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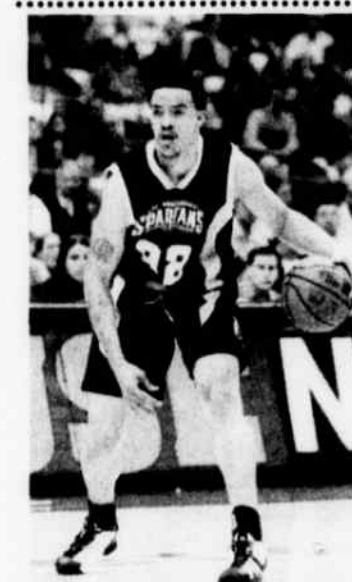
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SGA vice president removed

SGA divided over possible special elections for replacement

Will Ayers
News Editor

Demonte' Pridgen, the Student Government Association's vice president, has been forced from office, and as a result controversy has erupted within the organization. The Office of Student Life cut Pridgen over the Christmas break when his GPA dropped below the minimum 2.5 required for student government officers, and now SGA members are unsure how to replace him.

On Tuesday Ian Jenkins, formerly the president pro tempore, was acting as vice president per the SGA Constitution, which says the president pro tempore assumes the vacant

vice president's duties until a new VP can be elected. The SGA can keep Fisher as vice president until regular elections are held in April, but some members want special elections as early as next month, saying they don't want a vice president students didn't vote for. Legislation requesting such elections was tabled Tuesday for review next week.

While the SGA Constitution says special elections are possible, they aren't required, and no such procedures are outlined. Critics say special elections in February would confuse students and waste time and money. If special elections were held, they argue, then the vice president would have to run again in April, during regular elections.

"I don't think it's wise for us to have elections right now," said Dauv Evans, attorney general. "We'd be

shooting ourselves in the foot with elections which aren't even outlined in the guidelines."

Supporters of special elections say since the SGA has the right to hold them, it should.

"If the Constitution had meant for the president pro tempore to carry on, it would have said so," said John Rouse, delegate at large.

The vice president's duties are central to SGA. He or she runs meetings, keeps delegates in order and is responsible for the organization's efficiency. If the vice president is unable to conduct meetings efficiently, SGA sessions can last up to five hours instead of the customary one or two.

Last semester marked SGA's best in many years, members say. Among the organization's accomplishments was the establishment of a fund to fix

the fountain, which has been broken since 2002. SGA also held a series of town hall meetings on issues such as construction on campus and a rising cheating epidemic.

In Pridgen's absence, Tuesday's meeting lasted longer than usual.

"It was chaos," said Pridgen, but added that "it's just a transition."

Pridgen called his removal "a betterment for me as a person," and added that Jenkins should remain vice president without special elections.

"I think they should give him the chance," he said.

The SGA may decide next week whether to extend that chance, but for Pridgen, SGA is now a spectator event.

"We're going to miss him around here," said President Dara Edelman.

MAKING OUT



MERGE RECORDS

The Rosebuds, a Raleigh-based rock outfit, played Ace's Basement last week. Rae Marcus has the review on page 4. Check the Weekend Calendar on page 2 for shows at the Basement and other venues across town.

UNCG awarded over \$1 million to coordinate Health Disparities Project

University News Service

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro's School of Nursing has been awarded a grant that will bring in more than \$1.06 million from the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to coordinate the Teamwork in Research and Intervention to Alleviate Disparities (TRIAD) Project for Health Disparities.

The goals of the three-year project are to increase outreach, training and research in health disparities and to assist the community, region and state in meeting the health needs of an increasingly diverse citizenry.

Although the money was awarded to the School of Nursing, the interdisciplinary project is a collaborative effort between the Schools of Nursing, Health and Human Performance and Human Environmental Sciences; the Departments of Anthropology; the

Institute for Health, Science and Society; and the Center for New North Carolinians at UNCG; as well as the Moses Cone Heart Center, the Guilford County School System and HealthServe Medical Clinic.

"It has always been important for UNCG to be a community-oriented institution. We are playing off the strengths and capabilities of the university, while meeting its mission," said Dr. Debra Wallace, principal investigator of the project. "This

Continued on page 22

Former Gov. Jim Hunt to speak at commencement

University News Service

James B. "Jim" Hunt Jr., who served four terms as governor of the Tar Heel State, will be the commencement speaker for The University of North Carolina at Greensboro on Friday, May 14.

Hunt also will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree during UNCG's 112th graduation exercises. UNCG will recognize students who have completed degrees at the undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels. The event will be at 10 a.m. in the

Greensboro Coliseum.

Hunt was governor from 1977-85 and from 1993-2001, and is now a partner in the Raleigh office of one of the state's largest law firms, Womble Carlyle Sandridge and Rice. He chairs the board of the James B. Hunt Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy, which was established in 2001 as part of the University of North Carolina system.

During his terms as governor, Hunt emerged as a nationally known leader in education. In addition to leading North Carolina through peri-



Former Gov. Hunt.

Continued on page 22

UNCG to offer Ph.D. in Special Education

University News Service

The UNC Board of Governors has approved a plan for a doctoral degree program in special education at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The new program will begin in August.

The BOG has approved five new doctoral programs at UNCG since May 2002. The others are history, geography, economics and information systems.

"There is a significant need in North Carolina and the entire nation for professionals in special education," said Dr. James Peterson, dean of the Graduate School. "Our new Ph.D. in special education, located in our nationally ranked School of Education, will become an important source of leaders in the field."

The Department of Specialized Education Services will offer the advanced courses designed to prepare students to become professors, administrators and school leaders, among other things.

The program will help address the critical shortage of special education teachers in the state and the region. As one of only two universities in North Carolina with a doctoral program in special education, UNCG will help students become faculty members, who in turn will prepare students to become special education teachers.

"Approval for the Ph.D. program is a major step for the Department of Specialized Education Services," said Marilyn Friend, head of the department.

"It will help us to meet the need in North Carolina for special education leadership personnel who can prepare teachers to work with students with disabilities. Since the program was approved, we have received a number of inquiries from professionals who hope to pursue this advanced graduate work."

The Board of Governors also gave UNCG a green light to plan doctoral programs in nursing and public health. Once the university submits detailed plans, the board will consider final approval.

The Weekend Calendar

January 22-24, 2004

-22-

7:00 p.m. Bluegrass and Acoustic Jam, Ace's Basement, 2428 High Point Road, Greensboro. Club:292-1832 Ext. 222
Mobile:382-1445

7:30 p.m. Independent Film Night The Green Bean coffee house 341 S. Elm St. Info: 691-9990

7:30 p.m.: Greensboro Symphony, War Memorial Auditorium, 1921 W. Lee St. \$15.00-32.00. Info: 335-5456, Ext. 223, www.Tickets.com

-23-

8:00 pm Ralph Stanley and the Cinch Mountain Boys, Carolina Theatre, 310 S. Greene St., Greensboro. Cost: \$23.00-25.00. Info:333-2605

8:00: p.m. Show: The Breakfast Club. The Blind Tiger, 2115 Walker Ave., Greensboro. 272-9888

-24-

8:00 p.m. Titanic: the Musical, Aycock Auditorium, Spring Garden and Tate streets, UNCG, \$25.00-35.00. Info: 334-4849

9:00 p.m. Rock show: The Weather, Dragstrip Syndicate, Dynamite Brothers, The Black Mona Lisas. Ace's Basement 2428 High Point Road, Greensboro. Club:292-1832 Ext. 222
Mobile:382-1445 Admission \$5 ALL AGES

11:00 p.m. - till Drunken feats of wonder. Check your local sidewalk for listings.

Corrections

The Carolinian never knowingly publishes false statements. Any necessary corrections or clarifications will be printed in the first possible edition. To notify The Carolinian of a mistake, call (336)334-5752.

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Grant from page 1

project reaches cross-culturally, is research intensive, serves the greater university and its community and is interdisciplinary - pulling together many departments, schools and service organizations in the Triad."

TRIAD Project for Health Disparities has three components: research, training and outreach. The project focuses on the African-American, Hispanic and low-income populations in an 11-county region in central North Carolina's Piedmont triad.

In Guilford County alone, African Americans make up 29 percent of the population, the Hispanic population has increased by 453 percent over the last five years, and poverty is at 12 percent while unemployment is at 6 percent.

At the same time, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US. Bureau of Census, and Health Carolinians 2010, statistics, the targeted population meets or exceeds national and state target levels for diabetes, cardiovascular disease and HIV/AIDS. The occurrence of heart disease in North Carolina is 140 percent of the national target, while diabetes is four times the national target. In addition, new HIV infection in minorities is higher than the national average.

The TRIAD Project will be used to develop and conduct research focused on the early detection, prevention and avoidance of risk behaviors for cardiovascular disease, diabetes and HIV/AIDS. In the first three years, TRIAD has identified six areas of research to support, including the quality of life among Hispanic diabetics, sexual risk behaviors among college-age African American men, and heart disease among older minority women.

This research will help determine what health disparities are most prevalent. As the project moves forward, it will train researchers to be experts and consultants to local community programs, and train others to conduct research on health disparities. In the long run, the research will help direct the focus of the outreach programs for this and future efforts.

This project will fund efforts to increase cultural and linguistic familiarity of the staff, faculty, students and community providers involved in educating the public of risk factors, including English as a second language in HIV/AIDS education and prevention, and teaching better nutrition among African American and low income school children.

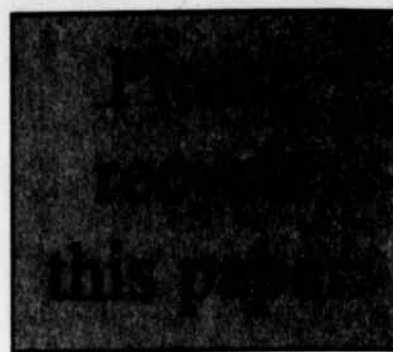
"Depending on what we find and what outcomes we reach, the project activities may affect policy, change people's minds about health in these at risk groups or simply provide people access to the services they need," Wallace said. "We want to involve the community in this, and find out what is important to them."

Hunt from page 1

ods of economic change, he has been at the forefront of educational reform in North Carolina and in the nation. The Rand Corporation has reported that North Carolina public schools improved test scores more than any other state in the 1990s.

As governor, Hunt focused several initiatives on early childhood development and improving the quality of teaching. His Smart Start program is a nonprofit, public-private partnership rooted in each of the state's 100 counties providing quality child care, health care, and family support for each child who needs it. It is funded primarily by the state but is also supported heavily by private corporations and individuals. Smart Start has been visited and studied by early childhood leaders from all 50

states and many foreign countries. It received the prestigious Innovations in American Government Award from the Ford Foundation and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Hunt received his undergraduate and master's degrees from N.C. State University and his law degree from UNC-Chapel Hill.



Driving in India

Sam Clark
Sports Editor

While on an adventure in India, our new Sports Editor, Sam Clark, discovered the perils of the Indian golf course and the highways. He survived, but suggests that other adventurers should take a crash helmet rather than a golf bag.

When looking at any country the government, health care, education and class system are usually all good indicators of the social direction a country is taking. But on my penultimate day in Bangalore I discovered a much better determinant of how to evaluate the world's second most populated nation: driving.

Driving, not just on the roads but also on the nations golf courses. I learnt more about the country when participating in these two very different activities than anything else during my stay. We had a tee time at India's second oldest golf course, situated in the heart of Bangalore.

Before we even got onto the course there was calamity- it took us a good hour to get out onto the first tee. The 'director' of the club had taken a leisurely promenade to apparently 'speed up play'. The problem with this was that he didn't take any form of communication with him and therefore left us waiting for a good hour.

On his belated return Mr. Singh completely ripped us off- it was only about 15 US dollars to play but in Indian terms that could pay for about 20 new mowers. The clubs we were given to play with were...interesting. The fact that the putter I was given could easily have been mistaken for one of my dad's gardening tools didn't fill me with confidence.

So, before we had even teed off we had experienced a typically Indian scenario. Friendly disorganization, delays and a barrage of bartering all conducted by a staff who was only too happy to help a couple of 'pale boys' in any way they could.

After the odd complication we finally emerged onto the first tee (with mandatory caddies) and were astounded by the location of the Windsor Road, which was situated only a frightening ten yards right of the fairway. I have seen many hazards on a golf course, but this was the most intense; hitting my second shot from one of the busiest roads in the city was not an appealing proposition.

Obviously I hit the ball left (trying

to avoid the taxis, cars, scooters, cows, donkeys...) and the ball flew past the ear of a player walking up to the last green. The man just casually ducked and continued his round as though nothing had happened.

People often describe golf as a 'quiet walk in the park' but nine holes in India felt more like a bad day in Baghdad. There was one fairway mid way through the round, which was attached to four different holes. There were over 20 players on one fairway and what matters worse, was that people just hit the ball wherever and whenever they chose. You didn't just need a caddy; you needed a white flag and a suit of body armour.

But the over population and chaos that was seen on the links paled into insignificance when looking at driving conditions on the highway- and particularly the 450-mile gauntlet of death we took from Goa to Bangalore. That journey along one of India's most 'coveted' roads took us an outrageous 17 hours as we dodged around herds of animals and broken down buses.

Half way through the trip we, or should I say I, failed to see a diversion sign and plunged into a rather substantial crater in the ground. Before we knew it, over 30 people surrounded the car and huddled together. We were in an incredibly vulnerable predicament, but the locals amazingly inquired about our health, before using the sign that I had smashed to catapult the car out.

You could see in the people's eyes just how pleased they were to help, we offered them money but not one of them took a rupee. In that one moment I realized that although the population lived a cavalier existence the polite, pacifistic measures advocated by Gandhi were still very present in Indian society.

Similar to the golf and the roads, everyday existence in India severely lacked any kind of efficiency; the food and water was toxic, the pollution was rampant and there was no real guarantee of the simple things in life- like toilet paper. Having said all this, the time there made me appreciate things that I previously just took for granted.

It was a place that can't be explained and that's what makes it so essential to see, not least because it put sport into perspective. I cannot remember my score at the Bangalore Golf Club, but I shall never forget the experience of driving in India.

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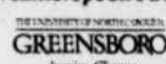


Saturday, January 24

8:00pm • Aycock Auditorium (UNCG Campus)

Dramatically capturing the events of the ship's voyage in 1912, "Titanic: The Musical" is a depiction of the legendary tale of romance, adventure, greed and ambition.

To obtain tickets, contact the University Box Office at 336-334-4349. Free parking available at the Waukenaupoon Art Museum.



Spartans neuter Catamounts

Sam Clark
Sports Editor

The UNCG women's basketball team won their second game in a week on Saturday afternoon in the Fleming Gym. They disposed of Conference rival Western Carolina (4-12) 66-53 and thereby improved their record to 5-11 on the season.

"Today we made a solid team effort and had contributions all over the floor. Our ball handling was a problem - we had 18 turnovers, which is more than we've had - but I was pleased with the win," said coach Lynne Agee.

The Spartans made a slow start to the game but once they got into their stride the game never looked in doubt. Freshman Jasmine Byrd came off the bench to score a game-high 16 points, which included an outrageous 30-foot shot mid-way through the second half.

"I was pleased with my personal performance; my offense has been a bit off recently but I feel like I found it tonight," said Byrd.

Byrd scored 14 of her 16 points in the second half and came up with two crucial three-point shots as the Catamounts were making a surge.

"Jasmine changed the game when it was getting close. She was in the right place and was stroking it well," said Agee.

A mixture of wayward shooting and disciplined defending had restricted both teams to a total of only four points in the opening five minutes. As the first half began to wind down UNCG guard Amanda Eaton began to assert herself on proceedings. In an exhilarating passage of play Eaton served up an assist to senior Jacinda Lambert and then hit a three-point attempt, which helped give the Spartans a 29-20 lead at the half.

The Catamounts went on a 7-2 run early in the second half, and when senior Yoneko Allen hit her first 3-pointer of the game with 14:32 remaining the Spartan lead was cut to four. Forward Jennifer Garner led Western Carolina with 16 points and 11 boards but even that was not enough to appease Byrd, who inspired the Spartans to an 18-11 run mid way through the half.

At 59-47 with 3:34 remaining UNCG cantered home and traded points with the Catamounts 7-6 in the dying minutes to win by 13.

Other than Byrd, the points were split throughout the UNCG lineup. There were important contributions from senior Lindsey Reed, who scored nine points and had seven rebounds. The ever-exuberant Stephanie Britt, a junior from Wilson, NC, also scored eight points while gathering two steals.

What made the victory all the more impressive was that neither Eaton nor Lambert had the greater game. The duo have single-handedly led the Spartan offence this season, top scoring in all but two games, but against the Catamounts they only combined for 14 points.

"During Christmas break we weren't getting a complete team performance. We had people coming back from injury but after tonight we have our feet in the saddle and we're ready to ride," said UNCG captain Amanda Eaton.

The girls are next in action on January 26th when they travel up to Boone to play conference rival Appalachian State.

SPORTS

Coming next week: Aaron Snyder reviews UNCG Baseball

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Men's Basketball frozen out over Christmas Break

Armond Towns
Staff Writer

There were no gifts for the men's basketball team over the Christmas break. The Spartans played in 11, and lost all but two games over the holidays. The two wins came early in December against conference rivals Furman and Campbell.

The Spartans defeated Furman, 73-65, and handled Campbell with relative ease, winning the game 79-61. Powerful forward Ronnie Burrell came up big against Campbell, scoring 15 points and snatching seven rebounds. Unfortunately for Burrell and company, the Campbell game spawned an eight-game losing streak, a run the team is having a tough time recovering from.

This year was expected to be a big one in the rebuilding process for the Spartans after last year's problems (7-22). With the acquisition of players such as juniors Dwon Clifton and Rodney Blackstock, complemented by a stellar freshman class, the men's basketball team had, and still has, a lot of promise.

It's hard to say exactly what's caused this horrendous eight game run, but the schedule may have something to do with it. Coach Fran McCaffery has led his team out at places such as American, Maryland, Missouri and Villanova - all venues where even the very top teams would struggle.

The tough schedule added to the painfully narrow conference losses to College of Charleston (70-72) and East Tennessee State (68-72) go

someway to explaining such a disappointing run.

Although the Spartans may be a little disappointed with their 5-10 record to date there have been some valuable contributions. The emergence of the Burrell has been a tonic for all UNCG fans. The 6-8 junior has averaged over 14 points while adding seven rebounds a game. Burrell inspired UNCG to a 74-61 victory over conference rival Appalachian State on Saturday with his fourth double-double of the season.

One also can't ignore UNCG captain Jay Joseph, who has continued his rich vein of scoring form this year. Joseph has had seven 20-point games and leads the team with an average of 17 points a game.

The arrival of the new year must yield a change in results if the Spartans are going to take anything out of this season. The team will jump full speed into the heart of their schedule, with the next ten games all being against conference rivals.

However disappointing the start of the season may have been, the remainder of January and February are critical months for the Spartans in their preparations for the Southern Conference tournament which is slated for March 3-6 in Charleston, SC.

The men's next home game will tip off Saturday, January 24th in the Fleming Gym, where the Spartans will be in action against the Citadel. A win there may be exactly what the Spartans need to get back on track.



UNCG SPORTS INFORMATION

Jay Joseph, top scorer for the Spartans, driving towards the hoop. The Spartans are struggling to distance themselves from last year's dismal season.

Auditions

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Winston-Salem

Information Session

January 30, 2004
Wake Forest University
Department of Theatre & Dance
204 Scales Fine Arts Center
Winston-Salem, NC
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Audition

February 1, 2004
Wake Forest University
Department of Theatre & Dance
10:00 am • Dancers
12:00 pm • Singers

For more information, including audition requirements, call the Audition Hotline at (407) 397-3299 or visit www.disneyauditions.com. Please check the audition listing carefully.

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Style and substance

In "Big Fish" Tim Burton takes on a new Jack Tale with his signature look

Ben Kaufher
Staff Writer

Tim Burton is widely known for the dark, fantastic nature of his films. From "Edward Scissorhands" to "Batman," he has mastered the craft of the creepy. His new film, "Big Fish," uses the Euro-American style of storytelling that spans from Jack the Giant Killer and Paul Bunyan to Forrest Gump. Though the reality of the film is distressingly sappy, its fantasy will keep any Burton fan happy until "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" comes along.

The small pond implied in the title is Ashton, Alabama, and its star is Edward Bloom (played in youth by Ewan McGregor). In true tall tale fashion, Bloom outgrows his surroundings in his youth and must journey to the outside world to find adventures suitable for his overload of ambition. With a large companion, he bypasses paradise, the circus, and war duty to find and keep the love of his life, Sandra (played in youth by Alison Lohman). For the two, it is love at first sight, and Burton stops the motion in an entire circus tent as the young Bloom walks through



Ewan McGregor stops time in the visually stunning tall-tale "Big Fish."

hoops and pushes popcorn out of the way to get a better view.

These yarns of witches, giants, and werewolves are framed by Bloom's distressing old-age slide into cancer and by his estranged son's (a naïve Billy Crudup) search for authenticity in the fiction of his life story. Though the actual truth is never fully divulged—history is, after all, just a story—this inanimate battle resolves itself nonetheless.

This back-and-forth narrative between the fantasy events of Bloom's young life and the grounded reality of his old age (played by Albert Finney) give the film a wide range. Those who enjoyed the easy emotional reaches of, say, "Tuesdays with Morrie" will be touched by Bloom's illness and good heart. The fairy tales will satisfy those who just want to see a good Tim Burton movie.

With his signature wide smile, McGregor plays the young Bloom to charming perfection. The well-rounded supporting cast (Lohman, Jessica Lange, Helena Bonham Carter, Robert Guillaume, Steve Buscemi, Danny DeVito) give the film's more unbelievable moments a human touch. Carter in particular steps into three separate roles, barely recognizable as the pinch-faced witch of Bloom's youth.

Burton's directing and the cinematography of Phillipe Rousselot creates beauty in every frame of "Big Fish." The lighting is always moody and interesting; the specificity of detail tells so much more than just the larger story. Jokes and self-reference also abound. Bloom reads an "English to Asian" dictionary during his stint in the Korean War, and the brief "Dueling Banjos" is played by Billy Redden, of "Deliverance" fame.

Though the film excels in its category, Burton seems most at home (and most successful) with stories of dark characters with soft sides who are at odds with the outside world. Bloom lives on the sunny side of the street, even when he has to imagine the light. Though "Big Fish" certainly surpasses the catastrophe of "Planet of the Apes," it is not as firmly within Burton's brilliant style as is "Beetlejuice" or even "The Nightmare before Christmas." Because of this, however, it is guaranteed wide appeal and success.

"Big Fish" plays at the Carousel Grande Cinema daily at 1:15, 2:15, 3:45, 4:45, 6:15, 7:15, 8:45 and 9:45.

The Rosebuds rock out

Raleigh trio brings the pop-rock to Ace's Basement.

Rae Marcus
Staff Writer

The Rosebuds' single "Back to Boston," which is getting regular airplay on WUAG, is a two-and-a-half minute architecturally perfect pop song about love lost and regained. Like the other ten tracks on "Makeout," the band's debut disc, "Boston" is tightly woven and not a second longer than it should be.

Signed to Chapel Hill's Merge Records, home to such indie stalwarts as Superchunk, Spoon, Imperial Teen and Neutral Milk Hotel, The Rosebuds' pop sound is one of few in music today that is backed up by solid songwriting and musicianship.

The Rosebuds played Ace's Basement (2428 High Point Road, about a block past the Coliseum) last Thursday night in a show cosponsored by Gate City Noise. The best thing about the independent music scene in Greensboro is that there are some very loyal, devoted people who are willing to check out new bands and venues. The bad news, though, is that this is a pretty small group. It's unfortunate to see a great local band with a lot of talent and potential have to play to a small crowd. The audience was almost familial. Most of the people knew each other and stopped between songs to catch up with friends and say hello.

"We love playing Greensboro,"



Two-thirds of The Rosebuds.

bassist Kelly Crisp told the audience warmly. "You guys are always so nice to us."

The scene was made up of lots of couples in unisex hipster gear and people sporting variations of a Jack White haircut. Bottles of Red Stripe and Pabst Blue Ribbon littered the area. Ace's Basement, which really is in the basement of a former motel, has red walls and the kind of lighting that would have made 1970's era CBGBs proud.

Singer/guitarist Ivan Howard (also known as Ivan Rosebud) later announced that the band didn't have a set list. They nailed a rendition of "Kicks in the Schoolyard," a rollicking, frenetic song that balanced out the more melodic musings of "Back to Boston." Howard also did a geekier version of a David Lee Roth-esque kick, prompting a few audience

members to shout out "More scissor kicks!" during other upbeat songs.

As pop musicians, the Rosebuds run the risk of relying too heavily on catchy hooks. With song lyrics like "I believe in rock and roll" and a winsomely-delivered "I fell in love," they manage to walk the fine line between wide-eyed earnestness and serious musicianship without coming off as corny. Their songs expose them as people who spend way too much time hanging out at record stores and making screen-printed T-shirts. Their album's liner notes credit both Howard and Crisp as providing "hand claps" for songs, and there are also unabashed additions of the synthesizer and a sexily played tambourine.

Simply labeling them as pop fails to capture the layers of effort and meaning the trio puts into each of

their songs, breaking each one down into a well-constructed three minute whole. A motif of disillusionment with other people comes through, specifically those who have low self-esteem: "Drunkard's Worst Nightmare" is a bittersweet description of a love-starved girl who uses alcohol and sex to ease her aching; "Make Out Song" has a lover wishing he could see the real face beneath his girlfriend's makeup as he tells her "true love is more than a make out song." Good pop songs can highlight sadness and negative emotion by playing them against upbeat melodies, and that is clearly what the Rosebuds are doing here.

The track "My Downtown Friends" sounded poignant that night, lyrics about a hipster who hangs out downtown with his cool friends and gets into places for free mirroring the lifestyles of those in the audience. Between songs, the band also shared

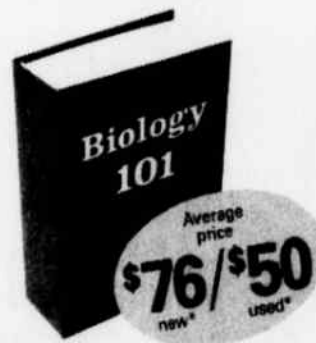
anecdotes, including one about a girl who followed them through six states of touring because she thought that she and drummer Billy Alphin were meant to be together.

The band took advantage of the intimacy of Ace's Basement, playing a personal, low-key and dynamic set that blistered for about forty-five minutes. At the end of the show, everyone still found themselves, of course, wanting more.

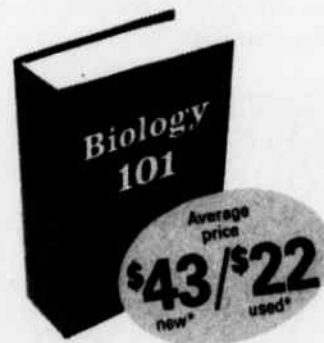
For more information on the band:
www.therosebuds.com

And the venue:
www.acesbasement.com

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Seaching for hipper strippers



Neurotica

It was already after midnight when my friend Chris asked if I wanted to go to a strip club.

John Russell

A&E Editor

"I think it would be fun with you,"

he said.

We'd just done dinner and a movie and on a Monday night in Greensboro there wasn't much else to do. Although I was hesitant about venturing into such a hetero environment with a guy I had sorta dated, I was still up for some fun.

We headed across town to Chester's, a club off of High Point Road just down from Four Seasons Mall. A friendly middle aged woman greeted us from a little window in the lobby.

"First visit's \$10," she told us. "Then it's \$5 every night for a year."

The club was lit by pink and purple florescent lights, giving the whole place a dim rosy glow. A catwalk stretched out from the far wall, ending in a small set of steps where people could get up close and personal with the dancers, keeping their hands on the railings at all times.

Chris and I bought drinks and headed for a banquette in the back of the club, close to the stage. I was expecting blond, big-boobed Pam Anderson look-alikes, but was pleasantly surprised. Almost as soon as we sat down, a small dark haired woman took the stage. She wore a long, sheer-black dress, knee-high combat boots and black, horn-rimmed glasses. Her breasts were small and perky, her skin milky pale except for a few tattoos and piercings, the only body modification I care to see.

Besides being an emo-boy's wet dream, this girl was an awesome performer. She worked the pole in the middle of the stage, wrapping herself around it, climbing up and shimmying down. The fact that her second song was Pat Benetar's "We Belong" had me head over heels for this girl.

The rest of the girls were pretty standard stripper fare. They were all beautiful women with natural bodies (FYI: silicon is not sexy), but none were particularly noteworthy. None

had the enthusiasm or showwoman-ship the goth-girl did. Believe me, there are few things less erotic than a bored stripper.

One girl in particular gave me the yawns. She was a tall black woman in a skimpy tube dress and platform heels. Maybe it was the shoes, but all she really did was shuffle around the stage and fondle her breasts. Her performance reminded me of a colt learning to walk and was about as erotic. She scored points, however, when she looked right at me and shouted saucily, "You could at least smile!"

In that moment she became more than just a passive object. She was asserting her own authority over the situation, resisting our objectifying gaze. Whether she realized it or not, I'd say that was a pretty feminist move.

I couldn't help but notice that Chris and I weren't getting much attention. The girls who weren't dancing strutted around the club, chit-chatting with the clientele, trying to entice them into the VIP lounge. I'm pretty sure they could tell we were more interested in talking about their shoes than ogling their tits.

Surprisingly, there was very little stripping going on at Chester's. The ladies pranced around in next to nothing for their first song, disappeared backstage and reappeared in panties and heels for their second. I never saw a single garment being removed. The whole "striptease" element was missing. Sure naked women are sexy, but it's so much more fun when they taunt you, slowly unveiling their bodies, delaying the moment until you're begging for it.

I can't say that my queer-boy, feminist feathers weren't ruffled a little that night. The whole nudie-bar vibe of men as providers, objectifiers, controllers was a bit off-putting.

In general, though, I like to think of stripping as radical performance art in the same vein as drag. Like their gender bending sisters, strippers perform exaggerated, stylized femininity. Both have so much potential for creative gender expression, parody and disseminating radical ideas. Stripping does not have to be a sexist, objectifying institution. All we need is a few truly hip strippers to raise the bar.

Weatherspoon showcases female artists with varying styles

Artists combine sculpture, drawing, and computer design in diverse exhibits.

Josh Barrer

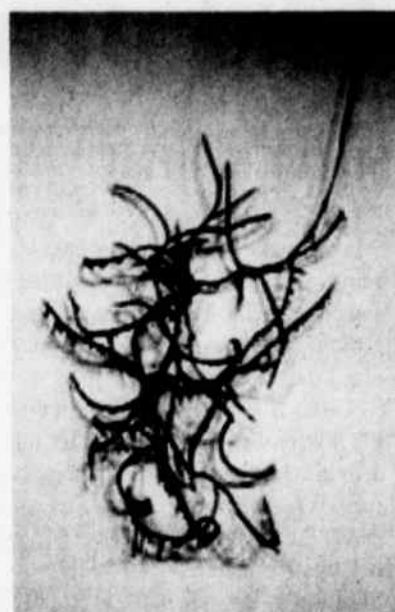
Staff Writer

To kick off a new year of exhibits, the Weatherspoon Art Museum is prominently featuring two exhibits by contemporary female artists. Gender and an affinity for the abstract, however, are all visiting artist Sally Elesby and famed sixties' modern artist Eva Hesse have in common.

Elesby's work, featured in the Falk Gallery as part of the museum's visiting artist series, utilizes a variety of different mediums to create modern, abstract art with varying degrees of success. Described as being "mid-career," Elesby's exhibit gives the impression of an artist who is yet to find her particular niche.

Several of her works are sculptures made from wire, oil, and colored glue. These pieces bend around the museum's walls, and are the most immediately impressive works in the exhibit. The best of these sculptures is a piece that resembles a broken tree branch covered in an orange-brown fungus. The piece gives the impression of being somehow contagious.

Elesby also makes use of computers in her work. Two pieces use computer design and layering techniques



A wall relief from the Sally Elesby exhibit.

to create elaborate tapestries of color that, from afar, resemble red and tan fields.

The rest of her computer designs, however, are uninspiring. A vast portion of the exhibit is comprised of the "Hand to Mouse" series, a group of computer line drawings that at first look like the framed doodling of a kindergartener. Upon closer inspection, the tiny designs are actually quite detailed, but the impression of looking at a child's rendition of trains and insects is tough to shake.

Elesby also has several traditional medium paintings and drawing, but these are also unremarkable, especially when compared with the works

of Eva Hesse.

"Drawings by Eva Hesse" features the artist's various works from the museum's permanent collection are. The exhibit, however, features not only drawings, but paintings and collages. In fact, throughout the exhibit, the line between painting and drawing is blurred. Many of Hesse's drawings feature thick lines and bold swathes of shading that make them resemble paintings, and several works feature both painting and drawing.

Unlike Elesby, who seems to be experimenting with different techniques with no real purpose or defining style, Hesse is able to work in a variety of different styles while maintaining a distinct personality. Her work reflects the modern world. Ink washes and drawings create images that resemble radios and gasoline pumps, yet somehow are not radios and gasoline pumps. Hesse's work unites into an interesting and satisfying exhibit.

Weatherspoon Events

Sally Elesby: Falk Visiting Artist

January 11 - February 29

Drawings by Eva Hesse
October 5 2003 - February 1

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Commentaries and letters may be submitted by mail to the Opinions Editor in The Carolinian office, 236 Elliott University Center, or e-mailed to the_carolinian@hotmail.com. They must be turned in by Friday at 5 p.m. for the next Thursday's edition. Submissions should be no more than 250 words and may be shortened due to space limitations. No unsigned submissions will be accepted for publication. All submissions come under possession of The Carolinian. The opinions expressed in the Opinions section of The Carolinian do not necessarily represent the official views of The Carolinian, nor the views of its staff.

OPINIONS

Coming Next Issue

Your Letters to the Editor.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2004 | PAGE 6

Good principle, bad practice

Staff Editorial

In the wake of Demonte' Pridgen's removal from SGA, some are shouting for special elections early next month to fill the vice president's slot. Are they right?

Theirs is a good argument (in theory): why indeed should we let Ian Jenkins, Pridgen's appointed temporary replacement, finish the term when he wasn't elected? Shouldn't the vice president, who basically runs SGA meetings, be someone the student body picks?

Yes and no. Ideally, that's how it should be; that's why we have elections in the first place. But because Pridgen was axed so late in the school year, we recommend Jenkins stay in office until normal elections in April.

The best reason is because it's simple. While the SGA constitution makes allowance for special elections, they are by no means required. What's more, the constitution doesn't outline any procedures for such elections, so the SGA elections committee would have to fly the whole thing by the seat of their pants, with no help from anyone else.

But the the real losers in special elections would be UNCG students. Hardly anyone votes in April anyhow; how many more students would vote in an ad-hoc election next month? It would also be hard for candidates to campaign with so little time, and the result would likely be an elected but unknown vice president.

Then there's money and time. Elections are not free, nor are they instantaneous. Student groups have

a hard enough time getting the funds they need without special requests for election funding. Moreover, we know the SGA folks, and not many of them have time to embark on quixotic crusades to satisfy constitutional whims. The fact remains: why undertake special elections when nothing is to be gained?

But enough hot air. What if this has happened before? Do we have a precedent for such an idea, something we could point to and learn from?

We do. In Sept. 1996 special elections were held for the vice president and freshman delegates.

How did students react to hastily planned elections? They didn't - hardly anyone voted.

"Many freshmen came to the booth," said one delegate, "but (they) changed their minds when they realized they knew none of the candidates."

The evidence speaks for itself. The SGA should let Jenkins serve as vice president, a perfectly legal decision, until normal elections, when candidates can campaign properly.

And let's not forget Jenkins himself. Those who call for the elections are second-guessing him, which is the last thing he needs. Vice president is not an easy office to fill, and the first few meetings with a new one are bound to be rough, as Tuesday's was.

We regret to see Pridgen leave under such unfortunate circumstances, but we wish Ian Jenkins and the rest of SGA well this semester. If it's anything like the last one, we have a lot to look forward to.

Letters to the Editor

Okla knows socialism

Okla Elliot's article on Socialism is the best thing I have ever read in the Carolinian. When I announce my socialist tendencies (even though I am politically a Green), many people tend to have knee-jerk reactions based on McCarthiest propaganda.

I have lived in Germany, am engaged to a Parisian, and have been to several other functioning "market socialist" countries. It makes me sad when I debate with the UNCG socialists who tell me that these are not socialist countries. It makes me sad when I hear them spouting out ideals that are totally outdated. The

concept of the industrial workers rallying together to overthrow the capitalist bosses is totally outdated and doesn't apply to today's world. We live in an economy dominated by service workers, and there is no need for violent revolution. However, socialism could give this wonderful country of ours guaranteed health care, and a better standard of living for the average person.

Thanks,

Breckenridge Cartwright
(Senior, International Business & German)

Textbook buyback: a bona fide rip-off

Dear Editor,

It's the start of a New Year, and what better way to kick it off than to make a New Year's resolution? The question is, "What would we like to improve for the coming year?" Answer this, set a goal, and we're on a quest for a better future. Hopefully, like a chivalrous knight, our cause is worthy and our will is strong enough to overcome the obstacles we may face.

As an alumnus, current student, and parent of a UNC-G student, I have an interest in this University on many levels. Annually, I pay my Alumni fee and more recently my personal fees for tuition and books. I am helping to pay for my son's tuition, room and board, and books. That is quite a bit of money to the University. I don't have any problem with this: UNCG is an excellent school, and the education is well worth it. However, I would like to see improvement in one area that could affect many students and parents in a financially positive way.

The buyback policy of the University book store seems inadequate. After my first semester I tried to sell a book which cost me approximately \$75.00 and was offered \$4.00 by the book store. I had purchased this book as new and rarely used it since it was an optional text. Naturally, because the book was in "like new" condition, I expected a better return on my investment. I still have the book. Last semester I spent approximately \$300.00 on my son's freshman textbooks. He was only able to negotiate a \$28.00 buy back from the book store for most of the books. In need of money but not willing to be completely victimized, he kept a few as well.

Each semester students dutifully make the journey to the University book store with their long list of required texts. If my experience is representative of the larger student/parent population, everyone

leaves astounded by the high prices and the low rate of return on used texts even after having read, "How Textbooks are Priced," by Barnes & Noble College Bookstores, Inc. Since the book store is an independent company, Barnes & Noble, University administration may have limited jurisdiction over their buy back policy, aside from re-competing their subcontract for managing this University business operation.

This is something that should be investigated in the weeks to come. In the meantime, there may be other long-term remedies to this problem that could also be explored by a few for the benefit of the many. I'm certainly willing to spend some time on it since I may benefit in the end.

Surely, there are students like myself and my son who would have sold their texts if the buy back prices were fair and reasonable and students who would prefer a \$40.00 used text over a \$75.00 new one.

The course of action for students is to establish either a physical or e-marketplace to link the supply with the demand. I have seen individual students trying to sell their text books in classrooms the first week of class - a valiant effort. There could be a better way. In fact, if there is already a University or student run book trading day at the EUC or an established web page please let us know by publicizing it well in the Carolinian. If not, then surely there are some business majors or others out there who would stand to benefit from "operationalizing" this idea on either a for-profit or not-for-profit basis. Bryan School of Business Professors: what a worthwhile class project. The first step is to find a Project Manager and champion for "Operation Buy Back." If anyone is interested in the position of "hero" please email me at lftshaw@uncg.edu and I'll do my part to help get this off the ground.

Happy New Year!

Linda T. Shaw

You can submit letters to the editor four ways:

- 1) Email your letter to the_carolinian@hotmail.com
- 2) Mail it to Box B7 EUC, UNCG, Greensboro, NC 27412
- 3) Submit it online at www.carolinianonline.com
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Is your mother wondering what goes on at your school?

Send her to
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...and tell her we said hello.

"Is this Heaven?"
"No, it's Iowa."



OUT OF MY HEAD

Joe Killian
Managing Editor

And then there was Iowa.

As I write this the shock and awe that was the Iowa Democratic Caucus is still ringing in the ears of political junkies everywhere - and it seems to me the best recent example of how and why these things do matter. Things I said three weeks ago - that Kerry's campaign was coming apart at the seams, that John Edwards was pretty and speaks well but isn't a real factor, that Howard Dean probably had the nomination sewn up and would be our sacrificial lamb against the Bush juggernaut...it all seems from another world today.

Iowa is the first proving ground of elect ability - where campaigns go into overdrive, put under the microscope so that we can see all of their strengths and weaknesses with startling clarity. Howard Dean, whose large war chest and legion of youthful anti-war followers made him seem inevitable just weeks ago, crashed and burned there - finishing a distant third behind Kerry and Edwards, who were considered Junior Varsity just a few weeks ago.

I haven't been able to get on the Dean train, like so many of my friends. In person I'm told he's passionate, inspiring, just the sort of candidate who can bring the fight to the Republicans on their own terms. But each time I see him he reminds me of everyone's father before a grounding: awkward, seething, prone to dramatic, over the top statements and actions. I wonder if it's cynicism or

practicality that just makes me feel he's just not electable.

So why, after Dean's disgrace in Iowa, am I feeling pangs of guilt?

The truth is I'm probably politically closest to Dean. Kerry and Edwards both voted for the war in Iraq and I was with Dean - against it, though my father was on the ground there. I'm for gay marriage. I think our foreign policy has squandered the sympathy and goodwill the world felt for America after 9/11. I feel like our domestic policy is squandering the sympathy and goodwill that Americans feel for America. So what's my problem? I wonder if it's cynicism or practicality that just makes me feel he's just not electable.

In the end, it doesn't matter to me who the democratic candidate is. I'd vote for Gary Coleman if they put him head to head against George W. Bush. Voting Democrat this time

around is going to give me the sort of thrill you usually only get out of beating your enemies senseless and leaving them to die on some dark, abandoned road. My first presidential vote - and the first vote for most of my generation - was for Al Gore in 2000. Gore had the votes, but lost the White House - just the sort of smack in the face my generation didn't need from the democratic process. Those of us who weren't completely turned off to the process after 2000 are out for revenge...but among this rather uninspiring line-up of Democratic challengers, many of us are having a hard time finding the guy we think can give it to us.

Iowa, and all of the primaries, are really there to cull the weak and leave us with a few viable candidates. In a way it's done that - Gephardt and Carol Mosley Braun are out of the way. But I'm beginning to feel that

the party people inexplicably and dramatically backing away from Dean may have less to do with Dean and more to do with the perception of Dean - an unelectable sort of "latte drinking, sushi eating, Volvo driving, New York Times reading" liberal, as a recent political ad would have it.

But for all our cynicism and trepidation, is backing away from Dean a step toward finding an electable candidate, or simply a step away from who we are as Democrats? Do we want to win more badly than we want to make the right argument? And when did we decide we can't have both?

Disagree with Joe?

Join the club.

Send us a letter to the editor.

Voting is a Civic Duty



My
Humble
Opinion

Okla Elliott
Staff Writer

This semester begins the 2004 election year, and I can't help but think how poor the voter turnout is among Americans aged 18-26. In an attempt to change that unfortunate fact, I have been hosting voter registration events (live music, parties, etc.) and have been encouraging others to do the same. I've gotten 83 people registered to vote so far (my goal is 500), and most of those plan on voting a straight Democratic ticket.

I usually frown on that practice, suggesting instead that people do extensive research into each candidate before voting, but this November I think I may be voting a straight ticket for the first time in my life.

It is so important to get Bush out of office if you care anything about college tuition hikes (of which UNCG promises us there will be more next year); or if you care about the environment or the cancers and breathing disorders caused by pollution; or if you think workers should be represented as much as big businesses are; or if you think that falsified evidence is a bad reason to send US soldiers to their deaths."

done so much for the arts in Guilford County and the state of NC in general. He's up for re-election this November, and I plan to vote for him for a list of reasons, but his support for education and the arts is high on that list, as is his commitment to working families and the environment.

I want to see every possible voter registered. My love for democracy is greater than my love for any one candidate, so I would even rather see someone vote for a candidate I didn't like than to not vote at all. Democracy only works if we take part in it.

UNCG groups like the English Society, the Philosophy Club, the UNCG chapter of Amnesty International, and other such organizations should start bringing registration forms to meetings. The forms are available at the Jackson Library near the Reference Department. Just grab a stack and bring them to your meetings. There's no need to even ask what political party the members prefer. Registering to vote is a politically neutral act. Let your members decide what they believe on their own. Just be sure your registration is up to date, and be sure you're registered here where you live to make voting as easy as possible. And be sure to vote.

than rightwing votes.

But I also have to remind myself that many liberals fail to vote at all. We tend to have more people registered but fewer who show up to the polls. I am therefore urging every student organization to host voter registration events, and to form an email list to contact people to remind them to carpool with friends and/or family members to the polls in November. There are dozens of ways to get people registered and to get them informed about the sad direction the Bushites are taking our country.

Last semester Ashanti White made registration forms available at a poetry slam event here at UNCG and was able to get 45 people registered to vote, and she has two more such events planned this semester. Look for flyers advertising the events and bring a friend. I applaud Ashanti's efforts, but one person cannot—no matter how Herculean her efforts—do all of the work herself.

Every writer, musician, filmmaker, dancer, student, actor, and painter has a vested interest in electing Democrats to office. Our local elected official in the US House of Representatives, Brad Miller, has

done so much for the arts in Guilford County and the state of NC in general. He's up for re-election this November, and I plan to vote for him for a list of reasons, but his support for education and the arts is high on that list, as is his commitment to working families and the environment.

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Agree with Okla? Think he's a pompous windbag?
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<http://www.carolinianonline.com>

My Damn Vagina



Token
Vagina

Rae Marcus
Staff Writer

The opinions section editor (basically, the guy who provided me this forum) told me when I started that I wouldn't be a full-fledged staff member until I got hate mail. Every week, I get an email from the same person (who refuses to give his name) stating that my column is "obscene" and that he is "sick of hearing about my damn vagina." The title of my column, as you can obviously see, is Token Vagina. However, until today (thanks for the idea, dude) I have never actually written about my vagina, or anyone else's. What I have written about are

issues that face women today in the world, on this campus, and in my apartment.

When thinking about names for my weekly piece, I wanted something cheeky that would reflect my status as the opinions section's only female columnist. However, why choose the "Token Vagina" over "Token Woman" or, as my forward-thinking friend Bunny suggested, "Token Clitoris"? For one thing, the word "vagina" gets people to pay attention. When Eve Ensler's play "The Vagina Monologues" was first opening in New York, she got a giant promotional billboard that simply had the word VAGINA printed on it in all capital letters. The billboard caused a huge stir. Why? Vagina is the name for a body part; it isn't a euphemism or slang word like "pussy" or "twat." George Orwell has written a lot of very humorous



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This is who the Graham Building is Named After?



Straight
Shooting

Jason
Crawford
Staff Writer

Up in the state of Virginia, there is a dispute currently brewing about whether the name of a public school in Hampton should continue to be named "Jefferson Davis Middle School." Apparently among the former confederate states here in the South, there are still five schools so named along with an even larger number that retain the names of other prominent Confederate war leaders. Some people are upset by this, and maybe rightly so: many of these schools received their names during the 1950s and 1960s, just as the controversy over segregation was getting hot. Regardless of how you feel, Virginians will have to settle that question amongst themselves.

But while we are thankfully Confederacy-free, we have our own naming issue here at UNCG. The problem here is our political science building, which is named after a gentleman named Frank Porter Graham. Some of the letters have fallen off the front of the building, and most students, if they even care, are probably clueless as to who he actually was. But who Graham was and what he stood for in his time is important, and maybe a little like Jefferson Davis, what he contributed to American politics may leave you wondering what would motivate anybody to put his name on anything.

But before getting into who Frank Porter Graham was, what might be most surprising is who he was not. Since his name is there on the front of the political science building, you might reasonably expect that Graham was a successful North Carolina politician that had strong ties to UNCG. You would be wrong on both counts. Graham never took

or taught a class at our school, and was already long past his prime when it began admitting male students. Even more ironic is the fact that Graham was in no way a success in the field his building is supposed to be instructing you about. Graham never won a major election, as his single attempt at the whole democracy thing in 1950 was marked by total disaster.

So once again, why is this guy on the front of a political science building? This seems unbelievable, but the answer to that may sound a bit similar to the reason why some southerners chose to name schools in the segregated South after Confederate war heroes. Graham himself was as far away from being a Confederate as you can imagine and there is no comparison there. Yet like Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee, he fell on the wrong side of the biggest issues of his time. Also like the Confederate leaders, a small minority of fervent supporters has worked tirelessly to pump up his legacy despite a life that could really be described as a series of embarrassing snafus. From the political science perspective, that all began after the death of a North Carolina senator left a seat vacant in 1949, as Graham was appointed by the governor to serve in the U.S. Senate. But when the opportunity arrived for him to be properly elected the following year, North Carolina citizens turned him out — for the same reasons they probably would do so again today.

Graham, whose ties were really to Chapel Hill and not Greensboro, held views that were way out of the mainstream and went well beyond strong support for racial integration. In 1932, he wrote in a letter to a friend that, "America is in no danger from fascism, Communism, or any other ism." This was, of course, only moments before the rise of the fascist and genocidal Hitler, who alone claimed millions of lives, not the least of whom were some American servicemen. But like too many other

misguided intellectuals of the time, it was one of those other "isms" Graham had a peculiar affinity for as he fraternized with groups well-known as front-organizations attempting to bring Communism to this country. And Graham was no innocent victim of McCarthy-like hysteria either, as he openly sympathized with a political system that at the same time was extinguishing millions of lives under the policies of Mao and Stalin alone. Today few would argue that the specters of Nazism and Communism were the greatest threats not only to America during the twentieth century, but to the whole world. His far left positions in the 1950 senate primary against fellow Democrat Willis Smith caused his own party to engage in the embarrassing process of rejecting an established incumbent. Wonder what Graham would think of the war against that "ism" of terror that Americans largely support right now?

What Graham was responsible for here was the creation of the beginnings of the UNC system, and that is his tie to our school. Graham forged the link that bound the N.C. College for Women in Greensboro to UNC Chapel Hill, as it did the State College in Raleigh as well. Graham was also appointed by FDR, Truman, and the United Nations, serving as a hack for liberal Democrats on various committees. But when it came to facing the voters, North Carolinians were less than excited about his idea of representation.

But even if his soft views on totalitarianism are forgivable, it is impossible to deny that Graham's electoral achievements were meager. If a building is named after someone, shouldn't it be required that they not have flunked the corresponding subject? Graham did make contributions to education, but that is not the building his name is on. Maybe we should be thankful the Bryan School of Business and Economics is not named after Herbert Hoover.

pieces about linguistics, and he points out that euphemisms are a way of taking power away from a word. Euphemisms make the vagina into something that is so vulgar its real name cannot be used; it is something that has only a sexual purpose. The implications of female sexuality run deep. Most of the people who complained about the billboard were women.

What is it about our own sexuality, even our own sexual organs, that scares us? I know a dozen women who, though they have been sexually active for years, have never looked at themselves naked in a mirror. I know many women who cannot reach orgasm with a partner but refuse to masturbate because they think it is "disgusting."

The funniest bit of feedback I have gotten lately was a few weeks ago, while having my annual check-up. I was on the examining table, feet in the stirrups, when my gynecologist said: "hey, by the way, I like your column." Later, after I was

dressed again, she told me about how she had come of age in the sixties, when women were given mirrors and speculums and told to look at themselves. She says that for every college-age woman who gets regular gynecological exams, an estimated two or three have never been to any kind of women's health facility. Some are too afraid, for moral or religious reasons, to request birth control lest their family or friends find out. Some "know" that they don't have an STD or are too scared to find out if they do. Still others engage in risky sexual practices and think that their behavior might be condemned. I was fortunate enough to have been enrolled in a women's studies class that told us, step-by-step, what to expect in a gynecological appointment. Just as a woman with an ear infection would rush to the doctor to get a prescription, a woman should be focused on maintaining her sexual health as well.

The reason I choose to use the word vagina in the title of my col-

umn is that, for my entire life, I will always be looked at and judged in terms of my vaginal status: whether I have children, whether I want to get an abortion, whether I use contraception, whether the people in sexual contact with my vagina are men or women. More so than the physical manifestations of the word, the vagina to me represents a larger sphere in which a woman is her body, in which a woman's sex is never separate from her gender. As long as there are women who let other people touch their bodies but won't do it themselves, sex (a physical, literal body) and gender (a societal set of expected behavior patterns) will never be distinct. So, you're sick of hearing about my damn vagina? I'm sick of having to talk about it, but that's what I'll do until things change.

Let Greensboro know what you call it. Check out our forums at carolinianonline.com.

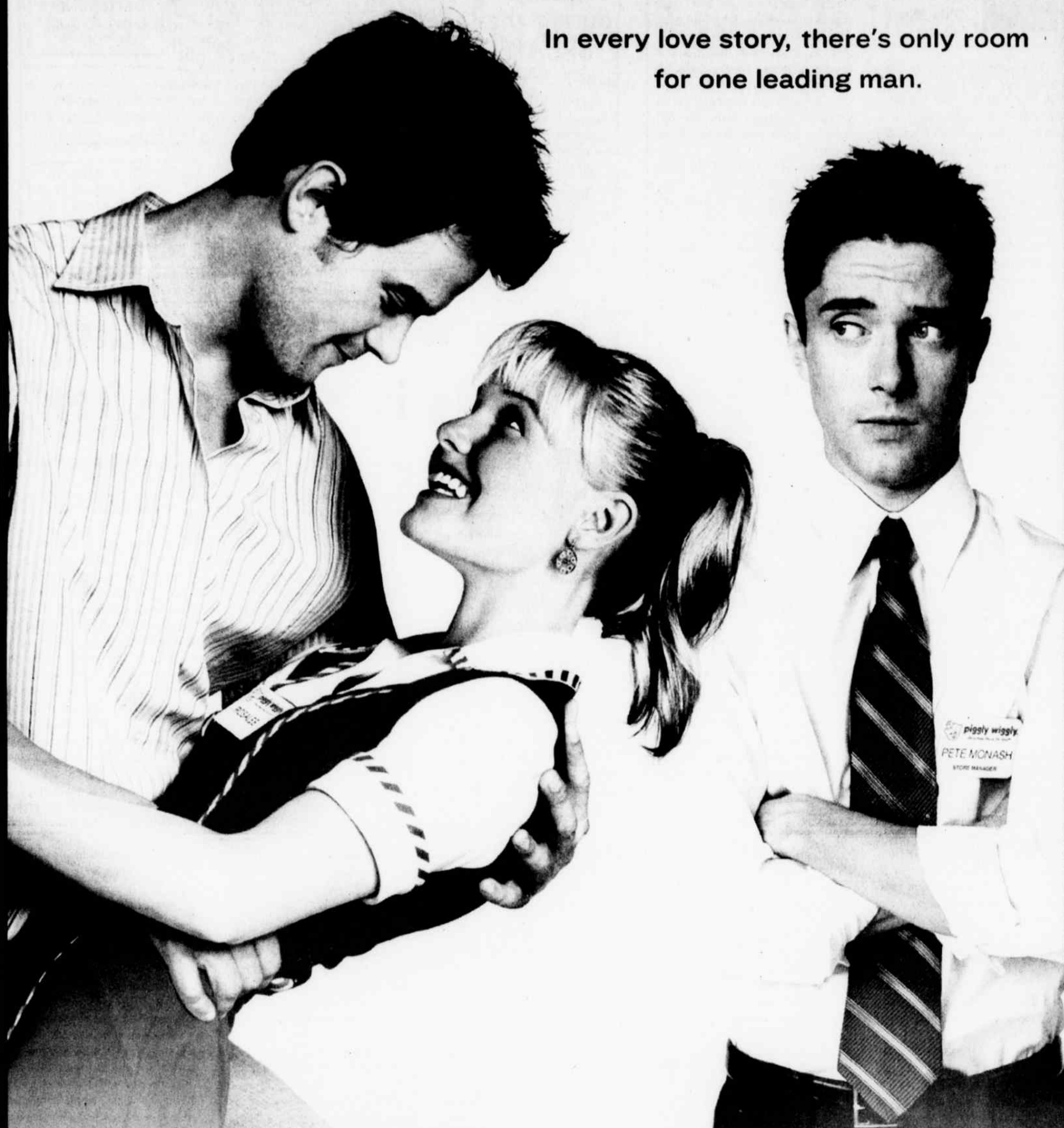
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