



Spring 2004 Commencement



ECU awarded 2,568 candidates with degrees during the 95th spring commencement on May 8. Two separate commencement ceremonies were held in Mingos Coliseum.

Phone number switch available to smaller cities, rural areas

Minor problems, delays expected with change

AMANDA LINGERFELT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Greenville residents are now able to keep the same telephone number while switching between service providers due to a Federal Communication Commission regulation implemented Monday.

The federal regulation allows consumers to keep the same number while switching between landline and wireless phone carriers.

In November, the regulation became available to residents of the 100 most populous cities. This week, the regulations become available to people in rural areas and smaller cities.

Sprint estimates that the transition of numbers should be more efficient than the November

transition.

"Most of the problems with the transition have already been solved," said Kristin Wallace, public relations manager for Sprint.

"We [Sprint] have been doing this since November - it should be a very smooth transition."

One of the problems associated with phone number transfers is the time that it takes for the process to be complete. The FCC has set a goal of two and a half hours to complete the process, however consumers had to wait much longer in the November switch.

"Switching from wireless phone to wireless phone can take as long as a day, or as quickly as two hours. However, switching a number from a landline phone to a wireless phone can take a day or two, in some cases longer," Wallace said.

According to the FCC, com-

see **PHONE** page 3

Biweekly survey finds gas prices up 14 cents



Jerry Ingalls fills up at a gas station near Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After crossing the \$2 threshold, gas prices across the country have continued to rise—and show no signs of slowing their climb, according to an industry analyst.

The weighted national average for all three grades of gasoline was \$2.10 per gallon on Friday after rising more than 14 cents in the past two weeks, said Trilby Lundberg, who publishes the biweekly *Lundberg Survey*, which regularly polls 8,000 gas stations across the United States.

The rise was caused by increased demand created by market pressures and seasonal environmental regulations requiring a move to costlier formulas, Lundberg said Sunday.

"So far the higher prices have not chased demand away, and our biggest demand season is yet to come," Lundberg said.

"There is no evidence yet that gasoline prices are peaking. They may soon, but there's no evidence that that is occurring yet."

Lundberg predicted that oil supply will rise whether or not the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agrees to officially raise its quota at its Beirut meeting on June 3. She said the current high prices will be "irresistible" for oil-producing nations and they will unofficially release more oil even if OPEC votes not to.

"They've been doing this for

months and we can expect it to continue and even increase," Lundberg said.

The OPEC, which had decided in March to cut its official output, has come under growing pressure from the United States and other consuming nations to boost production as oil prices rose above \$40 a barrel in recent weeks.

But Lundberg said oil price drops won't necessarily result in lower U.S. gas prices. She said the reductions would be at least partially offset by increased demand from economic growth, environmental regulations, and an increase in driving during the summer months.

The average price of gasoline has broken all-time record highs for three months straight, although the average price remains lower than the peak gas price in March 1981 when adjusted for inflation, Lundberg said. That price, adjusted for today's dollars, was \$2.91 for all grades combined, Lundberg said.

The national weighted average price of gasoline at self-serve pumps on Friday, including taxes, was about \$2.07 for self-service regular; \$2.17 for mid-grade, and \$2.26 for premium.

San Diego had the highest average price of any city, with self-serve regular selling for an average of \$2.36.

see **GAS** page 2

Saving money at the pump

Here are some tips to help you save money at the gas pump:

■ Proper vehicle maintenance can save on the amount of gas a car uses. Stick to a recommended grade of motor oil. Make sure tires are in good shape and inflated to their recommended level. Keep the air filter clean. Keep your car properly tuned up.

■ Stay within the speed limit. Every mile per hour over the speed limit is like adding as much as 10 cents extra to the cost of gas, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Accelerate slowly from dead stops. Quick starts unnecessarily use gas.

■ Keep idling to a minimum.

■ Plan errands carefully to cut down on the miles you travel.

■ Click on the cruise control. This helps a car maintain a steady speed and reduces gas consumption.

■ Occasionally shift into an overdrive gear. This slows down a car's engine speed.

■ Use air-conditioning sparingly. However, rolling down the windows can create drag on the car and force the engine to burn more gas.

■ Keep a car's load light. Don't pile heavy items on top of a car or in the trunk.

■ Consider carpooling to work or to other events.

■ If you're shopping for a new car, give serious consideration to a vehicle that gets high gas mileage.

■ Cut back on short-distance car errands. Try walking or riding a bicycle to the market or video store. Not only will this save gas money, it's also good for your health.

SOURCES: THE ALLIANCE TO SAVE ENERGY, "KELLEY BLUE BOOK," U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY
Mostly Sunny
High of 93



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FYI:

There will be no classes on Monday, May 31 due to Memorial Day Break.

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**COUNTDOWN UNTIL END
OF SUMMER SESSION I**
19 MORE CLASS DAYS

Summer Hours

All schedules are subject to change.
Please call to verify hours.

Dining:

Center Court

Mon-Thurs, 6:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Friday, 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Sat-Sun, 9:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Croatian

Mon-Thurs, 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Friday, 7:30 a.m. - noon
Sat-Sun, Closed

Galley, Closed

Java City in Mendenhall, Closed

Mendenhall Dining Hall, Closed

Pirate Market and Java City

Mon-Fri, 7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sat-Sun, noon - 9 p.m.

Spot, Closed

Todd Dining Hall,

Mon-Sun, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and
5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The Wright Place and Java City

Mon-Thurs, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday, 7:30 a.m. - noon
Sat-Sun, Closed

Libraries:

Joyner Library Mon-Thurs, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, Closed
Sunday, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Laupus Library Mon-Thurs,
7:30 a.m.-midnight, Friday, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday,
noon - 10 p.m.

see HOURS page 4

News Briefs

Local

AG's office to resume execution efforts

North Carolina will resume efforts to carry out lethal injections after a U.S. Supreme Court opinion issued Monday indicated no constitutional problems with the way the execution method is carried out here, the state's top lawyer said.

"The Supreme Court's opinion ... allows these cases to go forward on a case-by-case basis," said Noelle Talley, a spokeswoman for Attorney General Roy Cooper.

So far this year, the state has elected not to fight federal stays issued in the scheduled executions of George Franklin Page and Sammy Perkins, deciding to wait for the nation's highest court to rule in the case of an Alabama man who contended the punishment would be unfairly cruel for him.

David Larry Nelson of Alabama argues that his collapsed veins - the result of intravenous drug use - would require prison officials to cut deep into his flesh and muscle to insert the needle that would carry the deadly drugs.

Justices had been told in filings by physicians that if done improperly, the procedure could cause Nelson to badly hemorrhage and suffer heart problems before the deadly drugs killed him.

The Supreme Court did not address the merit of Nelson's argument Monday, but agreed in a unanimous opinion that

he could proceed with his challenge.

Gaston teenager sentenced to life in prison for killing his father

GASTONIA, NC (AP) - A teenager convicted in the shooting death of his father has been sentenced to life in prison.

A Gaston County jury took about three hours Monday to find Nathanael High, 17, guilty of first-degree murder and robbery with a dangerous weapon.

Jurors found that High shot his father, Randy High, four times on Feb. 10, 2002, and that he stole his father's cell phone and money before leaving the house. High's brother, Ethan, who was 12 at the time, found his father's bloodied body the day of the shooting.

High was tried as an adult and will not be eligible for parole.

Randy High was chief of the 17-member police and security force at Gaston College and had been a sergeant with the Gaston County Police Department.

National

Preliminary 2003 FBI stats show violent crime in decline, murders up

Violent crime declined in 2003 despite a third consecutive yearly increase in homicides, according to preliminary FBI statistics released Monday.

The violent crimes - rape, robbery, aggravated assault and homicides including murder and manslaughter

- dropped 3.2 percent compared with 2002, fueled mostly by sharp declines in rape and assault.

Homicide was the only category on the increase, rising nationwide last year by about 178 cases, or 1.1 percent. In the previous two years, murder and manslaughter edged up 1 percent in 2002 and 2.5 percent in 2001.

World

U.S. forces fight cleric's supporters in Najaf; shrine damaged

One of the most sacred shrines of Shia Islam suffered minor damage during clashes Tuesday between U.S. forces and radical Shiite militiamen that killed at least 13 Iraqis, some of them civilians. It was unclear who was responsible for the shrine damage.

In Baghdad, a car bomb near a hotel wounded at least five Iraqis, the U.S. military said. The target of the blast, about 100 yards from the Australian Embassy, was not immediately clear. After the fighting in Najaf eased, people gathered at the Imam Ali shrine to look at the damage. The inner gate of the shrine, leading into the tomb of Imam Ali Ibn Abu Talib, appeared to have been hit by a projectile. Debris was scattered on the ground.

Al-Jazeera television showed a torn veil covering the gate, and damage on the wall around it. It also showed several injured people lying on the floor of the mosque compound, and an

angry crowd of more than 100 shouting and shaking their fists at the site.

Supporters of Shiite militia leader Muqtada al-Sadr accused the Americans firing mortars at the mosque, and said 12 people were injured in the mosque compound. The U.S. command in Baghdad said it was investigating reports of damage.

Another projectile landed outside the shrine, about 10 yards away from the outer wall. Three militiamen were injured in that attack, and three fighters were killed in fighting in the city.

Dominican floods kill about 100, dozens of others feared dead

Frantic relatives dug through the mud for loved ones as a makeshift morgue filled up with 100 corpses of people swept away in rains that devoured a small farming village.

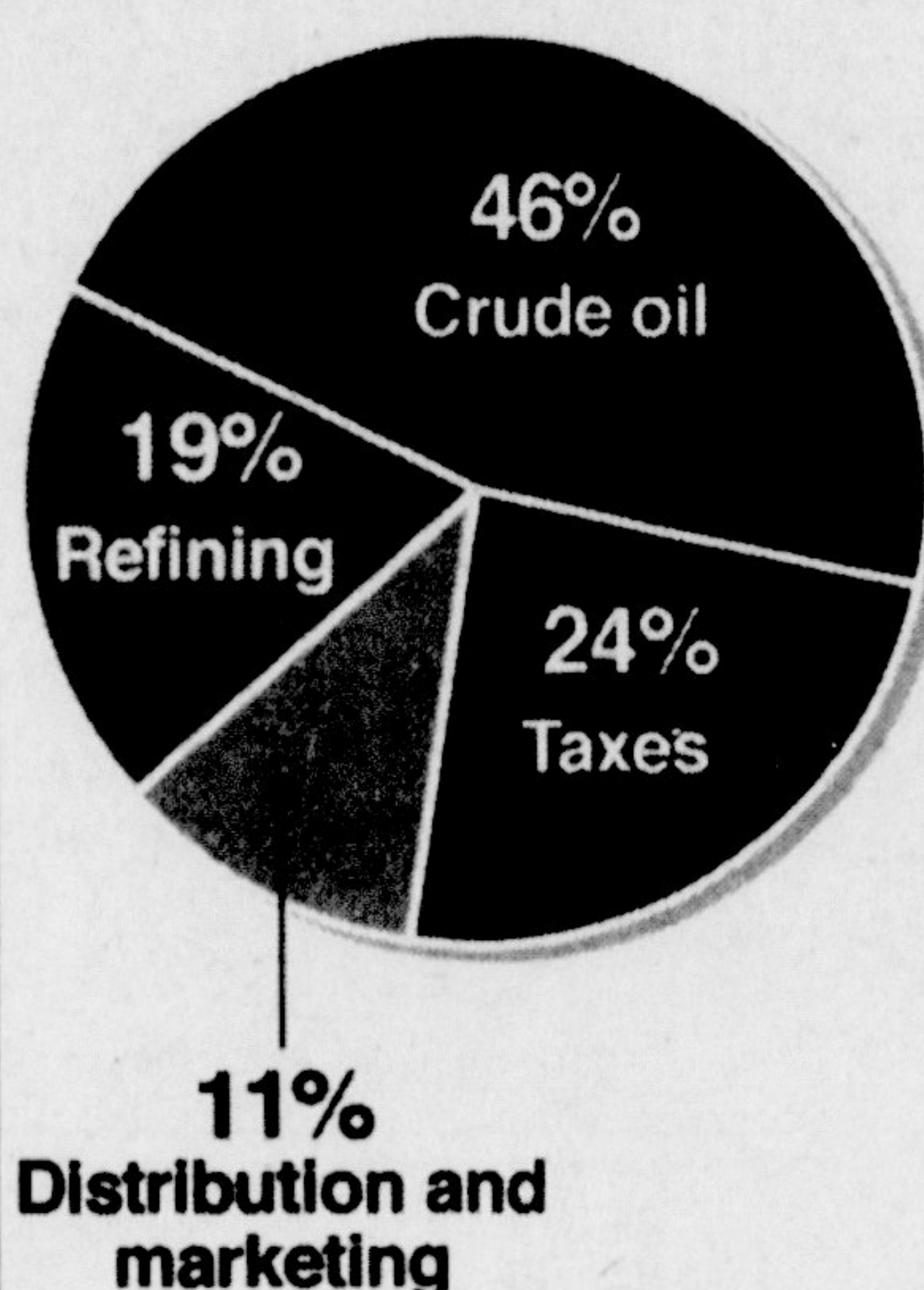
Nearly 200 others were missing and feared dead, National Emergency Commission Director Radhames Lora Salcedo said Monday, hours after rains caused the Solie River to burst its banks before daybreak. Only a torrent of debris-filled mud flowed where houses once stood.

Bloated bodies caked with mud were piled in a hospital's makeshift morgue in western Jimani near the Haitian border. A reporter for The Associated Press estimated there were about 100 bodies. Some of the corpses were left at the side of the road, waiting for relatives to identify and claim them.

Gas from page 1

By the gallon

When you pay for gas at your local convenience store, the total is split among several different entities. Here's where your money goes, based on Department of Energy estimates:



SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, MARCH 2004

■ Crude oil accounts for the largest portion of the cost of gas. The price of crude oil is determined by the amount of production, so if production is cut, prices rise. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which includes the world's largest producers of crude oil, recently vowed to cut production. That is one factor in the price surge.

■ Federal and local taxes eat up a portion of the price of gas. These include federal and state excise taxes, as well as some state sales taxes, and some city taxes, depending on the area.

■ The refining of crude oil is an additional factor in the retail price of gasoline. Crude oil must be refined before it can be used by consumers.

■ Gasoline starts as crude oil at a refinery, and makes several stops before it gets to your local gas station, so the cost of distribution is passed along to the consumer. Likewise, you pay for the marketing of the oil company from which you're purchasing gasoline.

Historical gas prices

The current high gas prices still aren't as high as they were during the oil crises of the 1970s and '80s.

Year	Price per gallon*
1950	\$2.08
1955	\$2.03
1960	\$1.97
1965	\$1.85
1970	\$1.72
1975	\$1.99
1980	\$2.83
1985	\$2.02
1990	\$1.61
1995	\$1.36
2000	\$1.61
2003	\$1.58

* in 2004 dollars

SOURCE: U.S. DOE

Get caught reading.



THE EAST CAROLINIAN
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Sanchez to be replaced as Iraq commander

WASHINGTON (AP)—The top U.S. military officer in Iraq, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, will be replaced as part of a command restructuring that has been in the works for several months, administration officials said Tuesday. The Pentagon also suspended Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski from her command.

Both have become symbols of lax supervision at the Abu Ghraib prison where U.S. soldiers allegedly abused Iraqi inmates.

President Bush praised Sanchez during a photo opportunity in the Oval Office.

"Rick Sanchez has done a fabulous job," the president said as he met with a group of Iraqis. "He's been there for a long time. His service has been exemplary."

At the Pentagon, Larry Di Rita, chief spokesman for Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, said both Rumsfeld and Joint Chiefs chairman Gen. Richard Myers "are very impressed with the work Gen. Sanchez performed from the very beginning" of his service in Iraq. Sanchez took command there in May 2003.

Regarding suggestions that Sanchez's departure is linked to the

abuse scandal, Di Rita said, "That's just wrong."

Karpinski and other officers in the 800th Military Police Brigade were faulted by Army investigators for paying too little attention to day-to-day operations of the Abu Ghraib prison and for not moving firmly enough to discipline soldiers for violating standard procedures.

Karpinski's suspension, which has not yet been announced by the Army, was the latest in a series of actions against officers and enlisted soldiers implicated in the abuse scandal at the prison near Baghdad.

Sanchez will be replaced in Iraq in what administration officials said was his scheduled rotation after 13 months of duty there. Gen. George Casey, the Army's No. 2 officer as vice chief of staff, was in line for the post, defense officials said Monday.

Di Rita said, "There has been no final decision" on who will replace Sanchez.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, appearing Tuesday on CBS's "The Early Show," said he had heard the reports but could not say whether Sanchez's departure was in any way related to the prison abuse problem.

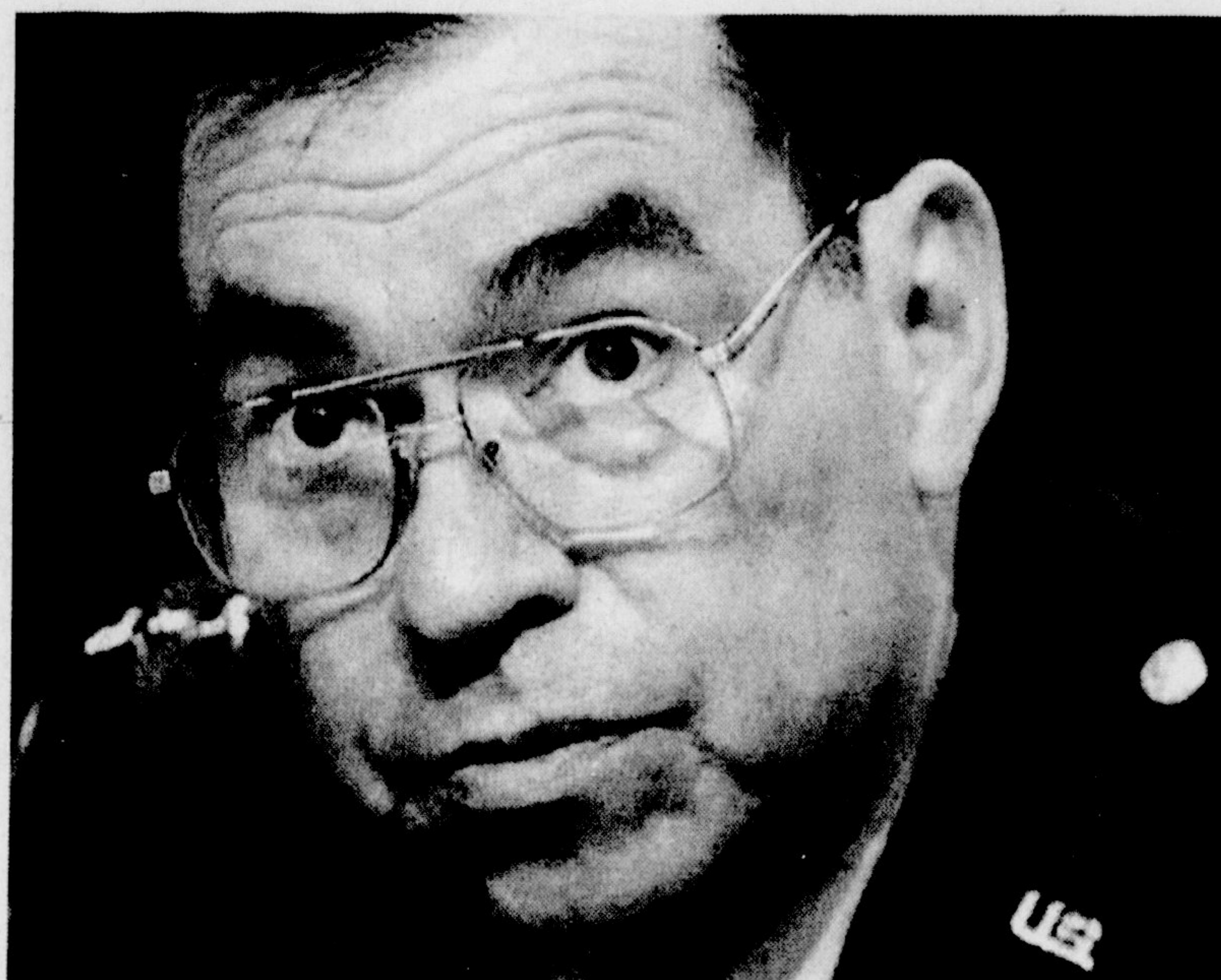
Powell did say, however that "we

all knew this was coming about as part of the normal rotation of commanders. General Sanchez has done a terrific job and he's been there for over a year now, so it seems to me in the normal scheme of things."

Last week, Spc. Jeremy Sivits received the maximum penalty of a year in prison and a bad-conduct discharge in the first court-martial stemming from the abuse of Iraqis at the prison. He was among seven members of the 372nd Military Police Company that have been charged.

Karpinski, who has returned to the United States, has not been charged with an offense. Being suspended from her command does not mean she has been relieved of command, so technically she could be reinstated, although the intensity of the international furor over the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse makes that highly unlikely, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"I don't know what the grounds are," Karpinski told MSNBC Monday night. "I know that I've been suspended. When I see it in writing, there will be an explanation for it. And what that means is I'm suspended from my position as the commander of the 800th Military Police Brigade,



Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the top U.S. officer in Iraq, will be replaced.

and they assign me to another position until whatever the reason is, whatever the basis is, is cleared."

In his widely cited investigation report on the Abu Ghraib abuse allegations, Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba found heavy fault with Karpinski's performance and recommended that she be relieved of command and given a formal reprimand. Instead she was

given a less-severe "memorandum of admonishment" on Jan. 17 by Sanchez.

Taguba reported that despite the documented abuse of prisoners, he saw no evidence that Karpinski ever attempted to remind the military police in her command of the requirements of the Geneva Conventions, which protect prisoners of war and civilian detainees in times of armed conflict.

What: Pirate radio 1250 and the Kinston Indians present: **The Thirsty Thursday Party Bus!**

Where: Bus will pick up and drop off from the parking lot located between the Pirate Radio studio and BB&T on Evans Street (Behind UBE)

When: Every Thursday home game for the 2004 season. (5/27, 6/10, 6/17, 7/8, 8/5, 8/19, and 8/26) Bus departs at 5:30 PM, and returns after the game.

Cost: \$6.00 per person, includes ride to and from game, ticket into the game. All 12oz. drinks are \$1.00 all night at Grainger Stadium

Tickets can be purchased at the bus on game day but seats are limited. For more information or reserve seats for your group contact: Elizabeth at 252.527.9111



Pirate Radio 1250
Your Talk Station

Phone from page 1



Phone customers can now switch carriers and keep the same number.

plaints about the switch are down from 2,400 in November to only about 400 for April.

"There will probably be some hiccups on Monday, but overall, complaints are down," Wallace said.

Since November, the FCC estimates that about 2.6 million wireless users have switched to other wireless companies. About 217,000 have switched numbers from landline to wireless phones, and about 5,400 switched from a wireless to a landline phone.

According to the FCC, about 70 percent of the population has already benefited from the November switch, with roughly 30 percent of people left to take advantage of it. For residents of eastern North Carolina, the

switch is highly anticipated.

"I've been wanting to switch cell phone companies for a while, but I didn't want to lose my number because so many people had it," said junior elementary education major Lauren Andraka.

"I'm glad the service has finally become available to people in this area."

In order to switch a phone number, consumers should contact the company they wish to switch to. According to Wallace, although the switch may take a while, phones will still be available for use during the transitioning process.

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

Hours from page 2

Music Library Mon-Thurs, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, Closed, Sunday, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Book Stores:

Dowdy Student Stores Mon-Thurs, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Sat-Sun, Closed

University Book Exchange Mon-Thurs, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.,
Sunday, Closed

Computer Labs:

Austin 104 Fri-Sat, 7 a.m. - 11 p.m., Sun-Thurs, open 24 hours

Mendenhall Basement Mon-Fri, 7:30 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sat-Sun, 1 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Mendenhall Student Center:

Billiards Mon-Sun, 1 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Bowling Mon-Thurs, 9 a.m. - 9:30 p.m., Fri-Sun, 1 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Building Mon-Fri, 7:30 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sat-Sun, 1 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Administrative Offices:

Cashier's Office Mon-Thurs, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Financial Aid Mon-Thurs, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Registrar Mon-Thurs, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Fitness:

Student Recreation Center Mon-Thurs, 6 a.m. - 9 p.m., Friday, 6 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sunday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

SRC Main Office Mon-Thurs, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Sat-Sun, Closed

Outdoor Pool Mon-Thurs, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Fri-Sun, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Student Health Service:

Building Hours Mon-Thurs, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Sat-Sun, Closed

Pharmacy Mon-Thurs, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sat-Sun, Closed

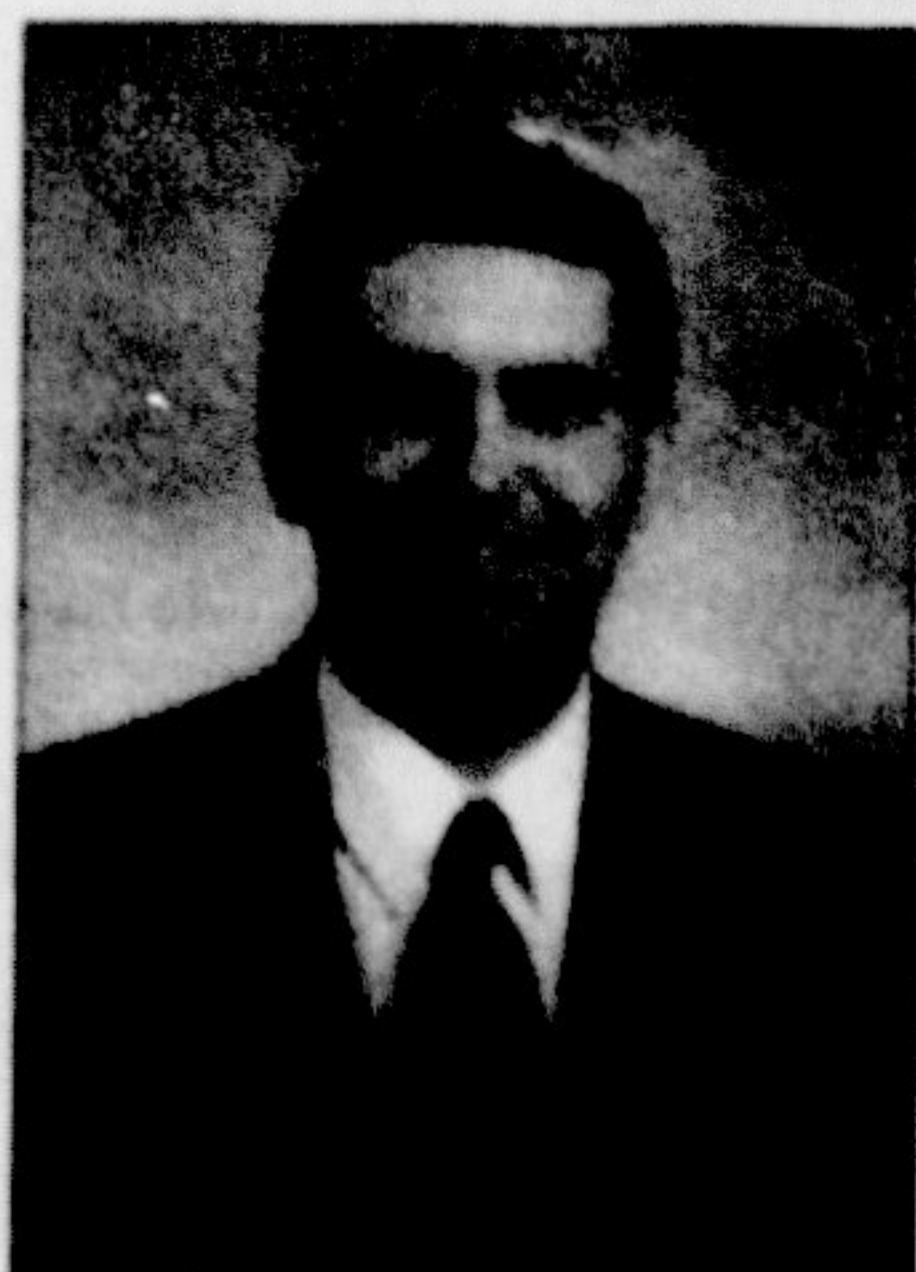
Other Offices:

Student Professional Development
Mon-Thurs, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

All Other University Offices
Mon-Thurs, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

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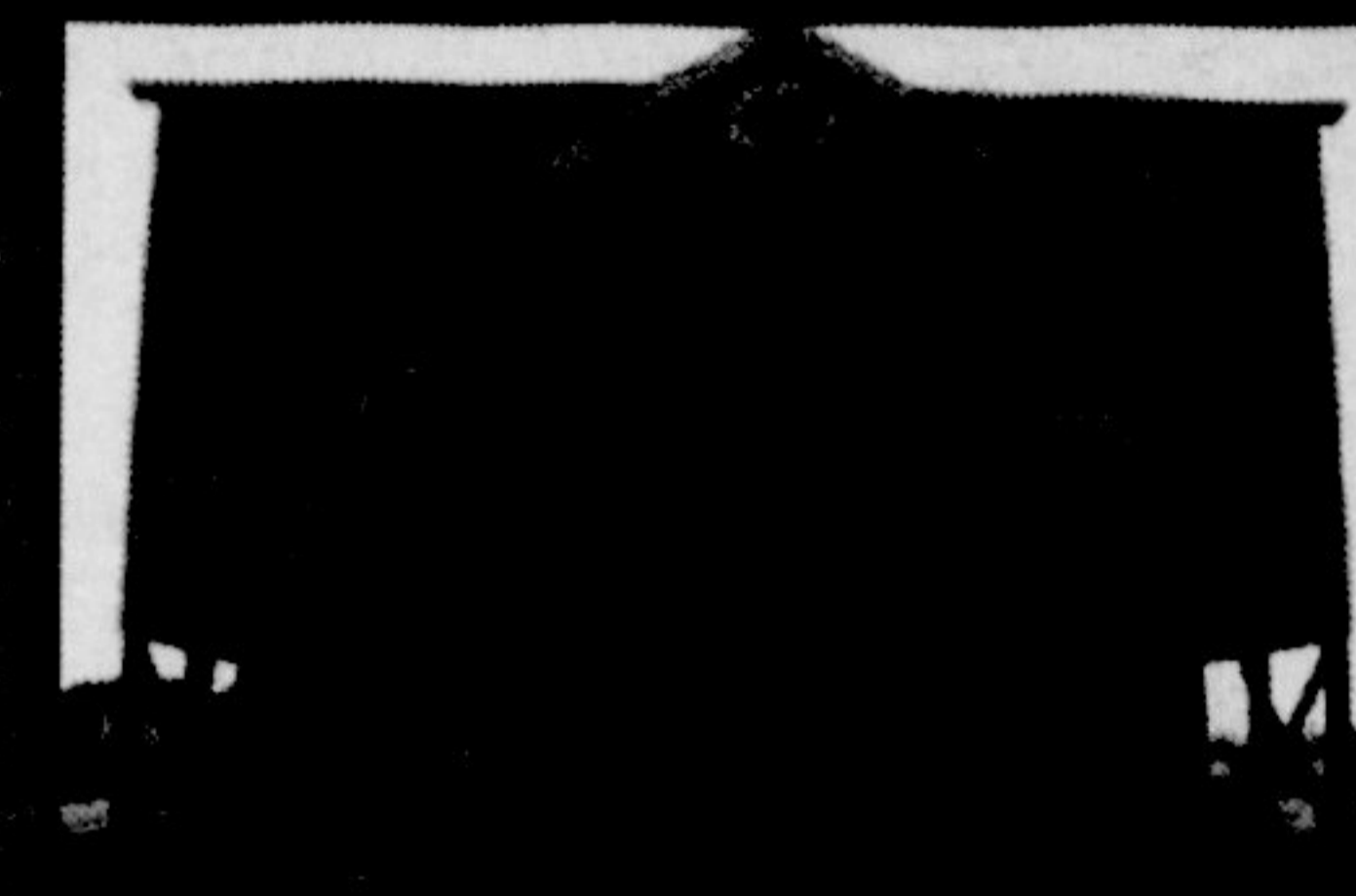
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On ECU Bus Route.
Pets OK With Deposit.



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Washer & Dryer.
Pets OK With Deposit • Covered Parking.



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Our View

Bush would have been better off in his speech to take the time to acknowledge the things that

In his Monday night speech at the Army War College, President Bush described a five-step process in dealing with Iraq: hand over authority to a sovereign Iraqi government on June 30, help establish stability in Iraq, rebuild Iraq's infrastructure, draw military support and operations from other countries and move toward Iraqi national elections by January.

have gone wrong in the past year, rather than create new steps to solve them.

While Bush was there to discuss his five-step plan, it seems like his real agenda was to try and convince a cynical American public.

With 50 percent of the public currently disapproving of Bush's overall actions, his speech appeared to try and restore the public's faith rather than really answering the public's questions.

Bush would have been better off to take the time to acknowledge the things that have gone wrong in the past year, rather than create new steps to solve them.

Mistakes like failing to deploy enough troops and overlooking the dire need for international support cost both America and Iraq a waste of time, not to mention a waste of soldiers' and civilians' lives.

"There are difficult days ahead," said Bush.

"No power of the enemy will stop Iraq's progress."

It is *TEC's* hope that Iraq's progress can come as soon as possible and the Iraqi people can take full control over their government and begin to write their own history.

STAR TRIBUNE
SOB



Opinion Columnist

Summer provides vast array of editorial content

Kerry, prison photos prove valuable topics

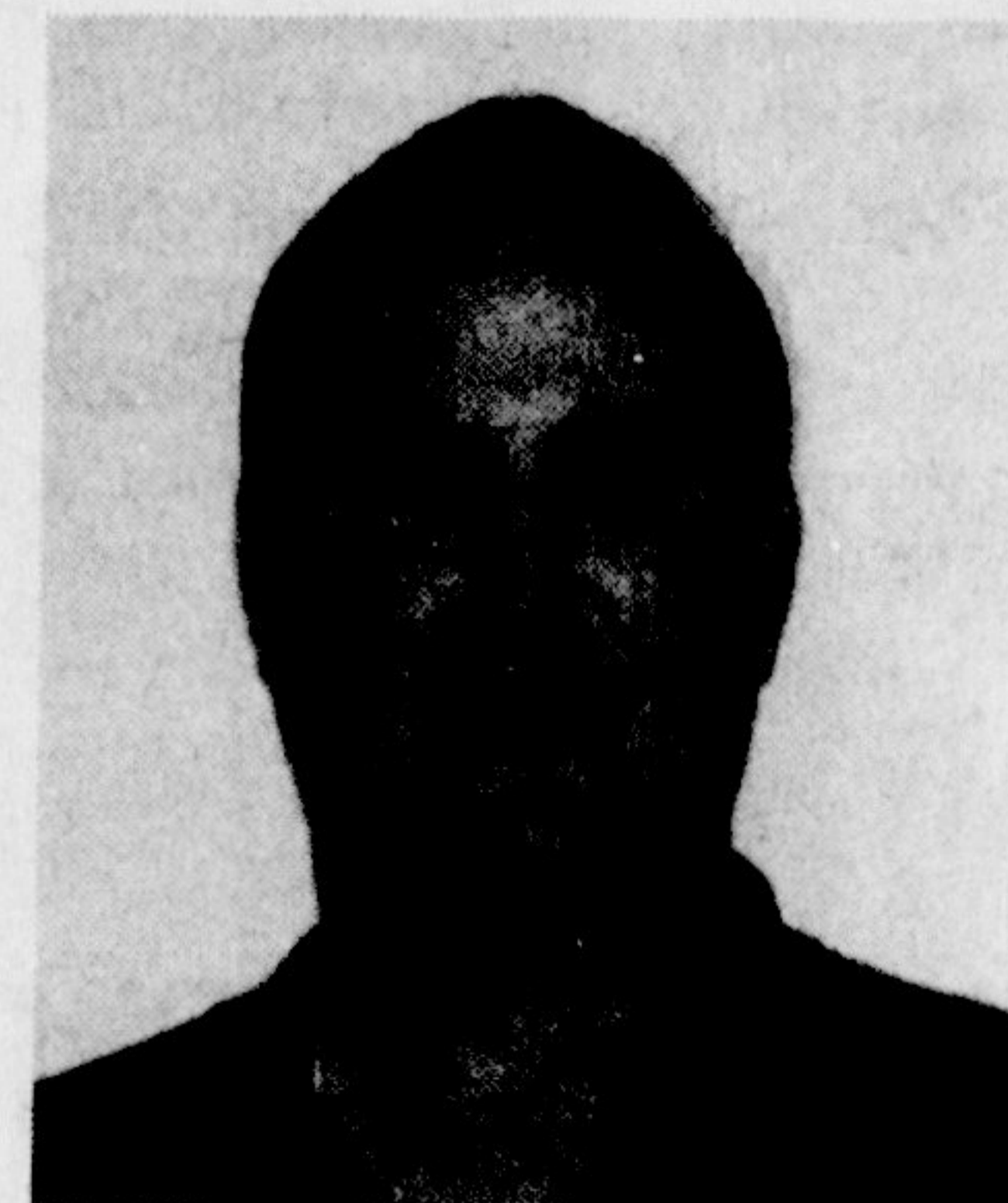
TONY MCKEE
OPINION WRITER

I love this time of year. The weather is beautiful, birds are singing, flowers are blooming, and once again, love is in the air.

So what in the world are we doing in school? Summer School, no less. What used to be the sole realm of the academically challenged is now a normal part of school life. Go figure.

Let's see, what to talk about? There has been so much going on in the world I don't know where to begin.

I suppose I could talk about all the flips, flops and flaps of the presumptive Democrat Presidential nominee, John Kerry. To do so however would take too much time. I would have to cover Kerry calling a Secret Service agent a SOB, not to mention his tortured flip-flops about his medals. You know, when he said that he threw his medals back but they were really somebody else's medals because he left



his at home and didn't have time to get them (or he slept at home and forgot to bring them), but they really weren't medals they were ribbons, and ribbons are the same as medals back then and he did give them back (his, not someone else's), but he is still proud of his service and his medals. The ones he threw over the White House fence that hang in his Senate office. Whatever.

I'd also have to discuss his "I vote for the 87 billion dollars (in funding for the Iraq war) before I voted against it" comment; his calling American corporations "Benedict Arnold's" and then recanting by saying that his speechwriters "forced" him to say that repeatedly even though no one recalls seeing a speechwriter behind Kerry

twisting his arm or holding a gun to his head.

Then I'd have to talk about how Kerry said that he had spoken to "foreign leaders" (whom he refuses to name) who told him that they want to see him beat President Bush (oh, what a beautiful flip-flop and backpedal he did on that). And I couldn't leave out that a bill to further extend unemployment benefits failed by one vote because Kerry did not bother to show up to vote.

Like I said, Kerry would take too much time.

I suppose I could delve into the morally reprehensible and bankrupt behavior being exhibited by the media when it comes to the "abuse photos" from Abu Ghraib prison. More phony "outrage" is being directed toward that story than has ever been shown toward the murder, dismemberment and public display of four people or the taped and televised beheading of Nicholas Berg. These actions, especially the brutal murder of Berg, are enough to make anybody with even a shred of humanity recoil in horror.

Not the media, though. Like the scenes of the

World Trade Center attacks on 9/11, the pictures and videos that they have of these incidents are not aired or printed because showing things like that would "inflamm" the public and cause revulsion and anger. Kind of like what they are hoping will happen as they hype the Abu Ghraib story all out of proportion.

And talk about double standards - what those pictures portray is nothing compared to the rapes and murders that happen on an almost daily basis in America (and other) prisons every day. But they don't care about any of that. If it doesn't help Kerry, or hurt President Bush, it isn't "newsworthy."

Nah, I guess I won't talk about that after all. It looks like I don't have anything to talk about this week after all. Amazing.

Well, I guess I'll just go enjoy the weather and wait for the inspiration muse to provide me material for next week's column.

Or I can just wait until John Kerry speaks again.

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

tec FEATURES

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Horoscopes

Aries (March 21-April 19) – Move boldly ahead with your projects, whether those projects are business or pleasure.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) – Allow yourself time to think about your next big decision. You'll have to live with it for a long time.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) – There's something you must remember, and you haven't even heard it yet. It'll make you feel a whole lot better about yourself.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) – You're in the habit of being nice even when you don't feel like it. It's a natural thing for you, and it's a blessing.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) – Your enthusiasm inspires others to give it one more try. You can be a great coach when you believe in a project.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) – It's not a good time to suggest expansion or investigate new options.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) – If you have things organized, you'll accomplish a lot in the next few hours.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) – Your talent lies in planning and making sure that everyone follows through.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) – You and your partner should really go together if you can. It's worth the extra trouble.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) – As you go out on your shopping trip, you want to get top quality, and you want to pay pennies on the dollar.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) – The kind of love that's favored today is the dependable kind. It might be between lovers, but it may be between friends.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) – You might occasionally wonder if you're doing the project right, since it's hard to remember what you've been told when you have a hammer in your hand.

Summer blockbusters equal sequels

Familiarity makes big comeback at theaters

RACHEL LANDEN
SENIOR WRITER

If this summer's movie titles sound familiar, don't be surprised. Studios are hoping to ride the wave of success from previous box-office hits by bringing old characters and similar story lines back to the big screen.

It is the summer of sequels, evidenced by the theatrical release of *Shrek 2*, *Spider-Man 2* and the third installment in the J.K. Rowling series, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.

All these movies are based on stories targeted to a younger audience, but the success of their motion picture predecessors proves they cross all generational boundaries.

The original *Shrek*, known for its wide appeal, grossed more than \$250 million worldwide. The second installment picks up where the first ended, with Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz and Eddie Murphy reprising their roles as Shrek, Princess Fiona and Donkey, respectively.

The newlyweds head to the kingdom of Far, Far Away to announce to Fiona's parents the news of their marriage. Unfortunately, not everyone sees their marriage as a good thing. Prince Charming, the intended groom, who is furious about the news, shows his not-so-charming side.

Meanwhile, viewers are also introduced to other fairy tale characters, including the Fairy Godmother, the Ugly Stepsister and Puss-In-Boots.

And if these characters can pull

off another hit that is anything like the first, DreamWorks may give the go-ahead on *Shrek 3*, rumored to be a spoof of the legend of King Arthur.

Spider-Man 2, an extension of the first film starring Tobey Maguire as the comic book superhero, will also be followed by a third movie in the summer of 2006.

But first, the second movie will make its debut in late June. It chronicles events in the not-so typical life of college student Peter Parker (a.k.a. Spider-Man) as he lives and works (and scales buildings) in New York City.

Harry Potter, another so-called nerd with heroic tendencies, also returns to theaters in June.

The Prisoner of Azkaban is the shortest of the three Potter films thus far, at a little less than two and a half hours. Despite the relative brevity, it has taken longer for this movie to reach its impatient audiences. Fans expected an early November release, but have had to wait another half year for the film version of the novel.

It begins the summer before Harry's third year at Hogwarts. However, with the seditious wizard Sirius Black on the loose, school will be anything but boring. Between the special effects and the natural aging process of the beloved returning characters, this movie should seem as close to realistic as anything about a teenage wizard can be.

Regardless of its larger-than-life proportions, the Potter film is not quite the epic of *Troy*. Currently in theaters, the film depicts the Trojan War, as related by Homer in his poem "The Iliad."

Orlando Bloom of The Lord of the

Summer Movie Release Dates

Troy – Rating: R for violence and sexuality, In theaters now

Shrek 2 – Rating: PG for crude humor and content, In theaters now

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban – Rating: PG for violence and mild language, Release date: June 4

The Notebook – Rating: PG-13 for sexuality, Release date: June 25

Spider-Man 2 – Rating: PG-13 for violence, Release date: June 30



Rings acts as Prince Paris, stealing the woman with the "face that launched a thousand ships." Thus, Sparta goes to war with Troy in a conflict that lasted more than a decade. Achilles, known in Hollywood as Brad Pitt, leads the fleet against Troy.

With the graphic violence of this action/adventure flick, it may appear to be a masculine movie. But with Bloom and Pitt at the helm, this is one film that should appeal to both genders.

This, however, might not be the

case for *The Notebook*, based on the book by Nicholas Sparks.

After seven years in development and two in production, *The Notebook* is finally making its way to theaters in late June.

Inspired by the story of Sparks' grandparents, their long-lasting love affair forms the premise for the book and the movie. James Garner plays the older male lead, with Gena Rowlands

see **CINEMA** page 8

ECU/Loessin Summer Theatre goes all American

Series offers variety of musicals sure to please

JESSICA CRESON
STAFF WRITER

Not everything stops here at ECU during the summer. The ECU/Loessin Summer Theatre is performing some good ole American musicals that are perfect for the feel of summer.

"Damn Yankees" is a musical classic that observes one of America's beloved pastimes, baseball. It is the first performance this summer starting June 22 - 26.

What else would come next after baseball except a country western musical? "Always...Patsy Cline" tells the story of the first true musician to qualify as a cross-over artist. Patsy Cline was an American icon that broke through boundaries of musical

labels and created a new genre. This will be showing from July 7 - 10.

Lastly, "Smokey Joe's Café" completes the series. The play is based on some of the most popular rock'n'roll songs created by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stroller. This one is a definite crowd pleaser. The dates for this show are July 20 - 24.

"Damn Yankees" is a story about Joe Boyd, a baseball fanatic that has sold his soul to the Devil so he can bring his favorite team to triumph over the New York Yankees. The Devil is a charming, yet very conniving character. Joe is able to convert the hopeless Washington Senators to the winning team. As the team becomes victorious, everything comes into focus for Joe. He realizes what is truly important to him deep inside, but he has already left all these things, such as his wife. He is able to make it back to his old life with a little help, as well as send the Senators to the World Series.

ECU/Loessin Summer Theatre

"Damn Yankees" June 22 - 26 at 8 p.m.

"Always ... Patsy Cline" July 6 - 10 at 8 p.m.

"Smokey Joe's Café" July 20 - 24 at 8 p.m.

*Sunday shows are at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Where: McGinnis Theatre

Tickets: Public - \$30 Student/Youth - \$15

A musical about baseball is a great opportunity to take men to the theatre and they will definitely be entertained. It is filled with catchy songs like "Whatever Lola Wants" and "(You Gotta Have) Heart."

"Always ... Patsy Cline" serves as a tribute to Cline who died in a plane crash at age 30 in 1963. The musical is a true story about the friendship between Cline and Louise Seger from 1961 until Cline's death.

The title of this musical comes from the way Cline would sign her let-

ters to Seger, which was "love ALWAYS ... Patsy Cline." Cline was one of the first artists to be considered a cross-over artist. She wrote many songs that are still loved to this day and made numerous television appearances during her lifetime.

This story includes many of her cherished songs, such as "Crazy," "Walkin' after Midnight" and "I Fall to Pieces."

"Smokey Joe's Café" tells the story of the men behind the scenes of some

see **THEATRE** page 8

Cinema

*Student Union
Free with ECU*

The Triplets of B... grandmother, Ma... is a lonely little bo... never happier tha... Souza puts him th... Now he is ready to... cycling race, the... during this cyclin... men in black kidn... Souza and her fa... to rescue him. T... across the ocean... called Belleville... the "Triplets of B... female music-h... who decide to ta... Bruno under the

Carmike 12

13 Going On 30... of being popula... party, she plays... utes in the Clo... experience for... to come out of t... jected to more e... she eventually d... herself five days... day, looking be

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Cinema Scene

Student Union Films Free with ECU One Card

The Triplets of Belleville - Adopted by his grandmother, Madame Souza, Champion is a lonely little boy. Noticing that the lad is never happier than on a bicycle, Madame Souza puts him through rigorous training. Now he is ready to enter the world-famous cycling race, the Tour de France. However during this cycling contest two mysterious men in black kidnap Champion. Madame Souza and her faithful dog Bruno set out to rescue him. Their quest takes them across the ocean to a giant megalopolis called Belleville where they encounter the "Triplets of Belleville," three eccentric female music-hall stars from the '30s who decide to take Madame Souza and Bruno under their wing. Rated PG-13

Carmike 12

13 Going On 30 - A 13-year-old dreams of being popular. During her birthday party, she plays the game Seven Minutes in the Closet. It's a humiliating experience for her, and she refuses to come out of the closet and be subjected to more embarrassment. When she eventually does emerge, she finds herself five days shy of her 30th birthday, looking beautiful. Rated PG-13

New York Minute - Twins Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen star in this comedy, set over 24 hours in New York City. "New York Minute" follows one monumental day in the lives of 17-year-old sisters Jane and Roxanne Ryan, adversaries who begrudgingly journey together from their Long Island home to New York City. Roxy's and Jane's plans go wildly awry when a mix-up involving Jane's precious day planner lands them in the middle of a shady black market transaction. Pursued by an overzealous truant officer and accused of kidnapping a Senator's dog, the Ryans must find a way to work together to thwart the forces threatening to jeopardize Jane's college dreams and ship Roxy off to a convent school. Rated PG

Johnson Family Vacation - Cedric the Entertainer stars as the head of the Johnson family, who hits the highway with his brother, separated wife and three children on a trip to Missouri to make the Johnson family reunion. Along the way, they share a few colorful and comical adventures. Rated PG-13

Van Helsing - Set in the late 19th century, this action adventure finds Bram Stoker's fabled monster-hunter,

Van Helsing, summoned to a distant Eastern European land on a quest to vanquish evil (where Dracula, the Frankenstein monster and the Wolf Man "return to the screen as complex, multi-dimensional beings re-imagined by writer/director Stephen Sommers. Rated PG-13

Shrek 2 - A sequel to DreamWorks' hugely successful original, the story opens with Shrek and Fiona returning from their honeymoon to find a letter from Fiona's parents inviting the happy couple to dinner. Mom and Dad heard that their daughter had wed, but they assumed she married Prince Charming. So they're a bit shocked when they meet their new son-in-law. Rated PG

Troy - Based on Homer's "The Iliad," "Troy" tells of the story of the Trojan War, which resulted from the conflict between the Greek hero Achilles and the Trojan prince Hector over the woman they both loved, Helen of Troy. Wolfgang (The Perfect Storm) Petersen directs. Rated R

Mean Girls - The story centers on an adolescent girl who has been on safari with her zoologist parents but must navigate new terrain when she

moves to an Illinois public school and falls in love with the ex-boyfriend of one of the most popular girls. Things turn ugly when she's reduced to using the same mean-spirited methods as the other girls. Adapted from Rosalind Wiseman's book, "Queen Bees and Wannabes: Helping Your Daughter Survive Cliques, Gossip, Boyfriends and Other Realities of Adolescence." Rated PG-13

Stateside - After crashing a car and injuring a girlfriend and a priest, 18-year-old Mark DeLoach (Jonathan Tucker), son of a prominent businessman, finds himself sentenced to service in the U.S. Marine Corps. He encounters a tough drill instructor (Val Kilmer), and also meets a beautiful actress-rock star (Rachael Leigh Cook) while on leave. She's been committed to a halfway house to receive help for symptoms of schizophrenia. Together, the boy and the girl form a possibly life-saving relationship. Rated R

Breaking All The Rules - After getting painfully dumped by his fiancé, a man (Jamie Foxx) writes a hugely successful "how-to" book on the art of breaking up, in hopes that other men can avoid his fate. PG-13

Sunday in the Park

Sunday in the Park is a free concert series held at the Town Commons Amphitheatre in June and July. The concerts begin at 7 p.m. and last approximately one hour. Bring a blanket or chair and come out for an evening of free entertainment for the whole family.

June 1 The Greenville Summer Pops Orchestra consists of some of the areas finest musicians in concert.

June 8 The Tar River Community Band will inaugurate the 30th summer of Sunday in the Park with their usual blend of classical and pop music.

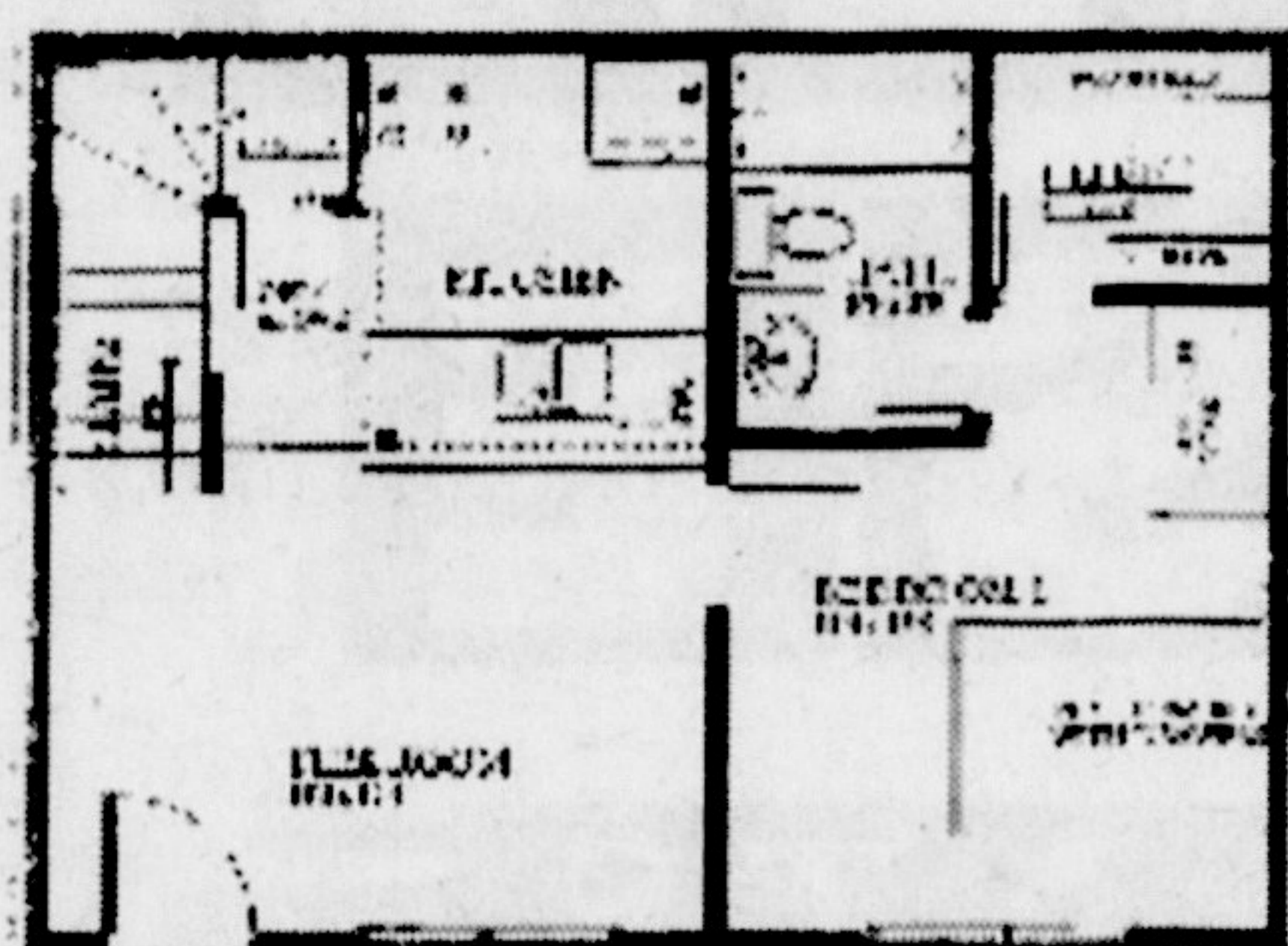
June 15 The Steep Canyon Rangers are coming back for a repeat performance of their stunning debut last summer. Voted one of the finest bluegrass bands in the south.

June 22 Panyelo is a steel drum band that has become a Sunday in the Park favorite. Come and dance under the limbo bar.

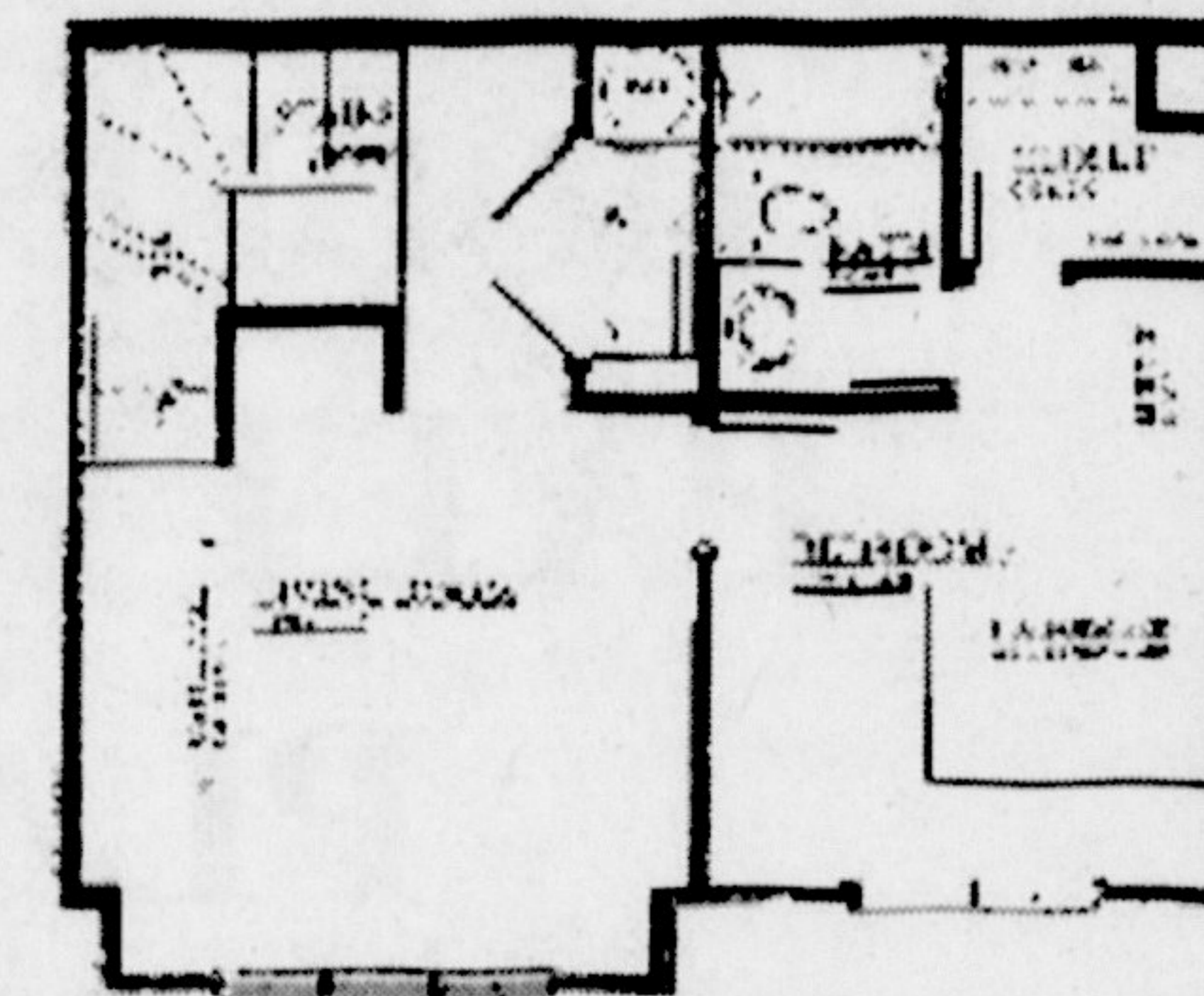
June 29 The Monitors are a Sunday in the Park tradition. Come out and hear their usual mix of soul, rhythm and blues and contemporary music.

University Suites Apartments

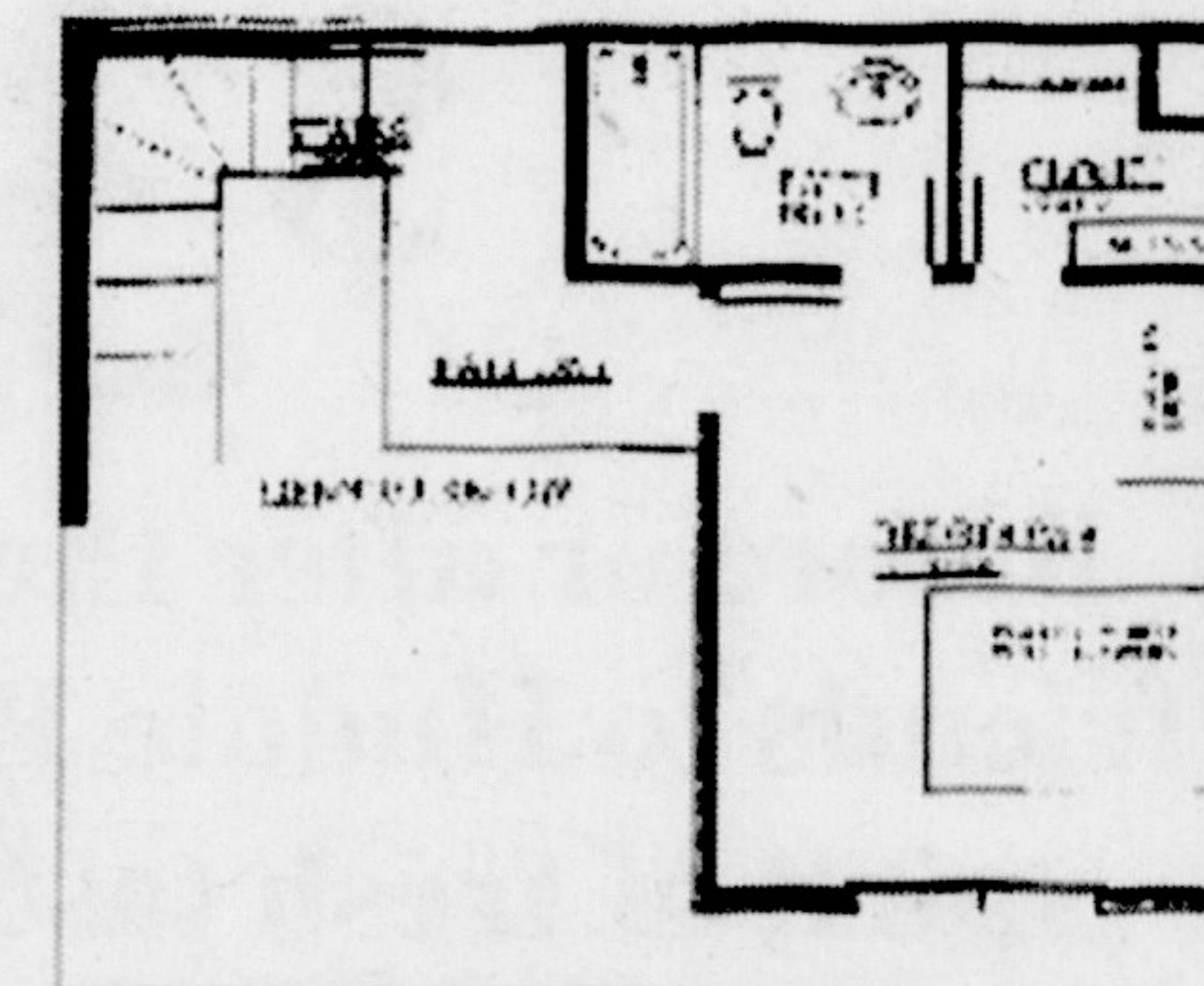
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Cinema from page 6

as the film's leading (older) female.

Garner's character makes daily visits to an elderly woman in a nursing home in order to read to her from a notebook. His readings chronicle dual courtships of a young woman by two men in 1940s North Carolina.

Flashbacks illustrate the journal, and it eventually becomes clear the elderly pair is more than an audience to the story. With a little knowledge of the premise and background, the trailer is enough to evoke tears. One

can only imagine how many tissues will be needed to get through this film.

So if you are looking for a laugh or perhaps a cleansing cry, you need not look any further than your local movie theater. All you need is one rather expensive ticket to take you anywhere, whether you want to go Far, Far Away with Shrek or stay in North Carolina with Nicholas Sparks.

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

Theatre from page 6

of the most popular rock'n'roll songs. After Jerry Leiber and Mike Stroller wrote "You ain't Nothin' but a Hound Dog," all of their songs were at the top of the charts for about a decade. This is a large staple in American history.

Songs like "Stand by Me," "Spanish Harlem," "Love Potion #9," and "Jail house Rock" were some of the hits written by Leiber and Stroller. They made The Drifters, The Coasters and Elvis Presley the huge and influential stars that they became to American culture. The play deals with love, loss, emotions and the ideal 1950s set, along with 36 songs, which sounds like a perfect evening of entertainment.

"Buy tickets now," said Jeff Wood-

ruff, the managing director of the School of Theatre and Dance.

"We expect all three shows to do very well."

These musicals are fun and family friendly, so it is a great activity for the summer. There is plenty of old-fashioned music and themes to appeal to people of all ages.

ECU/Loessin Summer Series is here with a bang again this summer, so be sure to support ECU theatre and dance as well as be there for the fun and music.

For more information on the School of Theatre and Dance go to www.ECUARTS.com.

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

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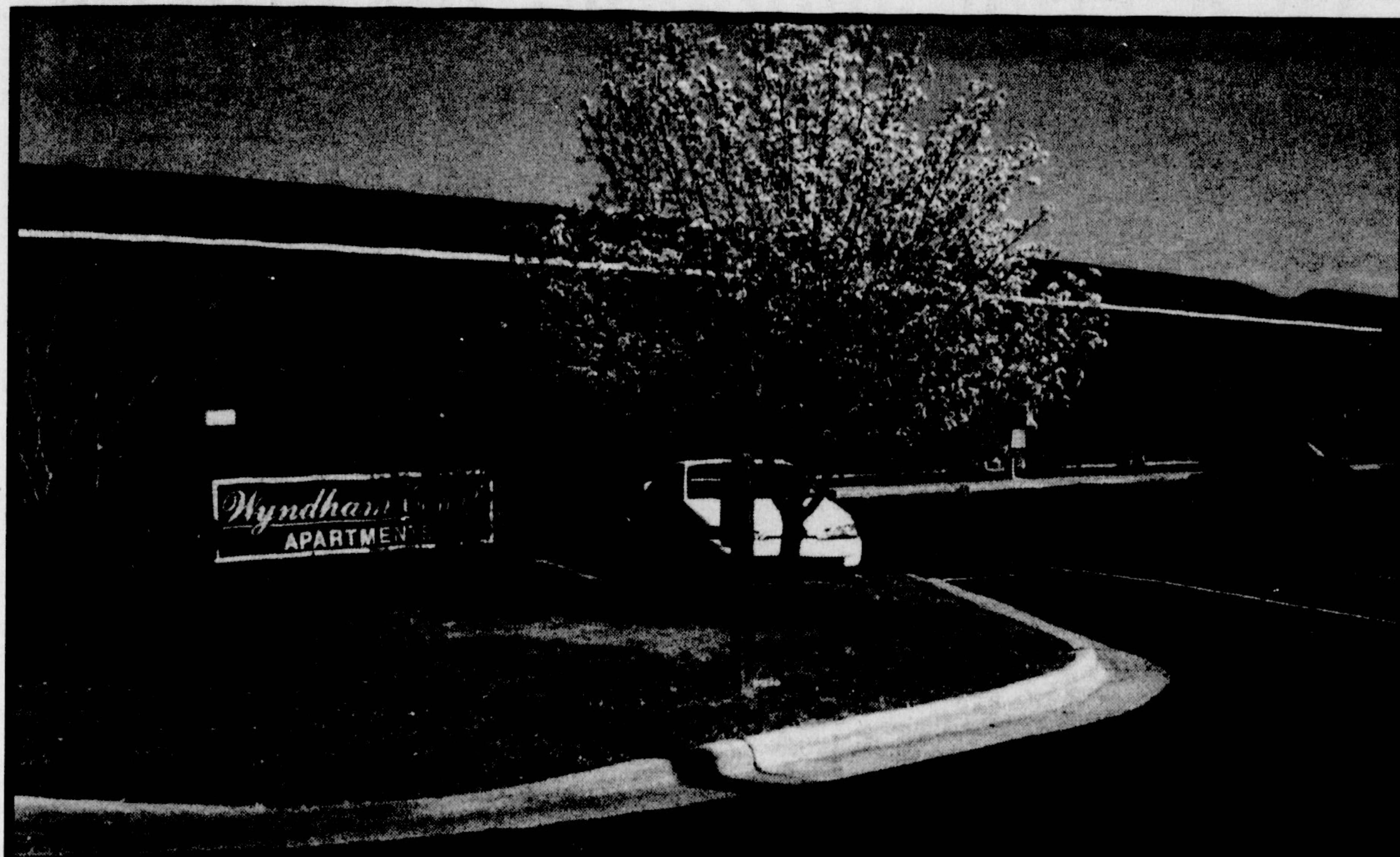
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'Bachelor' quarterback passes on Tara, gives Jessica starting nod

NEW YORK (AP) — Jessica caught the heart of NFL quarterback Jesse Palmer, and Tara fumbled, on Wednesday's finale of "The Bachelor."

Earlier, an over-anxious Tara tossed her cookies.

Palmer, backup quarterback for the New York Giants, had begun the ABC dating series with his pick of 25 eligible mates. Then, week by week, he narrowed the field to two blond finalists: Tara, a 23-year-old general contractor from Oklahoma, and California law student Jessica B., 22.

"This whole thing to me is like a dream," Jesse told Jessica at the moment of truth, "and tomorrow morning I'm gonna wake up from that dream into the real world. But I don't want to wake up tomorrow morning if I can't wake up with you."

Jesse's "gut instinct" was telling him they were meant to spend their lives together, he said, but added, "I am not ready to propose to you tonight. I think that we need more time to grow and learn about each other."

"That's all I want," she said.

Jesse produced a one-way plane ticket to New York, inviting her "to chase all your dreams, but do it with me."

Then Tara was fetched from her limousine, where she had retreated after throwing up in a hedge.

"I don't want you to say anything," Tara tearfully told Jesse. "You would make me happier than any other person in this entire world, if I am the girl standing here at the very end."

"Tara," replied Jesse, "I've fallen in love with someone else."

The episode began with Jesse taking each woman home to meet his parents, then to Beverly Hills' Rodeo Drive to shop for an engagement ring.

"Today is very bittersweet," Jessica told the camera. "It's really, really hard for me to have to sit down and think that he is sharing the same moment with Tara."

She needn't have worried. But as is typical with this kind of show, Jesse claimed to be torn



Palmer and Bowlin, an ECU grad, pose during the season finale of "The Bachelor."

until the last minute.

"I don't have the answer right now," he had told Jessica the night before. "It's gonna come to me."

"I don't know how I feel about that," she replied.

Then, shortly before the final "rose ceremony," he announced to the camera, "It hit me like a ton of bricks: I know what I'm feeling. I know what my heart and my head are telling me."

In an interview before the series' April 7 premiere, Palmer, 25, said he was looking for an honest, self-assured woman who was comfortable with herself. The show was taped in Los Angeles last fall, but Palmer had been mum on whom he chose, referring to her only as "the missus."

Trying to determine who was genuinely interested in him, and who might have seen only dollar signs (Palmer made \$389,000 in 2003 in his backup role) was one of the hard parts of choosing Ms. Right, he said.

"I think I'm more confused about women in general after doing this show than I was before I got on," he said at the time.

The series has done well for ratings-strapped ABC, drawing 12.5 million viewers last week. During this, its fifth season, it has ranked 21st in households.

THE EAST CAROLINIAN
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SPORTS

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 Sports Editor

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Sports Briefs

Frisbee golf course open for play

The 18-hole frisbee golf course will remain open while the new construction of Harrington Field is underway. The first hole has been moved for the construction project, but holes 2-18 will remain the same. Parking for university registered vehicles (C Stickers) is now in Curry Court.

Bunn named C-USA Pitcher of the Week

League officials announced Sunday that ECU junior right-handed pitcher Greg Bunn had been named Conference USA Pitcher of the Week. It is Bunn's second C-USA weekly honor of this season. Bunn threw eight shutout innings at Southern Miss, holding the league's second-best hitting team to just five hits as ECU clinched the regular season C-USA title with a 9-0 win. He struck out six and walked three, raising his season record to 8-0. It was Bunn's fourth combined shutout this season. Bunn earned the very first C-USA Pitcher of the Week honor in 2004 and closed out the season with the same honor. ECU returns to action Wednesday when the Pirates play No. 8 seed Louisville in the first game of the 2004 C-USA Baseball Tournament at 5 p.m. (EST).

Manuse named second team All-Southeast region

ECU junior Kate Manuse has been named second All-Southeast Region by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association, in addition to being named second team All-Conference USA. During the season, Manuse set an ECU and C-USA single season record for doubles with 26, while also leading the Pirates in home runs (6), RBIs (55) and slugging percentage (.604). Starting 72 games for ECU, Manuse compiled a .360 batting average.

Conference USA championship on horizon

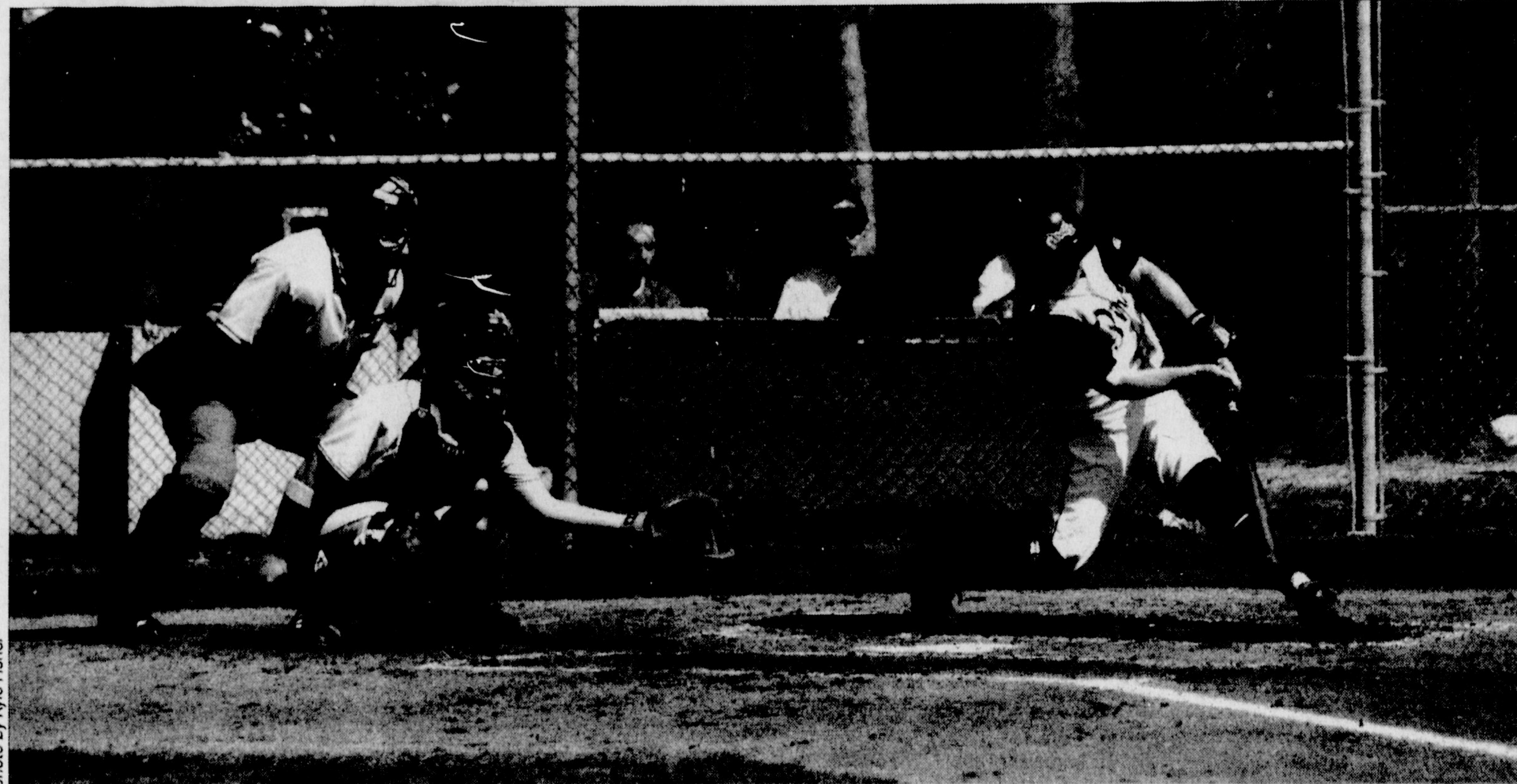


photo by Kyle Fisher

The baseball team heads to the C-USA tournament with its sights set on victory. The Pirates may host a regional in Kinston if they win the title.

Pirates take on Cardinals this afternoon in Houston

BRENT WYNNE
 STAFF WRITER

After failing to win the outright Conference USA title by dropping game three of the series to TCU, the No. 4 ranked Pirates headed down to Hattiesburg needing only one victory against the No. 12 ranked Southern Miss Golden Eagles to secure their first ever C-USA championship.

As he has done time and time again this season, Greg Bunn delivered yet another masterful performance on the mound en route to a 9-0 game one shutout, thus clinching the conference championship.

In front of 2,864 fans, Bunn tossed eight shutout innings, striking out six while scattering just five hits. With the win, Bunn improves to a glittering 8-0 on the season. Ricky Brooks came on in the ninth to preserve the shutout.

For his efforts, Bunn was named C-USA Pitcher of the Week. This

marks the second time this season he has received the honor.

Ryan Norwood led the ECU 16-hit attack with a 3-for-5 performance that included a double and two RBIs. Jamie Paige, Ryan Jones, Drew Costanzo and Mark Minicozzi each added two hits on the night.

Game two appeared to be in control in the sixth as the Pirates were in a comfortable 5-2 lead. A ground ball that looked to be an easy double play was tossed over Billy Richardson's head by reliever Kevin Rhodes, which extended the inning

and allowed the Eagles to capitalize and knot the score at 5-5.

A bases loaded walk in the seventh issued by Carter Harrell proved to be the game winner as the Eagles evened the series with a 6-5 win.

Ryan Jones and Trevor Lawhorn led the Pirates in the losing effort with two hits apiece.

Game three looked eerily similar to game one as the Pirates rolled to another shutout of Southern Miss, this time in 11-0 fashion.

In a game time decision

see **BASEBALL** page 14

ECU softball team ends season in Conference USA tournament

Lady Pirates defeat number one seed Southern Miss.

DAVID WASKIEWICZ
 STAFF WRITER

After coming off a series sweep of St. Louis on April 25, ECU's softball team was on a steady path to enter the Conference USA tournament at the end of the regular season. The Lady Pirates were tied for fifth in C-USA standings and had momentum behind them when they entered the last part of their regular season in May.

Unfortunately for the ECU softball team, momentum was not

enough to carry their winning streak throughout the month. The Lady Pirates opened play at home being swept by conference opponent Southern Miss. The defeats put ECU on a three-game losing streak and also threatened the chances of the team making the conference tournament.

It didn't get any better for the Lady Pirates as the losses continued four days later when they dropped two games, this time against Elon.

With one more series left on their schedule, the softball team was determined to end their five-game skid and earn a place in the conference tournament as they headed to Charlotte. The Lady Pirates were able to accomplish their goal by

defeating UNC-Charlotte in two games of the three-game series.

The wins over UNC-Charlotte allowed ECU to end their season with a final record of 46-22-1 and a conference record of 10-14. The victories were also enough for the team to enter the C-USA tournament as the sixth and final seed.

In the first game of the C-USA Tournament, ECU faced No. 3 seed South Florida. The Bulls started the game off by scoring six runs in the first inning. The Lady Pirates never recovered as they lost their first game in the double-elimination tournament, 7-1.

The second game of the tourna-

see **SOFTBALL** page 11

Intramural services looking for teams

Basketball season getting off the ground

ERIC GILMORE
 STAFF WRITER

Intramural services, located in 128 SRC, are currently looking for teams to compete in a five-on-five basketball league.

"Registration is today at 4:30 p.m. in 202 SRC," said assistant director of intramural sports Laura Triyonis.

"Ideally, the captains should be present at the meeting for teams to be eligible to compete. Even if they miss the meeting, then they can still

see **TEAMS** page 11



ECU intramural softball ready to hit full swing

TRENT WYNNE
STAFF WRITER

Break out the bats and clean off the cleats because it is time again for ECU intramural softball to get underway. Two sessions will be played according to the academic schedule of first and second summer sessions.

Registration for session one was May 25, but session two registration will take place on June 28 in 202 SRC.

Session one, depending on the amount of people that show an interest in playing, could feature up to three leagues – co-recreational, men's and women's.

Each team is guaranteed four regular season games with the pos-

sibility of making the tournament.

Tournament games will be played following the single-elimination format and the winners will receive t-shirts compliments of the Intramural League.

Laura Tryonis, a director of the intramural leagues, says that summer leagues provide types of fun recreation for the students in their "off-season."

"We're trying to give students the opportunity to remain active in the summer by having these basketball and softball leagues."

June 1 marks the opening date for session one. Play ball!

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

Softball from page 10

ment pitted ECU against number one seed Southern Miss. Earlier in the month, the Lady Pirates were swept by the Golden Eagles in a three-game series. The outcome was much different this time as ECU shocked the Golden Eagles with a 6-0 shutout.

Unfortunately, the Pirates were defeated 2-1 in their next outing against No. 4 seed DePaul. The loss

eliminated ECU from the C-USA tournament and gave them a final record of 47-24-1.

ECU junior Kate Manuse, sophomores Christine Sheridan and Krista Jessup were all named to the second team All-C-USA at the end of the regular season. Manuse set the league record with her 26 doubles and led ECU with a batting average of .374.

Jessup had the third best batting average on the team with .293 and an astonishing fielding percentage of .982. Sheridan was second in the conference with 36 stolen bases and led her team with 73 hits, which ranked her third highest in the league.

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

Teams from page 10

come in on May 26 because I have to make schedules by 5 p.m."

Each captain must provide the social security numbers of their respective players along with their team name at the meeting.

"Depending on the amount of teams, we will have men's, women's and co-rec divisions. Typically, summer has been much quieter than the regular school year," Triyonis said.

Participants will play Monday through Thursday, but never Fridays.

Due to the small amount of teams, the games can be worked around the captains' schedule more easily.

"Ideally, if we have a good

amount of teams, then each team would play four games and we would have a single elimination tournament," Triyonis said.

"If we only have a couple of teams, then we might play less games."

Schedules are posted inside the SRC and will be available on Thursday, May 27. It is the responsibility of each captain to check scheduling and possible changes.

The intramural weather hotline is 328-6443. All of the games are played in the SRC, typically on courts one and two.


Intramural services will provide each team with jerseys and a game ball so captains should not worry about bringing their

own equipment. Each player is required, however, to have his or her valid One Card at each game.

Recreational Services continues to stay busy to help to provide intramural athletics. They have to train referees, figure out schedules and maintain different sports at the same time.

If you want to get involved and are not already on a team, you can sign up as a free agent or be added to an already existing captain's roster. Inter-varsity or club sport athletes for that sport are ineligible to participate.


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

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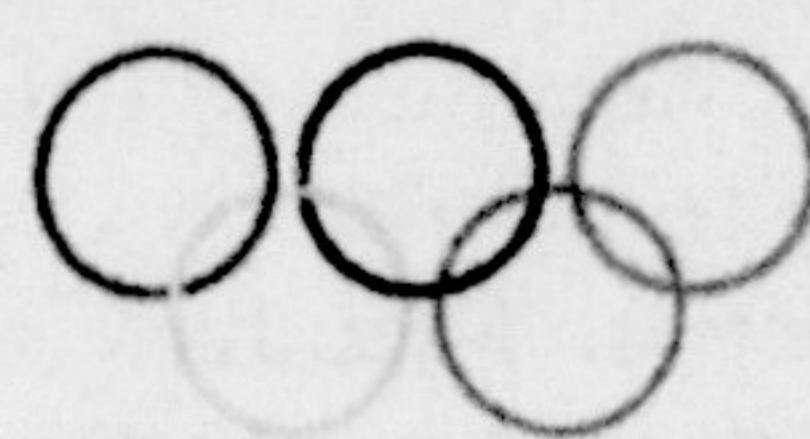


Security in Athens has NBA players concerned

Should NBA superstars represent their country?

BRANDON HUGHES
SENIOR WRITER

A massive number of troops and security have been brought in as bombs continue to echo throughout the city. Terrorist groups are more than likely watching and waiting. This ominous description seems



like somewhere in the Middle East, maybe Iraq or Iran, or any number of anti-American countries. Actually, it is Athens, Greece, the site of the 2004 Summer Olympics that is facing threatening violence. The greatest sporting event in the world is only months away and some of the biggest superstars in the NBA have cold feet.

The Olympic Dream Team from 1992 was the greatest basketball team ever assembled. Michael Jordan,

Magic Johnson and Larry Bird led the squad to win after win on their way to a gold medal.

The world has certainly changed in the 12 years since the original Dream Team. The 2004 U.S. basketball team resembles just a shadow of what it used to be. Head Coach Larry Brown of the Detroit Pistons has been adamant in his opinion that the players should join the team in the search for another gold medal. Security issues have NBA players concerned, however.

"The players are definitely concerned," Jermaine O'Neal, the Indiana Pacers forward and a member of the U.S. Olympic basketball team, told *The Associated Press*.

"It definitely sits on your mind. If you wanted to send a message to the world, what better place is there to do it?"


"The only thing I can think of is that battleship that got blown up," said Ray Allen of the Seattle Supersonics.

see **ATHENS** page 13

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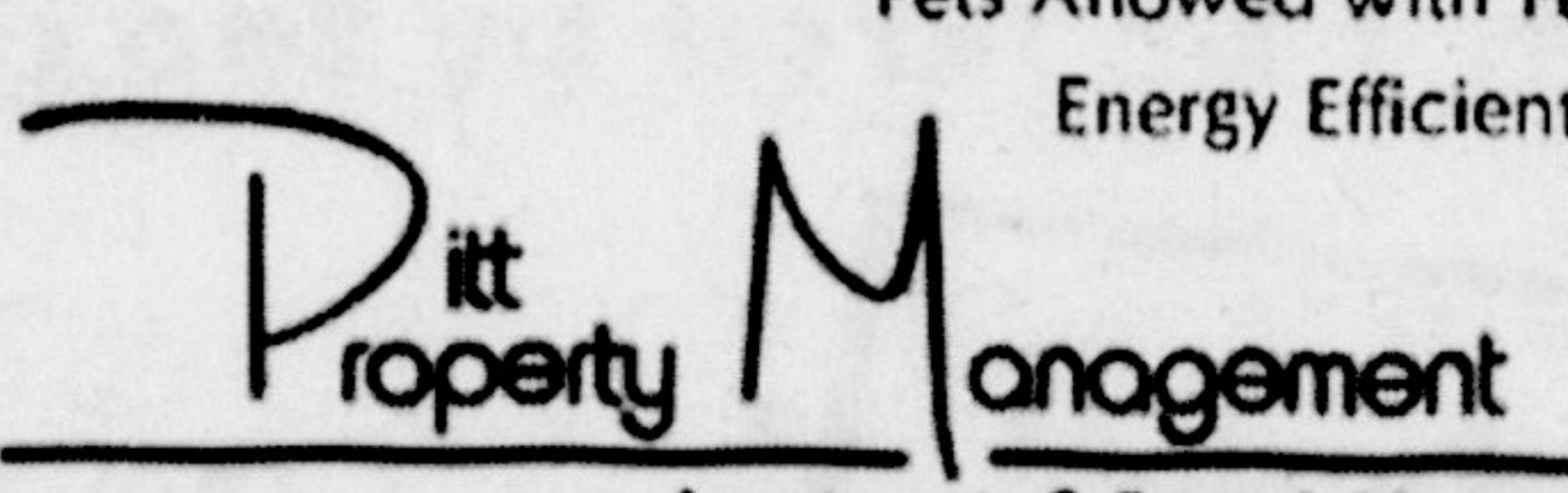
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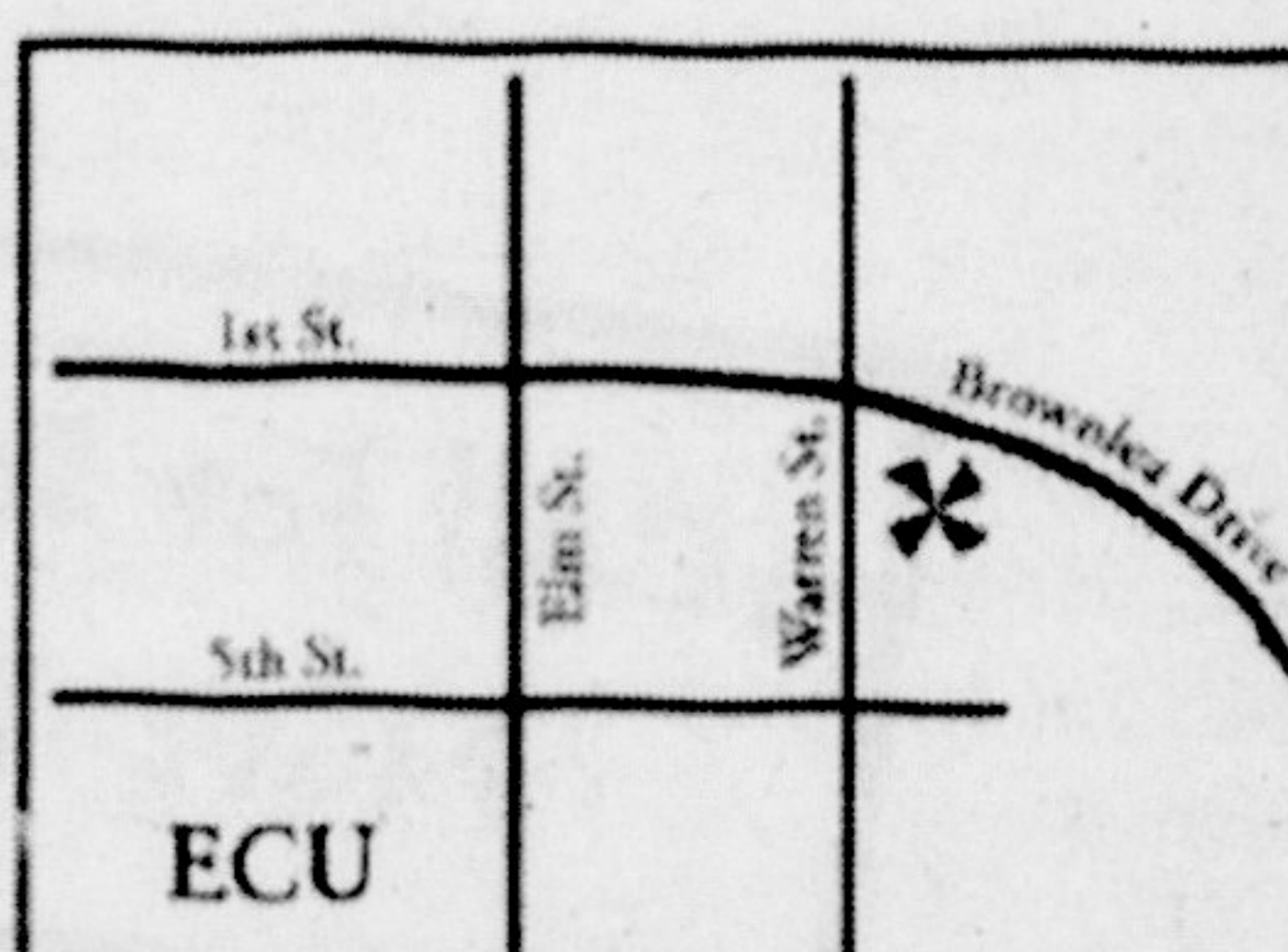
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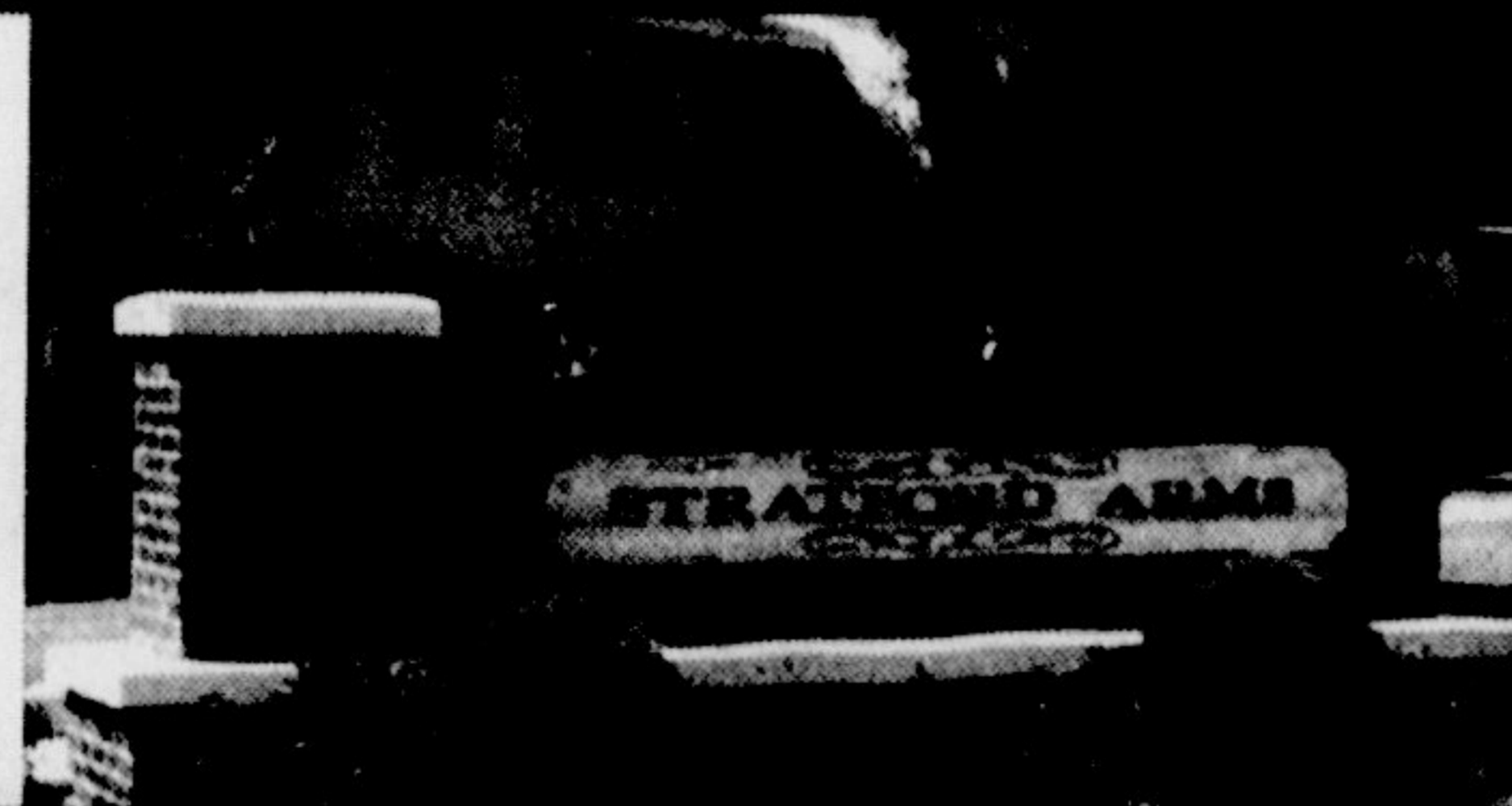
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Athens from page 12

Allen was referring to the USS Cole in the Athens' busy harbor. The battleship was attacked by al-Qaeda in 2002, killing 17 sailors.

Some of the NBA's most well known stars will be absent come August. Kobe Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal, Vince Carter and Tracy McGrady are a few of the players that will most likely not compete. Injuries, weddings and the NBA playoffs are some of the "reasons" for not joining the Olympic team.

They won't say it, but it is on their minds. The main reason for some of them skipping out on representing their country is fear. They fear something will happen to them or their families in Athens. Who can blame them?

Police destroyed a small time bomb just outside of the Olympic Complex last week. Three more bombs were detonated two weeks prior, causing minor damage to an Athens police station.

The bomb was located just a half-mile from where baseball, basketball and field hockey will be competing.

Since 1992, a dwindling number of superstars have competed for their country with each passing Olympic games. Now in 2004, they have another excuse for putting themselves and their needs above their country.

Former Arizona Cardinal safety Pat Tillman did the unthinkable - he gave up millions of dollars and fame in the NFL to serve his country as an Elite Army Ranger. He died protecting the country he loved. I'm not asking today's NBA superstars to trade in their "ice" and Armani suits for camouflage, but the least you can do is represent your country by doing what you love to do. Just go out there and play for something other than money, something other than an NBA championship and MVP awards. Play for your country. You don't have to pick up an AK-47 - pick up a ball and dunk all over your opponents like the past Dream Team members.

Some of the well-seasoned veterans could learn from the young superstars. LeBron James is fresh out of high school, yet realizes the importance of these games. Amare Stoudamire also skipped out on college, but when the time comes, he will not skip out on a shot at a gold medal. Hopefully, with more experience and money, the youngsters will not shy away from competing.

Now should not be the time where you sit out, now should be the time you want to go even more.

Don't give the terrorists what they want. They want to alter your life and frighten you.

However, their concerns are well founded. I would have some apprehension for my safety and the safety of my family. I understand that to most people, family comes above all, but there will be more security in Athens than anywhere in the world in several months. Greece may actually be safer than other major cities. More than 70,000 police officers and soldiers will be patrolling during the games. However, security needs to be stepped up in the United States as well. If the entire world is expecting an attack at the Olympics, terrorists may seize that opportunity to implement a surprise attack elsewhere.

There will be dissenting opinions, but that is what makes America great. We can voice our concerns and we can say what is on our minds. There are even differing thoughts on the same team. The Minnesota Timberwolves are battling to make it to the NBA Finals, but still had time to speak their minds about the impending games in Athens.

With confidence and use of a few double negatives, Sam Cassell believed there "ain't nothing" better than an NBA championship in a recent interview. Several months earlier, teammate and 2004 MVP Kevin Garnett said he would rather have a gold medal.

The United States is the best country in the world. Other countries may argue that point, but they certainly cannot say the U.S. does not have the most talented basketball team. If players keep dropping like flies, however, the U.S. may be looking up at China or Yugoslavia during the medal presentations.

Other than NBA players declining an invitation to compete, no other U.S. athlete has dropped out of the Olympics. What might be the difference between these track & field stars, swimmers and other athletes from NBA superstars? Hmm, might have to ask their agent about that one. At least some other financially successful athletes are competing. The U.S. tennis team will be strong once again, led by Venus and Serena Williams.

Will there be fear and anxiety during the Olympics? Of course. Will terrorist groups attempt an attack? Maybe. Will they take away the honor and prestige that comes with representing your country? Never - at least for the NBA players who actually make it to Athens.

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

Baseball from page 10

by the coaching staff, southpaw P.J. Connelly was saddled with the start. The junior lefty proved he was the man for the job as he faced only two batters over the minimum in six innings, allowing only two hits while striking out four.

Matt Bishop came on in the seventh to secure the win for the Pirates in a shortened game due to a get-away day 10 run rule. This rule states that if a team is winning by more than 10 runs after seven complete innings, the game is called to allow the visitors enough time to meet their travel arrangements.

Norwood led ECU once again with a 3-for-3 outing with two doubles and a homerun, his 14th. John Poppert also had a big day at the plate as he had three hits, one of which was his third round-tripper of the season.

The Pirates improved to 47-9 overall and finished with a 25-5 C-USA record. The 25 wins in

conference is a new record for conference wins in a season and the 47 wins overall ties the school record for wins.

The Pirates are far from done and will now travel to Houston in search of the C-USA tournament championship, something that they won in 2002 as the underdogs. This season, the Pirates will be the favorite. ECU opens up play in the tournament against the eighth-seeded Louisville Cardinals, who snuck in the tournament with a three-game sweep of USF last weekend. The Cardinals needed all three from the Bulls and they erased a 7-1 deficit by scoring eight times in the top of the ninth of game three to complete the sweep.

ECU swept a three-game series from the Cardinals earlier this season at Harrington Field. Game time is today at 4 p.m.

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

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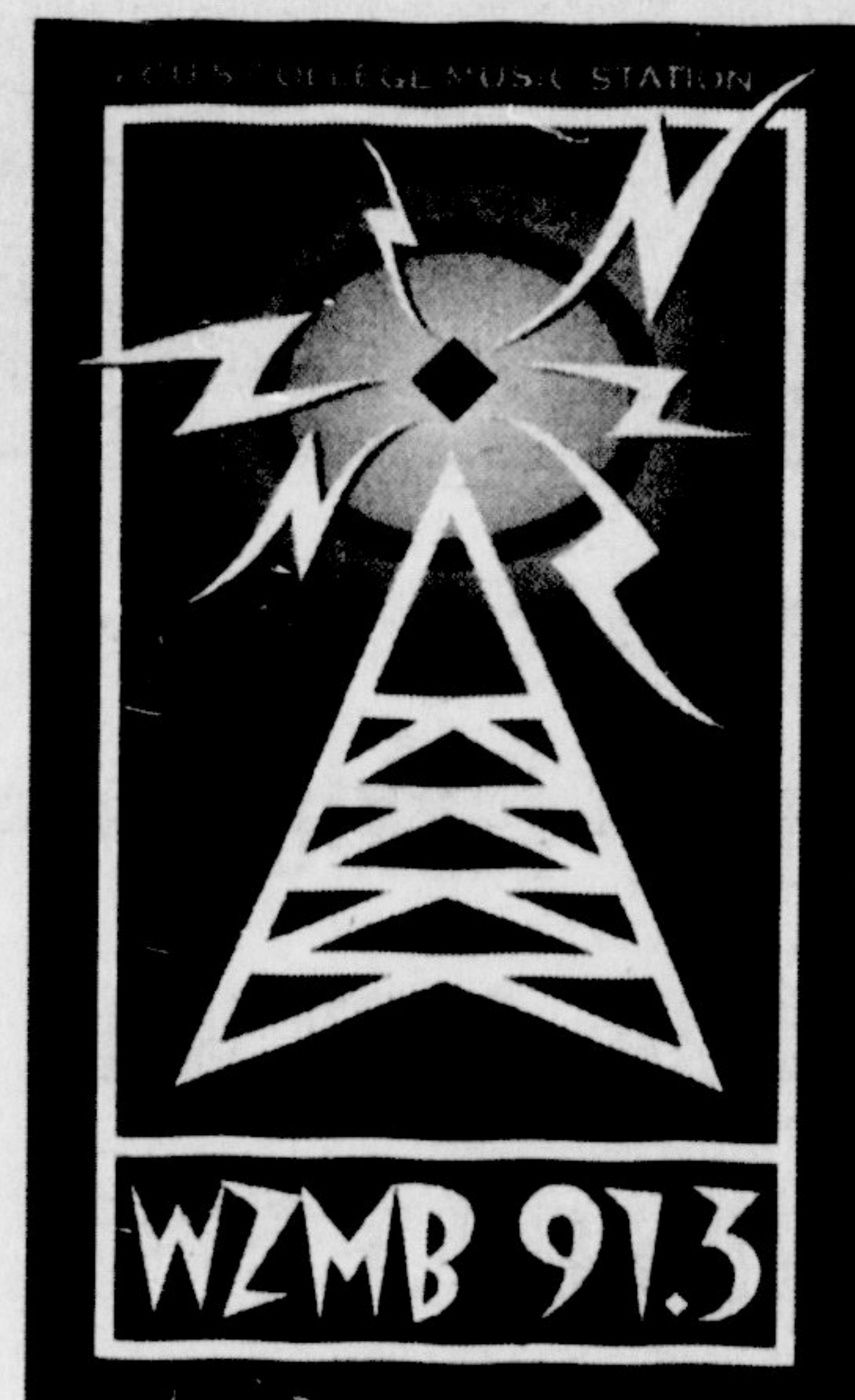


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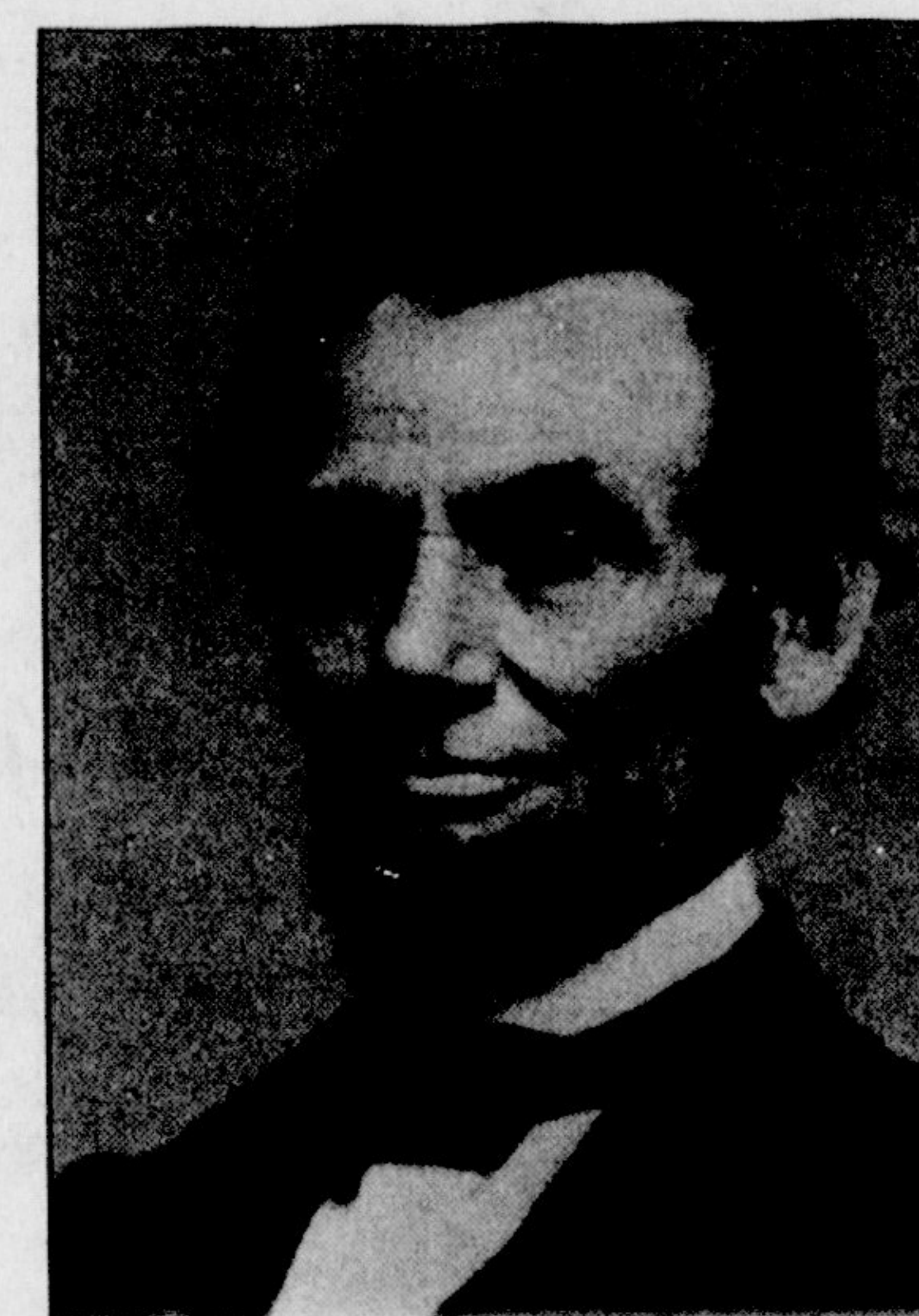
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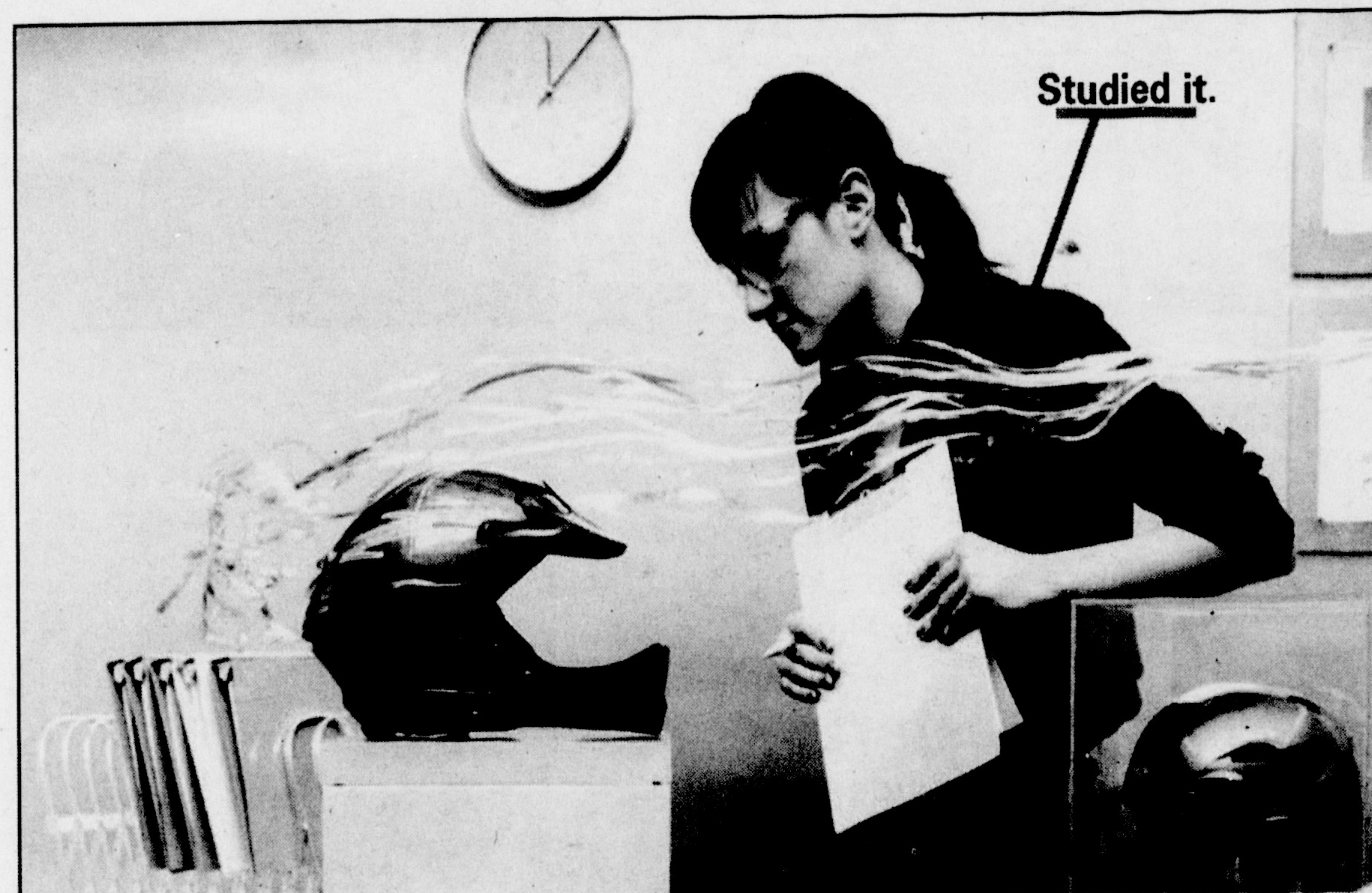
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