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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2004



Students question classes in the snow

Anthony Church
Staff Writer

Between all the slipping and cursing Jan. 27 and 28, many UNCG students and staff found time to criticize the university for holding class right after the year's first snowstorm.

"I think that they should have been better prepared," said Dr. Joseph Rosenblum, an English professor. "I didn't see any fallen objects, and therefore they could have had more people out working on the ice. The front door of the library, for example, was exceptionally bad, and considering that the campus is always concerned with being sued, I'm surprised that they had class."

Many students fell on slippery walkways that hadn't been scraped, and some injured themselves.

"It was fun sliding around, but at the same time, I did see a lot of people fall down," said Jeremiah

Johnson, freshman.

And then there were the roads. Roughly 10,000 of UNCG's 14,000 students commute to school, and the city of Greensboro didn't begin scraping and salting roads until late Tuesday.

"It was sketchy to begin with, considering the road conditions," said Ryan Gibson, freshman. "Many of my friends couldn't even get out of their driveway. Not everyone had a tough time with it, though."

Not all students were opposed to having class last week, especially after the snow and ice began to melt. "The university made the right decision," said student Judy Pullian. "The snow and ice have become slushy now, and it is fairly easy to walk on."

The person who makes that decision is Chancellor Patricia Sullivan. According to her office, she checks weather reports and decides whether

to cancel class by 5 a.m. on the day in question.

"Based on the forecast, we thought a delay was best on Tuesday," said Sullivan on Monday. "The prediction was that by end of the late morning it would start to warm; of course, that didn't happen."

It wasn't an easy decision, she said. "It's no easy task to cancel because we don't want to cause an inconvenience but we also don't want to risk students and faculty," said Sullivan. "It's not always a clear cut process."

In the end, class was held, and many students found time to relax in their free time. Some skipped class anyway, and some simply held onto hopes of a very long weekend.

"I think that they should have just left the snow alone and let it stay until Saturday," said Matthew Watlington, sophomore. "That way I could play more ultimate frisbee and we could all enjoy more time off."



STACEY GREGORY / THE CAROLINIAN

Walking to class proved dicey for many students last Monday and Tuesday. Some complained, but the chancellor defended her choice to keep the university open.

THE PRICE OF CONVENIENCE



STACEY GREGORY / THE CAROLINIAN

Students who shop for groceries at Marketplace in the EUC can pay up to 50% more for certain items than students who shop in local grocery stores. Marketplace manager Pete Mandela explains Marketplace doesn't have the buying power to compete with large grocery chains such as Harris Teeter and Lowes Foods.

Students pay more for groceries on campus

Zack Bridges and
Heather Viano
The Carolinian

Cheerios, Coke, condoms: they're all stocked on the shelves at Marketplace in the EUC. Many students say they like the convenience of having a grocery store on campus, but when the bill is totaled at the register, some change their tune.

The Marketplace, which is part convenience store, part grocery store, can charge up to 50% more for certain items than local Harris Teeter and Lowes Foods Stores. Some students have cars and are able to drive to the local supermarket, but for those who don't, Marketplace is one of few options.

While it may be less expensive to go to the grocery store, the Marketplace provides a convenient place to buy groceries students would otherwise be forced to go off campus for, says Pete Mandela, Marketplace manager.

As far as pricing, prices are set due to the store size and their buying power. "We don't have the buying power of a grocery store, it is like comparing apples to oranges" said Mandela. "It is a convenience store not a Grocery Store; convenience stores have a different price structure than grocery stores." He also said, "Our prices compare on average with other convenience stores in the community and other university stores."

Students acknowledged the store's steep prices, but some said they didn't necessarily mind paying more.

"It is very expensive, but convenient; I would go to the grocery store if it were more convenient," said Akeya Hudson, sophomore.

"I think it is too expensive to pay the same price for a quarter gallon or organic milk than you would for a gallon at a grocery store. I would not usually go through \$725 dollars a semester for food, but here I do," said one senior.

One reason for the higher prices is because Marketplace cannot buy in bulk like a grocery store. To try and stay around the prices as similar stores, the Marketplace takes a snap shot comparison of the prices to make sure that they are not overcharging students.

"We are right on the market with other local convenient stores," said Mandela.

"They're no worse or less than other places; I'd spend that much on gas driving to a grocery store" said Nathan Washburn, junior.

Mandela said, "We are not trying to compete with grocery stores, only other convenience stores in the area. We try to give value to the students."

Mandela added that Marketplace will be starting a delivery service for students to purchase groceries online as long as the order totals \$15.

Mandela said, "we are not trying to compete with grocery stores, only other convenient stores in the area. We try to give value to the students."

Kerry takes five states; Edwards and Clark post first wins

James Kuhnhehn and
Steve Kraske
Knight Ridder Newspapers
(KRT)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Sen. John Kerry marched to victory in five states Tuesday, including top prize Missouri, strengthening his claim to the Democratic presidential nomination. But Sen. John Edwards won in South Carolina, establishing himself as a dogged rival able to undercut Kerry at least in the South.

Retired Gen. Wesley Clark edged out Edwards and Kerry in a dramatic win in Oklahoma, the first election victory of his young political career. But Kerry won big in Missouri, Arizona, Delaware, New Mexico and North Dakota.

Kerry won big in Missouri, Delaware, New Mexico and North Dakota. He also was declared the winner in Arizona.

An exultant Kerry compared himself to Sunday's Super Bowl champs. "For the second time in a few days," he said, "a New England patriot has won on the road."

Tuesday's results dealt a crushing blow to Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, the 2000 vice presidential nominee, who had staked his campaign on the day's contests and, failing to score well anywhere, announced he was bowing out.

"After looking at the returns and speaking with my family and my campaign team, I have decided tonight to end my quest for the presidency of the United States of America," Lieberman told supporters in Arlington, Va. "Am I disappointed? Naturally. But am I proud of what we stood for in this campaign? You bet I am."

Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean virtually ignored Tuesday's primaries and caucuses and didn't score well in any of them.

Dean is staking the fate of his campaign on Saturday's caucuses in Michigan and Washington state. But those states have become increasingly friendly to Kerry; he has the endorsements of both states' Democratic governors and one Michigan poll shows him far ahead.

Continued on page 10

THE OFF-CAMPUS DIFFERENCE



1. Pepsi (2 liter)
Marketplace: \$1.79
Harris Teeter: \$1.49
Lowes Foods: \$1.39

2. Ben and Jerry's (1 pint)
Marketplace: \$3.99
Harris Teeter: \$3.69
Lowes Foods: \$3.59

3. Cheerios (10 oz)
Marketplace: \$4.29
Harris Teeter: \$2.69
Lowes Foods: \$2.65

4. Clorox bleach
Marketplace: \$1.39 (24 oz.)
Harris Teeter: \$1.29 (48 oz.)
Lowes Foods: \$1.05 (48 oz.)

5. Bounty (90 2-ply sheets)
Marketplace: \$2.49
Harris Teeter: \$1.79
Lowes Foods: \$1.79

6. Heinz Ketchup (36 oz.)
Marketplace: \$3.19
Harris Teeter: \$2.49
Lowes Foods: \$2.49

PRICES ACCURATE AS OF 2/1/04

The Weekend Calendar

February 5-7, 2004

-5-

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. "Cosi fan Tutte" Mozart's classic opera presented by the UNCG theater and opera depts. EUC Auditorium. Cost: \$6.00-15.00. Information: 334-4849

-6-

8:00 p.m. Show: Absolut Eden with Barely White. The Blind Tiger, 2115 Walker Ave, Greensboro. Information: 272-9888. 21 and over.

8:00 p.m. Theater: "Debunked." Triad Stage, 232 S. Elm St., Greensboro. \$12.00-37.00. Information: 272-0160.

9:00 p.m. Metal Show. Beyond Glory, Haze Rail, Pathogen, Orphan Soul. Ace's Basement, 2428 High Point Rd., Greensboro. Admission \$5 All Ages.

-7-

8:00 p.m. Animal Shelter benefit show. The Goodtimes, All Astronauts, Des-Ark, Finks, Palagic. Ace's Basement, 2428 High Point Rd., Greensboro. Admission \$6.

9:00 p.m. "Stomp." War Memorial Auditorium, Greensboro Coliseum Complex, 1921 W. Lee St., Greensboro. Cost: \$22.50-37.50. Information: (888) 397-3100; www.Tickets.com

Corrections

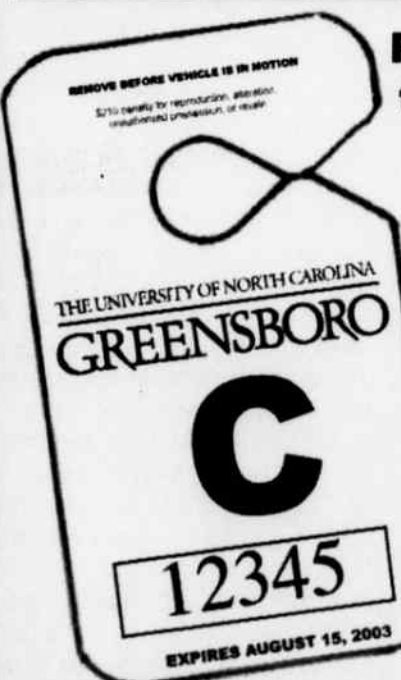
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Two students sued in death of University of Miami student

Lisa Arthur
Knight Ridder Newspapers
(KRT)

Eighteen-year-old Chad Meredith spent the night he died in a way many college students would find typical.

He went to a concert by rapper Ludacris on the University of Miami campus, stopped by a party and then visited the fraternity he hoped to join.

The freshman drank several beers during the all-nighter of socializing. Then Meredith joined a few fraternity brothers for a college prank — a swim before dawn across Lake Osceola on the UM campus. They stripped down to their boxers and entered the chilly water one at a time.

First, fraternity president Travis Montgomery; then another fraternity officer, David May; and, finally, Meredith, a pledge.

Meredith — who was legally drunk with a blood alcohol level of 0.13 — drowned in seven feet of water that morning of Nov. 5, 2001.

This week, Montgomery and May

will be defendants in a wrongful death civil suit accused of negligence for hazing Meredith during the fall semester fraternity rush and failing to rescue him.

If a Miami-Dade County jury rules against them, Meredith's estate could go after the homeowner insurance policies of the two frat brothers' parents, even though they were adults older than 18 and living away from home when the incident happened.

Both defense attorneys admit there is legal precedent in similar cases that would make the homeowner policies vulnerable.

The fraternity's insurance carrier also could be liable, even though Montgomery and May are the only named defendants.

"The case is set up in a rare way," said Don Hardemon, attorney for Montgomery. "The fraternity wasn't incorporated and in Florida, unincorporated entities don't have legal identities. So Travis and David are the only defendants."

Meredith's parents are seeking unspecified damages greater than \$15,000.

The attorney for Meredith's estate, David Bianchi, will try to persuade jurors the swim across Lake Osceola was part of a Kappa Sigma initiation ceremony.

Miami-Dade police declared two days after Meredith's drowning that it

wasn't related to hazing. But during depositions for the civil trial, both Montgomery and May conceded the incident fit the broad definition of hazing outlined by both the fraternity and the university.

Still, they insist in the statements, no one pressured Meredith to make the swim, which wasn't part of an official fraternity event.

"I think you have a tragic case here of three college kids probably making a bad decision to go swimming after drinking," Hardemon said. "But it wasn't hazing."

On Monday, Hardemon and May's attorney, Walter Latimer, will ask Circuit Judge Ronald Friedman to prohibit any mention of hazing in front of the six-person jury.

Bianchi will fight that. Court documents indicate he'll argue that Montgomery and May, as members of the fraternity, had a duty to help Meredith.

"President Montgomery and May also had a duty not to put Chad in harm's way to begin with," said Bianchi.

By all accounts, Meredith was a "cool guy" from Indianapolis with a promising future. He arrived at UM in August 2001, a political science major with aspirations to become a lawyer.

Continued on page 3

Why are textbooks so pricey? Report finds it's the publishers

Andrea Coombes
CBS MarketWatch
(KRT)

SAN FRANCISCO—Visit any college campus bookstore and you'll hear the collective groan over steep textbook prices. Now students have a culprit in whom to aim their anguish.

It's the publishers, according to a report by the Public Interest Research Group, a nonprofit consumer advocacy organization.

Publishers routinely add extra materials and re-issue new editions too often, unnecessarily pushing the price of textbooks higher, according to the report.

Students spent an average of \$898 on textbooks this school year, up from about \$642 in 1997. PIRG surveyed 156 faculty, 521 students and analyzed the most widely assigned textbooks at 10 schools.

Rising prices are due in part to publishers' practice of publishing new, more expensive editions before curriculum changes warrant it, and of bundling other materials such as CD-ROMs with the books.

"Publishers are increasingly using gimmicks that inflate the prices of textbooks, including adding unnecessary bells and whistles and putting new editions on the market without making substantive content changes," said Kate Rube, PIRG's higher education associate.

For their part, publishers claim extensive market research has shown that they provide exactly what professors seek.

"This is faculty-driven," said Judith Platt, spokeswoman with the Association of American Publishers, a trade group representing all types of book publishers.

"Publishers wouldn't be doing it if the market research didn't support it," she said. "This is what professors say they want."

The study finds otherwise, with 56 percent of faculty reporting they rarely or never use the additional course material sold with about half of textbooks.

And 76 percent of faculty said new editions are justified "never" to "half the time," according to the report.

PIRG reviewed five textbooks closely to see how new editions differed from previous ones. In one instance, "Calculus: Early Transcendentals," published by Thomson Learning, the new Edition 5 published in 2003 hardly differed from the number 4, published in 1999, Rube said.

"When you compare these two books, the biggest changes are that a couple of math problems have been added and several of the sections have been rearranged. Edition 5 sells for around \$130. You can get a used copy of Edition 4 for between \$20 and \$90."

But the release of new editions often leads to a dearth of used versions of old editions, Rube said, as campus bookstores stop buying the old edition back from students.

Book publishers say a combination of factors, including high production costs and a limited market, lead to textbook prices.

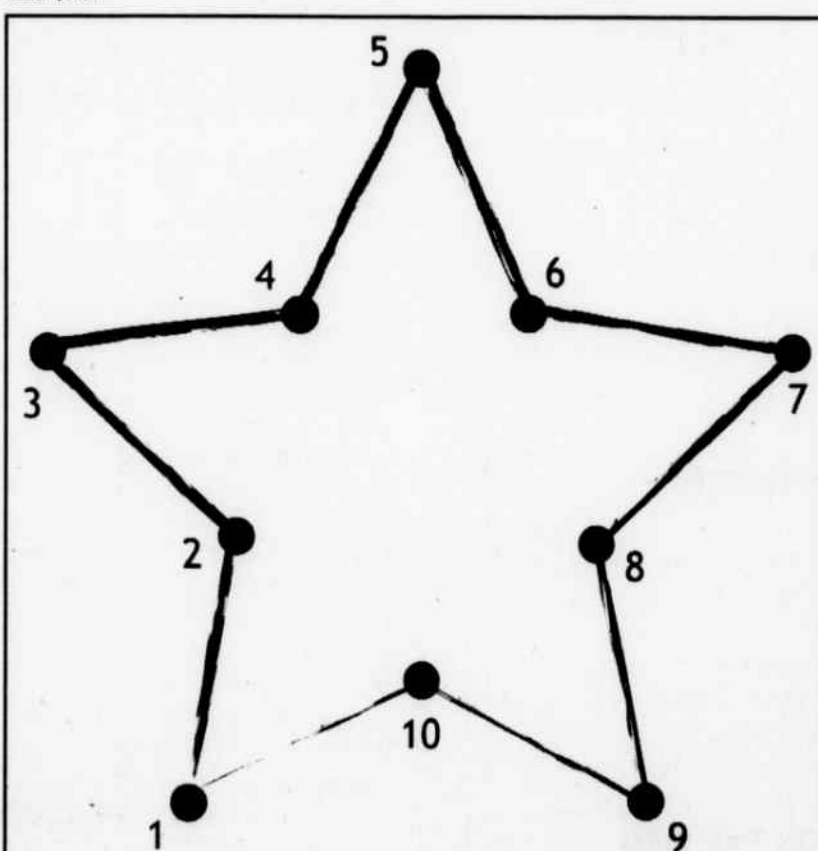
"We're not talking about a mass market Harry Potter, John Grisham audience. It's limited," Platt said.

"It's simple economics. If it costs a great deal in terms of investments and time and resources and the market is by its very nature limited, it's going to be expensive."

Some have argued that limited market is really a captured market, with students having little choice when it comes to buying books, but Platt disagreed.

"There are a wealth of choices already out there," she said. "Publishers offer professors and students a wealth of choices in selecting textbooks and ancillary materials. There's a continuum of price points from the lowest stripped down editions to fully loaded textbooks."

Students unable to find low-cost options should search online, or contact the publisher directly, she said.



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Prof. Emeritus to discuss new book on UNCG history Feb. 9

Steve Gilliam

University News Service

Dr. Allen Trelease spent the last decade writing the history of UNCG's first century, a period that stretches from the founding leadership of President Charles Duncan McIver through the administration of Chancellor William E. Moran.

Just published by Carolina Academic Press, Trelease's 659-page volume is titled "Making North Carolina Literate: The University of North Carolina at Greensboro from Normal School to Metropolitan University." It covers the period 1892-1994.

Trelease will discuss the book at 4:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 9, in the UNCG Alumni House, with a reception and book-signing to follow. The event is free and open to the community, and is sponsored by the Alumni Association and Friends of the Library. The book is available through the UNCG Bookstore (336-334-5563) and costs \$25. There also is a \$6.95 charge for shipping and handling.

Trelease, who retired from UNCG in 1994 as an emeritus professor, wanted to write as definitive a history as possible. For almost a decade, he occupied a regular place in the Special Collections section of Jackson Library. After scouring the chancellors' papers and every other related file, Trelease compiled seven large boxes of copied material.

The book follows the development of the campus through seven chapters that cover periods of approximately 15 years. Recurring topics include administration, academic affairs, faculty, students, alumni, and establishment of the professional schools and the College of Arts and Sciences. Also included are chapters on deseg-



UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

Dr. Allen Trelease's book chronicles UNCG's first 100 years.

regation, the student protests of the 1960s and 1970s, institutional identity, and student life issues of race, gender and residence. The written history is 482 pages, with another 177 pages of chapter notes, bibliography and the index.

"I enjoyed the research and the writing; I even enjoyed doing the index," Trelease said. "But it was a long process. Someone else gets to do the next volume."

The university's mission changes have been substantial over the years, Trelease said, but never lost its focus on providing higher education opportunities for the state.

"Today, UNCG is among many institutions nationally, which are not flagship schools but have very good programs," Trelease said. "Like our creative writing program, or certain programs in physical education or nursing, they draw students from all over the country and around the world."

"At the same time, the great majority of our students come from

communities within driving distance of the campus. So we serve primarily the Triad metropolitan area along with several neighboring counties, and this is an important contribution. We are taking care of students who otherwise would probably not be able to go to an institution of higher education once they get through the community college system. This university is here to serve them and it serves them very well."

Trelease is author of the books, "Indian Affairs in Colonial New York: The Seventeenth Century," "White Terror: The Ku Klux Klan Conspiracy and Southern Reconstruction," and "The North Carolina Railroad, 1849-1871, and the Modernization of North Carolina." He was editor of the UNCG centennial book "Changing Assignments: A Pictorial History of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro." He served as head of the Department of History and is a past president of the Historical Society of North Carolina.

UNCG students produce talk show

Tiffany Aumann

University News Service

Broadcast students at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro will be graded by their professors as well as the Triad community this semester when they launch "UNCG Today," a studio talk show that will debut on commercial television Friday, Jan. 30.

Seniors and graduate students from UNCG's Department of Broadcasting and Cinema will direct the show as part of their Directing for Television course. Their responsibilities will include direction, production, lighting, audio and occasional field interviews. Jim Longworth, host of "Triad Today," will be the on-air personality. Longworth is a 1976 graduate of UNCG and has written "TV Creators," volumes I and II, published by Syracuse University Press.

"We are breaking new ground with this, because it will be a real show, aired on commercial television and produced by a university," Longworth said. "The students will be graded but this is a real product. They are jazzed about it. They want to do well because people will see it. Their names will be on the credits."

The half-hour show will air Fridays from 6 to 6:30 a.m. on ABC 45 (cable channel 7) and from 6:30 to 7 a.m. on WUPN 48 (cable channel 14). The program will be taped Wednesday mornings in the Carmichael Building studio.

The purpose of the show is three-fold, Longworth said. The first goal is to give students real-world experience that will make them successful in the job market. The second mission is to broaden the university's message and finally, to show community members how UNCG is relevant to them.

Topics will include science, the arts, athletics, business, social issues, and distinguished local alumni. They will be chosen on the basis of their accessibility and relevance to the local community. Longworth said he hopes to keep the show fast-paced and have a variety of topics on each show.

"I think people will want to see something like this. There is a hunger for information," Longworth said. "Everything is in the format of someone reading the news. We want to bring back the interactive element to television. You never know exactly what you're getting into with a talk format. Guests are always leading you in a new direction."

The first week's guests will include UNCG basketball coach Fran McCaffery and UNCG alumni Matt Russ and Ann Fitzmaurice-Russ, owners of Tate Street Coffee House.

Currently, 10 students are enrolled in the course. They will rotate positions each week, gaining basic knowledge of each job.

"In order to be a good director, you need to know all of the positions, so you know what to ask for," said Gary Lowell, faculty advisor, UNCG alumnus and former director of Channel 2's "Good Morning Show" with Lee Kinard.

The student directors will also have to face unexpected situations that arise during taping. Because they will have one shot at recording during their class time, it is similar to a live taping. Previously, students in the course produced fake commercials, interviews and cooking segments. They were expected to act as the on-air talent as well as directors, which made many uncomfortable, Lowell said.

"The students have really picked it up quickly," he said. "There's nothing like doing the real thing."

Kathryn Blume Brings One-Woman Show to UNCG Feb. 16

Dan Nonte

University News Service

What do you do if you're one of 40,000 actors in New York, you're struggling with your career, physical problems prevent you from working at your day job, and you're worried about possible war on Iraq? This is the situation actor Kathryn Blume found herself in during the fall of 2002.

The story of how Blume transcended her own problems to create the Lysistrata Project, the first worldwide theater event for peace, is recounted in her one-woman show, "The Accidental Activist." She is bringing her show to UNCG's Brown Building Theatre at 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16. The Office of Service Learning and the American Democracy Project are sponsoring the performance. The Department of Theatre is hosting a talk with Blume at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 16 also in Brown Building Theatre. Both events are free and open to the public.

After only two months of internet organizing, Blume and actor friend Sharron Bower inspired theater companies and numerous individuals to

stage 1,049 readings of "Lysistrata," the Ancient Greek anti-war comedy, in 59 different countries on 6 continents on the same day, March 3, 2003. The international event raised more than \$100,000 for peace-oriented charities.

In a show that's part fact, part fantasy, part caffeine-induced madness, Blume recounts the story of her astonishing inability to save the world. Laced with self-deprecating wit, impossibly optimistic socio-political observations, and deft sketches of determined, defiant women from around the world, "The Accidental Activist" is a lone person's ongoing search for a good reason to get out of bed.

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Lawsuit from page 2

Meredith loved baseball, was close to his family and had a serious girlfriend who attended college in Texas. Friends say he was drawn to UM because of its diversity.

According to court papers, he was drawn to Kappa Sigma in part because of Montgomery, a fellow Indiana native who reached out to him. The two apparently hit it off, with Meredith seeing Montgomery as a role model, according to court documents.

Bianchi will argue that Meredith trusted Montgomery and felt pressured to join him in the swim across the lake. Montgomery told Meredith at the Ludacris concert, "Tonight we swim the lake," according to depositions. And Meredith knew that Montgomery swam the lake when he pledged the fraternity.

After the concert, Meredith went to his dorm to watch part of a World Series game. He called his father around 10 p.m.

Later, he went to a party and then

ended up at the Kappa Sigma house on campus. He left for the swim across the nearby lake with May and Montgomery and with another fraternity member, Timothy Williamson.

Williamson didn't go into the lake. In his deposition, he said he told Meredith, "You don't have to do this." He said Meredith answered that he really wanted to.

As he swam through the wind-whipped water, Meredith started to flail midway across the lake. The last thing his friends heard were his panicked cries: "Help! Help! Help! Help! Help!" Then he slipped beneath the lake's surface.

Montgomery had already finished the swim and was standing on the shore. He ran around the lake trying to see what was happening.

May was still in the water, not far from Meredith. He took two strokes toward the freshman, but decided to turn around and swim to shore.

"I was already tired," May said in his deposition. "My first reaction was to go and try to help him. But the distance to get to him and back to

shore it made me feel that, you know, if I did in fact reach him, it would have left two of us below the surface of the water instead of just one.

"I didn't see any pros to me going and trying to save him while hurting myself."

Bianchi's case will hinge on the jury believing that because May and Montgomery put Meredith in harm's way by drawing him into an initiation rite, they had a responsibility to try to rescue him.

Latimer, May's attorney, sees it differently.

"Nobody was forced to do anything," he said. "It wasn't an initiation rite. This case is going to turn on whether a jury determines an individual is responsible for his own actions."

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"Pearl Earring" a Gem

Serra's photography recreates Vermeer's life and loves.

Ben Kaufher
Staff Writer

It seems like a flawless combination. Take a historical artist of note with a shady past, throw in a steamy love story—preferably an adulterous one—secure a first-rate cinematographer and costumer and release to critical acclaim and a clamoring public. In this way, "Girl with a Pearl Earring" does not present an original story, but its sparse dialogue and rich photography easily make it this year's most beautiful movie.

The artist in this timeworn tale is Johannes Vermeer (Colin Firth), the moody, but tender Dutch master. When his family's new maid (Scarlett Johansson) begins cleaning his studio, she gains entrance into an emotional drama as well as a dusty room. The film uses the backdrop of seventeenth century Holland to explore class and gender hierarchies that still resonate today.

The most notable aspect of "Girl with a Pearl Earring," of course, is the picturesque cinematography of the great Eduardo Serra. Like Vermeer's paintings, each frame of



Scarlett Johansson and Colin Firth star in this period drama, which is one of the country's most underrated films of the last year.

Serra's handiwork is perfectly arranged, magnificently lit and bursting with a strange European beauty of detail. Nuances of the camera work accentuate the small pleasures in the cramped life of the artist's Dutch home as well as Holland's crowded marketplaces, austere

churches and snowy landscapes.

The film itself is subtler than its Hollywood predecessors ("Shakespeare in Love," "Quills"), with little dialogue to flesh out the plotlines. Still, one cannot help but wonder how long Johansson had to work with her dialect coach to master

even the terrible accent she produces for her few lines. Her two stock facial expressions—slight surprise and distant judgment—work well for a character who must mainly react to her bosses and their snotty children.

All of the actors were obviously hand-picked for their complicated

appearance. In particular, Essie Davis and Judy Parfitts, as Vermeer's wife and mother-in-law, are not beautiful, but fascinating to watch even in stillness. Tom Wilkinson excels as the artist's lecherous patron, and Joanna Scanlan's stern, gossip housekeeper provides a wonderful counterpoint to Johansson's interior performance.

A few unnecessary shots of hands touching, a couple of lighting problems and Johansson's horrible attempt at an accent all detract slightly from an otherwise stellar film, but the main problem seems to be its editing. Lighting often does not match from shot to shot and characters change positions as the camera changes angles. Scenes that would be touching become instead unsettling, almost jerky.

Besides the editing, however, "Girl with a Pearl Earring" will easily be the country's most underrated film of last year. It could even be the most beautiful film that Greensboro will see for this year as well.

"Borne of Necessity" examines life below poverty line

Josh Barrer
Staff Writer

A familiar sight adorns the walls. A well groomed politician, in this case President Lyndon B. Johnson, is posing with a poor rural family. The accompanying text talks about Johnson's "War on Poverty." From his handshake and rehearsed smile, it is clear that a promise of help is being made, but there is no indication that the promise will be kept.

This is the first image seen by visitors of the Weatherspoon Art Museum's new exhibit, "Borne of Necessity," and it sets the tone for what is inside. The exhibition features the work of ten different artists, all of whom utilize different media to comment on the issues of necessity and poverty in today's world.

Such weighty themes often threaten to suffocate the art in which they are represented, and what often remains is not art but a sermon. However, what makes "Borne of Necessity" such a striking exhibit is that the art is never overshadowed by its message. The artists present their topic without seeming didactic.

Several of the artists use photography as their medium, and it is a particularly effective one. It allows the artist to capture an image of life that is at least marginally objective. The photographers take different approaches to portraying their subjects, and all are remarkably effective. Tom Hunter's photos are featured near the entrance of the exhibit, and as such are the first works the visitor sees. They depict various people living outside traditional economic lines. Some appear to be in poverty while others, such as those in the "Traveler Series," depict people who have chosen to live alternative eco-



Hunter's "Persons Unknown."

nom lifestyles. Hunter's photos are technically remarkable, with impeccable use of light and framing to find a bittersweet beauty in the life of those living in poverty.

The photos of Anthony Hernandez have a similar effect. His "Waiting in Line" series is somewhat more abstract than Hunter's, but finds a similar beauty buried in civilization's decay. His images of empty, sick-green waiting rooms and torn phonebooks also convey the powerful feeling of the emptiness brought on by poverty.

This emptiness is echoed in the photos of Camillo Jose Vergara, whose stark, documentary-style images of broken down buildings and neighborhoods seem hauntingly abandoned, even with people in them. Ken Lum's striking centerpiece, "Come On, Get Up," perfectly illustrates society's frequent lack of sympathy towards those in poverty. The photo depicts a destitute man on a destitute street being yelled at by a woman.

In addition to its striking photography, the exhibit features several

sculptural works. Much of the gallery space is taken up by a display of odd makeshift inventions, such as a leaky faucet stopped up with a bottle cap and the "Brooklyn Black Jack," a weapon utilizing a hard object put into a sock and swung like a mace. There is also the "Caracas: Dry Toilet," a walk-in shed made almost entirely from broken road signs that contains a toilet. The work is a replica of toilets in many poor, third world cities where water is scarce. These makeshift inventions, that were quite literally borne of necessity, display the ways people in poverty are forced to live.

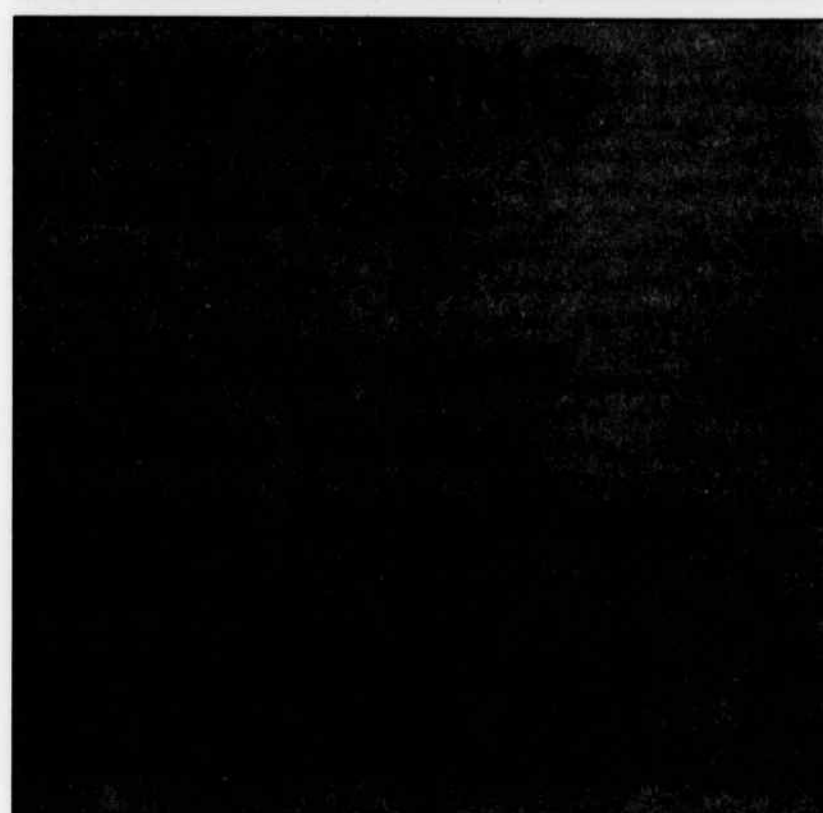
Throughout the exhibit, historical information on the rise of poverty is displayed. The outer wall of the museum's main gallery is strikingly painted as a graph charting the rising American poverty rates since the 1960's, and the exhibit ends with information about how George W. Bush's recent economic policies have only served to widen the gap between rich and poor in America. Contrasted with the bookend image of Lyndon B. Johnson, the information about Bush is a sad assurance that Johnson's promise to aid the poor is one that was not kept. However, between those two images of politicians deciding the economic fate of thousands are works of art that stunningly illustrate the lives of those below the poverty line. The experience is unforgettable.



Are you a guy or girl about town?

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Send an email to neurotica@eudoramail.com



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Neurotica

A few weeks ago, I caught a rerun of the "Seinfeld" episode where George's mother catches him masturbating. This inspires Jerry and the gang to make a bet to see who can go the longest without a little self love.

To this day, "The Contest" is one of the funniest moments in sitcom history. You can still buy t-shirts with the logo "Master of my domain," the show's coded phrase for masturbating, on them. The show's popularity is probably due to the fact that most people can relate to the topic. Who isn't afraid of getting caught?

Personally, I have never been caught in the act. But that doesn't mean I can't relate. I can't think of anything more embarrassing. That was actually one of the things on my mind when I moved into a dorm four years ago. I had never shared a bedroom with anyone and suddenly I was expected to cohabit with a complete stranger and share a bathroom with about 20 other guys.

"Oh God," I thought, "What if I get caught masturbating!"

I'm sure I'm not the only person ever to have had this particular panic attack. Ten bucks says everyone else was thinking the same thing; at least the other guys were. But that didn't make things any easier. Masturbation is not something we are encouraged to talk about, at least not with new roommates. Nobody brought up these particular anxieties. So, while our roommate contract covered everything from overnight guests to study time, there was no mention of jerk off time. There was no allotted hour for wanking, no masturbation schedule. I, like many 18-year-old college freshmen before me, lived in constant fear that I would eventually be caught with my pants down.

I used to think that girls had it easier. All they had to do was slip their hands into their PJs and bite the pillow. The person in the top bunk would never know, right?

Wrong. My friend Jess tells me there are all kinds of tell-tale noises. And forget using toys. Nothing gives a girl away like the soothing buzz of a vibrator.

It seems unfair that we can talk about privacy when it comes to having sex with someone, but those of us

who are single are denied a little libidinous pleasure just because others are uncomfortable with it. It doesn't have to be this way. I'm not saying you should spank the monkey in front of your roommate, unless that's what you're both into. People have boundaries and they should be respected.

Nevertheless, there are ways to get off autonomously while living in a dorm without getting caught. In a perfect world I would encourage everyone to sit down with his or her roommate and talk openly and honestly about masturbation. Work out a schedule so that no one has to worry about being disturbed. Come on people, communication is the best way to reduce the stigma.

I realize, however, that we don't live in that world. Some people are not comfortable talking about masturbation or hear someone else talk about it—in which case, they have probably stopped reading by now and are going to miss all the helpful tips I'm about to give.

Locking the door isn't enough. Roommates have keys and when they walk in and see that flushed, up-to-something look on your face, they'll know what you were doing. One of the simplest things to do is buy a "Do not disturb" sign. If you're really ballsy you could even just write "Masturbating - Piss off!" on your wipe away board.

When I was a freshman, the CAs told us it was a good idea to tie a piece of yarn around the door knob when you were having sex with someone. That way your roommate knew not to come in, but you weren't broadcasting what you were doing to the whole hall. You could do the same for jerking off. You could color code it: blue yarn for sex, red yarn for masturbation.

My friend Chris spent his high school years in an all male boarding school and claims to have mastered the art of not getting caught.

"Just go to the bathroom at four in the morning," he says. "I'm a little hesitant about that one though. The bathroom should be a neutral space, especially the showers."

Another friend who used to be a marine says he used to jerk off to a sock in his sleeping bag. Hey, it makes for easy clean-up.

The point is that you don't have to sacrifice self-love when you move into a dorm. Necessity is, after all, the mother of invention. With a little ingenuity you can be the master of your domain.

Carolina Film & Video Festival holds teaser

Rae Marcus
Staff Writer

The annual Carolina Film and Video Festival, UNCG's answer to Sundance, will be held this month, from February 18th until the 21st. The Festival began as a one-day event in 1978 and is traditionally held in February. Like most arts events on campus, such as poetry readings and art openings, the Festival is often poorly attended by people outside the Broadcasting and Cinema department. To try and counteract that effect, the Festival's organizers, led by faculty advisor Chad Willis, held an evening of past favorites on Thursday, January 24. Lasting about two hours, the featured films spanned the highlights of the Festival's last few years.

The night kicked off with a hilarious piece entitled "My Chorus," (2nd place, best narrative comedy, 2001) about a man named Edward who cannot go to work, watch TV or have his daily commute without being accompanied by a barbershop quartet who comments in song on everything that he does. When the songs start to interfere with Edward's pitiful attempts to ask out a coworker, he finally goes to a psychiatrist, who agrees to help him get rid of his demons. A classic parable about what happens when you get what you want, "My Chorus" kept the audience roaring with laughter and made many of them wonder what kind of chorus they would have and what kind of music it would perform.

Comprised of almost 1,200 watercolor paintings, the blue and purple tinted "Night Light," featured two human-esque figures (resembling, in a weird way, those yellow AOL people icons) as they swirled about each other, leaping, falling and reemerging. As a metaphor for the processes of life and the continuing dance people do around each other, the piece was beautiful, and it would make you feel guilty to wish for another few minutes, knowing how long and painstaking the creation process surely must have been.

"Boris," the evening's longest film, was an MFA thesis from a student at the American Film Institute conservatory (Best Student Narrative and Audience Awards, 2002). Boris, a Russian immigrant living in Los Angeles, wants to see the Mir space station one last time before it is sent



Joseph Viola and Jean Schwartz in a scene from "Love in an Elevator."

into the Pacific Ocean. However, he does not have a job and his rent is past due, so his landlady and her son have taken his telescope as collateral. The tale unwinds around itself and shows its layers: through Boris' attempts to get his telescope back in time to watch the de-orbit, his relationship with others in the Russian immigrant community, and through his unlikely but endearing friendship with his landlady. It left the viewer ready to cry and yet filled with hope, angry at the world and yet ready to believe in something.

"Boris" was in juxtaposition to "Intelligent Life," last year's winner for Best Student Animation, about a robot operated by a small blue teardrop-shaped alien whose mission is to conquer the earth through performance and celebrity. Ultimately mocking American media from teen pop stars to stand-up comedians, the piece was an amusing look at what Americans (or earthlings for that matter) will consume and our often fickle sensibilities.

The evening's standout, mainly for celebrity reasons, was "Last Request," a seventeen minute piece featuring Emmy winner Michael Chiklis, from TV's "The Shield." Directed by New York University grad Tom Hodges, who went on to direct the pilot episode of "The Sopranos," the piece was a pretty stereotypical mafia story with a cute twist at the end. Due in no small part to "The Sopranos" and America's seemingly endless love affair with "The Godfather," mafia movies have become de rigeur in film and televi-

sion these days, and it's hard to pay attention to the quality of the filmmaking when the story is something that's been done so many times. The "criminal with a heart" idea has been taken to such an extreme that you find yourself wishing that Chiklis could find a role that fits him better, even though he's excellent as usual.

In contrast with the next film, "Love in an Elevator," which chronicled the lives of two elderly retirement home residents who fall in love, "Last Request" paled into a parody of itself and its genre. "Love in an Elevator" was apparently shot on a hand-held camera and did the wise job of letting the subjects tell their story without the benefit of director commentary. Managing not to be sappy or pitying, the story is about two paralyzed people who manage to love each other without most of the physical aspects that most of us consider essential to a relationship.

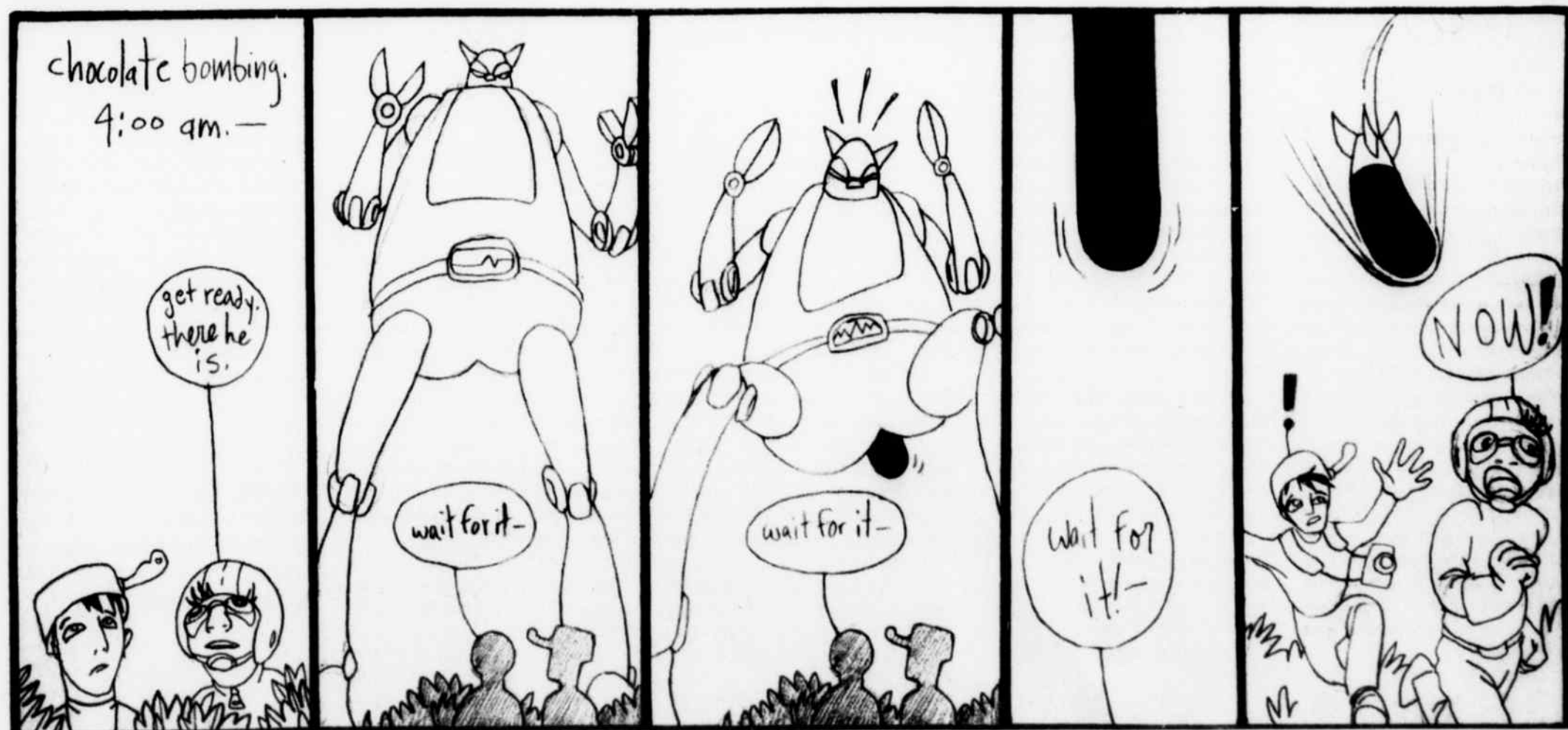
Overall, the films did a great job of stoking interest in the Festival, and, more importantly, reminding the audience how varied and interesting the assortment can be within the large, constantly shifting definition of the word "film."

For more information
check out:

www.carolinafilmandvideofestival.org

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OPINIONS

Coming Next Issue

Check out our new international guest
column, "World Fare."

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Britney, Bush and Mars

Joe Rodriguez
San Jose Mercury News (KRT)

President Bush wants to spend \$1.5 billion to promote marriage, and he wants to take us to Mars. Why not do both at the same time? I hear the Red Planet has the lowest divorce rate in the solar system.

We could send Britney Spears on the first flight with this note addressed to the Martian Ministry of Matrimony:

"Dear Minister Zog,

Please tell us how to reverse the damage this young celebrity did to marriage when she got hitched in Las Vegas at 5:30 a.m. Saturday, that's Earth time, and then had it annulled Monday. As a leading role model for young girls, Ms. Spears has sent the wrong message to millions on the Third Planet that marriage can be fun, quick and easily forgotten. We're afraid \$1.5 billion in Earth dollars isn't enough for the damage control, let alone enough to promote marriage."

I'm all for marriage. In fact, I hope to try it someday. Marriage helps hold societies and cultures together. But that doesn't mean government has the right answers for the moral questions posed by high divorce rates or single-parenthood.

The president, or rather the ultra-conservative folks he's trying to appease, have no idea what they're up against. No amount of government pamphlets, billboards or television commercials can reverse the

complex cultural, religious, political and economic forces that profoundly changed marriage during the last century - often for the better.

To be fair, the Bush administration is also talking about counseling, mentoring and instruction on how to make marriages work. But counseling for whom?

What concerns most people and religious zealots is the "problem" of single-parenthood in general among teenage girls, and single-parenthood among the poor, especially among poor blacks and Latinos.

If Bush and his friends really want to make a difference they should help young, single mothers become self-reliant. A good way to start is by increasing funding for successful job training programs and transitional housing already being offered by churches and non-profit organizations.

As for promoting marriage among poor women and the fathers of their children, who's going to believe an administration that's failed to promote industry and employment in their neighborhoods and cities?

The Bush administration should remember that marriage is for the long haul, and that a \$1.5 billion promotional campaign is no better than a quickie marriage in Sin City.

Letters to the Editor

No Salt?

Am I the only one disgusted by the fact that we were made to go to school in such bad weather conditions? I fully understand that we have to be at school each semester for a certain number of days. Fine. But, could the powers that be actually salt the sidewalks?

I'm not the only student who goes to this school who is a commuter. In fact, I think more people live off campus than on. When I walked to school today (because who could

actually get out of their apartment parking lot to drive?) I arrived on campus and ice skated the rest of the way to class.

Pretty pathetic for an institution that takes so much money from us and can't even throw down a little salt so that we can walk to class without breaking our necks. Oh, that's right! We're too busy spending the money on bell towers and new sidewalks. My mistake.

Thoroughly Irritated,
Diane Pittman

Attendance Policies Need to Reflect Weather

Dear Editor,

I just read the letter that Sara Thompson wrote. I wanted to express my concern for commuter students based on the current policies at UNCG. I am sure that I was one of many students who stayed home from class on Tuesday. I freaked out when the UNCG home page said classes started at eleven. I could not believe that they expected us to drive

in ice, ride the park and ride buses in ice without seat belts, and walk around on the ice. I stayed home out of concern for my safety but I have to pay a price. First, it looks bad that I missed class since all of my teachers have an attendance policy. Second, I missed the materials that were presented in the classroom. I think that if they refuse to close school then they should get rid of the attendance policies.

Sincerely
Amy C. Lehman
(Junior)

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
- 4) Drop it by our office at 236 Elliott University Center

Janet Jackson's Breast and the Hilton Standard



OUT OF MY HEAD

Joe Killian
Managing Editor

After a year full of artificially "shocking" moments from the Britney-Madonna kiss to Michael Jackson's dance performance outside his arraignment for sexually abusing a minor, you'd think we'd be prepared. But you'd be wrong. Somehow, Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake are still able to grab headlines with a second's flash of a single breast (complete with pasty) during their halftime show at the Superbowl.

What seems most immediately amazing to me is that we DO still want to see Janet Jackson's breasts. I know I do. The impressive part is...I wanted to see Janet Jackson's breasts when I was 10. Do any of us believe that Justin Timberlake, for all of his current popularity, is going to be a serious sex symbol in a decade?

The sad part is that while Ms. Jackson's anatomy still intrigues me, I couldn't name a song of hers that's really impressed me in the last five

years. And so it seems clear, even as we buzz and chortle over Janet's breast's special guest spot at the Superbowl, that the whole thing wasn't an accident, wasn't an artistic statement, wasn't a last moment bad-girl decision of any kind: it was a calculated attempt to get the public's attention just before her new record hits stores, in the hopes that the mini-scandal will interest us in it.

Fair enough. It seems standard practice these days to preface a new album, movie or even book with some sort of artificial scandal - usually sexual in nature. Britney Spears pulled it off brilliantly by getting weeks of media buzz out of a lesbian kiss shorter than any you could see at a decent college party anywhere in the Western world. Were we interested in seeing Britney drop the "who, me sexy?" facade for a few moments and give over completely to the sort of cash for erection equation we've known was there for years? Of course. So, in essence, she earned her scandal money. Fine by me.

No one gave us greater value for our scandal dollar in the last year than Paris Hilton. This is a young woman who, aside from being wealthy and attractive, hasn't done

much of anything with her life. She's famous for being in pictures and at night-clubs with people who've earned fame through talent, charisma or ambition. While she didn't seem to have an excess of any of the three, she was able to interest us in a Green-Acres style reality TV show involving her falling over in cow manure by "accidentally" letting slip a secret sex tape. The timing was perfect, the country was interested, and though she was the butt of a number of jokes for weeks afterward, it was really better PR than she could have bought anywhere.

And good for her. If I'm going to be roped into watching someone who doesn't deserve their wealth or fame do...well, nothing...on television, then I think I at least deserve to see them having sex in the privacy of their own home...er...hotel room. It's true I have some gripes with the actual quality of the tape (which, with the lights out and the camera's night vision on is like watching sex during a bombing in Baghdad) - but on the whole I thought it was a brilliant PR strategy that was well executed. She paid for her momentary and artificial fame in full.

Which, in the end, is why I'm so

disappointed in Janet Jackson. Outside of her brother's sex scandal (which is of a completely different and awful nature, though he doesn't seem to realize it), hers is the first real high-profile "sex for dollars" scandal since Paris Hilton's. And, by the Hilton Standard, I have to say it was a let down.

I had hoped that Paris Hilton would set a standard - that the celebrity sex tape would be the absolute minimum we'd be willing to accept, from now on, to be interested in someone's forthcoming media project. After all - how are you going to keep us down on the farm, now that we've seen Paris...doing everything?

Laugh (or cringe) all you like - but it's hard to argue with that logic. Paris Hilton raised the bar by lowering the bar - and I salute her for it. I think we should expect - nay, we should demand - that if "shocking moments" are going to be the artificial coin of the realm in Hollywood, then lesbian smooches and momentary peeks aren't going to do it. If you want our scandal dollars, you have to earn them via the Hilton Standard - by giving us the goods rather than just hinting at it.

While You Were Watching Fox...

World Fare

James Barnwell
Guest Columnist

When I first arrived in the United States back in August 2003 I wondered where most Americans get their knowledge of foreign affairs. Six months later I still don't know.

Many people accuse Americans of being ignorant because they don't know the ins and outs of foreign countries' politics or histories. The reason for this inadequacy is simple; no one tells them. Watch CNN or Fox news and you are more likely to see a feature about an animal rescue in some sleepy suburb than you are to see a story covering international news. If it's not Iraq or Al Qaeda, no one is going to broadcast it.

In the past week America's favorite ally, Tony Blair, has undergone the most threatening tests of his

administration since his landslide election in 1997. Whilst Blair is seen in a near demigod in some circles in the US, at home he has never had it so hard: His stance on Iraq and his unshakeable support for his less gifted friend Mr. Bush has cost him.

It has left him isolated from huge sections of his own political party, the Labour Party. This party is supposed to be left-leaning but it seems Blair has forgotten to read the script recently.

The week started with a vote in the House of Commons on student university tuition fees. Up until 1997 university education was free for all in the United Kingdom; at the moment it costs \$2000 a year and if the government get their way it will rise to about \$5000 a year. Blair's party is up in arms about this plan, as it doesn't exactly live up to their traditional 'socialist' ideology.

The vote passed by the narrowest of margins.

Less than 24 hours after the ordeal, another key vindication came

for Blair. He had been accused of lying to parliament and of giving orders for a dossier of evidence against the former Iraqi regime to be 'sexed up'. These two events had the potential to destroy the Blair regime. This wasn't just important for Britain; Blair's demise would be a body blow to US foreign policy, which is already suffering from an alarming lack of international support.

The report, written by judge Lord Hutton, cleared Blair of any wrongdoing, granting the prime minister a brief respite. Blair's opponents must have felt history slipping through their fingers in the last seven days, the first chance in years to get at the government's jugular, disappeared without a trace.

There was simply nothing on the story or other crucial developments around the world. The Muslim festival of Hajj is in full swing; a stampede in Saudi Arabia left 244 dead; a Chinese man was sentenced to death for the murder of 67 people; around

200 people are missing presumed dead in the Democratic Republic of Congo following a fire onboard a ferry. And Russian president Vladimir Putin is preparing to stand for re-election against... nobody. Has anybody heard of such news?

There are so many great sources for top class, independent news that it baffles me as to why CNN is seen as America's premier newscaster. This title should without a doubt go to NPR (National Public Radio).

Since I have lived in America this has been the only source of news I would trust beyond reasonable doubt. Listenership is rising and the morning programs when we are all getting ready for class are superb. There is also the BBC world service, which broadcasts 24 hours a day reporting from every corner of the globe, and these are just the English speaking services.

Take the time to look at another perspective, Al-Jazeera, the middle east Satellite news network has a fully English translated website. You

do not have to agree with their viewpoint but appreciate the differing views on the same stories. Try to figure out in your own mind what has happened. Don't be satisfied with Wolf Blitzer's opinion.

In a world where division and difference seems to be growing we must start to look beyond our borders to see that people everywhere face the same common problems, value the same things and all inhabit one very small planet.

World Fare is a periodical column dealing with international issues. If you'd like to submit a column, please contact Kevin Harvey at kcharvey@uncg.edu.

A New Kitten



Token Uagina

Rae Marcus
Staff Writer

It started out as a joke. After going through a serious breakup, I had dubbed myself "the bachelorette" and thought it would be funny to have a party to cheer myself up. I thought that reclaiming the bachelorette party for non-engaged women, and men, would be a great single girl feminist act. Parties are a way to get all of my friends together, especially ones I don't see a lot. However, we're a rowdy bunch, and to make the ultimate bachelorette party, one of my friends had hired a stripper. One of my more conservative friends walked in the front door just in time to see the stripper begin giving me a lap dance.

It's nice, after going through a tough breakup, to laugh with your friends, have some beers, and watch a well-toned guy in a G-string dance to "It's Raining Men." However, several of my friends had brought other people with them to the party. Like the Noah's Ark Syndrome diagnoses that I wrote about recently, many people think that the best way to cheer up a newly single person is to bring over some of your attractive acquaintances and hope that they make a romantic hookup. Part of me missed kissing some one, missed the attention and surge of energy that comes from flirting. But another part of me thought about when I was a kid and our kitten died. My mom's solution was to immediately get us another kitten.

Do I want another kitten? Do I want to rebound? Do I want to wash away the breakup blues by immediately hooking up with someone else, just to alleviate the pain? The answer should have been a simple: no. However, after a few drinks and a couple of compliments, it's harder to keep telling yourself that you need time to heal. The fact is, a lot of these guys were really cute. Several of them engaged me in conversation. By the end of it, I should have been awash in the warm feelings of potential romantic interest. Instead, I was

worse off than when I had started. It was great to watch some of my girlfriends, especially the more straight-laced ones, get rowdy and do some dirty dancing of their own; it was even better when a few of my male friends started to give the stripper a run for his money. Looking at it now, the best parts of the evening were when I just laughed with my friends, did zany things and talked about other wild adventures we'd had in the past. At the end of the night, I knew that the only people staying in my apartment would be the ones who had passed out on the couch.

Here's what I ended up deciding: maybe I do want a kitten. Maybe I want to go to the pound, look around, play with the different cats and see which ones I like. I don't want to grab one at random, take it home, and expect it to love me. Forgive me the extended metaphor, but I wouldn't pick out a pet based on looks alone, even if it was one of the best looking animals I'd seen in awhile. I'm mending myself right now. I thought about what it would be like to see my ex with someone else, and the thought still stung.

It wouldn't be fair to get a new kitten when all I could think about was the one I'd had before. I imagine that Snowball II on The Simpsons has a fair share of identity issues. I also know that I wouldn't want to be on the other side of the equation. If it was me that someone else used to fill in their empty space, it would be pretty hurtful. I also decided that I gave my friends' friends a pretty hard time. Some of them were interesting, and I'd like to know them as people and not just as potential dates. Maybe I could get some cool new friends out of the whole thing.

Choosing to be alone, I think, is a feminist action. Understanding yourself well enough to know what is right for you is difficult, especially when what you need to do isn't what you necessarily want to do. When you are young and single and carefree, it's easy to rebound and let yourself get caught up in actions rather than emotions. And, maybe, someday, a little kitten will follow me home, and I'll decide to keep it.

Why I Recently Converted to the Democratic Party



My Humble Opinion

Okla Elliott
Staff Writer

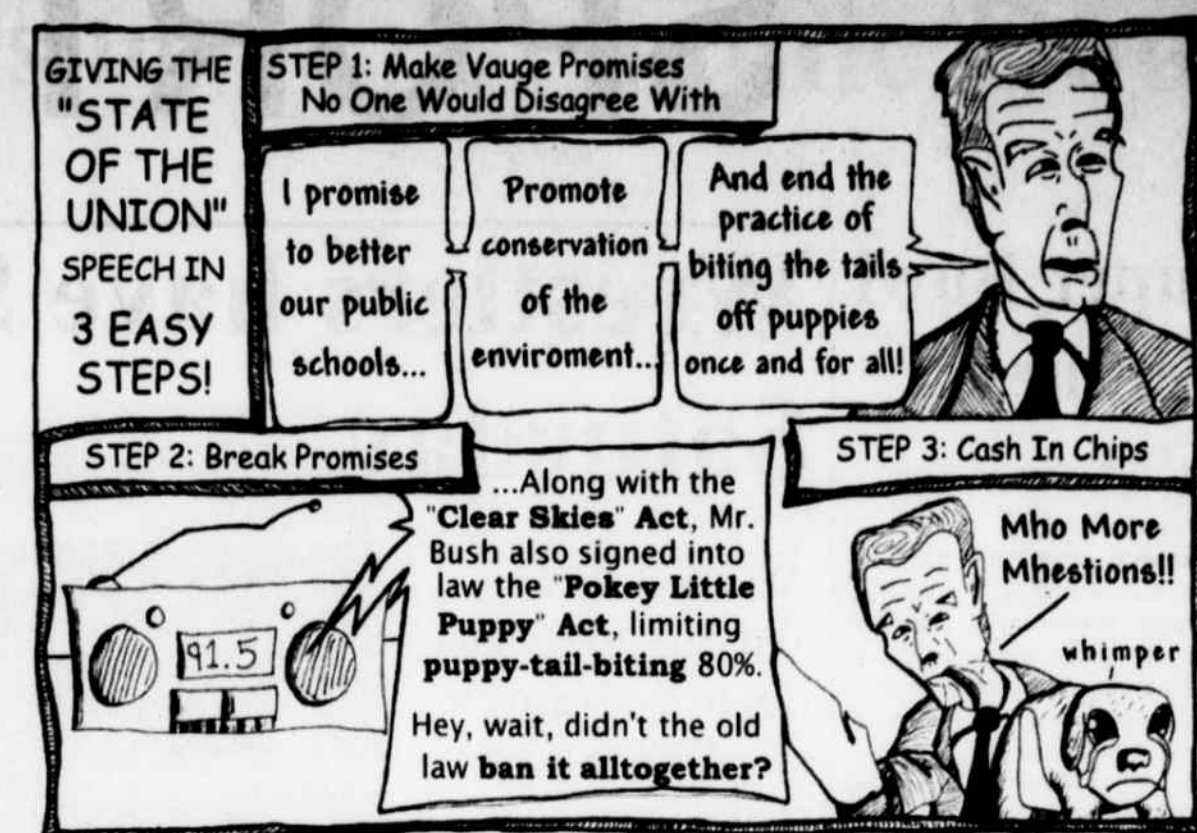
When I was eighteen, I registered to vote. I remember looking at the various party affiliation options and wondering what I should pick. I, like many in my generation, dislike labels and group definitions, so I chose "unaffiliated." But two months ago I switched my registration over to Democrat after eight years of shunning all national political parties. There are various reasons for my shift—some having to do with the current administration, some to do with a little bit of soul searching on my part.

Firstly, I realized that I agree with the general Democratic platform on practically every issue. I think that workers deserve as much representation in the government as major corporations do. As an example of how Democrats support hard-working Americans, there was a recent vote to cut overtime pay for several million Americans, and nearly every Democrat voted against it, while only those few Republicans who still uphold their claims to respecting hard work voted against it. Bush threatened a veto if it didn't go the way he (and his big business buddies) wanted, thus causing one republican who had previously spoken out against the bill to switch his vote and fall in line with Bush's pro-

business/anti-worker agenda. As our own Democratic senator, John Edwards, puts it: "Republicans respect wealth, while Democrats respect work." (My father—a war veteran, small-scale farmer, a construction foreman, and a lifelong Democrat—would have loved to hear that sentence.)

Secondly, I realized that the Democratic Party is the only political party that unites instead of divides. It's the only party that can boast the majority of votes from Latino Americans, African Americans, Jewish Americans, gays/lesbians, and women. It can also claim to have members in the lowest and highest income and educational brackets. The majority of the highest educated people in America are Democrats, yet people like my father who never went to college and worked manual labor his whole life also proudly call themselves yellow-dog Democrats. This is the opposite of the Republican Party which gains power by pitting "us" against "them", by making poor whites think that all the problems would be solved if only those lazy minorities would stop soaking up welfare (or whatever other weird mistruth they like to peddle about why their tax cuts for the super-rich never seem to help the middle- and working-classes). I was not at all surprised to find out that practically every registered member of the KKK is a registered Republican. It makes clear and obvious sense that the only party where racists can feel welcome is the Republican party.

But my critique doesn't stop with



C.L. Lowrance

<http://clowrance.com>

Finality: the Death Penalty's Greatest Strength & Weakness



Straight Shooting

Jason
Crawford
Staff Writer

There always seems to be a small number of students on campus that are advancing some new organization designed to bring a fringe national movement right to our backyard. If they are lucky, they succeed in ticking off a number of us, and if not, they just confirm in our minds why we never cared about the issue in the first place. These groups seem to have a limited lifespan too, as they usually fall apart in a year or so.

The newest organization to come out of the woodwork seems to really get choked up when murderers are sentenced to lose their lives via capital punishment. Of all the injustices in the world, I can think of a lot of things to get more upset about than this, but apparently that's just me. These death penalty activists have been meeting for coffee and recently met one evening as the "Campaign to End the Death Penalty," the advertising for which tastelessly compared capital punishment to "legal lynching."

Of course, the cause this group pushes is not really a new one. Death penalty activism dates back to the '60s and it achieved enormous success at first. But out-of-control crime rates coupled with soaring inflation and tax rates in the 70's caused Americans to step back in the '80s and take a harder look at the world of liberals were creating for the rest of us. Clint Eastwood's wildly popular "Dirty Harry" series is just one example of how popular culture seized on the feeling that in the debate about injustice and rights, it was the bad guys that were winning. Politics too was dramatically changed, as a national conservative movement put forward the radical notion that making neighborhoods

safe in America should not be unconstitutional.

But some opponents of capital punishment deserve a little credit. They are not exactly like the ISO revolutionaries that were even scaring transfer students from socialist Europe. Death penalty activists actually draw arguments from the Christian faith and other religious sources and cite statistics that suggest that hundreds of innocent people are being condemned to die for no reason. They also point to Europe in contending that America is alone in holding on to this relic from the brutal past, except for a few unsavory nations to which you would never take a vacation.

"Thou shalt not kill" is a favorite commandment of these activists. But capital punishment opponents have as their first advantage the eroding knowledge that even educated people have about their religious documents, especially Christians. Squeamishness about the death penalty has been around for centuries (William the Conqueror hated it back in the eleventh century), but the reason why the Christian church never seriously challenged its administration was because a basic reading of the Bible makes it clear that a distinction exists between the expectations for individuals and those for civil government. Turning the other cheek, for example, works for individuals like King and Gandhi, but it is not what you want in your neighborhood police officer. Quite to the contrary, the Bible commands those in civil government to enforce the law, even expressly giving them the option to employ capital punishment.

The statistics cited by these groups too rely on a certain degree of ignorance. If the police broke into your friend's apartment to find you dead and him or her standing over you with a bloody butcher knife, the typical way death penalty opponents might add your killer's name to their bloated "innocence" list would be on whether the police had "probable cause" to burst into the room. Groups

opposing capital punishment are notorious for proclaiming innocence on these types of technicalities. They also enjoy citing statistics about the disproportionately high number of minorities on death row while neglecting to say that a disproportionately high number of minorities are also committing all other kinds of crime in addition to murder.

Emotions usually have nothing to do with facts, but death penalty opponents use them as a powerful club to beat young people that are on the fence over the issue. "Dead Man Walking" was a Sean Penn movie designed to impress people over the finality of death. The Europe-has-banned-it-and-why-can't-we argument too plays into this feeling of isolation and shame activists employ to try win people over. But coming out against the death penalty doesn't put you in touch with the here and now: King Henry II didn't like it either and he's been dead for almost a thousand years.

Capital punishment has endured because there is a sense that the most heinous crime deserves the most heinous penalty. How can we prove that we value life if we shrink from exacting the ultimate price for its unnecessary termination? The finality of death therefore is both the strength and weakness of capital punishment. It is the point that simultaneously explains its effectiveness and our hesitancy to use it. But as the most articulate defender of capital punishment ever, Ernest van den Haag, once said, "Abolitionists [of the death penalty] often argue as though no one would die were it not for capital punishment. Yet we are not spared death in any case; a death sentence may shorten the life span, but --unlike imprisonment-- it does not introduce an avoidable event, but merely hastens an unavoidable one."

Agree? Disagree? Let us know at www.carolinianonline.com.

pointing to the flaws of the rightwingers; the left has some issues to deal with as well. Many of the extremely liberal members of the electorate have gone over to the Green Party, a move that was much en vogue a few years ago, though which is thankfully losing its popular support daily. All the Green Party successfully does is force the Democrats further to the right in order to get elected. If your goal is to make the country a more environmentally sound, more educationally superior, more internationally respected, and fairer place to live, then voting Democratic and making it safe for the Democrats to move a bit more to the left is the way to go. Voting Green simply wastes a vote that could have been used to prevent a pro-business, anti-education, anti-worker Republican from getting into office. And, as many have mentioned, look at Dennis Kucinich. He's a Democrat whom Nader and Noam Chomsky endorse and who votes exactly like a Green Party can-

didate would—if a Green Party candidate could ever get elected to Congress the way Kucinich has four times consecutively. I am not saying that I don't support the right of people to join third parties. I just question the efficacy and wisdom of their choice, since it is clear to me that the vehicle for progressive change is the Democratic Party. Instead of dividing the liberal vote, let's unite it. In 2000, Gore received 539,000 more votes than Bush, and Nader received 2.8 million votes. That means that there were 3.3 million more liberal votes than rightwing votes. Let's use that larger electoral base to change this country for the better instead of splitting our vote and letting the rightwingers win.

I don't mean to suggest that the Democratic Party is perfect (though I imagine that every political party in every country has its flaws). I also do not want to give the impression that I think the Democratic Party is the best it could be. I do, however, strongly believe that it is the best

option currently available and that with the help of a new generation of activists and voters, the Democratic Party will continue its fight for fairness, equal rights, educational standards, environmental protections, and international alliances instead of international bullying.

Reading back over this article I see that there are moments where I sound like a recent religious convert, and in a way that's not far from the truth. I have lived under the horribly misconceived notion that there were no significant differences between the two major political parties. I would like to thank George W. Bush for waking me up and making me realize that the differences are so monumental and fundamental that I finally switched my registration.

Agree? Disagree? Let us know at www.carolinianonline.com.

Super Bowl Madness

Sam Clark
Sports Editor

There is a custom that us Brits participate in called a 'pub-crawl', where we walk from pub to pub gulping a pint of beer in the process. On Sunday evening I decided to use this principle to see how UNCG students celebrated their Panthers.

The evening premiered at an apartment filled with the majority of the men's golf roster, supplemented by the late arrival of a handful of Southern 'belles'. The environment was truly Southern, with the presence of chicken wings, dip and numerous Panther propaganda distributed around the viewing area.

The golfers maintained a sedate hopefulness, which was ignited when Adam Vinatieri missed his opening field goal. As the seconds ticked down in the first quarter I thanked the hosts, stole one last piece of chicken and looked for somewhere a little more intense. Score: 0-0, two plates of food and two beers.

Soccer players dominated the next venue, which I reached three minutes into the second quarter. The room I entered was crammed with over thirty people and boasted not one, but two monstrous monitors.

By this time both beer and points were starting to flow which proved to be the foundation for a significantly more passionate atmosphere, inspired by Paul Greene, who was initiating over half the noise of the total people there.

This party boasted three touch downs, another missed field goal and a realization that the Panthers might actually have a chance to upset their more experienced opposition. Score: 14-10 and a celebratory three beers.

As the majority of internationals generally wouldn't know who a line-backer was even if he ran full steam into them I thought that the half time show would be a good time to spend at the I-House. I wasn't expecting fireworks but there was simply no noise whatsoever- the International House, usually the scene of much drunkenness and calamity, was as quiet as an American at a communist rally.

It didn't take me long to work out that the confusing silence was courtesy of Janet Jackson. Score: 14-10, with the added pleasure of a little nakedness.

Next stop an apartment on Tate Street, and the location of where I saw the Panthers become the AFC Champions. Everybody there was wearing blankets and toboggans, the host didn't think "it was necessary" to have heating in his house. Saw the teams exchange touchdowns but it was far too cold to celebrate. Next stop the warmth of Tate Street Billiards. Score: 21-16, and a frozen beer.

After suffering near pneumonia, the food, which our friend and owner Khalilah provided was delightful. Khalilah herself was dressed up in everything blue and black and even wore some dashing Panther earrings. There was also the excessively popular 'Panther juice'- a blue, non-alcoholic beverage that had made quite an impression on the pool players.

Free food, Khalilah's fantastic attire and an impressive Carolina drive highlighted our time in the pool hall. No change in the score (21-16), but rejuvenated with the juice.

The time had come to sit down and watch what looked like an exciting finish to the game. The truly American establishment Hooters was the last stop on the tour.

As we entered everybody in the place was going crazy; the waitresses were jumping up and down, the customers were on their feet and the cooks were flipping burgers with excited exuberance. Amongst the chaos of a Panther lead I managed to dodge the burgers and the high fives while finding a table in front of one of the fifteen screens dotted around the restaurant. Score: 22-21 and the

Wrestlers have Spectacular Saturday

Artis secures his 19th and 20th victories of the season to give UNCG a 2-0 record over the weekend.

Aaron Snyder
Staff Writer

The Spartans began the week with a disappointing 22-16 loss to NC State but rebounded with an impressive sweep of Anderson College and last year's ACC Champion UNC Chapel Hill. This was the first time that the Spartans had beaten the Heels in seven tries and their first victory over an ACC team since defeating Duke 25-12 in the 1999-2000 season.

The match against the Wolfpack on Wednesday did not start well for the Spartans, as they lost the first four matches of the contest, falling behind 12-0. UNCG began to make their move with victories from juniors David Johnson and Kevin Artis. Despite lone senior Keith Ritter's six-point forfeit victory, the Spartans needed to win the final match of the night to tie the dual. In the 186-pound match, NC State's Daniel Humphries defeated Steve McClamrock 8-6 in overtime to secure the victory for the Wolfpack.

"We have had about two months to prepare, and I have to say we are trying" junior O.T. Johnson said after the match on Wednesday. "We are just not doing what we have to do, and if it takes coach having to make practice an extra hour longer, I am all for it."

The rejuvenated Spartans began the first of their two matches by destroying overmatched Anderson College by a score of 37-12. The highlight of the bout was the final match. In that match junior Kevin Artis won his 19th match of the year, tying the most by a Spartan wrestler since the 2000-2001 season. In picking up the victory though, Artis also injured his knee, and a question mark arose for his availability for the dual against the Heels.

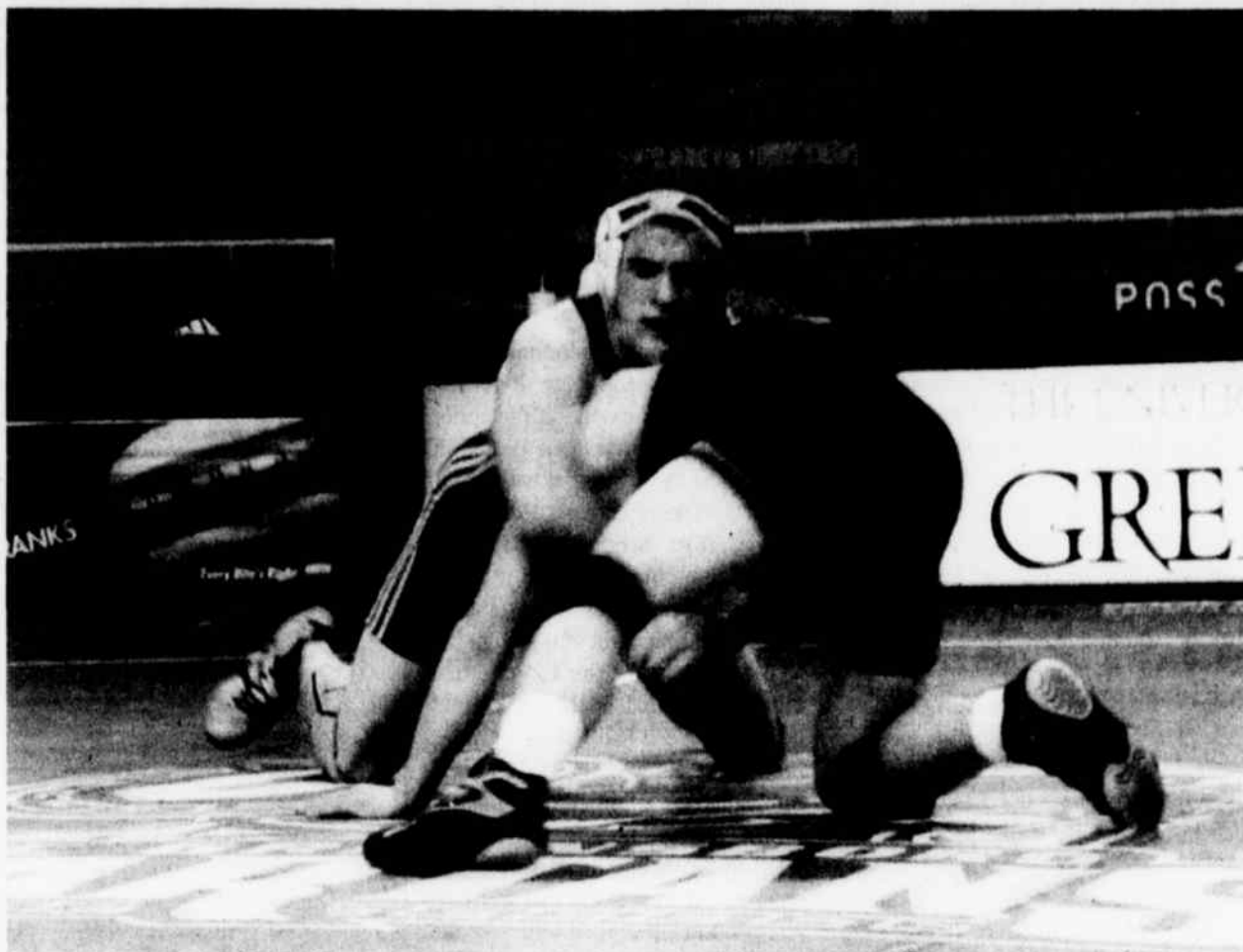
The competition against Chapel Hill did not start well for the home team, as they lost their first two matches. Junior Charles Jones inspired a turnaround when he recovered from his predicament and pinned his opponent to gain an important six points. Prior to Jones' match, senior Keith Ritter earned the first three points of the meet for the Spartans.

"That (Ritter's victory) definitely got the momentum going on our side" head coach Tom Shifflet said. "There are some weight classes that UNC Chapel Hill has that were going to be tough for us to win... Keith is a senior and has really come around the past year and has done a great job and been a great leader and it showed on

first lead any team had managed over the Patriots since Thanksgiving.

The place was stirring with expectation during the penultimate Patriot drive; each first down was greeted with a painful groan, which dampened expectation. After a torturous period of Patriot possession Tom Brady passed to Mike Vrabel and the hysteria of the first Carolina lead was rapidly replaced by despondency. The waitresses, who had been able to join customers in support, were now busy topping-up empty, depressed glasses. Score: Patriots up 27-22.

As Brady and co. celebrated I saw a collection of disgruntled Panthers pay their bills and leave. A feeling of resignation then came over the restaurant as the Panthers struggled to make any progress in the dying



STACEY GREGORY / THE CAROLINIAN

Senior Keith Ritter gets to grips with Carolina while leading the Spartans to victory

the mat today."

Despite courageous performances, from Jones and freshman Darren Burn, the home squad was down by eight points with just two matches remaining.

In the 133-pound battle, David Johnson showed his toughness and resilience in capturing a difficult 4-2 decision over Bobby Shaw and gave the Spartans a chance to seal a famous victory.

Needing a technical fall to tie or a pin to win, Shifflet gave Artis the opportunity to prove his fitness. The junior fought through his injured knee, and received the important 24-9 technical fall victory over sophomore Rick Seibold. In addition to tying the Heels at 20-20, Artis captured his 20th victory, which is a record for the most by a Spartan wrestler since the 1996-1997 season.

"I was just trying to put the pain in the back of my mind and just go out there and wrestle and get the win" Artis said. "A lot of our guys stepped it up this match, and wrestled hard. We still have a lot of things to work on and to accomplish this season."

In the event of a tie between teams in a dual meet, the referees and the coaches consulted the rulebook to determine the rules for breaking a tie. Based on the third stipulation, UNCG was declared the winning team because it had the most technical fall victories.

"Definitely beating Carolina is a huge thing" senior captain Keith Ritter said. "It is definitely a confidence booster because the ACC itself is a big name... After the Anderson match it was not looking good because we were not wrestling well, but a good pep talk in the wrestling room and we got fired up."

The Wrestlers return to action when they travel to Chattanooga on the 7th of February.

minutes of play.

"Pass the damn ball," was the cry from the Carolina faithful who had survived the drama and were loyally supporting their team to the bitter end. In an evening when I had experienced nearly every kind of atmosphere this was a new one- how could a Hooters of all places, be muted.

Of course, as we all know it didn't last long and in the concluding two minutes the euphoria of the 85-yard pass was rapidly followed by uncontrollable desperation.

Maybe if I hadn't had Khalilah's non-alcoholic juice I wouldn't have cared so much. That's the key rule of a pub crawl. The next morning you should not be able to remember. Still the 85 yards was worth it all.

Spartans use Elon to gain momentum

Sam Clark
Sports Editor

ELON 56
UNCG 69

The UNCG Women's basketball team snapped a three-game losing streak on Tuesday evening with a comprehensive 69-56 victory over conference new boys Elon Phoenix in the Fleming Gym. The match was an important one for the 6-14 Spartans who suffered a setback three days earlier at Furman where they got beaten by over 40 points.

"We've been struggling with chemistry all season; the 30 turnovers at Furman was too much. However, we played hard tonight and got the victory," said coach Lynne Agee.

Captain Jacinda Lambert spearheaded UNCG's offense with a game-high 19 points. The senior shot 9/14 from the field and also added seven rebounds to complete an impressive all round performance.

"She had a great game, she shot very well and was stroking the ball beautifully," said Agee.

Elon started by far the better of the two teams and opened up a comprehensive 10-3 advantage in the

early moments of the encounter. The Spartans reacted with a full court press, which brought them a 13-0 run, capped by a lay-up from 6-3 senior Lindsey Read.

UNCG continued to outscore Elon as the half came to a close and took a 33-25 lead into the interval.

The second half saw the Phoenix gradually pull themselves back into the match. A field goal by Elon senior Courtney Nyborg levelled the scores at 36. Fortunately for the host, freshmen Jasmine Byrd started to assert herself with a three point basket and fade away jumper which put the Spartans in the clear.

Byrd ended up with 14 points, while Reed also contributed with a valuable 11 points in her 31 minutes of play.

This coming week is an important time for the Spartans as they look to use this victory to create some momentum. They play conference rivals Georgia Southern on Saturday and College of Charleston on Monday in two games that could re-ignite their season.

"We're excited, it was a tough loss at Furman but after tonight we're ready to take on the two teams at home and move up in the conference," said senior Megan Honeycutt.

Check out the Spartan
Sports Roundup at

carolinianonline.com

Softball continues to grow

Jeni Hodges
Staff Writer

The air is cool and crisp and in the distance you can hear the sharp sound of a bat hitting a ball. It's beginning to feel like softball season.

"We're really excited, we know what we want to accomplish. We've put 100% of effort in and practices are going really well," said Spartan Head Coach, Stephanie Defeo.

Last year was Defeo's first year coaching the Spartans and she rejuvenated the team who went 38-18 in the regular season and 14-6 in the Southern Conference.

In her short tenure as coach Defeo, has turned the Spartans into one of the best power-hitting teams in the nation. Last year the Spartans recorded 57 home runs which put them in the top-25 all-time list.

The 38 wins the Spartans achieved last year was the third highest total wins in the school's Division I history. It was also the most wins the school has had since becoming a member of the Southern Conference in 1998.

Adding to the positive effects of Defeo, the Spartans received several awards which included: two all region awards, four SoCon All-Conference team players, three Verizon Academic All-American District III awards, and one Verizon First-Team Academic All-American award.

Returning to the field for the Spartans this year are Seniors Joni Gomez and the 2003 SoCon Player of the Year Jennifer Hubbard.

Last Season, Hubbard was ranked in the top ten league-leaders in eight of the 12 major offensive categories including batting average, hits and home runs.

The team also welcomes transfer student Lynsi Pierce, a junior who joins the ranks from Walters State Community College. Pierce, who was named Third team All-American joins freshmen, Adrienne Audley, Jennifer Bonilla, Kara Clouser, Christina Montana, and Vanessa Oakes as new comers to the roster.

"It's been a lot different than I expected; it's been intense but very

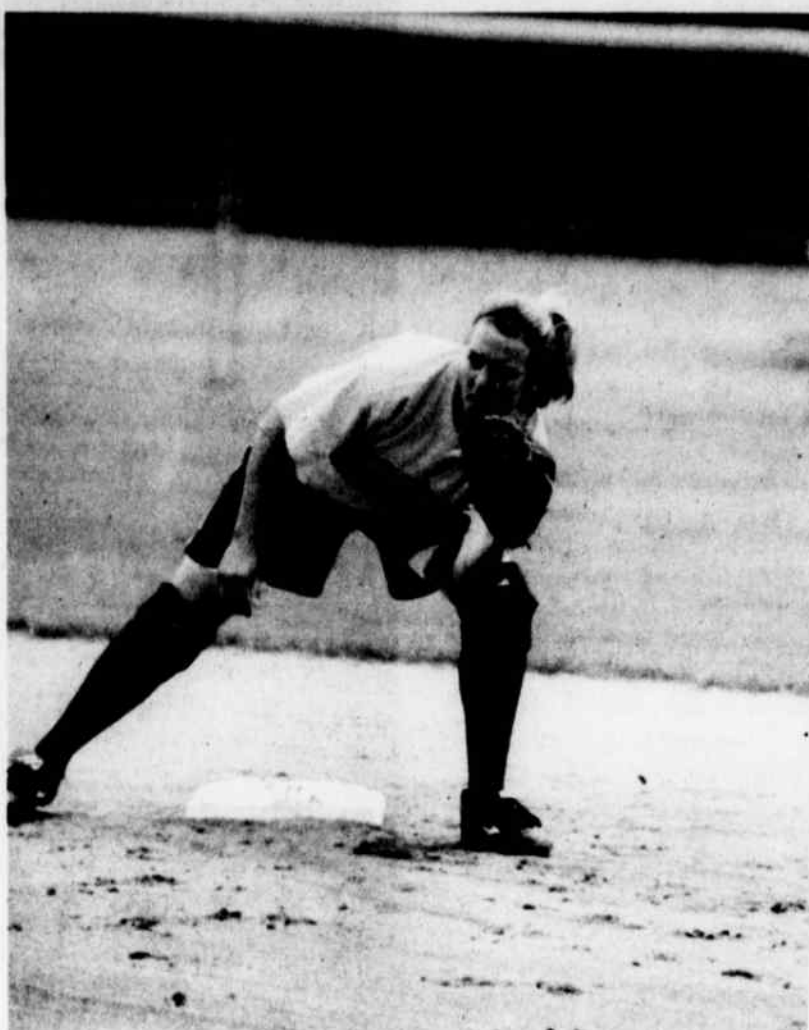


PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTS INFORMATION

2003 Southern Conference Player of the Year Jennifer Hubbard gets ready to start her last season for the Spartans

enjoyable," said Montanna.

In 2003 the team relied on powerful hitting. The Spartans had a total batting average of .277%, which included 404 hits, 262 runs, and a staggering 57 home runs. The offensive was primarily led by Penny Thompson, a departing senior who led the team with 39 runs batted in (RBI's), and Christine Sweeny who hit ten home runs. Both of these players will not feature this year but Hubbard and Gomez along with a powerful sophomore class will hope to fill the gap.

The Spartans have also lost influential pitchers Amber Watson and Jessica Vandeploeg who stirred the pitching staff to 287 strikeouts and an earned run average (ERA) of 2.30.

Watson led the team in strikeouts with 119 and 11 wins while returning sophomore Melissa Johnson came in second for the team with 69 strikeouts and was first for team wins with 13.

Johnson will guide the Spartans pitching this year, supported by sophomore Danielle Byrne and freshmen Vanessa Oakes who set the state record for consecutive scoreless innings pitched at New Hanover High School (43).

The Spartans were chosen third in the Southern Conference Preseason Poll. Hubbard and teammate Joni Gomez were both selected in the 2004 SoCon Preseason All-Conference Teams.

"I was very excited with the selec-

Dynamic Duo

Aaron Snyder
Staff Writer

Over the past three seasons playing together, senior Jacinda Lambert and junior Amanda Eaton have established quite a confidence in one another. The two players have shown this year that they also exhibit great leadership qualities, which they have shown in dealing with a young team that has struggled this season.

"The work ethic is something that you can not replace" head coach Lynne Agee said. "They have tried to motivate, and the best motivation is how you take the practice floor every day and the way you play the game. For example in practice and in preparation, they set a fine example of leadership."

The junior from West Virginia and the senior from Boston both really wanted to come down south to go to college. Despite being two totally different players, Jacinda and Amanda have complemented each other well the last three years.

"The two are a wonderful combination for us, and they have played so hard" Agee said. "Every year the team changes, and just now those two have begun to play off each other, and to know that they are the major

contributor. I think that the two of them this year have found their best chemistry together on the court."

Under coach Agee, the Spartans have been extremely successful during her 23-year span as head coach, amassing 500 wins earlier this season. This season has been one of the more difficult and trying in Agee's time as coach, as her roster is comprised of eight players under the sophomore grade. The two captains have shown a great ability to persevere through the rough season.

"It has been exciting to play for a great coach, because she has taught me a lot about being mentally tough and competing every night" Lambert said.

Through out their careers at UNCG, both of the players have learned a lot about each other. The duo has also learned a great deal from playing with each other, and spending time together off of the court.

"Cindy (Jacinda) is an awesome player, she is one of those people that you want on the court with you because if something breaks down, you can always rely on her" Eaton said.



Amanda Eaton



Jacinda Lambert

tion; I've worked hard all four years so it was an honor to be chosen my senior year." Gomez said.

Out of the eight Southern Conference teams the College of Charleston, armed with last year's pitcher of the year Rachel Stern are the team to beat in 2004. The Cougars received a maximum seven votes in the SoCon Preseason poll compiled by the coaches. The Spartans travel to the College of Charleston to play the Cougars on the first two days of May.

Four-time defending SoCon champions, Chattanooga received second spot from the coaches; the first time since 1997 the Lady Mocks have not received the top spot in the poll. The Spartans will meet them April 3-4.

"Chattanooga is always a rival, College of Charleston is pretty good, and ETSU have got the same team coming back," said Defeo.

The month of April also sees the Spartans host ACC powerhouses NC State and Carolina. The games will be played on the 7th and 14th respectively and highlights UNCG's out of conference schedule.

UNCG will begin their season the 13th of February when they compete at the Triangle Classic in Raleigh, NC but will not play on their home field until they play Virginia Cavaliers on March 17th at 2pm.

Freshmen Kyle Stockton led the way with a comprehensive 6&4 victory over Brent Clodfelter. There were also resounding victories for junior Gregg Blainey and sophomore Nick Baker.

The Southern Conference baseball coaches have picked UNCG as favorites to take over the championship from last years winners Western Carolina.

The Spartans recieved five-first place votes while Western garnered four. UNCG open their season on the 14th of February at UNC Wilmington.

Both tennis teams were also in action this week. The men opened their Spring schedule at Old Dominion where they lost 0-7.

The girls also suffered the same scoreline when they traveled to Wake Forest last Sunday.

SPARTAN SPORTS ROUND-UP

The men's basketball team had two conference losses on the road this week. On Saturday they fell to Davidson 80-69 and Tuesday they suffered the same fate going down 86-65 at East Tennessee State.

Despite the defeats senior Jay Joseph continued his scoring spree with 28 points in the week.

The Women's basketball returned to the Fleming Gym on Tuesday to beat conference new-comers Elon 69-56 and halt a three game losing streak. Captain Jacinda Lambert scored a game-high 19 points to improve the Spartan record to 6-14 for the season.

This performance greatly contrasted with the 89-42 mauling the Spartans suffered three days earlier at Furman. The leading scorer for the Spartans in the loss was frshmen Jasmine Byrd who scored eight points.

The UNCG Golf team crushed neighbors High Point University 7-2 in the fourth annual Carolina Cup golf match last Saturday.



Sports Calendar



Thursday 2/5	Friday 2/6	Saturday 2/7	Sunday 2/8	Monday 2/9	Tuesday 2/10	Wednesday 2/11
No events scheduled	No events scheduled	Men's Basketball, Vs. Elon 1pm, Fleming Gym Women's Basketball Vs. Georgia Southern, Fleming Gym 5pm Wrestling at Chatanooga, 1pm Men's Tennis at Navy, Noon	Men's Tennis at American, 10 am	Women's Basketball, Vs. College of Charleston, Fleming Gym 7pm	No events scheduled	No events scheduled

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campaign, from page 1

A strong Kerry finish Saturday could break Dean's campaign.

Edwards, meanwhile, planned to parlay his South Carolina victory into an all-out effort in Tennessee and Virginia, which hold primaries next Tuesday. Both might be hospitable to a son of the South; Edwards is a senator from North Carolina.

"Tonight we stand at a crossroads," he told a crowd in Columbia, S.C. "We'll have a leader who actually understands the struggles of working people."

Still, Kerry proved Tuesday that he could win a border state such as Missouri - and win big - and triumph from the Mid-Atlantic to the Southwest and the Northern Plains. He was already launching ads in Virginia and Tennessee, anticipating Edwards' emergence as his main competitor there.

Kerry won with 50 percent of the vote in Delaware and Missouri. With 74 percent of caucuses reporting, Kerry also led with 50 percent in North Dakota. In South Carolina, Edwards amassed 44 percent to Kerry's 30 percent. In Oklahoma, Clark barely beat Edwards; Kerry was a close third.

Clark's success in Oklahoma kept his campaign alive, but his weak finishes in South Carolina, Missouri and Delaware undermined his victory and made it difficult for him to claim a new wave of support. Clark, who's from Arkansas, campaigned hard in South Carolina, where he cited his Southern roots and appealed to the state's military veterans. But he could only muster 7 percent of the vote there.

Exit polls showed that voters were looking for a candidate with the ability to defeat Bush and those voters flocked to Kerry. Kerry's support cut across demographic groups - women, men, blacks, whites, Hispanics and all age groups.

Overall, 269 delegates were at stake Tuesday, with 74 of them in Missouri. Going into the elections, Kerry was ahead with an estimated 118 delegates. Dean was second with 111; Edwards had 39 and Clark had 32, according to an estimate by ABC News. The numbers aren't fixed because they include so-called super delegates - party officials and members of Congress - who can switch their allegiances.

"It's the delegate count tonight, guys, it's the delegate count," Kerry told reporters, signaling with his hands that he was building his numbers at the expense of others.

Bob Sholar, an environmental engineer in the Kansas City suburb of Parkville said he hadn't intensely studied the candidates' various policy platforms but concluded that Kerry stood the best chance to win the general election.

"I like the fact that he served in the war and then protested against the war," said the 50-year-old Democrat. "The fact that he was willing to do his duty, that takes a certain amount of courage. Then to come back and take a stand, that takes an additional amount of courage."

From his first campaign stop in Clinton, S.C., on Tuesday morning to his victory speech in Columbia on Tuesday night, Edwards cast the primary as a "head-to-head" test of which candidate - he or Kerry - could best attract Southerners, blacks and rural folks.

"All three of which are critical for a Democrat to win in the fall," said Edwards, who called South Carolina a "critical bellwether" state. "I'm the candidate who can beat George Bush everywhere in the country."

Edwards rejected suggestions that a win in South Carolina only proved that he was a regional, not a national candidate.

"We have run a national campaign," he said. "We started in Iowa, I surged and finished second there. I competed in New Hampshire. ... I'm competing in South Carolina, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Missouri. ... I've not walked away from any place."

Kerry's ability to win in the South has been questioned by some of his competitors, because Kerry could be portrayed as a Northeastern liberal out of touch with the concerns of Southern voters.

But Kerry said he didn't have to win South Carolina or Oklahoma to demonstrate his nationwide viability. What's more, he said, Edwards outspent him 5-1 in the South Carolina. "I wasn't able to spend as much time there," he said Tuesday night. "I'm the only candidate who went to all seven states."



Kerry won 5 states Tuesday, including top prize Missouri, to further cement his front-runner status. A strong Kerry finish Saturday could break Howard Dean's campaign and make it a race between Kerry and NC's John Edwards.

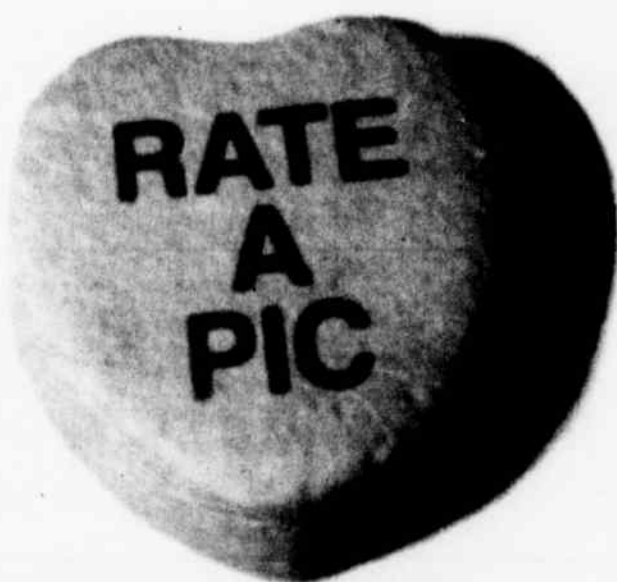


North Carolina Senator John Edwards took his native South Carolina Tuesday, taking 44 percent of the vote in a "critical bellwether" state.



Retired General Wesley Clark took Oklahoma on Super Tuesday, but weak showings in South Carolina, Missouri and Delaware undermined his victory.

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