAM
Assistant Features Editor

features@theeastcarolinian.com

252.328.6366

Did You Know?

- Singer/songwriter Elton John (1947) and actress Sara Jessica Parker (1965) both call today their birthday.
- This month is National Play-the-Recorder Month.
- Today is Pecan Day.
- On this day in 1969, John Lennon and Yoko Ono staged their first bed-in for peace in Amsterdam.

Announcements

Films

The Student Union Films Committee presents *House of Sand and Fog* today at 9:30 p.m., Friday at 7 p.m. and midnight, Saturday at 9:30 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m. *Big Fish* is showing today at 7 p.m., Friday at 9:30 p.m., Saturday at 7 p.m. and midnight and Sunday at 3 p.m. All movies are free with a student ID and are located in the Hendrix Theatre. For more information, call 328-4700.

New Music Festival Class

The New Music Festival at ECU presents Master Class I with Mario Davidovsky at 2 p.m. today in the A. J. Fletcher Recital Hall.

New Music Festival Concert

The New Music Festival at ECU presents contemporary works for clarinet and piano at 8 p.m. today in the A. J. Fletcher Recital Hall. Performers include Christopher Grymes on clarinet and Peter Henderson on piano. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at 1-800-ECU-ARTS.

Concert

The Student Union Popular Entertainment Committee presents a concert by Pretty Girls Make Graves with Majahonng and The Constitines at 9 p.m. today in the Pirate Underground. This event is free.

New Music Festival Class

The New Music Festival at ECU presents Master Class II with Triple Helix at noon on Friday, March 26 in the A. J. Fletcher Recital Hall.

New Music Festival Seminar

The New Music Festival at ECU presents Seminar I: Rehearsal and Recording of Choral Composition Competition Winners at 1 p.m. on Friday, March 26 in the A. J. Fletcher Recital Hall. The event will feature the ECU Chamber Singers conducted by Daniel Bara.

New Music Festival Concert

The New Music Festival at ECU presents a New Music Camerata with various performers at 3 p.m. on Friday, March 26 in the A. J. Fletcher Recital Hall. Tickets are \$5.

Ballet Performance

The Moscow Festival Ballet will present a performance of *Cinderella* at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 26 in Wright Auditorium. This event is sponsored by the S. Rudolph Performing Arts Series. For tickets, call 1-800-ECU-ARTS.

New Music Festival Concert

The New Music Festival at ECU presents PRISM Unplugged - New American Saxophone Quartets with various performers at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 26 in the A. J. Fletcher Recital Hall. Tickets are \$5.

Greenville Live

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| <p>A.J. McMurphy's
1914 Timbury Drive 355-7956
Saturday, March 27, 9 p.m.
Pockit</p> <p>Chef's 505
505 Red Banks Road
355-7505
Wednesday, March 31, 7:30 p.m.
ECU jazz faculty and students</p> <p>Christy's Euro Pub
301 S. Jarvis St. 758-2774
Tuesday, March 30, 10 p.m.
Open mic night</p> <p>City Hotel and Bistro
203 S.W. Greenville Blvd.
355-8300
Wednesday, March 31, 7 p.m.
Live Music</p> <p>Corrigan's
122 E. Fifth St. 758-3114
Friday, March 26, 10 p.m.
Live music
Saturday, March 27, 10 p.m.
Live music</p> <p>Courtyard Tavern
703 S.E. Greenville Blvd.
321-0202
Sunday, March 28, 7 p.m.
Spare Change</p> <p>El Ranchito
315 E. Tenth St. 561-7336
Thursday, March 25, 7 p.m.
Mariachi Band</p> <p>Ham's
701 Evans St. 830-2739
Thursday, March 25, 10 p.m.
Karaoke
Saturday, March 26, 10 p.m.
Sucker Punch
Sunday, March 27, 10 p.m.
Open mic night</p> | <p>Mesh Café
1011-A Red Banks Road
321-MESH
Thursday, March 25, 9 p.m.
Big Bertha
Friday, March 26, 9 p.m.
Comedy
Saturday, March 27, 9 p.m.
Deejay</p> <p>Peasants
110 E. Fourth St. 752-5855
Thursday, March 25, 9 p.m.
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Friday, March 26, 9 p.m.
Bluestring
Saturday, March 27, 9 p.m.
Willie and Me
Tuesday, March 30, 9 p.m.
Live Music</p> <p>Player's Choice
Community Square, Memorial Drive 355-4149
Thursday, March 25, 10 p.m.
Karaoke
Saturday, March 27, 10 p.m.
On Edge</p> <p>Players Retreat
1631 Pictolus Road 758-6856
Thursday, March 25, 7 p.m.
Karaoke
Saturday, March 27, 9 p.m.
Take 3</p> <p>Professor O'Cool's
605 Greenville Blvd. 355-2946
Saturday, March 27, 9:30 p.m.
Karaoke</p> <p>Wimpie's Steam Bar
206 Main St., Winterville
355-4220
Friday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.
Don Cox
Saturday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.
Rob Legere</p> |
|--|--|

The dating game

Does dating still exist on college campuses?

LISA TUMBARELLO
STAFF WRITER

Besides the occasional successful high school sweet-hearts, it seems many college relationships end up short-lived and unsuccessful.

College is about experimenting and having fun - and dating is about experimenting and having fun - so why are the two not hand-in-hand?

So many of us turn up in college seeking the "one who we can be with forever." In the melting pot of university life, it is often hard to decipher what and whom you like and dislike. The choices of people can overwhelm you, thus making decisions toward a relationship often rash and impulsive.

The fears of being alone and diving into something completely unknown are often the deciding factors of why people choose to stay with their high school loves. In addition, many high schoolers have the mentality that the relationship really is that strong and together anything can be accomplished.

College is full of uncomfortable situations with unfamiliar people. Therefore, many couples who are secure with their relationships choose to stay together with something they know works for them and for each other. Leaving the comfort zone and having to change is not an option for many couples.

Although staying together is initially the more comfortable path, trying to manage a long-distance relationship is messy, and it often leads to its downfall.

Everyone hears the stories of others who attempted long-distance love and how it ended up

in demise. However, these tales are usually shrugged off with thoughts of how your relationship is different - that you and your significant other have what it takes to stay together.

Maybe you do. More often than not, though, these couples who once thought they could live through the jealousy, worrying and protectiveness find themselves retelling the story of their failed relationship to other optimistic college-goers.

Which brings us back to the point of dating. If you're one of those many people not in a surviving high school relationship, where do you stand? Social situations are abundant in the college atmosphere, and it seems dating has become a thing of the past.

The social standards and situations in which we live have completely changed and have almost eradicated the dating scene on college campuses. The fast-paced movement within meeting locations makes it hard to get to know someone with a first encounter. Clubs, parties and vacations don't really provide ideal situations for finding someone with whom you might be compatible.

Night after night, students end up in the same drunken situations meeting new people, but never really knowing if they are compatible with them. So much emphasis is placed on meeting "the one" that we often don't take the time to get to know the person, situations are rushed and just leave you in a state of confusion.

The problem lies in the fact that guys and girls do not have the same goals when searching for a significant other. While girls are often looking for something more than just one night, guys are often looking for nothing more.

"I feel like guys are only looking for one thing, and it puts a lot

of pressure and expectations on the women," said Kelly Kenne, senior art education major.

"It makes dating difficult because you never know their true intentions."

As soon as the slightest bit of courting occurs, talks turn to, "Where are we going in this relationship? Are we going to see other people? Is this exclusive?"

What happened to just having fun? The terms "casual dating" and "no-strings-attached" seem to have dissipated from people's vocabulary. Dating just to meet people is a thing of the past. Going out with multiple people at a time before deciding who you are most compatible with was the normal procedure, but nowadays it's almost considered cheating.

"People in college are so rushed because they are trying too hard to find 'the one,' and they aren't taking the time to become friends first," said Kristen Polyniak, junior accounting major.

People are so intent on finding something substantial that feelings of possessiveness and ideas of becoming a couple kick in early in relationships. This causes a lot of strain. In the beginning, the relationship may be great, but in the end it winds up fizzling out without reason. It's because people aren't taking their time.

There is no label on college that says, "Find the rest of your life here."

So, slow down and enjoy it. Think of college as a big melting pot: take your dips, find your tastes and stick with what you like because when you finally have found "the one," you will know more about what you want and who you want to be with. It will only make your relationship stronger and last longer.

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

What advice do you have for students in relationships?



JEREMY GREEVER
SENIOR POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

"Monogamy is overrated."



DEVYN STURDAVANT
JUNIOR COMMUNICATION MAJOR

"Have an understanding and keep communication lines open."



KATHERINE HENDERSON
FRESHMAN ENGLISH MAJOR

"You have to have trust and honesty in a relationship to make it work."

Grilling tips help spice up recipes

Useful ideas for beginning chefs

LAUREN MASON
SENIOR WRITER

With warm weather on the way and the start of long days, it will be the perfect season to bring out the grill and try new recipes. Grilling is a cooking style that is often associated with summer cookouts and family barbecues. However, it takes experience to learn the proper techniques for quality grilling.

Grilling is a unique combination of cooking because it involves the direct heat of the grill and the indirect heat that collects under the closed lid. Using high heat from both sources, food cooks quickly and must be turned to cook evenly. However, if it is turned too often, it can become overcooked and tough. The key: only turn when necessary, usually indicated by grill marks on the meat.

Using marinade helps add flavor and tenderize meat. Try to use approximately one to two cups of marinade for every one to two pounds of meat, leaving it completely covered. It's easy to use plastic bags or containers to soak the meat beforehand. Try to use meat slices that are at least an inch and a half thick for the best results and hamburger meat with 15 to 20 percent fat to keep burgers juicy.

Any type of tomato or sugar-based sauce should only be added at the end of the grilling because it burns easily and usually doesn't add any sort of flavor to the inside of the meat. Spices or rubs should be applied up to an hour

before grilling to allow the flavor to soak in.

Tongs are the best utensils for turning meat because forks will punch holes and allow the natural juices to escape.

It's important not to use too much lighter fluid when building the fire for a charcoal grill. Only use the least amount possible and never apply cooking spray to a lit fire. Also, try not to use spray bottles of water to control flare-ups in the fire. They're typically caused by too much fat and high heat. Just trim off excess fat and move the meat to another part of the grill. The charcoal should extend about an inch to two inches beyond the area of grilling for direct grilling, while indirect grilling should be placed on either side of a drip pan.

"I prefer charcoal over gas grills, but I usually don't worry about direct or indirect grilling and just watch the meat until it's done," said Nick Pittman, senior electronics major.

There are many meats to choose from when grilling, along with a combination of marinades and spices. A variety of seafood, poultry, beef and pork can be used, while a creative griller has the option of choosing breads and vegetables for a more unique meal. Most people have favorites for the grill, whether it's barbecued chicken or a well-done steak.

"I think chicken is easy to grill if the cuts are not too thick, but I usually stick to hamburgers for cook-outs with my friends and family," Pittman said.

"My dad loves grilling salmon



Grilled Lime Fajitas

- 1 pound flank steak or chicken breast
- 1/2 cup lime juice
- 1/4 cup ground cilantro
- 1/4 cup white vinegar
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon cayenne
- 3 cloves minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon ground black pepper

Mix all ingredients except meat together thoroughly. Marinate meat in mixture overnight. Prepare grill. Remove marinade and place in saucepan. Cook until it boils set aside and let cool. Grill meat, basting with marinade until cooked. Cut into long thin strips. Serve with warmed tortillas, grilled and sliced bell peppers and onions and your choice of sour cream, guacamole or salsa.

Grilled Bread

- Preparation: Grill/Direct
- 4 slices sourdough bread about 1/2 inch thick
 - 1/4 cup butter
 - 2 cloves minced garlic
 - 1 teaspoon paprika
 - 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano leaves
 - 1/4 teaspoon cumin
 - 1/4 teaspoon cayenne

Melt butter in saucepan. Add garlic and cook until garlic just barely starts to brown. Remove from heat and add spices. Mix well. Brush one side of each slice of bread and place on preheated grill. Cook until bread is golden brown. Watch carefully to prevent burning.

Recipes from bbq.about.com.

see GRILLING page B4



The Moscow Festival Ballet will perform *Cinderella* tomorrow in Wright Auditorium.

Classic fairytale comes to life on stage

Ballet company presents 'Cinderella'

LAURA PEKAREK
STAFF WRITER

The beloved story of the transformation of a mistreated stepchild into a radiant princess comes to life in Wright Auditorium, Friday, March 26 at 8 p.m. The Moscow Festival Ballet transforms *Cinderella* into a sparkling full-length ballet.

"This is not just a fairytale for little girls," said Carol Woodruff, Director of Cultural Outreach.

Cinderella is a delightful tale of how dreams really can come true.

Sergei Radchenko, founder of the Moscow Festival Ballet, graduated from the Moscow School of Dance in 1964 and then joined the Bolshoi Ballet, where he worked for 25 years. He danced the entire repertoire at the Bolshoi but enjoyed a special reputation for Spanish dance. He also studied the business operations of Western companies during tours with Bolshoi.

Radchenko founded the Moscow Festival Ballet in 1989 in his quest to bring together the highest classical elements of the great Bolshoi and Kirov Ballets. During an era of immense change, he envisioned a new independent company that stayed within the framework of Russian classic ballet. At the end of the Soviet Union system, Radchenko found the creative freedom he needed. His company was the first independent ballet company to be established and allowed a wider audience to see the productions.

Including some stars of the Bolshoi and Kirov ballets, the Moscow Festival Ballet is composed of other well-regarded

dancers from across Russia. The company tours the United States with approximately 50 dancers, as well as 10 non-dancer staff members. More performers have been known to join the show sporadically throughout the tour.

The company has completed two successful tours throughout Europe, as well as a tour of Asia, Japan and Korea. Additionally, the Moscow Festival Ballet has performed in the Istanbul Festival in Turkey and the Athens Festival in Greece. The troupe has had the opportunity to travel around the world due to the outpouring of enthusiasm from its audiences.

The group continues the traditions that best define Russian ballet by performing classic works such as *Giselle*, *Paquita* and *Don Quixote*. The company is constantly working on new pieces commissioned from Russia and other full-length ballets from abroad. They also specialize in other 20th-century full-length ballets such as *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Legend of Love*.

The ECU performance of *Cinderella* by the Moscow Festival Ballet is sponsored by the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series.

After her mother's death, Cinderella is forced to move in with her abusive stepfamily. Her stepmother and stepsisters gave her the name Cinderella because she is always covered in cinders and ashes from the fireplace. She is forced to clean the house and take care of all household chores.

Even on the night of the Grand Royal Ball, she is forbidden to go and must help her evil stepsisters get ready. Cinderella's dreams of romance and a better life come true when her fairy godmother appears. She transforms a pumpkin into a golden carriage

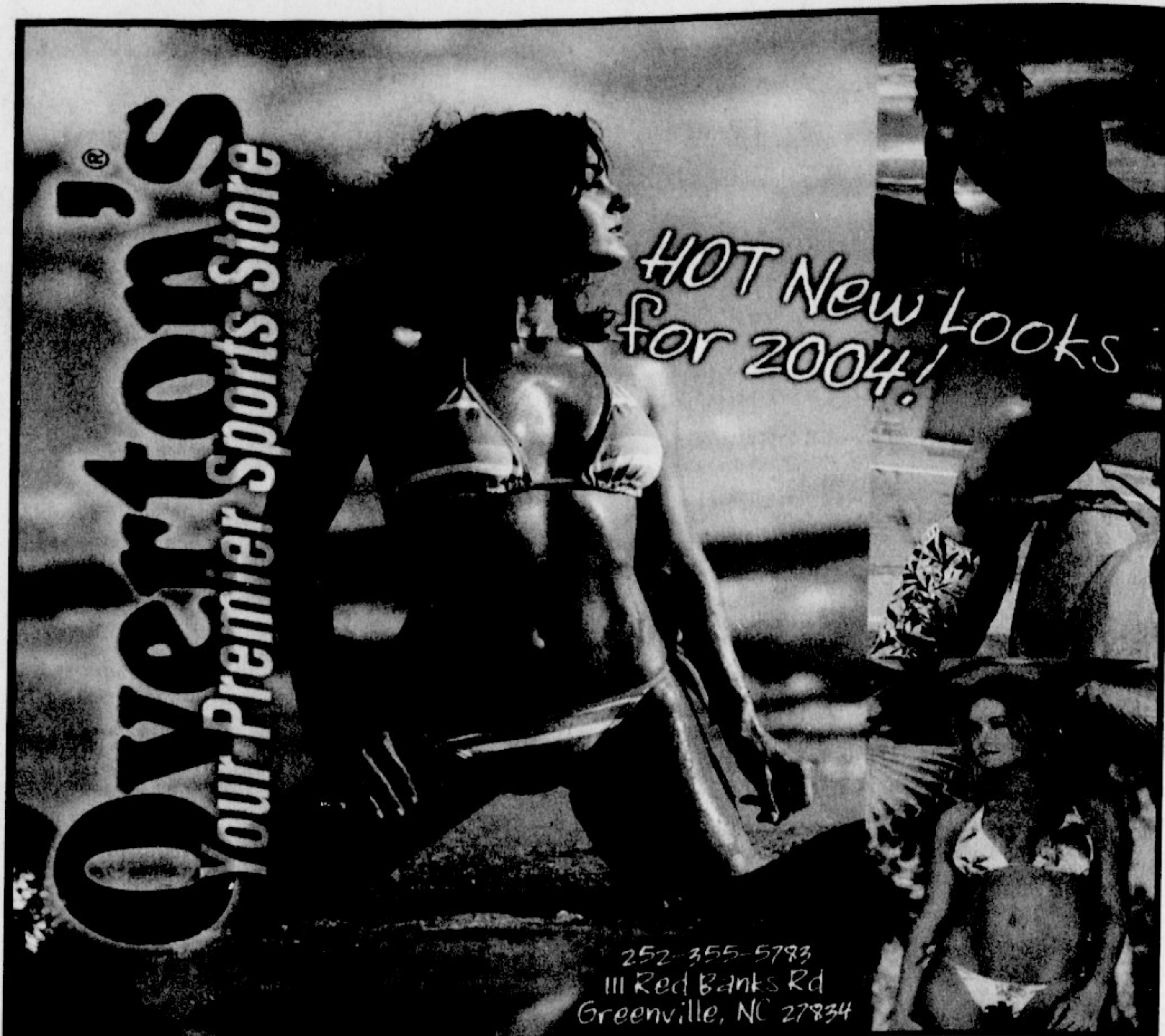
and Cinderella's rags into a gorgeous gown with the wave of her wand. Upon arriving at the ball, the prince immediately falls in love with her, but she must leave before the stroke of midnight or the spell will be broken. In her haste to leave, she leaves behind one of her glass slippers. The prince searches the kingdom for the slipper's owner, which leads him to Cinderella.

The story of *Cinderella* has inspired everyone from young to old, artists to animators and filmmakers to choreographers. Radchenko renovated the classic fairytale into a breathtaking ballet. Choreographed by Rostislav Zakharov with musical scores of Sergei Prokofiev, the elegant dancing, comical miming, rich costumes and colorful scenery of this version of *Cinderella* will enchant anyone who loves the story.

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

Event Info

Moscow Festival Ballet presents 'Cinderella'
Friday, March 26 at 8 p.m.
Wright Auditorium
Advance tickets are \$10 for ECU students, \$20 for youth, \$38 for faculty and staff and \$40 for the general public. All tickets purchased at the door will be full price.
Get tickets at the Central Ticket Office Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. or call 328-4788 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS.



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Fall 2004

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Quick Picks: Album Review

Offensive lyrics pervade tasteless Eamon album

BETH GUNDERSON
SENIOR WRITER

I Don't Want You Back is the debut album from a 20-year-old Staten Island native who calls himself Eamon. He describes his music as ho-wop (a mixture of hip-hop, doo-wop and hoers).

The CD debuted in February amid much controversy. Although many rock and rap albums are peppered with profane language, it is not usually the case with R&B music. The theme of a jilted guy flows throughout most of the album. That is especially true on the

title track "F*** It (I don't want you back)." He talks trash about his ex-girlfriend saying he does not want her back because she cheated on him, calling her derogatory names and threatening to throw away her presents.

The edited version has been in heavy rotation on local radio stations. It is a definite shock to hear the fully profane album version. Recently, a so-called response song from an artist named Frankie has been playing on the radio. Radio deejays said it was Eamon's ex-girlfriend, but the claim is false.

The songs on the album have a good beat and are easy sing-alongs. However, the question is: Would you want to? The entire CD is vulgar with very little respect for women. One of the worst songs is "Get Off My D***." This title phrase is the chorus of the song. The backup singer, Milk Dee, even chants "My D***" during the chorus. Although amusing, it's offensive.

The track "My Baby's Lost" is filled with double standards. Eamon says that he is cheating on his girlfriend with her best friend and gets mad when he finds out his girlfriend is also cheating on him.

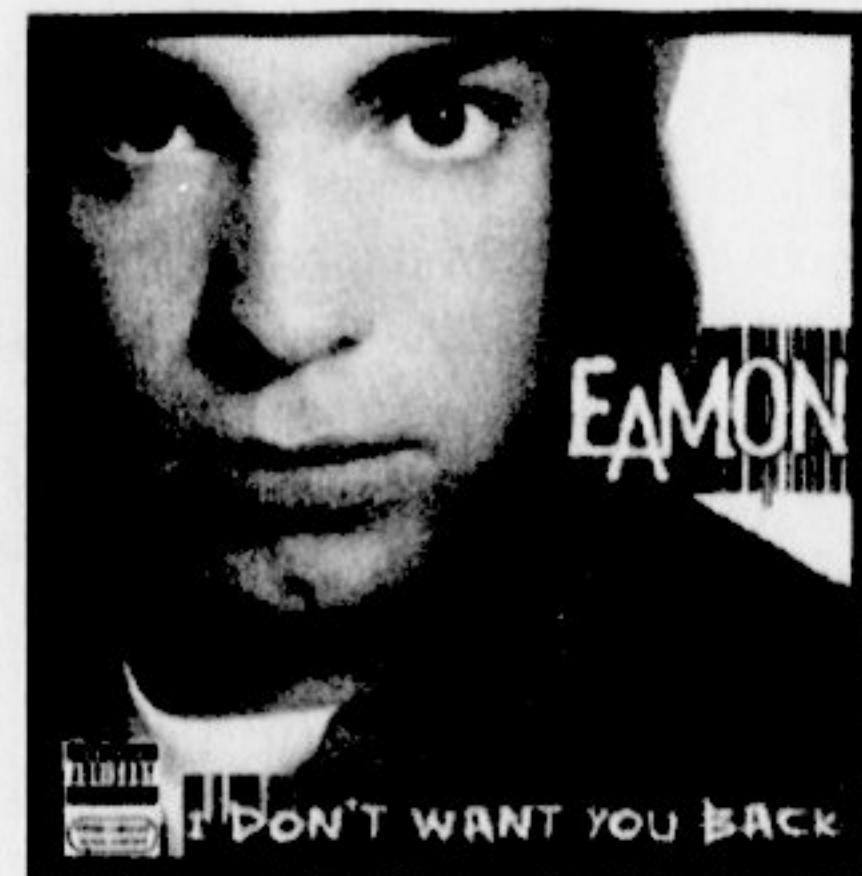
Most of the songs are stupid. They all say the same thing with invariable beats, but somehow you find yourself singing right along.

"Somethin' Strange" is one of the better songs, however, it still lacks insightful lyrics and is similar to the rest.

Eamon is not classified as a rapper and is not talented in that area. As a singer and a songwriter, he is not very artistic either. Throw in a good beat and if you are not easily offended, though, then you might like it.

Bottom Line: It's an amusing album, but it's hard to take him seriously as an artist since all of his songs are about hoers, just with a nice rhythm.

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



Album Info

Title: 'I Don't Want You Back'
Artist: Eamon
Release Date: Feb. 17, 2004.

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cinderella
moscow festival
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Quick Picks: Film Review

(KRT) — The original *Dawn of the Dead* is not a good movie. The remake, on the other hand, is practically a masterpiece of its genre.

How do I love it? Let me count the ways: It is funnier than the original, cheerfully piling up corpses and inventive gore. It is better paced than its overlong predecessor, which muffed its chances at suspense with mishapen scenes, crummy dialogue and porno-quality acting.

The remake's zombies aren't slow and bored-looking; they're fast and motivated. And, unlike the original, the remake has humanity — instead of anonymous characters, we get genuine actors Sarah Polley and Jake Weber, who react like you might if you suddenly found yourself in a world of crazed zombies who think you look like an entree (in the original, the zombies seem to be played by themselves).

But enough about the original. This *Dawn of the Dead* borrows the concept (human survivors hole up in a mall, which turns out not to be a place for fun in their lives) and themes (the individual vs. the community, compassion vs. self-interest, greed) of the 1980s version. But the story takes off in creative directions that will thrill you, scare you and make you laugh.

There are minor flaws — it's set in Wisconsin, where the TV station would be WBFX, not KBEX, for instance, and it was shot in a Canadian mall so the stores are all wrong — but even the mayhem has a clever, concise point.

Yeah, if you had a gun and a lot of ammo and one zombie after another was coming at you, you might be able to pick off the first six of 'em. But what about the seventh? The eighth? The 91st?






Film Info

Title: 'Dawn of the Dead'
Starring: Sarah Polley and Ving Rhames
Release Date: March 19, 2004.


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OF INVENTION
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Guest Speaker
Tracy Hopkins

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RIGHT RIGHT SRC
Tracy Hopkins

Cinema Scene

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House of Sand and Fog – starring Jennifer Connelly and Ben Kingsley. Amir (Kingsley), a former member of the Shah of Iran's inner circle, sees an opportunity to improve his life in America by buying a house being sold for back taxes. However, it is a mistake – the house was improperly seized from its rightful owner, Katly (Connelly). After almost losing her life to addiction, she decides to fight for her home – at any cost. Rated: R.

Big Fish – starring Ewan McGregor, Albert Finney and Billy Crudup. Edward Bloom (Finney) loves to tell stories about himself as a young man (McGregor), and although his stories charm most and are often tall tales, they don't impress his estranged son. When father and son are reunited, the son must learn how to separate fact from fiction to save their relationship. Rated: PG-13.

Carmike 12

Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London – starring Frankie Muniz, Anthony Anderson and Hannah Spearritt. Banks goes undercover as a foreign-exchange student in England. Anderson will star as Banks' special operative handler, much like Angie Harmon did in the first installment. Rated: PG.

Dawn of the Dead – starring Sarah Polley and Ving Rhames. Remake of George Romero's classic in which a swarm of slow-moving cannibalistic corpses snack on the inhabitants of a shopping mall. Rated: R.

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind – starring Jim Carrey, Kate Winslet and Kirsten Dunst. After a tumultuous relationship, Joel (Carrey) is stunned to find out his ex, Clementine (Winslet), has had her memory erased. However, when Joel tries to do the same, he rediscovers his earlier passion. Rated: R.

Hidalgo – starring Viggo Mortensen, Malcolm McDowell and Omar

Sharif. Mortensen plays real-life 19th century Pony Express courier, Frank T. Hopkins. In 1890, Hopkins, a respected horse rider once known as the best in the west, travels to Africa to participate in a famous race known as the Ocean of Fire. The Bedouins do not take kindly to him, and he has only his horse, Hidalgo, to lean on for survival. Rated: PG-13.

Jersey Girl – starring Ben Affleck and Liv Tyler. A savvy music promoter (Affleck) has his world turned upside down when he indulges in a whirlwind romance with a Publishing House book editor (Tyler). Rated: PG-13.

The Ladykillers – starring Tom Hanks and Marlon Wayans. An eccentric Southern professor (Hanks) puts together a gang of double-crossing thieves to rob a riverboat casino. They rent a room in an old woman's house, but when she discovers the scheme, somebody has to kill her. Rated: R.

Never Die Alone – starring DMX and David Arquette. A journalist (Arquette) witnesses the murder of

a gangster (DMX). The gangster's rise and fall is charted in flashback through the gangster's journal, which enables the journalist to understand why he was killed and tell the story. Rated: R.

The Passion of The Christ – starring James Caviezel, Monica Bellucci and Maia Morgenstern. Controversial story of the last 12 hours in the life of Jesus Christ as told by director-screenwriter-producer Mel Gibson. Rated: R.

Scooby Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed – starring Sarah Michelle Gellar and Freddie Prinze Jr. The gang is back at it again doing battle with villains such as The Pterodactyl Ghost, The Black Knight Ghost and The 10,000 Volt Ghost in order to save the city of Coolsville. Rated: PG.

Secret Window – starring Johnny Depp, Maria Bello and John Turturro. Based on the Stephen King book, *Secret Window*, Mort

Rainey (Depp), finds himself terrorized by a psychotic stalker named John Shooter (Turturro). Rainey's living in a distant cabin after a painful divorce. Shooter finds him and accuses the novelist of stealing his idea for one of his books and changing only the ending. Rated: PG-13.

Starsky & Hutch – starring Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson and Snoop Dogg. The adaptation of the TV show takes place in the Bay City. It's a 'prequel' to the television series, about how the two police heroes got together, and their first case, involving a former college campus drug dealer turned big-time white-collar criminal. Rated: PG-13.

Taking Lives – starring Angelina Jolie, Ethan Hawke and Kiefer Sutherland. Story of an FBI agent (Jolie) who becomes involved with her key witness while tracking a prolific serial killer who assumes the lives and identities of the people he kills. Rated: R.

Grilling *from page*

fillets with soy sauce or other marinades like that. They're so good and he always makes sure they don't get overcooked or flaky," said Megan Brewer, senior hospitality management major.

Kebabs can be made with colorful vegetables and fruit to add flavor and accommodate different tastes. Even vegetarians can enjoy food from the grill like corn on the cob, potatoes and fresh peppers. Grilled bread also adds a nice touch with fire-seared pizza crust or thick French bread.

For trouble-free grilling, just be sure to stay safe and always keep a watch on the grill. It is not possible to just leave the food on the grill and come back after 20 or 30 minutes.

Temperatures can change drastically on a grill in just a few minutes, so monitor your food but let it cook fully to enjoy the full flavor.

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

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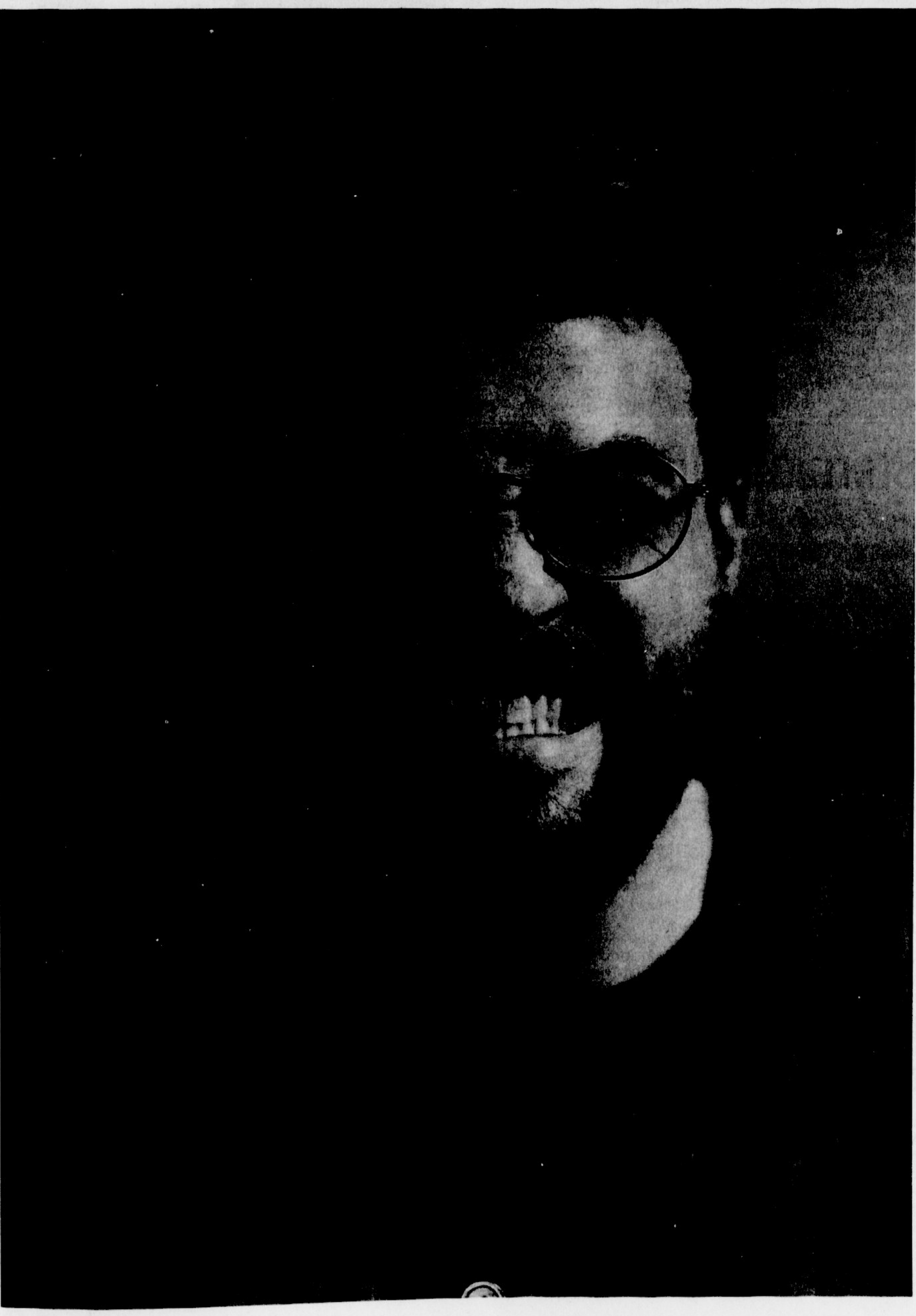
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Announcements

Flag Football

A registration meeting for 4-on-4 spring flag football will be held March 29 at 5 p.m. in Mendenhall Student Center's Great Room. Men's, women's and co-recreational leagues will be offered.

Softball Hitting Challenge

A softball hitting challenge will take place March 31 from 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. at the Blount Fields. Registration will be available on sight.

Self Defense Fitness Class

Self Defense fitness classes will be held March 24 - April 14 from 8 p.m. - 9 p.m. The program offers students a chance to learn self-defense techniques in a progressive training system that allows them to avoid confrontation and defend themselves as the situation dictates. The program will also cover basic personal protection theories as well as some of the more recent philosophies on self-defense.

Quick Start Canoe, Kayak

The adventure program is organizing an April 3 trip to the Cape Fear River for canoeing and kayaking. Interested parties must register by March 26. A pre-trip meeting is scheduled for March 31.

Sea Kayaking

The Adventure program will be going to Bear Island April 2 - 4 for sea kayaking. Those who want to participate must register by Friday, March 26. A pre-trip meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 31.

Relaxation Yoga - Beginner

Session III Relaxation Yoga for Beginners will run March 23 - April 27 on Tuesdays from 5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. Program Dates for Session IV will run March 24 - April 28 on Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Relaxation Yoga - Advanced Beginner

Relaxation Yoga for advanced beginners will run March 22 - April 26 on Mondays from 5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. in 238 SRC.

Hatha Yoga: Body, Breath & Spirit: Fitness

Hatha Yoga will run from March 10 - April 21 on Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. - 6:50 p.m. in 239 SRC. Hatha yoga postures improve strength, flexibility and balance and promotes a sense of well-being. Instruction is tailored to the needs and abilities of individuals, focusing on safety and alignment.

Power Flow Yoga

Power Flow Yoga will run March 25 - April 22 on Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. in 239 SRC. Work at your own pace while seeking out that place where you feel challenged yet successful.

Tai Chi: Fitness

Tai chi fitness will run from March 23 - April 22 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:05 p.m. - 12:50 p.m. Tai Chi is the art of maintaining the body and mind through relaxation and self-defense. This class strengthens the heart and increases muscle tone. It improves circulation, concentration, peace of mind, balance, promotes weight loss and coordination.

For more information on any of these programs, call 328-6387.

Sports Briefs

West Side stadium deal close to finalization

The New York Jets are close to a deal for a \$1.4 billion stadium on Manhattan's West Side. A source close to the negotiations, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Tuesday the deal, which faces opposition from many neighborhood residents, could be announced within a week. The proposal also would expand the nearby Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. The Jets would spend \$800 million on the stadium. The city and state would spend \$600 million on a deck over the existing rail yards and a roof that would allow the stadium to be used as convention space. The plan would be partly financed by an increase in the city's hotel tax. Portions of the plan would need the approval of the state Legislature. The stadium proposal faces stiff opposition from neighborhood activists and elected officials representing the West Side, which consists mainly of warehouses, auto body shops and old rail yards. They charge that the \$600 million subsidy would be a sweetheart deal for the Jets. The Jets currently play at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. and share the stadium with the New York Giants. The Jets' lease is up in 2008.

Baseball Top 25

Rk	Team	W-L	Pre
1.	Stanford	15-3	1
2.	Texas	26-3	2
3.	LSU	18-3	4
4.	South Carolina	19-2	3
5.	Miami	19-4	6
6.	Rice	16-6	5
7.	Long Beach State	16-5	10
8.	Mississippi	18-1	11
9.	Arizona State	20-5	8
10.	Texas A&M	21-4	9
11.	Wichita State	8-0	13
12.	Tulane	15-7	14
13.	Notre Dame	13-2	12
14.	Auburn	17-5	7
15.	Florida State	20-5	20
16.	Southern Miss	17-3	21
17.	Florida	20-5	16
18.	ECU	18-5	18
19.	UC Irvine	16-6	23
20.	Nebraska	13-4	25
21.	Tennessee	19-3	NR
22.	Florida Atlantic	21-4	15
23.	Central Florida	20-4	NR
24.	North Carolina	16-5	NR
25.	Virginia	18-5	19

Scrimmage to be held Saturday

Game highlights Purple-Gold Pigskin Pig-Out

BRANDON HUGHES
SENIOR WRITER

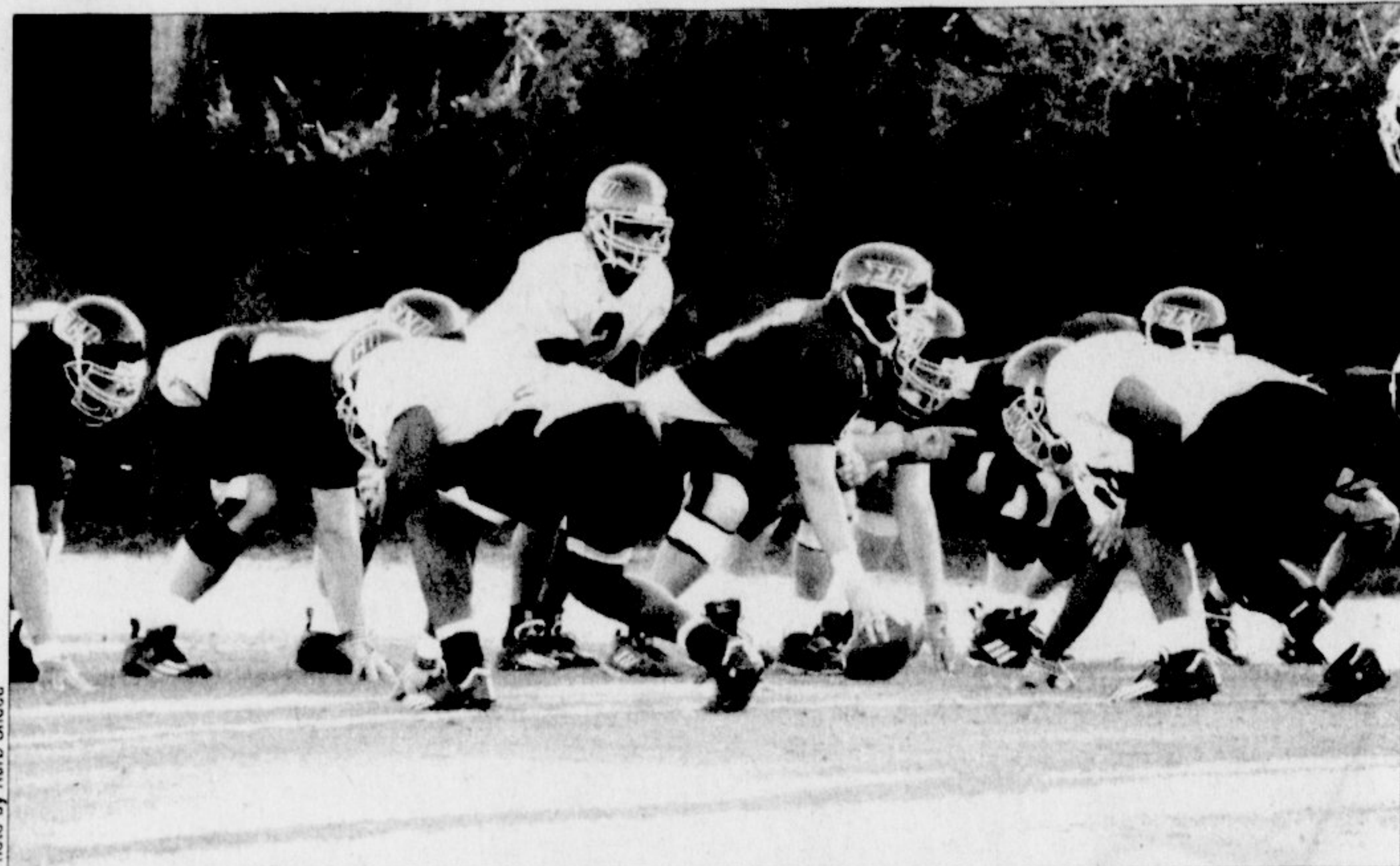
ECU football players shook the sand out of their cleats after the week-long Spring Break hiatus from the Cliff Moore Practice Facility and got back to business on Tuesday. The team practiced two and a half hours in preparation for the Purple-Gold scrimmage to be held on Saturday at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

"We put a lot of work into this practice and are trying not to take any steps backward by being off for a week, and I don't think we did," said Head Coach John Thompson.

"We're a better team today than we were the last time we practiced. Both sides really executed today and I'm very pleased."

While players relaxed during the week off, Thompson and his staff were hard at work evaluating players.

"During the break, we were really studying what we were doing, who we were doing it with and what we're going to be capable of doing,"



The Pirates will hold their annual Purple-Gold game this weekend in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. The contest is the biggest spring activity for the ECU football program every year.

Thompson said.

"I think that showed up out there today. We are really zeroing in on who has got to be the players for us and who will be the players for us."

The annual spring scrimmage is scheduled for a 3 p.m. kickoff. The game is the main attraction and will be part of the 21st

annual Great Purple-Gold Pigskin Pig-Out Party, which starts today.

The annual festivities will include a fireworks show, barbecue, live music, carnival rides, a fashion show and an autograph session with members of the 2004 Pirate football team.

"We want to execute and put on a good show. We want to be better that day just like we are every day," Thompson said.

"We're going to get out there and play our offense and defense and let our guys compete."

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

March Madness both bitter, sweet

A preview of the upcoming Sweet 16

BRANDON HUGHES
SENIOR WRITER

The 2004 NCAA tournament was full of surprises as favorites fell when March Madness officially got underway last Thursday.

Several top seeds moved on, but there were upsets aplenty. For 16 teams, the weekend was especially sweet.

The St. Louis bracket witnessed two huge upsets as No. 9 UAB and No. 10 Nevada both moved on to the round of 16. The Blazers slipped past No. 8 Washington in the first round before the match-up of No. 1 ranked Kentucky. The Wildcats had a chance to avoid the upset in the waning seconds, but UAB celebrated as they became the lone Conference USA representative in the Sweet 16.

Nevada upset Michigan State in round one and followed that up with an impressive rout over No. 2 Gonzaga. The Zags had lost only two games all season.

UAB will face Kansas and Georgia Tech will play Nevada to determine who will come out of the St. Louis region and into the Final Four.

The East Rutherford region held no surprises as the No. 1, 2, 3 and 4 seeds all advanced. The lone upset in which the higher seed won was No. 12 Manhattan's win over No. 5 Florida in the first round. St. Joseph's and Wake Forest will meet, as will Pittsburgh and Oklahoma. No. 7 Xavier was the big surprise in the Atlanta region, advancing with the likes of



Xavier will attempt to knock off Texas in the Sweet 16.

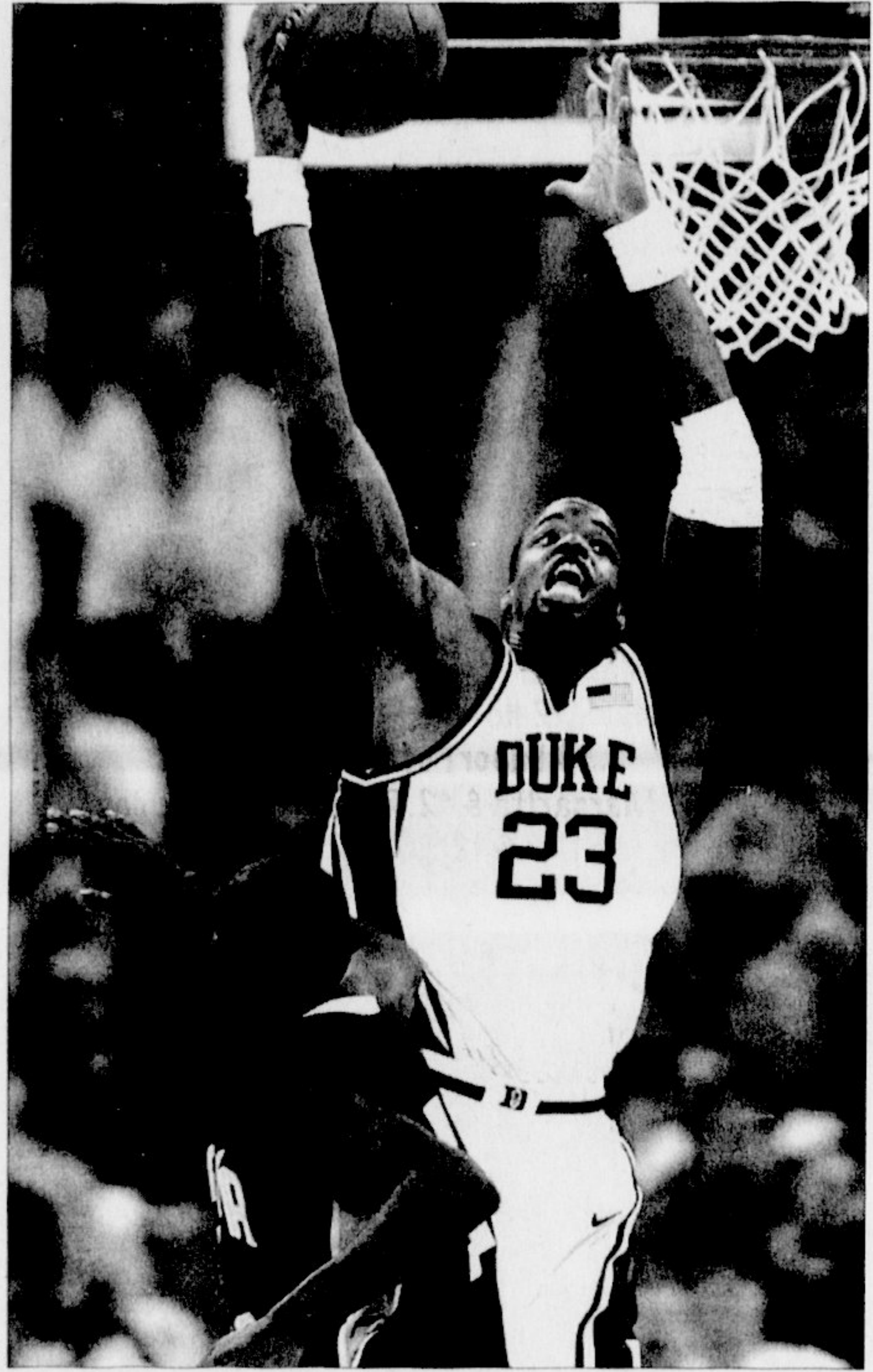
Texas, Duke and Illinois. Xavier beat No. 2 Mississippi State 89-74 and will meet up with Texas, who defeated UNC in the second round.

Duke looks to be the front-runner in the region after routs of Alabama State and Seton Hall, but Illinois is one of the hottest teams in the tournament. The Fighting Illini were impressive with a 24-point victory over Cincinnati.

No. 8 Alabama knocked out the other No. 1 seed as they sprinted past Stanford. The Crimson Tide won their opening round game over Southern Illinois by just one point and will now face No. 5 Syracuse.

The Orangemen advanced with a close win over BYU, paced by Gerry McNamara's 43 points. Syracuse then took down ACC tournament champion Maryland.

Vanderbilt is another surprise



Sheldon Williams and the Duke Blue Devils will have their first real tournament test this weekend when they play Illinois.

in the Sweet 16 as they will take on No. 2 Connecticut. Vandy went on a furious comeback rout over NC State to advance. UConn, as expected, cruised over their first two opponents.

St. Louis Region

Pick: Kansas
The Jayhawks and Yellow Jackets are much more talented than

see **BASKETBALL** page B9

Steroid solution: For the good of the game

Illegal steroids have no place in baseball

TONY ZOPPO
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Chew on this - at least one hit in 56 straight games: Mickey Mantle. The only player to ever finish a major league season batting .400 or over: Ted Williams. The first man to break Babe's 60 home-run mark in one year with 61: Roger Maris. Ah, wait now, hold the seeds on that last one. Next to that magical number is an asterisk denoting that maybe we shouldn't consider it legitimate. However, that denotation has nothing to do with the use of illegal performance enhancing drugs.

Mark McGuire used Androstenedione, a.k.a. Andro, for a few seasons before he jacked 70 homers in 1998. However, that was declared a legal supplement by the MLB at the time. Barry Bonds broke that record shortly after with 73 bombs in the 2001 season.

Some record, huh? Especially considering that Bonds' career high before that year didn't even break 50 (46). More than a 30 percent increase over one year is an impressive number. It's the kind of number that makes eyebrows rise questioningly at how Bonds reached the milestone even with the knowledge of all of his skills and intense training regiment.



Bonds has been hounded by reporters for the last month.

Well, in light of recent events, perhaps the other shoe has dropped.

Bonds' trainer, Greg Anderson, among four others, was indicted on the charge of illegal anabolic steroid distribution in association with the Bay Area Laboratories Co-Operative (BALCO) in late February.

However, Bonds isn't the only athlete on the diamond suspected of illegal steroid use. New York Yankees' Gary Sheffield and Jason Giambi were two players, along with Bonds, who were called to testify before a grand jury. All three have denied using steroids, and Bonds has gone as far as going on record saying "test me."

Considering the testing policies major league baseball has in effect right now, that might not be a bad idea. The current plan of action for testing illegal drugs in the MLB is downright

pitiful. Players are only tested twice for the entire year and both tests are in the same week. In addition to that, no tests are given in the off-season, the time when an athlete is most likely to train with anabolic steroids or other illegal substances.

This format has drawn widespread ridicule from players, owners and fans. Even some of the leaders of our country have spoken out and challenged baseball to institute a more strict drug policy.

"Your failure to commit to addressing this issue straight on and immediately will motivate this committee to search for legislative remedies," said Sen. John McCain (R-AZ.), Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, directing comments at players' union chief Donald Fehr on March 10.

"I don't know what they [the remedies] are. But I can tell you



MLB commissioner Bud Selig, left, looks at Donald Fehr.

and the players you represent, the status quo is not acceptable. And we will have to act in some way unless the major league players' union acts in the affirmative and rapid fashion."

Representative John Sensenbrenner (R-WIS.) also steered a few stern comments toward Fehr, but these came more recently on Monday, March 22.

"I don't think the players' union has gotten the message, but they're getting it," said Sensenbrenner.

"If somebody keels over dead because of an overdose, it doesn't do the players any good, because dead players don't pay union dues."

Thank you for your compassion, Rep. Sensenbrenner, it's heart-warming. In all seriousness, though, he does have a valid point. Steroids can do horrible

see **BASEBALL** page B9

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ECU hosts club soccer tournament

Spring Fling looks to be better than ever

ERIC GILMORE
STAFF WRITER

The men's and women's club soccer teams will play host to teams from around the nation this weekend. The Spring Fling 2004 will take place March 26-28. Nine teams are set to play on the men's side, while only six are participating for the women.

"We start on Friday night and we are going to go all weekend until the games are done," said Gray Hodges, head of club sports.

The men's bracket includes

club teams from Duke, NC State, South Carolina, UNC, Michigan State, James Madison, the Naval Academy and Craven County Community College.

Each team will be guaranteed three games played in a round robin format. The top teams from each group will then advance to the semifinals to be played Sunday morning. The finals will be held at 1 p.m. at Blount Fields.

The women's bracket contains James Madison, Florida and the College of Charleston. The men and women previously went to a tournament in Gainesville, Fla., so the Gators will be a familiar foe.

Both the men and women's

soccer teams are filled with ex-varsity high school players who love the game of soccer. They hold practices two to three times a week and players dictate the intensity of the practices. Both teams have traveled extensively to go to tournaments all over the country.

This tournament will be the same for other teams. Michigan State has almost a 14-hour drive in front of them but will still make it because they love the game.

The men's team and women's team will play back-to-back games on Friday night. The first match-up for the women is against Florida at 8 p.m. The men's team will see the Pirates

Club Sports

For more information on club sports, go to www.recservecu.edu/Club/.

take on Duke at 9:30 p.m. The women then play on Saturday at 2 p.m. against James Madison, and the men will face Michigan State at 5 p.m. All games will be played at the Blount Field Intramural Complex.

Further information can be found on the club team Web sites. The Web sites can be accessed through www.ecu.edu.

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

Ga. Tech knows 'Cinderella' tag is not for Nevada

(KRT) — Nevada, the lowest remaining seed in the NCAA Tournament, would prefer that the media that suddenly discovered that it exists in the basketball universe not refer to the 10th-seeded Wolf Pack as a "Cinderella."

That tag implies that Nevada, Georgia Tech's opponent Friday in the St. Louis Regional semifinals, doesn't belong on the stage, that there's a ticking clock on the Wolf Pack's stay at the Big Dance.

"The press gives us the 'Cinderella' label, but we thought we belonged here all along," said senior point guard Todd Okeson on Monday.

"We knew that we were pretty good, but we just had to get to the tournament to show people."

It didn't take upset victories against seventh-seeded Michigan State and No. 2 seed Gonzaga — itself just a couple of tournaments removed from being "Cinderella" — to convince Georgia Tech coach Paul Hewitt that the Wolf Pack belonged.

Hewitt had seen Nevada battle preseason No. 1 Connecticut to a close loss earlier in the season. Right then, he developed an appreciation for the Pack, and was anything but surprised when Nevada knocked off Gonzaga.

"If I didn't see Nevada play Connecticut earlier in the year I would've fallen into that trap," said Hewitt after the third-seeded Yellow Jackets dispatched Boston College on Sunday.

"I'm very impressed with (coach) Trent (Johnson's) team. Going into that game, I thought Gonzaga was going to have a very tough game on its hands."

Hewitt was among the few. Nevada, after all, hadn't been to the NCAA Tournament since losing in the first round to North Carolina State in 1985. The Wolf Pack (25-8) had never won an NCAA Tournament game before Friday.

Despite returning four starters and winning the Western Athletic Conference tournament, Nevada hardly registered a blip on the national scene.

All of a sudden, they are America's darlings. Everyone with a bracket already busted will be rooting for the upstarts from Reno. The players got a taste of that on Sunday when more than 400 people greeted them at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport.

Monday, the deluge continued as media from around the country called, wanting to tell the story of the underdog Wolf Pack.

"It's a great feeling getting all this attention," said forward Kevin Pinkney.

No one is getting more than guard Kirk Snyder, a 6-foot-6 junior who was named WAC player of the year after averaging nearly 19 points a game this season. A potential early entrant into the NBA Draft, the explosive Snyder can match Tech's athleticism on the wings.



Marvin Lewis and the Yellow Jackets are expecting a dog fight from a very talented and physical Nevada team on Friday.

He has notched more than 28 points five times this season.

Snyder highlights a veteran group that has helped transform the program. Seniors Okeson and Garry Hill-Thomas and Pinkney, a junior, all started last season when the Pack reached the WAC tournament finals as Johnson continued his rebuilding efforts.

Johnson, in his fifth season as head coach after serving as an assistant at Stanford in the late 1990s, has built the Wolf Pack into a perennial WAC contender. Nevada, which went 19-38 in Johnson's first two seasons, will

finish above .500 for the third consecutive season.

But nothing brought the attention like the weekend's two stunners.

"Times are changing," said forward Sean Paul.

"We're being noticed more. When people thought of Nevada athletics, it was Vegas, but now it's Reno."

"We're beginning a new era at Nevada. We're making a name for ourselves. We're not the new Gonzaga. We're the new Nevada," said Hill-Thomas. Just don't call them Cinderellas.

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Monday March 29	Graduate Students, 2nd Degree Students, Honor Students & Teaching Fellows with 60+ semester hours credit	Honors Students & Teaching Fellows with 0-59+ semester hours credit	Students with 121+ semester hours credit	Students with 108-120+ semester hours credit	Students with 104-107+ semester hours credit	Students with 101-103+ semester hours credit
Tuesday March 30	Students with 98-100+	Students with 95-97+	Students with 92-94+	Students with 89-91+	Students with 86-88+	Students with 83-85+
Wed. March 31	Students with 81-82+	Students with 79-80+	Students with 77-78+	Students with 75-76+	Students with 72-74+	Students with 70-71+
Thursday April 1	Students with 67-69+	Students with 64-66+	Students with 61-63+	Students with 57-60+	Students with 54-56+ se-	Students with 51-53+
Friday April 2	Students with 49-50+	Students with 47-48+	Students with 46+	Students with 45+	Students with 43-44+	Students with 41-42+
Monday April 5	Students with 39-40+	Students with 37-38+	Students with 34-36+	Students with 29-33+	Students with 23-28+	Students with 19-22+
Tuesday April 6	Students with 17-18+	Students with 16+			Students with 15+	
Wed April 7	Students with 14+	Students with 13+	Students with 12+	Students with 10-11+	Students with 6-9+	Students with 0-5+

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Once your registration window is open you may register during operating hours listed above any time during the registration time or until the semester begins.

Second-year coach puts Alabama-Birmingham in spotlight

(KRT) — He wins with the guys nobody else wanted, and he gets some guys everyone else coveted. And that combination has proved to be potentially successful for Mike Anderson.

Just two years into his tenure as the basketball coach at Alabama-Birmingham, Anderson has propelled his Blazers into the limelight and taught them how to steal the show.

With Sunday's 76-75 victory over Kentucky, the No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA tournament, Anderson put the Blazers in the Sweet 16 for the first time since 1982. More importantly, by beating the daunting Wildcats, the Blazers have forced their way into the national consciousness.

"We worked hard this season, and we had a ton of 6 a.m. workouts," senior shooting guard Mo Finley said. "We put in the work."

UAB (22-9), the ninth seed in the St. Louis regional, will take on fourth-seed Kansas (23-8) on

Friday night. The two programs could not be more different.

Kansas boasts of a "century of basketball," the tradition begun when James Naismith, the inventor of the game, was hired to be the school's physical education and religious director in 1898.

UAB just celebrated the silver anniversary of its athletics program.

Kansas has played in 21 Final Four games. UAB has never been in the Final Four.

The Kansas roster boasts basketball blue bloods. Forward Wayne Simien, who leads the team with 17.6 points and 9.2 rebounds per game, arrived in Lawrence with his basketball resume already gilded, the Gatorade Player of the Year in Kansas and a McDonald's All-American.

Point guard Aaron Miles was Gatorade Player of the Year in Oregon.

And shooting guard Keith Langford, a Nike All-American

in high school, finally settled on Kansas after breaking his commitment to Mississippi, and then Hirting with Cincinnati and Oklahoma.

Most of the Blazers weren't as highly recruited.

"When you look at our basketball team, we have blue-collar players," Anderson said. "We don't have any McDonald's All-Americans, but collectively we have a pretty good basketball team."

Finley, who leads his team with wisdom, humor and a 13.9 scoring average, didn't even really choose UAB. The school chose him.

As a senior at LaFayette (Ala.) High School, Finley averaged 25.6 points per game and shot 42.6 percent from beyond the arc.

He was also the senior class historian and a member of the National Honor Society.

But at 5 feet 11 inches, he drew no interest from other

programs.

"They were the only place that really considered me, so the choice was made for me," Finley said. "When they made the offer, I jumped on it."

Anderson inherited Finley from former coach Murry Bartow, now the head coach at East Tennessee State.

He added junior-college transfer Carl Dell "Squeaky" Johnson, a steals specialist who arrived in the tournament with the best assists-to-turnovers ratio (4.1-1) in the country.

He also recruited Chicago native Demario Eddins, who played two years at Mt. Carmel and two more at Julian High School.

A top-100 prospect by ESPN, Eddins was on Anderson's radar when he was an assistant to former coach Nolan Richardson at Arkansas. And Eddins followed Anderson when the latter was named head coach at UAB in 2002.

As a freshman, Eddins set a freshman scoring record with 349 points. This season Eddins is averaging 10 points per game and is second on the team with 48 steals.

Twins Ronell and Donell Taylor, too, had their pick of Division I programs this season after completing their junior-college eligibility. They chose UAB.

Anderson's "40 minutes of hell" defense, modeled on Richardson's, has obviously drawn attention.

But can basketball ever be king in football-mad Alabama?

Anderson, a Birmingham native, believes so.

"As you win and you do well in the tournament, that determines a lot," he said. "It determines the popularity of basketball."

Anderson knows that the Blazers will take the floor Friday as underdogs against the blue-blooded Jayhawks.



Mike Anderson shouts at his team in their victory over UK.

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Okafor, Nelson unanimous picks on All-America team

(KRT) — UCONN center Emeka Okafor and St. Joseph's guard Jameer Nelson were unanimous selections to The Associated Press All-America team.

The rest of the first team was Lawrence Roberts of Mississippi State, Josh Childress of Stanford and Ryan Gomes of Providence. Gomes is the Friars' first All-American since Marvin Barnes in 1974.

Ben Gordon of UCONN and Ron Robinson of Central Connecticut were honorable mention.

Okafor is the fourth player in UCONN history named to the men's first team, following Donyell Marshall, Ray Allen and Richard Hamilton. But he is the first unanimous selection for the UCONN men.

"It is hard to express just what it means to be recognized as one of the best players in the country," Okafor said. "It is such a tremendous honor to be the first player in our school's history to be a unanimous selection and to be mentioned in the same sentence as guys like Donyell, Ray and Rip is unbelievable to me. Individual recognition like this is really a reflection of the great

teammates and coaches that I am fortunate to work with every day."

Nelson, a 6-foot guard, is averaging 20.6 points and 4.6 rebounds this season. He is shooting 48.5 percent, including 39.2 percent on threes, and has 155 assists and 88 turnovers. He also has 88 steals.

Nelson also was named the Naismith player of the year Tuesday. Voting results and who finished behind him were not released.

Okafor, a 6-10 junior center, is averaging 18.1 points and 11.7 rebounds. He is shooting 60.1 percent and has blocked 138 shots this season and is the main reason the Huskies lead the nation in field goal percentage defense.

"This is an honor that Emeka is very deserving of and one that clearly puts him in a class by himself in the history of our program," UCONN coach Jim Calhoun said. "To be recognized universally as the best both academically and athletically is more special than people can possibly realize. Emeka is truly one of a kind."

Okafor and Nelson earned a perfect 360 points by being

picked on all 72 first-team ballots by the same media panel that votes on the weekly poll.

Debate has swirled around Okafor and Nelson since February, when it was clear that one of them would be the national player of the year. The AP award will be announced at the Final Four in San Antonio. Each player has advocates.

Nelson fans point to the Hawks' 27-1 regular season as proof of his leadership.

The voting was done before the tournament began, but evidence of Nelson's cool could be found in his play against Texas Tech. Nelson hit a big three in the waning moments to seal that victory and a Sweet 16 berth.

Okafor's supporters argue that he is the only player in college basketball that opposing coaches need to game plan for at both ends of the court.

They also argue that Okafor accomplished his numbers against tougher competition.

Earlier this month Okafor became the first player in Big East history to win player of the year, defensive player of the year and scholar athlete of the year in the same season.

Ahead will be other honors, including an almost certain spot on the Wooden All-America team and a chance at the Wooden Award as player of the year.

Robinson was the lone Northeast Conference player to make the list. He was named to the NEC first team and was conference player of the year.

Robinson started 27 of 28 games this season and led the team with 18.2 points and 9.7 rebounds.

Gomes, a 6-7 junior forward from Waterbury, averaged 18.9 points and 9.4 rebounds. He had 24 first-team votes. AP AP

Emeka Okafor has done pretty well on the court and exceptionally well in the classroom. The Connecticut junior was just as impressive in garnering votes for The Associated Press' preseason All-America team. Okafor was one vote short of being a unanimous selection Wednesday Nov. 12, 2003, and was joined on the team by seniors Jameer Nelson of Saint Joseph's and Rickey Paulding of Missouri and sophomores Ike Diogu of Arizona State and Raymond Felton of North Carolina.

Basketball from page B6

their Cinderella opponents, and it should come down to these two teams. Cinderella teams don't last forever, and this weekend should be the end of the road for UAB and Nevada.

East Rutherford Region
Pick: Oklahoma State

The Cowboys are firing on all cylinders entering their match-up with Pitt. St.

Joseph's got their first big non-conference test against Texas Tech and played well. However, Jameer Nelson and company need to step up their game even more to get past Wake Forest.

Atlanta Region
Pick: Duke

Duke has had arguably the most impressive tournament thus far. Alabama State was

a given blowout, but Seton Hall didn't even come close. J.J. Redick busted out of his slump, and if Duhon is healthy, the Blue Devils should have no problem making the Final Four.

Phoenix Region
Pick: Uconn

Connecticut is, without a doubt, the most talented team remaining in the

region. However, that hasn't stopped them from losing games they should have won over the course of the season. Vandy won't give them any trouble, but Syracuse has the firepower with McNamara and Hakim Warrick to return to the Final Four.

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

Baseball from page B6

things to a human body.

Though anabolic steroids are very effective in building muscle mass, they do not increase the elasticity of tendons and ligaments, hence the abundance of connective tissue injuries among athletes who use these drugs. Tears, tendon and ligament inflammation and muscle pulls are all common side effects of steroid use.

In response, athletes may use human growth hormones to prevent the lagging ligament and tendon growth from occurring, but this also has a downside. These hormones have nasty side effects of their own, and mixing drugs, especially substances of this magnitude, is very dangerous.

It would appear that with health risks such as these, players would not even think of using anabolic steroids or most athletes would at least welcome drug tests more than just twice a year in the same week.

Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling has been quite vocal about the issue, and he believes

most players would accept a more stringent testing policy if a third party were to handle the procedures.

"I don't trust the Major League Baseball ownership group to handle drug testing for Major League Baseball," said Schilling to the Hartford Courant on Wednesday, March 17.

"In my opinion, you find an independent third party that will handle drug testing free of ownership input, and I'd bet you 99.9 percent of the players in baseball would say please do it. I'd be all for it."

That is a rather strong statement coming from a currently active shoe-in Hall of Fame pitcher. His next comments were even more acrimonious toward MLB ownership as he flat out denounced them for a lack of credibility.

"We had a drug test last year that we were told was absolutely confidential," Schilling said.

"Come to find out a year later, it isn't. That's the ownership in a nutshell. I don't trust them to do any of that stuff. If we can find

an independent third party to handle drug testing, I'm all for it. I don't care. I'll [urinate] as many times a year as you need me to."

The bottom line out of all this mess is that baseball, along with any other sport professional or amateur, has no room for cheating.

Taking illegal steroids, growth hormones and supplements as deemed so by the league is cheating.

Don't forget, the drug that started all of this, THG, wasn't declared illegal by the MLB when some of these athletes may have used it. If it turns out that these guys took THG, although it's illegal now, you can't penalize them for using it when it was legal.

On another note, the testing policy in use as of now is a joke and a different system is undoubtedly necessary.

Major League commissioner Bud Selig apparently welcomes a change in testing and many players seem to be begging for it.

Fehr and the MLBPA, though

they were unwilling to budge on the issue at first, took a small step in the right direction recently stating that they may open up to a more strict testing regimen.

Also, memo to Chief Fehr - testing in the off-season has nothing to do with an invasion of privacy.

If these athletes are using illegal drugs to better themselves in the work they do day in and day out, whether it be midseason, postseason or off season, it is perfectly within the league's rights to ferret them out and suspend or fine at will.

Until the union realizes that they are looking out for both their players and the good of the game by supporting a far more strict policy, the cheating will not stop nor will the career-ending injuries. You may even see a few deaths along the way.

Chief Fehr, Commissioner Selig and all of you major leaguers - you say baseball is America's prided pastime? Prove it to me.

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

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