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FREE

# THE Carolinian

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF UNCG

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## Policewoman attacked on campus

Kathryn Kennedy  
News Editor

Kitty Campbell  
Managing Editor

A UNCG policewoman was hit by a car and assaulted with a bottle of alcohol while investigating a disturbance call early Friday morning, according to reports from the Greensboro News & Record.

Officer J.D. Burris responded to a call at 2 a.m. on Sept. 1 to North Drive, outside of the high-rise dorms. There had been a disturbance reported involving two men in a red 2002 Subaru Impreza.

When she approached the car, the driver hit her with the vehicle and one of the two threw a glass vodka

bottle at her before fleeing the scene. Officers gave chase but the pursuit was unsuccessful.

Greensboro Police later arrested the driver, Brad Allen Asbury, 18, of Stokesdale, and passenger Donald Michael Leopold, 21, of Browns Summit.

Burris' injuries were not serious and she was released from the hospital by Friday afternoon.

Asbury has been charged with a DWI, assaulting a government official with a deadly weapon, and a felony hit and run.

Leopold is being charged with assault and aiding and abetting DWI. Both men are being held at the Guilford County Jail on a \$10,000 bail.

## UNCG addresses sexual assault awareness through annual events

Janine Camara  
Staff Writer

"Every two minutes...in this nation a person is sexually assaulted," said Jason Robertson, Wellness Coordinator for UNCG's Wellness Center and a co-sponsor in UNCG's Sexual Assault Awareness Week.

"So think about that - every 30 minutes that's 15 people, every hour that's 30 people. That really brings it home for a lot of people."

Sexual Assault Awareness Week (SAAW) occurs annually during the last week of August, and is a series of events promoting an end to domestic and sexual violence. SAAW has been a service of UNCG's Wellness Center for the past 11 years. This year's events included several activities that have annually been a part of SAAW. Among the events were a sexual as-

sault defense class, the North Carolina Domestic Violence Coalition Silent Victim Project, a lecture entitled "Let's Talk about IT", the nationally syndicated Clothesline Project which gives victims of sexual assault and their loved ones the opportunity to describe their experiences through the medium of t-shirt art, and a "Take Back the Night" rally.

The rally, however, was canceled this year due to the onset of rain as a result of Tropical Storm Ernesto's development, according to the Assistant Director for Wellness Programs, Jeanne Irwin-Olson. The rally would have included a candlelight vigil, and addresses from Asst. Dean of Students Amy Jones, Dr. Bruce Lynch of the Counseling and Testing Center, Mary Culkin of the UNCG Sexual Assault Response Team, and poetry from Donalja James, a spoken word

poet and rape survivor.

Members of Alpha Chi Omega sorority would have also given a closing speech at the rally from "a student perspective on campus," according to Robertson. The sorority has been involved with the effort as apart of the community service arm of their organization.

"Alpha Chi Omega's philanthropy is domestic violence...they've worked with us for the past three years. They man the Clothesline Project the entire week...they see the gamut of what students go through and support the survivors. They also give us a voice within the Greek system on this issue," said Robertson of Alpha Chi Omega's involvement.

"Basically we were asked by the wellness center a few years ago if we

SEE SEXUAL ASSAULT PAGE TWO

## IARC students design, build home for local couple

Upperclassmen  
gain hands-on  
experience

Elizabeth A. Terry  
Staff Writer

It's not 8 p.m., it's not Sunday night on ABC and Ty Pennington isn't making an appearance on what can only be described as Extreme Makeover: Student Design Edition.

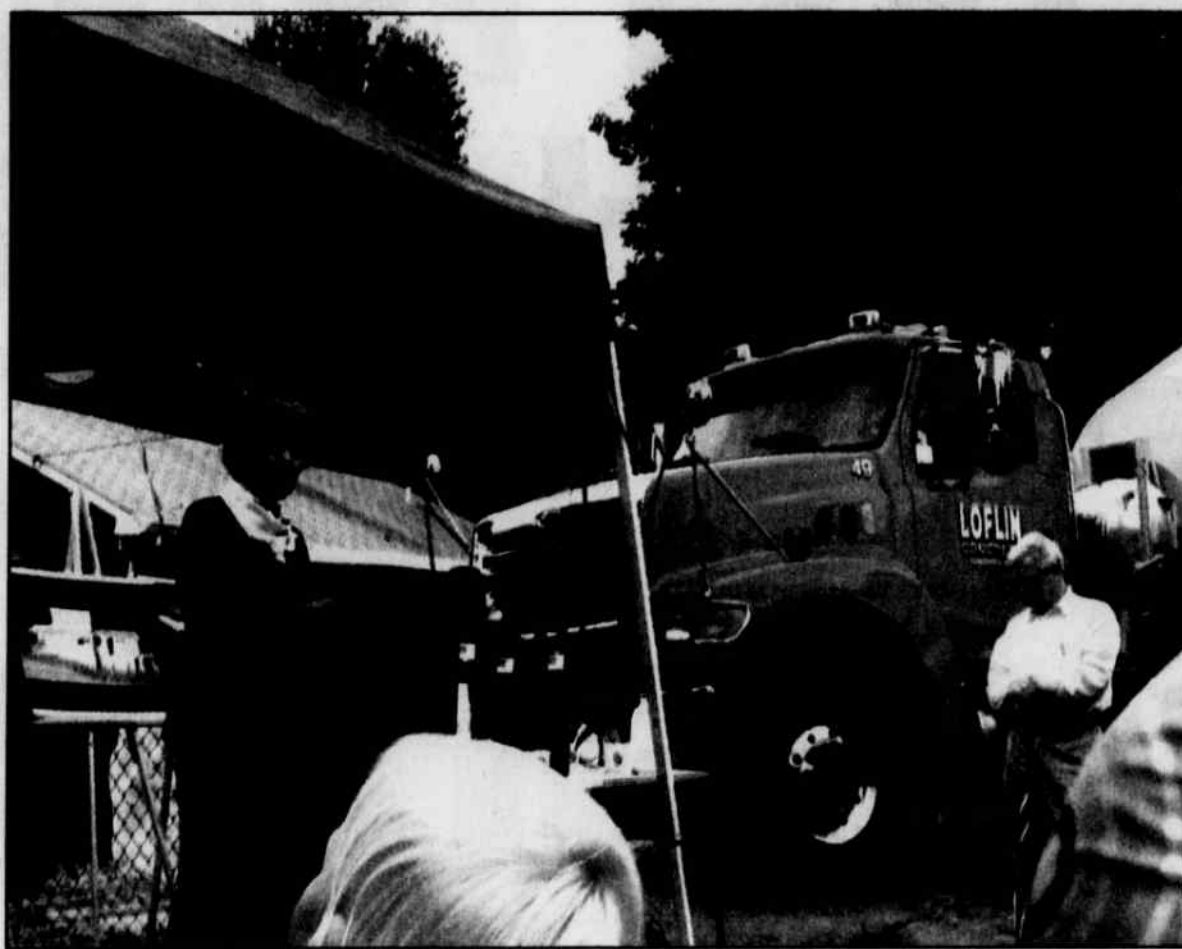
UNCG's Department of Interior Architecture (IARC) seems to be doing an "extreme makeover" of its own. A humanitarian act is in the works as the City of Greensboro and IARC collaborate in efforts to help a needy couple revamp their home, which was in disrepair - from no heating in the home for five years to not having adequate plumbing. The couple owned the home, but could not afford to have repairs made and their home was condemned.

"The Marshalls simply fell between the cracks," said Adrienne Garwood in a phone interview about the demolished house and how the couple was chosen. Garwood is a student in Urban Studios, a branch of the IARC. "Their house was a huge pit."

The IARC, Department of Social Work, and the City of Greensboro's Department of Housing and Community Development have all offered to help in a massive project for the Marshall family, each in their area of expertise.

The Marshalls are a local retired couple - Mr. Marshall is a retired groundskeeper at UNCG - who are currently staying with family in surrounding areas since their house was torn down.

According to a press release that



LOGAN YORK/THE CAROLINIAN

Chancellor Patricia Sullivan (left) spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony for a house being constructed for Mr. and Mrs. Marshall in Greensboro. Interior Architecture students designed the model and will be overseeing the building process.

IARC and Urban Studios sent out on Friday, Aug. 22, students from the Department of Social Work at UNCG have been helping the couple transition to their new home.

"[The Marshalls] signed on the dotted line... their house is completely knocked down and they have to trust that we're going to make them a house and do what we say what we're going to do," Garwood continued. After its completion, the Marshalls will have a two bedroom, one bathroom house

with a basement.

The project is officially starting next Tuesday or Wednesday, due to the weather delays. Urban Studios students will be on-site to start building the home they designed with the Marshalls in mind.

On Friday, Sept. 1, the groundbreaking ceremony took place with numerous guests ranging from Chancellor Dr. Patricia A. Sullivan, N.C. Representative Alma Adams, UNCG School of Human Environmental Sci-

ences Dean Laura S. Sims, Ph.D., and Department of Interior Architecture Head C. Tom Lambeth. The groundbreaking was open to the public and had a good turn out in spite of Tropical Storm Ernesto attending.

"The weather held up, but a really good turn out... from the city, students, and everyone had really positive energy," said Garwood.

Urban Studios is one of the three or four studios that third- and fourth-year students can choose from. A six-

hour studio is required for interior design students, and in studio, students design for 3.5 weeks and then work completely off-campus on the work site for three months. Urban Studios meets on the third floor of the new Maud Gatewood Studio Arts Center. Twenty students are participating in this project to get involved in the community with help from their assistant professor Robert Charest and the City of Greensboro.

The idea was a "collaboration that came from two directions: the City of Greensboro and Professor Charest, when Charest went to the city for potentially funding the project," said Garwood.

Urban Studios is also "a means of applied design, these are three and four year students and this is when we take materials and everything we've learned... [and] the culmination of all that work for a real house," she explained.

"We're trying to be as responsible as possible," said Sandra Boccabella, another Urban Studios student. "Since we are on a tight budget, all the windows were donated to us. We started calling companies for donations and discounts... and the response has been very positive."

"Environmentally friendly" and "tight budget" were words that came up often in the conversation.

"I feel like I have learned more in the last few weeks than the last few years. It's real life, it's not hypothetical. It's all real life and it has to be done by December 15th," said a very tired Boccabella. She added, "I don't mind the extra hard work. It's been busy and the last few weeks have passed by so quickly."

And Dec. 15 is the date etched into the minds of Urban Studio students, who know even harder work is ahead.

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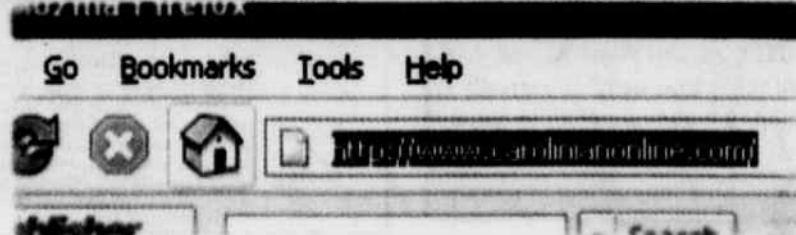
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### ON THE WEB AT:





## SEXUAL ASSAULT FROM PAGE ONE

wanted to co-sponsor. We've loved it ever since we started and look forward to it every year," said Lauren Pidgeon, president of Alpha Chi Omega.

"It's just really great that anyone would have the courage to put their story on a shirt," said Kristen Stencil, a sophomore History major and Alpha Chi Omega sister, of the clothesline project.

The clothesline project has been a part of SAAW for over a decade and been received relatively positively here at UNCG along with SAAW as a whole. This year's shirts were donated by the Wrangler Jean Company.

"We're lucky," said Irwin-Olson. "Some campuses have had shirts stolen or vandalized." She listed Wake Forest University as an example of schools where the clothesline project has posed a problem.

"It's actually pretty amazing to watch...women walk by and read these shirts," said Pidgeon. "It's great to actually see that you are making a difference in someone's life."

Robertson mentioned one shirt in particular that details the story of a male sexual assault victim. The shirt reads as follows:

"It's been 20 years since I've seen you - and in 5 weeks I'll face you. There were others...but I hoped I was your last. In February a 12-year-old boy spoke up - broke silence - then another...and another...and another. Twenty-one of us and still counting...I'm not a little boy anymore. I'll stand with those boys. We'll look you in the eye and speak truth."

Another shirt detailed the hardship of rape on the designer's mother and praised her strength, while another listed the first and last name of the alleged perpetrator of rape but was censored in order to avoid possible litigious response.

"Some of the freshmen women would come up and thank me - students have really been warming up to

the issue," said Robertson of his experience with SAAW this week.

The other components of Sexual Assault Awareness week were deemed just as successful as the clothesline project. This year's speakers included Kelly and Becca, two young women who have personally dealt with the issue of rape and pregnancy.

"The turnout, I thought, was amazing," said Pidgeon of the event that occurred in the EUC auditorium on Tuesday evening. "It was a very strong speech," continued Pidgeon who later described the audience as large and consisting of many young men.

"It was very much a mixed crowd - the men are realizing that this is a problem too."

There was also the Silent Witnesses Project sponsored by the NC Domestic Violence Coalition. This segment included red cutouts of a woman's figure detailing the names and death dates of victims of sexual and domestic violence.

"People kinda get a look of terror on their face," said Robertson of the response to the project, which was on display in the EUC lobby from Monday, Aug. 28 through Thursday, Aug. 31.

"What makes that so impactful is that all these people [represented by the cutouts] are already dead," said Robertson. The victims represented in the project that was on display here at UNCG were individuals from the Triad.

Sexual Assault Awareness week appears to have painted a compelling picture of the reality of sexual violence.

"We have a hyper-sexualized society...women can't win," said Irwin-Olsen of the reasons for the onset of sexual violence in our society.

"What do we have going on in the world? Where do a lot of men learn to be men...do you learn it from your father? Or from somewhere else? It's a reflection of society."

## Open forum to discuss general class requirements

### Staff Report

All UNCG undergraduate students are invited to attend an Open Forum for students this Thursday, Sept. 7, at 3 p.m.

UNCG is in the process of conducting an evaluation of the general education requirements and would like the student viewpoint to be a part of the discussion, according to a bulletin from Undergraduate Education.

They ask students to come prepared to discuss what is good and bad about our general education requirements.

"This is the students' chance to share what they think," said Lee Odom, an employee in the Associate Provost's office.

The forum will be held in the Azalea Room of the Elliott University Center and hosted by consultants from the undergraduate curriculum committee.

Odom predicts the forum will last no more than one hour and refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Odom at her office in the Mossman Building or by calling 334-5393.

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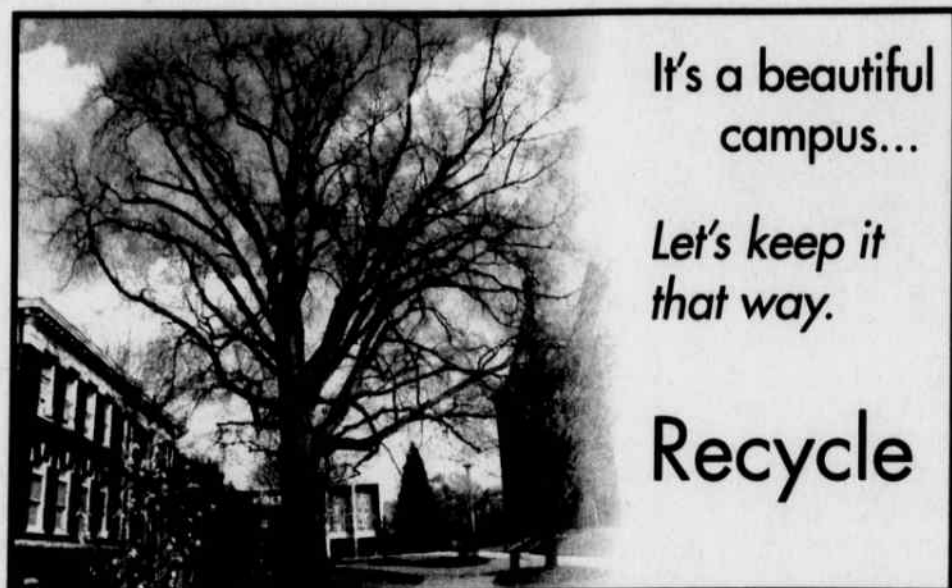


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# So you went abroad. How was your trip?

Students returning from abroad experience culture shock, too

Janine Camara  
Staff Writer

Daniel Diaz gets a far away look in his eye whenever he talks about the two semesters he spent studying in Europe.

"The adventure of studying and living in another country... brings a new sense of being alive in the twenty-first century and of being a global citizen," said Diaz with reminiscence. "I gained a new profound sense of what it is like to be Swedish or Finnish."

Diaz, who is a graduate of UNCG, spent a year abroad in Sweden, Finland, and traveling throughout the European continent.

Senior Ajaya Francis also thoroughly enjoyed her stay overseas.

"It's such a great experience," said Francis. "I got so much more independent...I feel much bolder."

Francis, who just returned from her stay in Manchester, England, now interns for the UNCG International Programs Center. Francis was drawn into working for the Center after her stint at Manchester Metropolitan University. Similarly, Diaz now works as Programs Coordinator at the Center due to his interest for international education ignited after returning from overseas.

The Center coordinates study abroad programs, student exchanges, and other international education initiatives.

"The IPC is a very important function of the university," said Diaz. "One of the major things that [UNCG] is trying to do is not only develop itself as an institution but it is moving in the direction of internationalizing itself. We [the IPC] are leading that process."

The center serves as the international arm of the university and works at establishing relationships between UNCG and other international institutions and "spearheading international strategic directives," according to the Director of Study Abroad and Ex-

change Programs Dr. Penelope Pynes. It also sends and receives students, scholars, and professors in order to maintain an "international presence" on campus, said Diaz, and to promote UNCG abroad.

"In the long run we're promoting world peace," said Pynes of the Center's work.

Students have a myriad of choices in the international programs that they participate in through the Center. They can take courses in health care as Francis did in the UK, and they can also partake of the UNCEP (University of North Carolina Exchange Program), a program facilitated by the UNC system where students can participate in exchange opportunities established by the system as a whole.

UNCG is also a member of the ISEP (International Student Exchange Program), a coalition of universities that offer reasonable study abroad options for students everywhere. Francis recommends the experience to other students.

"I cannot say how much [I loved it]...[Other students] don't think it's possible - they get so much out of it."

"I have never had a student who comes back and wishes they had never gone," said Pynes. "I've been doing this for over 20 years."

Pynes and Diaz both agreed the process of re-integrating into American society is often rough. According to Pynes, the more profound the experience, the more severe "reverse culture shock," or the re-adjustment to everyday life back in the states can be.

"It's like coming back from life training. You've undergone dramatic and intense personal behavioral shifts... you're a new person," said Diaz of his post-study abroad experience.

According to Diaz, students often complain of the cultural differences between the U.S. and other nations, or find that people may not be as interested in their study abroad experience as they hoped.

"People got adjusted to not having me here," said Francis

of her return to UNCG. "You have to figure out where you fit in - you come back with a different perspective."

Pynes and the Center are prepared for the advent of reverse-culture shock in returning students. They have workshops where students share their experiences with one another and provide opportunities for students to speak about their stays overseas through presentations to others, publicizing the study abroad experience.

"We try to help students feel good about who they are in a new way," said Pynes. Reverse culture-shock is one of the unexpected challenges of study abroad, but according to Diaz and Francis it's worth it.

"I think that to do anything great in life," said Diaz, "you need to be challenged."

"Being comfortable in a different culture," was one of the benefits of Francis' stay in the United Kingdom.

"It was...empowering...a great sense of accomplishment," said Diaz. "It would be a bizarre thing not to travel."



Daniel Diaz, Programs Coordinator for the IPC, spent two semesters studying abroad in Europe.

LOGAN YORK/THE CAROLINIAN



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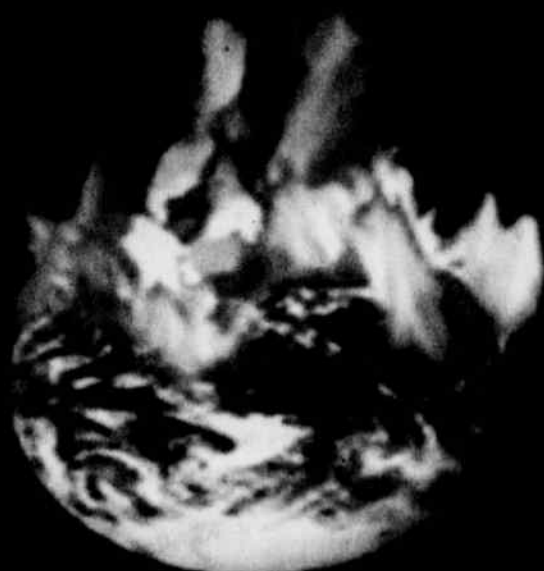
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# THE Carolinian

UNCG's student newspaper since 1919

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Letters may be submitted to:

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Letters submitted by 5p.m. Friday will run in next Tuesday's edition. Word limit is 250 for letters, 550 for guest columns. Submissions may be edited for length or clarity. NO UNSIGNED SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION. All submissions come under possession of The Carolinian. The views expressed in the Opinions section of The Carolinian do not represent the views of The Carolinian or its staff unless stated.

## CORRECTIONS

In the Aug. 29 issue of *The Carolinian*, there were errors printed in the story entitled "UNCG sororities kick-off school year with annual recruitment" on page three. Kelley Bozarth is an alumna. The current vice president of communications for Alpha Chi Omega is Emily Jo Nichols. Also, 15 to 20 women are accepted to EACH sorority per year, rather than 15 to 20 accepted in total which was implied. In the same issue, a technical error caused a letter to the editor to be run twice, and another letter to be cut off, under the heading, "Not Impressed with new Spring Garden Apartments." The correct letter appeared online and is being rerun in this issue. We apologize for any confusion.

# Opinions

# Letters to the Editor

## Not impressed with new Spring Garden Apartments

In the first edition of this semester's paper (14-21st) there was an article about the new Spring Garden Apartments. In it, the apartments were painted as wonderful complete places to live. The 'last piece of sod' may have been laid, but it was torn up again the following week for sprinkler systems. 'Everyone may have worked hard to get things done,' but they still aren't.

For the past 3-4 days in a row I have had work crews in my apartment fixing things and installing things required by code.

I live in a handicapped suite. I am not handicapped. None of my roommates are handicapped. The reason that I live in this suite is because the University thought it would be wonderful to let the new residents choose where they live. Nowhere did they tell us, the residents, who are paying a lot more money to live here, that we wouldn't have bathroom cabinets and kitchen cabinets due to wheelchair access, nor did they mention the fact that we would not be receiving an oven in our particular suite. The 'Spring Garden FAQ' does not mention once the availability of handicapped suites, neither does the posted new segment with walk thru [sic].

Is this failure to communicate or failure to get it right period, not even to mention the first time?

Aja Eisenhardt

## Missed the mark

In reading the most recent publication of *The Carolinian*, I was disappointed in Natalie Woodall's article entitled "New Studio Arts Building Praised." While it was informational and somewhat interesting, I felt something was lacking: news about the Art Department.

Though it was mentioned in the introductory paragraph, it was not a part of the rest of the article. Having

an extensive background in art and in UNCG's Art Department itself, I feel that its absence from the campus paper was very unjournalistic and unprofessional. When you're covering a story, whether it is a campus publication or one for a much larger audience, you must investigate, incorporate, and understand all of the facts and 'players' involved. It could have been a slip of the mind or maybe even Woodall's lack of interest in the Art Department, but I'm sure many art students here at UNCG, or in the Greensboro area (former Art Department professors, graduates, artists in the community), noticed the absence of Art from page 2 of the paper.

Woodall could have mentioned one reason why the new Department is located behind Weatherspoon Art Museum, or she could have commented on the lavish new darkroom, fumigation hoods behind the building, or even updated art students on whether or not Mark Gottsegen was still riding around campus on his red motorized scooter. Including a picture of an art student at work on the side of the article doesn't cut it. I hope the Art Department's new home, and future on campus, will be covered better in the future.

Katie Fennell

## Too many gay opinions

Did anyone else notice that four-fifths of your Opinions articles in last week's issue either made mention of or focused solely on Gay issues? And the fifth article was on parking? Where's the balance? Since when are gay issues so integral to student life at UNCG that 80% of a section's content is centered around them? It seems *The Carolinian's* finger on the pulse of student identity has slid off and been stuck somewhere else.

Though I appreciate Mr. McNeill's effort to incorporate international and military issues into the fray, his extremely biased and presumptuous

rant on the military soon degenerated into a soap box for gay rights.

Mr. McNeill, the job of the US military is to defend the country by killing people who threaten it. Expecting political correctness from an agency of professional killers seems a bit much. Where do you derive your authority to judge the military's practices? Have you yourself been in the armed forces? And honestly, if you were going to have a fight, which group would you rather have on your side? A bunch of "narrow-minded, bigoted bullies" (as you called them) or a small minority of 726 "honorable homosexuals"? Remember, your goal here is to win the fight.

And how about an article relating to something more people are personally affected by? Like the possibility of a draft to supply troops for this unending war, for instance. I'll bet more people at UNCG would care about the possibility of getting killed themselves in the Middle East than the maintaining of a centuries-old policy that only affects an extremely small minority. Minorities perpetually focusing on minority issues without a concrete goal at hand will never be well received by a majority, which brings me to Mr. Hill Comer's article.

By focusing solely on gay issues, you've presented yourself as the single-issue voting, overly-liberal extremist that the Religious Right would be quick to stereotype you as. And why would a straight majority care to patronize your rant by considering a world where homosexuals were the majority? What's in it for us? Gaining empathy from a majority by making unsubstantiated and extreme claims won't work in any situation, gay or otherwise. Your long-winded and meandering analogy led to no real plan of action or decree, it was just dramatic complaining.

So, Mr. Hill Comer, unless you plan on diversifying the themes and presentation of your column, I'd recommend renaming it, "Don't Bother (I'm Just Bitching)."

Please, *Carolinian*, re-claim the

Opinions Section to represent more than one opinion!

Nathan Smith

## A call for new columnists

I always look forward to reading *The Carolinian*; or I used to. It really hurts me to say that the current state of the paper is just pathetic.

Already I feel like I'm reading the same things over and over. How many times am I going to have to read about how different Luke McIntyre is from everyone else and why everyone should agree with him?

The features are poorly written and poorly organized. Chuck D came to campus and you put it in the middle of the paper? Really?

Instead you put a story about the dorms still not having A.C. on the front page. That's like doing a story about *The Carolinian* still running a column a week about how gay people are mistreated; there's no point because it's been like that forever and it's obviously never going to change. I'm really sorry if you feel mistreated, it shouldn't be that way, but is it really accomplishing anything positive to bitch about it redundantly? You live on perhaps the most socially progressive campus in North Carolina, where, from what I've seen you're greeted and accepted with open arms; at least treated no worse than anyone else here. Seriously, get some new material.

Your one saving grace is Mr. Brad Howell writing sports. He's a good writer and a good journalist.

My dear *Carolinian*, there is so much going on around here. I am so proud to be at this university because there is so much going on, such rich diversity and such amazing, interesting people. Please, get your shit together.

And get new columnists. Luke McIntyre's bad comedian routine got old a year ago.

David Straughan

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# We have nothing to hide

## Staff Editorial The Carolinian

Transparency is a goal for which every organization should strive. The reasoning for transparency in an organization is two-pronged. The first is that if your organization has nothing to hide, you have nothing to lose by allowing the public to know how you operate. The second is based on the principle of teamwork: the more eyes

you have looking at a problem, the faster a solution will be presented.

It's for this reason that we at *The Carolinian* have recently posted our Code of Ethics and Operating Procedures on our website ([www.carolinianonline.com](http://www.carolinianonline.com)) under the "About us" tab. This allows us not only to be accountable to ourselves, but to our readers as well. Now you know the rules that we play by, and you can call foul if you see one.

*The Carolinian* has always encour-

aged readers to contact us in the event of factual errors in the paper. In addition to letting you know more about how the paper is run, this will now allow readers to contact us with potential Code of Ethics violations. It's not that we don't hold ourselves to our own Code of Ethics (which is based on the Associated Collegiate Press Code of Ethics). We do, and that's the point. We have no problem with a few thousand more eyes double-checking our work. In fact, we want that. Every

mistake you find is a mistake we can correct, and do our best to prevent in the future.

We hope that other campus organizations embrace transparency as a goal as well. Every organization on campus, from SGA to OSL and everything in between, operates in the student interest in some fashion. Because of that, every student has a stake in each group's operation. If a group is doing the best job possible, it should have nothing to hide.

## The Tao of AIM



### Failure to Communicate

Luke McIntyre  
Life Editor

There's no need to tell college students about the virtues of instant messaging. In many ways, it's redefined the college experience. High school friendships are no longer stretched and torn apart; I still talk daily with my best friends from high school, even though many live hours and states away. Friends traveling abroad keep me updated on their daily lives, and our generation has gotten the art of having a meaningful conversation over instant messenger down to a science.

There are the anti-social drawbacks, of course. I have old friends who

don't use AIM, but they're practically dead to me now. I'm as likely to keep a non-digital long distance friendship alive as I am to spurt a third arm.

But as with any form of communication, there must be a set of guidelines that we all agree on, a certain social contract by which we all operate. Manners, I believe my parents called them. There are certain things you can do over an instant messaging system that, while not against any specific rule, are simply poor form.

For example, the most annoying thing you can possibly do is get "creative" with your font. Some people take it upon themselves to discover new and imaginative ways to make their font absolutely unreadable. Either it's too big, too small, or the person has picked colors that border on camouflage. Now I have to click and drag over everything that Cindy types just because she felt hot pink over

light pink was a cute color scheme.

Solution: If more than one person complains about your lettering, change it to black Times New Roman for a week. You're getting a little uppity with the fonts, and now you're in time-out.

Another problem, which isn't as overtly bothersome since it can easily be ignored, is away messages in which people wail to the wind about their personal problems. Let's face it: if your AIM away message is the only outlet for your personal angst, it's time for professional help. What is the actual point of posting melodramatic wrist-slitting lyrics in your away message? Is this a New Age internet therapy technique I don't know about? If the only channel you have for contacting the outside world is AIM, it's time to step back and reevaluate some things.

Solution: By the tone of half of these over-quoted songs, I'm wondering whatever happened to running a warm bath and just ending it already.

Maybe I'm old-fashioned. (But seriously, get help.)

The problem with guidelines of this sort is there's no real way to enforce them. There's a button for "warning" people, but it's much less satisfying than the sound of a good, solid slap to the back of the head. If someone annoys you long enough you can block them entirely, but again it's not as fulfilling as knowing they'll be answering the question "Oh my god, what happened to your eye?" for about a week and a half. In the real world, a rude comment to the wrong person could result in either of those, or worse. For now there's no way to email punishment, so we're stuck in a state of AIM anarchy.

You can check out more of Luke's writing at his blog, [lukemcintyre.blogspot.com](http://lukemcintyre.blogspot.com).

## DISAGREE?

Submit a guest column to: [the\\_carolinian@hotmail.com](mailto:the_carolinian@hotmail.com)

No unsigned columns will be printed.  
Please note our Editorial Policy on this page.



## Can equality really destroy society?

**Don't Ask,  
(I'm Telling)**

**Matt Hill Comer**  
Staff Writer

In recent weeks conservative politicians across the country have become more and more outspoken on the issue of gays. Their most outspoken views, of course, being that gay people are evil and sick and that gay people want to, somehow, push our "Homosexual Agenda" and destroy society.

The Homosexual Agenda will destroy marriage, society and the world as we have always known it, they say. Allowing gay marriage will lead to incest and bestiality. The gays are like arsonists and kleptomaniacs. One conservative organizer for the group founded by Alan Keyes, a former candidate for the US Senate from Ohio (who has a lesbian daughter), said that a new and growing trend in the gay population is having sex with infants.

Yup... that is exactly what we gays and queers want to do (never mind, however, that I've yet to receive my personal copy of the "Homosexual Agenda"). We want to rape your children, have hot, passionate sex with our miniature poodles and make love to our siblings and cousins. These scare tactics from the "irreligious wrong" and "Gay Objectors' Party (GOP)" are ludicrous, insane and do nothing but promote fear, ignorance, prejudice and hate against a minority.

LGBT people want nothing more than what straight people already have. When a group of people already

have rights and they already have all they want or need, I'm sure it could be easy to take those things for granted. I'm sure it could be easy to simply say, "Well, I'm okay and I have what I need" and just not care.

There is nothing more basic in this world than the love one person has for another. When a person commits him or herself to another person (hopefully, for life), there are just so many things that become more complex and more difficult to manage. Tasks related to medical care, child care, financial and legal matters and the home become the product of the two persons combined, instead of the product of just one individual. Inevitably, the two lives become so personally, financially, medically and legally intertwined that it sometimes becomes difficult to separate a couple into its two distinct parts.

Because a couple's relationship is so close and so important to their lives and their family's lives, the government recognizes that special bond and gives those two people rights, benefits and privileges (more than 1000 of them at the federal level) in order to help them more easily manage all of those intertwined difficulties. If you are in a same-sex relationship, however, the government doesn't offer you those rights or benefits. Even though a same-sex couple must deal with the same legal, medical, personal and financial matters of an opposite-sex couple, they are denied those government-sanctioned rights and benefits simply because some members of our political system see homosexuality as a sin or as an evil force bent on destroying the world.

THE BUSH PEOPLE DROPPED BY AGAIN. THEY SAY THEY'RE CONTINUING THEIR ONGOING PROGRAM TO HELP NEW ORLEANS' KATRINA CLEANUP

THE SAME PEOPLE WHO SAY THEY'RE SPENDING DEMOCRACY IN THE MIDEAST?



I cannot name one person out of the many LGBT activists and leaders I know or whom I have met who believe that religious or faith institutions should be forced to marry those couples to which they have an objection. All that is being asked is that the government offer its rights, benefits and privileges on a fair and equal playing ground. No one wants to make the Catholic Church, or any group, marry a gay couple. Even for heterosexual couples, the government can't force a faith institution to marry two persons to whom that group objects (i.e. a church has a right to deny a marriage ceremony to a couple, if they do not first meet the church's expectations for couples or do not uphold the church's teachings or tenets).

We do not want to destroy the world, our relationships do not threaten the relationships of straight

couples and we deserve the same government-sanctioned rights, benefits and privileges offered to straight people. Our nation needs to truly understand the principles upon which we were founded. Our nation must begin to treat gay and straight couples the same. Our nation must remember, in the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., that an injustice anywhere, to any group, is an injustice committed against us all.

You can read more of Matt's writing at his blog, [www.matthillnc.com](http://www.matthillnc.com).

Visit us online at

[www.carolinianonline.com](http://www.carolinianonline.com)

to read the current issue, search our archives, take a poll, or submit a letter telling us what you think.

## Aiming to miss

**SemAntics**

**Katie Rose**  
Guest  
Staff Writer



As a graduate teaching assistant in the English department, I encounter a lot of students who are in the process of declaring their majors. Many ask me for advice about what they should study. My first questions are: "What are you interested in?" "What are you good at?" "What do you love to do?"

Some students answer these questions easily. After all, it's fun to talk about what you're interested in. But there is always a student who resists these questions, a student who believes that what she loves to do has nothing to do with what her college major should be. I'm always curious where these beliefs come from.

A former student of mine, let's call her Alice, came up to me last year to tell me she had just declared her major in English. She was thrilled with her choice. She loves English. She told me she wants to go to graduate school in English and teach at the university level. As a student with a 3.8 GPA and excellent qualifications, I have no doubts she will be accepted into graduate programs. She asked me if I would help her pick courses for the next semester. I agreed.

She pulled out the sheet with the requirements for her course of study. Something seemed off to me. I realized that her major was not, in fact, in English, but instead in English education. She had handed me information on "English Education Course Sequencing" for the "B.A. in English with Licensure in High School Teaching." I said to her, "You want to be a public school English teacher?" She said no. I asked her why she was on the English education track. She didn't even know what I was talking about.

I explained that she could major in English, the study of literature or critical theory or any of the other strange and interesting things that we do in the English department, without ever earning a public school teaching license. You just major in English. That, I explained to Alice, is the major she needs to go to graduate

school. Majoring in English is "doing" English.

Alice told me that she actually entered UNCG as a dance major, having tried out and been accepted into UNCG's dance department. However, after going through the advising process with CASA (pre-major advising for the College of Arts and Sciences) and the dance department, she felt pressured to declare her major in dance education. As a performer and a choreographer (one of her pieces was performed as recently as this past summer), she felt stifled and out of place in the dance education track, and quit dance entirely. Alice was frustrated to realize a similar thing had happened again. She promptly changed her track to the B.A. in English.

Alice introduced a friend to me recently, we'll call her Lola. Alice explained to me that Lola is an art education major, but wasn't satisfied with her education courses. Lola said, "The last thing I want to do is teach finger-painting to rug rats." I asked Lola why she was majoring in art education. She said she chose the major because CASA told her it would be more practical than an art major.

I want to be very clear: I am NOT insulting teaching as a profession, or education as major. I just want to know how our students at UNCG seem to be steered into majoring in education. Where does this push to be practical come from? Do we not have faith in our students' abilities to succeed with liberal arts degrees or to do well in graduate programs? Do we have a self-esteem problem as a university?

Perhaps there is a link between Alice and Lola's experiences and UNCG's history as a teacher's college. Well, we're not a teacher's college any more. In fact, we have top programs in dance, art, and English. We need to believe in our students.

My advice for undergraduates is this: don't aim for your fall-back plan. College isn't the time to be practical—you can do that for the rest of your life (if you really want to). If you are studying to be a teacher, you should do it because you love teaching. Pick your goal, and shoot for it. Whatever you do, don't aim to miss.

Check out Katie's blog at [southernsemantics.blogspot.com](http://southernsemantics.blogspot.com).

## Research into AIDS: Collaborate? Are you serious?

**McClatchy-Tribune News Service**  
(MCT)

Bill Gates has put a condition on his foundation's grants for HIV/AIDS research that has been described as radical. It's both funny and sad that something so sensible is so revolutionary.

Gates is requiring that the 16 grant recipients who are getting a total of \$287 million collaborate as they look for a vaccine for that killer disease. Sharing medical research results, the wise thinking goes, could lead to making that discovery more quickly.

Time is everything in this quest. Time is life.

In 2005 nearly 40 million people were living with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, according to the Joint

United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS. About 2.8 million people died from AIDS that year.

Scientific research is a universe where competition for funding and fame, for the intellectual property rights and profits a discovery can bring, makes for high walls around projects.

Scientific competition is not an evil. The thirst to be first has helped to propel medical advances out of universities, government and the private sector. Competition will not vanish because of Gates' collaborative network. Many prominent AIDS researchers don't want or need his funding and will continue to work on their own.

But the urgency of the goal demands that different approaches be tried. Researchers who share findings, long before they are published in journals,

may be able to adjust their own experiments based on colleagues' conclusions.

They may learn more quickly that one line of research is futile and another more promising because they are part of Gates' network of 165 researchers from 19 countries.

Collaboration or no, it will likely take years before a vaccine with any efficacy against AIDS is developed.

The AIDS virus is the greatest challenge microbiology has ever faced. But at least the strings Gates has attached to his money could make the wait much shorter.

## Katrina and the punch at the pump

**By Ben Lieberman**  
The Heritage Foundation  
(MCT)

Lost amid the anniversary articles about Hurricane Katrina is how we've dealt with the energy fallout. We've had a year to get used to \$3-per-gallon gasoline and to come to grips with the vulnerability of our energy supplies. What have we learned?

We've learned that the impact didn't have to be so bad and that Washington can take measures to ensure that the next big storm won't hurt drivers and homeowners as badly.

The price of gasoline shot up a record-breaking 50 cents per gallon in the week after the storm, giving America its first taste of \$3-plus gasoline. Natural-gas prices rose even higher in percentage terms, and only extremely mild weather prevented the 2005-06 winter heating season from being the most expensive ever.

Little wonder Katrina packed such a punch at the pump and in natural-gas bills, since nearly 25 percent of America's domestic oil and gas production was concentrated in its path. Offshore wells were shut down and evacuated in the days before Aug. 29, and many were damaged when the storm's 170-mph winds and massive waves swept through. Related onshore refining, processing and pipeline infrastructure in Louisiana also was hit hard, cutting

energy production in the region dramatically for a few weeks and to some degree even today.

The national impact wouldn't have been so severe if it hadn't hit the only offshore area with extensive oil and natural-gas production. The Pacific, Atlantic and eastern Gulf of Mexico also have substantial oil and gas resources. And many onshore areas hold substantial untapped reserves as well. But federal restrictions have placed many of these areas off-limits to energy exploration and drilling.

Politics, not geology, is the reason America has concentrated so many energy eggs into one hurricane-prone basket off Louisiana and Texas. And future Katrina-strength storms seem inevitable.

Thus, if we truly want to take an energy policy-related lesson from Katrina, we need to allow oil and natural-gas production elsewhere. We'd have greater supplies, lower prices and less vulnerability to storms or other disruptions.

These restrictions were put in place years ago, at a time when energy was cheap and the need for additional production was not seen as significant. But circumstances have changed. Oil and natural-gas prices are almost three times higher than they were in the 1990s when much of this energy potential was placed out of reach. Also, drilling and explora-

tion techniques have been refined to significantly reduce the risk of environmental damage. Experts say most oil found in U.S. waters results from natural seepage from the sea floor, and only 1 percent comes from offshore wells. And very little oil spilled from rigs in the path of Katrina.

Also, although this year's hurricane season has thus far been mercifully mild, most experts say that hurricane frequency runs in cycles and that we have begun a long-term period where powerful hurricanes are more likely.

Congress has before it bills to open some of these off-limits offshore areas as well as a small part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. Legislators have two months to do something constructive about energy before facing voters in November.

We have within our borders and our territorial waters tens of billions of barrels of additional oil and enough new natural gas to last for decades. And it is so spread out across the nation that no one storm could have the impact on supply that Katrina did.

It'll take more time to get over Katrina and the damage it did to one of America's most storied cities. But we can learn Katrina's energy lesson right now. And we can do something about it.



# The Writers' Group of the Triad

*This Triad writing group has been going strong for sixty years.*

**Kate Musselwhite**  
Staff Writer

"It's easier not to write than to write. Except if you are a writer. Then you have no choice." Nobel Prize winner, Elie Wiesel's quote introduces the website for The Writers' Group of the Triad and helps set the tone for what the group is all about.

Founded by Judith Hill nearly sixty years ago and formerly called the Greensboro Writers Club, the Writers' Group of the Triad is a non-profit group organized by writers "for writers." The organization now has about a dozen subgroups that focus on specific genres of writing, including children's writing, mystery, novel, poetry and nonfiction writing. Its nearly 100 members meet each month with their fellow writers and authors in the cri-

tique group of their choice to share, review, edit and get feedback on their own works.

Their mission, says the WGOT website, "is to provide a supportive and creative atmosphere in which all levels of writers can write and revise with the help and advice of others."

And that is exactly what the group does.

"We want to let writers in the community know we're here to help," says WGOT president, Edmund Schubert.

When Schubert became president of the group two years ago, he was told he could do as much or as little with it as he liked; he "chose much instead of little."

With the available people, money and resources, Schubert and the group were able to "offer more" to the community, including a variety of work-

shops open to members and the general public. WGOT now offers between four and six writers workshops each year, organized mainly by the group's vice president, Dena Harris.

One of WGOT's biggest problems, Schubert says, was lack of awareness of the group.

"The group wasn't really that well known in its own community. Other writers could benefit from it if they knew it was there." And the workshops, he says, are a way to let the community know more about the organization and extend what the group does for aspiring writers. A critique group focusing on short stories is in the early stages of possibly being developed, as well.

WGOT also has a growing partnership with UNCG's Center for Creative Writing in the Arts, which, Schubert says, has been beneficial to both or-

ganizations. Schubert and Center for Creative Writing director, Mark Smith-Soto, are expecting to host a presentation, sponsored by WGOT, by major New York literary agent, Rita Rosenkrantz on UNCG's campus at the end of October.

In their monthly meetings at the Sternberger Artists Center on Summit Avenue, members read and share their works with their related critique groups, bringing in their latest poems and receiving feedback, or, for the longer works, bringing in and discussing fifty to a hundred pages of a novel in progress and receiving continuous feedback each time.

The Writers' Group welcomes members of all different ages and levels of

SEE WRITING ON PAGE 13



PHOTO COURTESY WWW.BOBDYLAN.COM

## "Modern Times," Dylan's first album in five years, out for sale

A review

**Jennifer Sanchez**  
Staff Writer

The thing that bothers me about people who don't like Bob Dylan is that they usually have only one complaint, and that is that they cannot stand the man's voice. Well, if that is the case, then I suggest those people steer clear of Dylan's latest release, *Modern Times*.

On this album, while his age is made apparent through his even scragglier vocals, his wisdom and social commentaries are made even more effective because of it. The feel of *Modern Times* is much more laid back than on his last release *Love and Theft*, which came out September 11, 2001, but one of those title themes is still prevalent on this most recent album. Most of the songs on *Modern Times* are about love and war and the cruel state the world is in.

The first track, "Thunder on the Mountain," begins the album by describing the "ruckus in the alley" and the troubles in the streets as people are trying to leave town. But all that seems to be on his mind is a girl, and that girl is Alicia Keys — about forty years his junior, but he's still willing to chase her through Tennessee. Amidst all the trouble, what he's really looking for is a "real good woman" to do just what he says. This song, as well as most of the other tracks, mentions the need to get right with God before the end, and it's usually either that sentiment or a theme of divine reckoning which Dylan uses as preparation for what must inevitably follow these modern times. There is a slight religious undertone to a lot of his songs. In the ballad "Spirit on the Water" he says, "I wanna be with you in paradise, and it seems so unfair/I can't go back to paradise no more/I killed a man back there."

Dylan has always been able to capture, and often times critique, the sentiment of current events with his music, even though he may not be writing about those topics explicitly. In "The Levee's Gonna Break," he describes the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 (which is the second time he's used this image on an album), but it's almost impossible not to read into this song in regards to Hurricane Katrina. It describes all the flooding and devastation as he mentions seeing "some people on the road carrying all they own/some people got barely enough skin to cover their bones." While the reference is indirect, I don't believe that anyone can take it to be purely unintentional, because this is what Bob Dylan is known for.

The album ends with a haunting song about a son avenging the death of his father. "Ain't Talking" is set in a mystic garden while the gardener is away, as the son searches silently for his enemies. He says, "If I catch my opponents ever sleeping/I'll just slaughter 'em where they lie/Ain't talking, just walking..."

Overall, the music on this record is much more rockabilly, but it's mainly clear and relaxed, with as many slow tempo songs as upbeat ones. In "Nettie Moore," Dylan mentions that he's in a cowboy band, which makes perfect sense when listening to this record. His lyrics speak of love and prophecy and the picture of society on the brink of these modern times.

SEE DYLAN ON PAGE 7

# Finally...pottery is cool again

*"The Mad Platter is a fun, relaxed environment where everyone can create a masterpiece."*

**Kathryn Tarney**  
Staff Writer

Upon first glance, it doesn't seem like much — The Mad Platter is located in a strip mall that is set back behind the Bojangles on Battleground Avenue. It has a modest storefront, with a banner proclaiming that Fridays are "date night," and a small chalkboard with the current specials.

When you enter the store, however, it is an entirely different story — there are shelves lining each wall, filled with unfinished ceramics, just waiting for someone to personalize them and take them home.

Meredith Moore-Painter had been working at The Mad Platter for roughly 3 years when she heard that the owners were thinking of selling the

11-year-old store. She and her friend since childhood, Dahlia Halpern, both recent UNCG graduates, knew they wanted to do something different, and although they had looked at many different fields, had not found anything that they felt would really impact the Greensboro community. Meredith and Dahlia both knew that the business had a great deal of potential for growth, and decided to buy the store — and business has never been better. In fact, it has doubled since the girls bought the store in January.

Dahlia attributes their success partly to the fact that, "The Mad Platter is a fun relaxed environment where everyone can create a masterpiece. The great thing is you don't have to be an artist or have any experience to create something unique." This idea is echoed by



PHOTO COURTESY WWW.THEMADPLATTER.COM

The Mad Platter is lined with "unfinished ceramics, just waiting for someone to personalize them and take them home."

one of their newest employees, Latisha Dawson, who feels that "the atmosphere is so open and it allows creativity to flow without worrying whether you're a professional artist or not."

Meredith and Dahlia's idea of 'rejuvenating' the idea of pottery has re-

ally taken off, and they carry over 300 unique pieces of pottery, many specifically selected to appeal to the young adult demographic. Some of these

SEE POTTERY PAGE 13

## THE CONCERT GOER



PHOTOS BY LOGAN YORK/THE CAROLINIAN

WUAG's free "Welcome Back to School" show, Aug. 31 at the Flying Anvil, hosted bands: Manband (left), Opening Flower Happy Sunshine (top right), Embarrassing Fruits, and Des Ark.

Want to share your photos from last night's show? Send in your own work for "The Concert Goer" by Saturday at midnight and have the chance to spread the word about music in the Triad. All photos must include your name, the name of the bands pictured, venue name, and date.

## Faculty member awarded New Writing Award for Poetry

**Deanna Haynes**  
Staff Writer

The Fellowship of Southern Writers has been dedicated to recognizing outstanding Southern writers since 1987. This year, UNCG faculty member in the MFA Creative Writing Department, Jennifer Grotz, will receive the New Writing Award for Poetry from the Fellowship of Southern Writers.

A collective award given based on a writer's career as a whole, not just on one particular piece of writing, the New Writing Award for Poetry is given without mention of nomination. When the winner is determined, their name will be announced. The writer

has no idea beforehand that their work is being considered for the award.

On winning the New Writing Award, Grotz said that she felt "very surprised." She admitted that winning felt really good, but also said she doesn't spend too much time relishing her success. She wants to keep herself challenged and refuses to allow this achievement to go to her head.

Jennifer Grotz grew up in Texas. Her passion for writing began at the age of five. "I can't remember a time that I didn't think of myself as a writer," she says today. Her family was not interested in books and therefore only owned a phonebook, a dictionary, and

the Bible. But this budding writer loved to read and read the three books that were available to her quickly. After their completion, she spent her afternoons in the library reading whatever appeared interesting. Her passion for reading increased greatly after finding the poetry section of the library. Influenced mostly by the Bible, Grotz also takes inspiration from poets such as Keats, Milton, and W.S. Merwin.

Jennifer Grotz is the author of the book entitled *Cusp*, which consists of many different types of poems. She sees *Cusp* as an announcement to the world that says, "Here I am; here's my voice." She is currently working on a

second novel.

Along with writing, Grotz also enjoys a teaching career among the faculty at UNCG. She says that writing sometimes leaves her feeling selfish due to the isolation that it requires. Teaching allows her to give something back, creating a balance between isolation and human interaction.

Her advice to aspiring writers is to read a lot. "If you don't read a lot of poems, you don't know all of the possibilities that could be."

Grotz will be accepting her award at the 2007 spring meeting of the Fellowship of Southern Writers, March 29-31, held in Chattanooga, Tenn.



## Little Miss Sunshine: 2006's best movie thus far

"...it's the brightest thing that has hit theaters this year."

**Roger Priddy**  
Staff Writer

\*\*\*\* (of 4), 101 Minutes, R

Now that's what I'm talking about. In a year of mild to moderate darkness for movies, a big bright missile of sunshine has finally arrived: *Little Miss Sunshine*. It's an awesome, must-see movie; the best film that I've seen this year. You may not have heard of it because, despite a larger theatrical release the last few weeks, it's still sort of an indie, offbeat, oddball film. But if you like movies, you'll love *Little Miss Sunshine*. It's that good. And what makes it so good is that it's a comedy that has what it seems all comedies lack these days: reality behind the humor.

Comedies today seem to fall into one of two categories: blatantly stupid and utterly ludicrous to the point of containing no substance, or ultra-realistic and grim to the point of being ubiquitously unfunny. But *Little Miss Sunshine* finds that magical mesh. It's real, while at the same time being funny. It's funny, while at the same time being real. Heaven.

The film has a clever script, superb acting across the board, and real characters that the audience can be interested in and grow to know and love. It takes chances, it's beautifully creative, and it works. It's a movie critic's salivating, buttery popcorn fantasy.

*Little Miss Sunshine* is the story of a truly, truly dysfunctional family. This family makes the Osbournes look like something from Mayberry. The dad, Richard (Greg Kinnear), is a motivational speaker with a nine-step plan towards success, but has no clue how to motivate himself or his family. Mom is Sheryl (Toni Collette), a freedom-seeking free-thinking woman who's frustrated but loves her family very much, and serves as the glue that keeps them semi-together. Their kids are teenage son, Dwayne (Paul Dano), a disciple of existential philosopher Nietzsche who's in the midst of a nine-month vow of silence, and cute 7-year-old beauty pageant contestant,

Olive (Abigail Breslin, the girl from *Signs*). Alan Arkin plays Richard's father, a heroin-snorting, profanity-laced but genuine grandpa. Joining the family is Sheryl's brother, Frank (Steve Carell), a former college professor who tried to kill himself after his former lover and graduate student chose another professor over him.

This family definitely isn't Beaver and the Cleavers, that's for sure. The disturbing thing is, despite how dysfunctional they are, how truly close the portrayal is to the typical American family. They all come together when Olive gets invited to a beauty pageant several hundred miles away. Even more dysfunctional than the family is the malfunctioned way they get to this beauty pageant. I won't give anything away other than to say that the old, yellow van on the movie's poster is an integral and hilarious part of the journey.

Newcomers Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris' direction is sharp and smooth. The writing and dialogue are crisp and superb, the acting super. Kinnear and Collette are the backbone, nicely witty yet restrained. Breslin is cute and touching as the little girl and Dano outstanding and an absolute scene-stealer going through the teenage rebel stage we all went through. Veteran actor Alan Arkin is memorable (if a bit over-the-top) and *The 40 Year Old Virgin* star, Steve Carell, gives his best movie performance yet.

It's not flawless and it has a few scenes that don't quite work, but as a whole it's just incredibly awesome. *Little Miss Sunshine* utilizes a winning formula, redefines that formula with a plethora of innovative twists, and keeps you guessing to the eerie yet winning ending. Vivid and vibrant, it's the type of film that has lots of laughs and makes you smile all the way through while simultaneously challenging you and making you think long after the end credits have rolled. Memorable moments abound. *Little Miss Sunshine* may be a dark comedy, but it's the brightest thing that has hit theaters this year.

### DYLAN CONT. FROM PAGE 6

Dylan fans will appreciate it; others may not feel the same. It's a solid record that moves rather slowly, but regardless of its pace it has a lot to say.

And while it may not rank above any of his classic albums, it can definitely stand alongside them.

## Gatsby's American Dream

A review

**Caitlin Saraphs**  
Staff Writer

When somebody mentions pop culture, I bet you immediately hear a particular type of music in your head. Up-tempo, kind of jangly, and definitely with a beat you can dance to, which are all things that can be said of Gatsby's *American Dream*'s new, self-titled album. But in reality, there are different types of pop culture, and Gatsby's *American Dream* is more the pop culture of those geeks playing D&D in the basement than that of Paris Hilton. It's clear in the song titles — "You All Everybody" and "Station 5: The Pearl" reference the TV show *Lost*, "Beneath the Shadow of the Colossus" is a reference to a PS2 video game, and "We Can Remember It For You Wholesale" references a short story by Philip K. Dick. Those are some pretty geeky pieces of pop culture.

This geekiness definitely adds a twist to the typically sugary music you expect from albums heavily laden with allusions to pop culture. It's still catchy and up-tempo, with great melodies and huge hooks in every song, but there's a decidedly minor sound running through it that keeps it from

being your typical pop record. It has more in common with Panic! at the Disco than with the latest Justin Timberlake release. Gatsby's is deeply layered, so that you hear a new guitar part or a different keyboard melody with every listen. Nic Newsham's voice is unique in a still kind of emo way, and works well against the thick guitars. There is, in every song, a section of absolute brilliance, where everything comes together perfectly to lodge itself in your brain and never leave — for example, in "Me and Ed Loyce," near the beginning of the song Nic sings, "I need it to be just so damn apocalyptic," and the drums and keyboards actually convey that feeling. Beginning with the eighth track, "Filthy Beasts," Gatsby's really hit their stride and those moments of brilliance last the whole of the last four songs.

The lyrics of Gatsby's are, for the most part (apocalypses aside), a rant against the music industry and its love of jumping on each and every trend that comes along. As fans of *Lost* will recognize, the idea behind "Station 5: The Pearl" is that the music industry is a huge psychological experiment, only instead of being conditioned to watch someone push a button every 108 minutes, we're being conditioned to spend thousands of dollars on whatever we're told is popular.

The amazing thing about Gatsby's *American Dream* is that despite being an album about such a specific topic, the themes it brings up are larger than the band's issues with the industry. Any artist who has been taken advan-

## Punk's not dead: a rock show review

"...it was a good evening for the little punker community..."

**Sue Edelberg**  
Staff Writer

On Friday, Sept. 1, the Four Corners Market on Elm St. in downtown Greensboro hosted a free punk show featuring local bands Natural Disaster, Walking Dead, and Queen Anne's Revenge.

The night had some interesting elements, some even more interesting than the music itself. The minor events that took place convey well the general atmosphere of local punk shows like this one, and then some. First, everyone was ushered into the Four Corners Market off the sidewalk with a man at the door telling everyone to "come to the free show!" I stepped inside and was immediately blinded by studded belts and drowned by a sea of black band T-Shirts: Tiger Army, The Clash, The Exploited, Discharge, and even ZZ Top. "Rock and roll, man!" a guy in the audience shouted before the show officially started.

It wasn't long after the first band, Natural Disaster, went on that the cutest little punk rock kid — a seven-year-old — came in with his mom and his mini Mohawk and temporarily stole the audience's attention. Not long after that, a crazy drunk character in a yellow rain slicker came in from the street and stood up front, rocking out and air drumming and jumping up and down, singing along at the top of his lungs at the start of one song. Behind the counter, bartender/cashier Lucy Waldrop rocked out a little

as she ate her bag of Doritos.

As for the band's sound, it was very typical seventies-influenced punk rock, the same stuff that's been replicated, or kept alive rather, until today. It's similar to the stuff some of you probably listened to in high school — Operation Ivy, Bad Religion, etc. Not to say that it's not good music — if it's your cup of tea, then you would love any of these bands.

For me, however, I am realizing that I am just not a punk rocker, and quite honestly, most punk music bores me after a few songs. But I did like their awesome surf rock-esque reverb. And as the three guys in Natural Disaster played out, they seemed to really be enjoying themselves and had a good, positive energy which I really appreciated.

Next was Walking Dead, featuring recent UNCG graduate, ex-member of The Englewood Ska Quartet, and once WUAG director and producer of Radio Greensboro, Jerrod Smith. Walking Dead took the sound and energy up a notch, with their lead singer's at times early AFI-sounding vocals, and his hands free of an instrument. With only a mic to grip, he was very rock star-like in the way he moved about during their set, and even gave the lead singer of the next band a "guttery nipple" as he was singing (I believe I heard his terminology correctly — if not, there you have a cool new term for a punk rock tittie twister). They did a good job with the classic "wooh-ohs" but they were a little too prevalent for non-punk rock me.

The last band was the headlining Queen Anne's Revenge, apparently a local punk rock favorite, as implied by the energetic and sing-a-long microphone-storming response of the crowd. All that can be said of them is that they had that classic early punk sound down pat. At this point it became harder to enjoy myself, not being able to sing along with the rest of the crowd, who seemed to be having a really good time.

The crowd consisted mainly of other supporting local punk bands and friends of the bands. "I'm here because they fucking rock and I like supporting local music," said Dream Killer member Christy Johnson. Tommy Peach, member of Witch Kings, said they were "punk rock to the max — and only Wesley Willis would say that". John Sweeney, good friend of Walking Dead said he supported their music because they were "kids having a dream and wanting to fulfill it".


In the end, the show was a good thing for what it was worth. Maybe it's hard to get into it or feel included if you're not a die hard rocker, but it was a good evening for the little punker community that actually exists in Greensboro — a chance for them to get together and rock out and party with each other like it's 1970 again.

So is punk not dead? Find out for yourself by checking out their upcoming show Sept. 8 at Somewhere Else Tavern, featuring Walking Dead, Queen Anne's Revenge, and 11 other bands.

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tage of, anyone who has felt uncomfortable with being part of the herd, or anyone who has felt that they were being sacrificed to keep the hive functioning will be able to relate to the ideas on this album.

I think Gatsby's is on to something, with the way they used not-so-popular pop culture to express larger truths about the world. They've definitely managed to package their message in a cohesive, catchy, and genuinely fun

album that I can't seem to take out of my stereo. It makes you wonder if we ought to let the geeks make music more often.





## SPARTAN SCHEDULE SEPT. 5 — SEPT. 12

Tuesday, Sept. 5  
Volleyball  
HIGH POINT  
7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 5  
Men's soccer  
CAMPBELL  
7 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 8  
Volleyball  
vs. Robert Morris  
@ Gardner-Webb  
Tournament  
4:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 8  
Men's soccer  
UAB  
7:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 8  
Women's tennis  
@ Landfall Collegiate Invitation-  
al (Wilmington)  
TBA

Friday, Sept. 8  
Women's soccer  
vs. Tennessee  
@ Tennessee Tournament  
8 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 9  
Volleyball  
vs. N.C. Central  
@ Gardner-Webb  
Tournament  
noon

Saturday, Sept. 9  
Volleyball  
vs. Gardner-Webb  
@ Gardner-Webb  
Tournament  
5 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 9  
Women's tennis  
@ Landfall Collegiate Invitation-  
al (Wilmington)  
TBA

Sunday, Sept. 10  
Women's soccer  
vs. Mercer  
@ Tennessee Tournament  
12:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 10  
Women's tennis  
@ Landfall Collegiate Invitation-  
al (Wilmington)  
TBA

Sunday, Sept. 10  
Men's soccer  
BELMONT  
UNCG Tournament  
3:15 p.m.

Sept. 11-12  
Men's golf  
Mid Pines Intercollegiate  
Southern Pines  
All Day

Sept. 11-12  
Women's golf  
@ Cougar Classic  
Charleston, S.C.  
All Day

Tuesday, Sept. 12  
Volleyball  
@ Elon  
7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 12  
Women's soccer  
@ Wake Forest  
7 p.m.

\*All caps denotes home game

## Women fall to Carolina, Va. Tech

### Goals scarce in the season's early goings

Shireen Sadaghiani  
Staff Writer

The Spartan women's soccer program hosted the UNCG Soccer Classic at UNCG Soccer Stadium this past weekend. The tournament featured UNCG, High Point, University of Miami-FL and Virginia Tech.

Friday night the Spartans could not capitalize their attacking efforts at the UNCG Women's Soccer Classic. Virginia Tech's only goal was scored by Gina Om in the second half to heighten her team to a 1-0 victory over UNC Greensboro.

Both teams gave an intense defensive effort in the first half and both teams had great scoring opportunities. Those efforts were not enough for either side to see a goal netted by the end of the first half, leaving the score board at 0-0.

The dead score did not hold for long after the start of the second half. Virginia Tech gained the 1-0 lead in the 61st minute. Freshman Julian Johnson threw the ball in to Laurie Beth Puglisi. Without hesitation, Puglisi then made the quick short to Om who found an open opportunity to place the ball past Spartan keeper Katherine Ryan.

UNCG did not end their attacking efforts there and fought hard to find their chance. In the last minute of the match UNCG had a couple of



SHIREEN SADAGHIANI / THE CAROLINIAN  
Spartan midfielder Carolin Felerabend.

excellent chances. Junior Karla Davis sent the corner kick into the box where Spartan freshman Kelly Attayek knocked the ball toward the goal. Hokie goalkeeper, Mallory Soldner was alert and solidified the save of Attayek's attempt. However, UNCG's Jennifer Bronson was there for the

rebound and attempted to get it past Soldner but was still unable to place the ball in a spot where the goalkeeper could not reach.

Although UNCG came up short, Ryan recorded seven saves to add to her record for the Spartans while Soldner had four saves for the Hokies.

Earlier in the week the Spartans lost to fourth-ranked North Carolina 1-0. For Carolina, Sterling Smith's goal in the 59th minute was enough to give the Tar Heels the lead and the win at the end of the second half.

UNCG was outshot 10-1 in the opening 45 minutes of play, but the Spartan defense held up, only allowing the Tar Heels three shots on goal. The first half ended with both teams scoreless.

Both teams' defensive ends came out strong again in the second half. UNCG's goalkeeper, Katherine Ryan, saved an attempt taken by Smith in the 47th minute and the Spartans only allowed two shots before Smith got her second scoring chance.

Later, in the 59th minute, Smith unified the game's only goal when she netted her first goal of the season. North Carolina's junior defender Jessica Maxwell sent a pass to senior striker Heather O'Reilly who then crossed the ball into the UNCG box where Smith took the perfect header into the goal past Ryan.

The Tar Heels out-shot the Spartans, 22-6. North Carolina also led with four corner kicks while UNCG finished with three. Ryan recorded five saves in 90 minutes of play for UNCG.

This past week has been a set of tough losses for the Spartans, but they should be content with their performance against top teams such as North Carolina who was ranked No. 4 last week by the NSCAA, and no worse than 8th in the other national polls.

## Red Alert: Spartans upset at Virginia Commonwealth

### 7th-ranked men downed in red card plagued match

Brad Howell  
Sports Editor

UNC Greensboro hit the road for the first time this season Saturday to face Virginia Commonwealth. The Spartans (2-1-0) did not leave town with the results they had hoped for.

Two first-half goals from the Rams (2-1-0) put UNCG in a predicament, but things had yet to become interesting.

Fred Sekyere Owusu tallied the first goal 13 minutes into the match, and Matthijs Maruanaya added another at 31:04.

Both Henning Jonasson and

Thomas Campbell were given red cards early in the second half, putting UNCG at a two-man disadvantage. Scott Jones buried a free kick from 35 yards for his first goal of the year at 58:32 to cut the deficit to one, but Virginia Commonwealth struck again 10 minutes later to put the game out of reach.

More Spartans followed Campbell and Jonasson out however, causing the referees to decide to halt play with 13:51 left in the game. Randi Patterson and David Worthen were red carded simultaneously at 75:47, and Jones was quick to follow, receiving a card only 22 seconds later. With only six players left to compete for the Spartans, the refs called the match.

UNCG was also given a red card as a team at the end of the first half.

The Spartans will try and right the ship tonight (Sept. 5) when they host Campbell at 7 p.m. at UNCG Soccer Stadium. The teams were originally set to meet Aug. 30 but inclement weather forced a delay.



JOHN READ / THE CAROLINIAN

Henning Jonasson was one of five Spartans red carded in Saturday's 3-1 loss to Virginia Commonwealth.

CAMPBELL VS  
UNCG

7 PM TONIGHT @  
UNCG SOCCER  
STADIUM

## Volleyball surpasses 2005 win total

### Spartans go 2-2 on the week, play home opener tonight

Stephanie White  
Staff Writer

The UNCG volleyball team saw its five game winning streak end on Friday night with a loss to East Tennessee State at the UNC Asheville Volleyball Classic. The Spartans did not fare well at the Classic, losing two of three matches.

The Spartans (6-2) did however already eclipse their win total of a season ago. Last season, UNCG went only 5-26.

The squad came into the game riding high after taking the UNCW Tournament the week before, followed by a road win against Campbell. When asked about his team's tournament win, coach Garus said, "It was nice to get a tournament win and be off to a 4-0 start. I liked that every player con-

tributed to the team's success."

Despite a solid offensive attack by freshman Branagan Fuller, who led UNCG with 11 kills, senior Theresa Hart who chipped in 10 kills, and sophomore Kaitlyn Nortz who added nine kills, the Spartans dropped the match with ETSU in three straight games.

The match started off closely with the Bucs edging out the Spartans in the first game 32-20 after winning three straight points to take the game into overtime. ETSU carried that momentum into the second game as they jumped out to an 18-8 lead. The Bucs went on to seal the game with a 30-22 win. UNCG answered back by taking an early 4-0 lead in Game Three but the Bucs closed the game with a 10-3 run, winning 30-26. Freshman Lisa

Fallwel dished out 32 assists in the game while freshman Catherine Hanners pumped out 21 digs.

In the next match versus host UNC Asheville, the Spartans pulled out an exciting 3-2 win. Hart continued her hot play, establishing a new career-high with 27 kills to pace UNCG.

Her overall performance over the weekend garnered her a spot on the All-Tournament team.

Nortz recorded 11 kills and four blocks, while senior Hilary Overby had 10 kills. Freshman Lisa Fawell dished out a season-high 61 assists, while freshman Catherine Hanners

had a team-leading 23 digs.

In UNCG's first ever meeting with Cleveland State (5-2), the Spartans were at a disadvantage by having to play shortly after the long bout with UNC Asheville. Cleveland State took advantage of the tired legs and easily won 30-13 in game one.

UNCG was never able to fully recover and dropped the next two games 30-26.

The Spartans return to action for their first home match of the season on Tuesday, Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. against High Point in Fleming Gym.

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# Fresh Faces

*The Fields reporter: Writer Matteson Fields asks random freshmen about their thoughts regarding UNCG Athletics*

## Matteson Fields Staff Writer

In North Carolina we are surrounded by schools whose lifeblood seems to be fueled by nothing else but their sports programs. At Carolina and Duke it's basketball. At State, Wake, Appalachian, ECU and A & T it's football. At these schools, there are students and alumni who eat, sleep and breathe for their school's teams. Here at UNCG it appears to me that we have a very healthy athletic department, but I fail to see the die-hard, car flipping, crazy fans that you see at other schools across the state.

To find out for sure whether or not this was the case I went out and questioned some freshmen students about how they perceive UNCG athletics. I figured that as freshmen they would have the most current outlook on our school, considering that many of them just got done researching many different colleges. So I waited outside

of the Reynolds and Grogan dorms and hassled a bunch of freshmen in order to get a good representative sample of opinions.

The first question that I asked was, "How interested are you in UNCG athletics?" Six out of the seven people that I talked to were very interested in UNCG sports, and the one who didn't care just wasn't into sports that much in general, which I guess is acceptable. Out of those seven, the same six that were into UNCG sports all said that they have been to athletic events and plan on going to many more. One freshman, Jeremy Miller, said, "I have been to every men's soccer game so far, and plan on going to every event that I can."

These freshmen definitely seemed to enjoy UNCG sports, but participation is one thing. I also wanted to see how much they actually knew.

The next question I asked was, "Is the UNCG men's soccer team nationally ranked, and if they are, what is their ranking?" Out of the partici-

pants, five of them knew that we were ranked, and three of them could name one of our correct rankings. The national coaches' poll isn't released until today (Sept. 5), so right now the only college soccer rankings are based on a collection of polls from soccer publications. Our highest ranking as of this article has UNCG ranked 7th (*Soccer America*), our lowest ranking is 16th (*Soccer Times*). Just knowing that we are ranked is pretty good, and means that you're paying attention.

Football is a big reason why a lot of the aforementioned schools have such rabid fan bases. So another question I asked the seven freshmen was whether or not a football team here at UNCG would help garner more attention from students. Like before, six of the seven students agreed that they would be more interested. Only one person, freshman Corey Bellis, said she didn't care if UNCG had a football team because she likes soccer.

Based on these answers it seems like football would be successful here, but

a lot of that would also be determined on how good our team actually would be. People don't come to games if you suck. We might not even be the best team in this city, and forget about in the state. It would be hard for us to compete. If it worked though, it would be huge for the university.

That's a debate for another day. The bottom line is that people like football, which is not really a surprise.

Based on the answers I got from these freshmen, the overall perception of UNCG athletics is a solid one. No one seems like they are going to give birth to kittens in excitement over a game here like Cameron Crazies do at Duke sometimes — that's just not our style. Even though we lack a football team, UNCG has a wide variety of other sports that we excel at, soccer being one of them. Students here seem to really enjoy themselves at games, and are genuinely interested in supporting our teams — an interest that will continue to grow right alongside UNCG itself.



**Danielle Daldone:** "I believe the perception of UNCG sports is ok, but would be better if we had football"



**Jeremy Miller:** "I have been to every men's soccer game so far, and plan on going to every event that I can"



**Stephanie Northcutt:** "I'm pretty interested, I go to games, and I'm planning on playing Intramurals"



**Corey Bellis:** "It's fun to go to games and definitely worth supporting"



**Rashaad Hunt:** "I'm very interested in UNCG athletics"

PHOTOS BY MATTESON FIELDS

## Intramurals gear up for fall season

*Sign-up for Flag Football, Volleyball, Outdoor Soccer, and more*

### Caitlin McCann Staff Writer

Classes are now officially underway and that can only mean one thing—the fall intramural sports season is ready to begin.

Flag Football is one of the intramural sports taking place in the fall. There may be no tackling in flag football, but that doesn't make it any less intense. This sport is quite competitive and there are chances for the best teams to advance to regional competitions.

Today (Sept. 5) is the deadline to sign up for flag football. So, if you're interested in signing up drop this paper, grab a bunch of friends, go to the fourth floor of the Student Recreation Center, and sign up to play flag football.

"Flag football is a blast, and it's a great opportunity to be around people," says Nicole Piscitelli, the Intramural and Club Sports Assistant Director.

Outdoor soccer not only brings in a lot of teams to compete, but it has a large fan base as well. Signups for outdoor soccer begin Monday, Sept. 11, and end on Monday, Sept. 18.

"Outdoor soccer has some of the most intense games in our intramural sports program. It really gets your competitive juices flowing," says an enthusiastic Piscitelli.

The final intramural sport for this fall season is volleyball. Compared to the other sports, there are not many teams involved in volleyball, and there are even less men's teams. This sport keeps players on their toes. There are chances to make game saving plays by diving on the floor to prevent the ball from touching the floor. Volleyball is a great opportunity to build camaraderie.

"If you like teamwork, then volleyball is a great sport to play," mentions Margie Rodgers, Piscitelli's graduate student assistant.

Signups for volleyball are Sept. 18-25. Teams typically play five games before the championship games begin. All of the teams participate in a single elimination championship. Those who win the overall championship receive T-shirts that state they are, in fact, the champions. These shirts could be perceived as being almost better than trophies. The shirts allow everyone on campus to know who the intramural champs are.

"You get bragging rights and the shirts enforce that," says Rodgers, who happened to be wearing an intramural champion shirt from a school in Indiana.

The UNCG intramural program also provides special events for students to be involved in. Two of the special events that are coming in the fall are the 3rd Annual Midnight Basketball Tournament and the 2nd Annual Dodgeball Tournament.

The 3rd Annual Midnight Basketball Tournament is limited to the first ten men's teams and the first six women's teams that come to signup. Signups for the event begin on Monday, Oct. 30, and end on Monday, Nov. 6. A \$15 fee per team is due at signups. Compared to the standard time of play, the Midnight Basketball Tournament provides for an interesting twist and at essentially \$1 a person, how could you lose?

The 2nd Annual Dodgeball Tournament couldn't be held at a better time. Signups begin Monday Nov. 6 and end Nov. 11. The actual tournament begins close to exam time.

"The dodgeball tournament is a great way to relieve stress right before exams. It's also a fun chance to relive grade school," says Rodgers.

The intramural program is trying to start a billiards and table tennis tournament, which would be held in

the EUC game room.

"This tournament plays into other interests people might have. It will also let people know more about the game room, which could lead to students utilizing it more often," states Piscitelli. The game room is located in the lowest level of the EUC, below the stairs and past the Career Services Center.

The intramural program is open to all students on the UNCG campus. It is completely student run. All of the referees, scorekeepers, officials, and the like are all students. So, if you are interested in finding a job and are a tad leery about playing, seeking employment within the intramural program would be a great chance to still be involved.

Anyone can form a team. Teams are typically groups already formed on campus, such as fraternities, sororities, residence halls, and clubs,

Questions or comments? Got sporting news that we need to be covering? Drop us a line at  
carolinian\_sports@yahoo.com

but that does not mean one cannot go out and just grab a bunch of random friends and form a team. If there is someone that does not belong to a team they can become "free agents" and will be placed on a team that has already been established.

To make an intramural team official, just go to the fourth floor of the Rec, fill out a roster, and pay the \$10 fee. This fee will be refunded as long as one's team does not forfeit and the team's captain attends all of the required meetings. Signups occur on the designated days specified for each sport and are held between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. in the Rec center.

"[UNCG's] intramural program is peaking. I have been working with the program for five years, and the number of teams we have are always increasing. The only thing we need more of is women. The number of men involved in sports outnumbers the amount of women," says a disappointed Piscitelli.

"There are a lot of women involved with the affiliating aspect of the program, but there aren't enough women actually playing," adds Rodgers.

Intramural sports are not only fun for the players involved, but they are also entertaining for the fans. Those interested in being spectators can learn when games are by reading the schedule posted in the Rec center and on the intramural website (campus-rec.uncg.edu/intramurals).

"Intramural sports are awesome. It is an amazing feeling when I am walking to my car and I hear the whistles and cheers coming from an intramural game," Piscitelli reminisces.

### FALL INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Sport	Sign-Up Dates
3-on-3 Sand Volleyball	Monday Aug.21- 28
Flag Football	Monday Aug. 28 -Sept. 5
Outdoor Soccer	Monday Sept. 11 - 18
Volleyball	Monday Sept. 18 - 25



## I Can't Believe I... Smoked Salvia

**Luke McIntyre**  
Life Editor

When I first heard of Salvia, I was skeptical. We've all heard tales of alternative drugs, supposed herbal supplements that create some sort of high, or over-the-counter drugs taken improperly creating a simultaneous trip and near-death experience. A co-worker once encouraged me to take an entire bottle of Dramamine, because it made him "see shadow people." Another friend downed two packets of Morning Glory flower seeds and found himself on the roof of a stranger's house, screaming at neighbors he didn't know.

Somehow these stories never really convinced me to put these things in my body. They also kept me far away from many of the parties I was invited to, insuring that the company I kept wasn't the company that got me in jail.

Still somehow, through my skepticism, Salvia piqued my interest. Unlike the activities mentioned above, Salvia has a bit of a following, marked by its legal sale in most head shops.

An aside for those of you not in the know, Salvia divinorum is a plant that, when ingested, is supposed to create a hallucinogenic experience. It's part of the sage family, and can be smoked or taken orally.

But does it work? There has to be a reason why this isn't as mainstream as other drugs. If it was just as fun, and legal to boot, it should be even more common than other drugs. I reasoned that if Salvia were the cool thing to do, it would be as popular as marijuana or alcohol is today.

I had never tried anything hallucinogenic or psychedelic in any sense of the word, so I was stepping on foreign ground when I lit my pipe full of Salvia. A deep breath to steady myself, then another full of smoke, and I was off.

The first strike against Salvia was the fact that it tastes like smoking a hamster cage. The disgusting sensation fills your mouth and expands throughout your body, pricking your skin and bubbling up a cold sweat. It was then I noticed that Salvia kicks in very, very quickly.

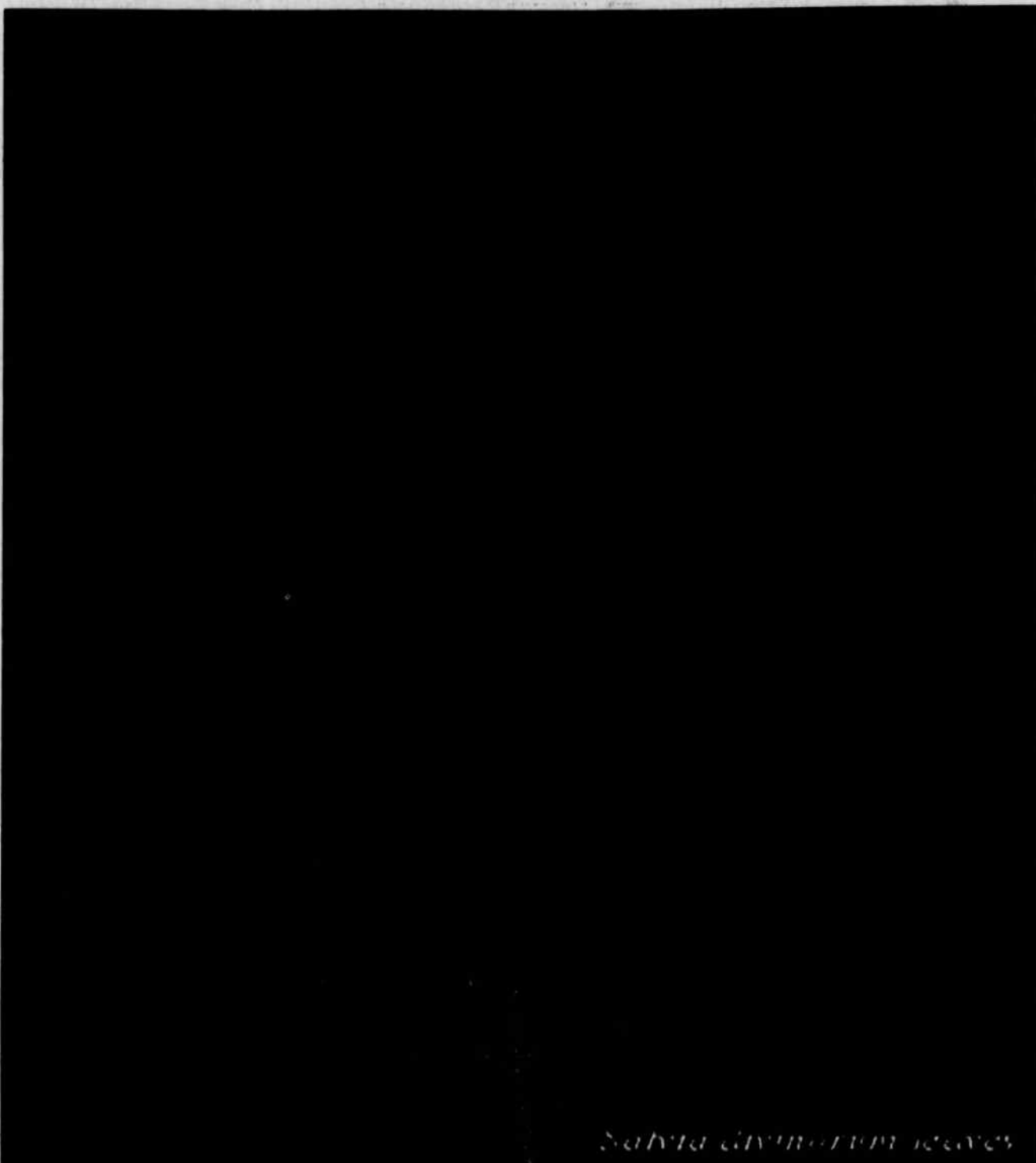
The problem with describing these sorts of highs is that it's different for each person. For me, I felt a strong sensation, almost an ulterior consciousness, which weighed in with an opinion on what I should be doing at the time. Its first thought was that I should get up and walk around the table I was sitting at. I remember trying to figure out where this thought was coming from, but just being cajoled further.

Get up, walk around the table.

So I did, laughing to myself about how absurd I was acting. Once I got to the other side, I asked the feeling what I was supposed to do now, but got no answer. Whatever it was, it wasn't the one taking orders.

I walked into the living room and plopped down in a soft chair. My faith in the Salvia was starting to wane, but then the room seemed to split into strips. They were parallel bands, as if the room were a rugby jersey. I couldn't see the bands, but I knew they were there. Sort of. The feeling that the room was separating was very strong, and it didn't seem to agree with the fact that my eyes saw the room as it was. It was at this point that I decided that I wasn't enjoying this experience one bit. Luckily for me, the Salvia high only lasts a few minutes. Everything faded away as quickly as it came, and I was left with little to no hangover.

Though I more or less hated the experience, the end result for me was a positive one. While I once dabbled with the notion of trying shrooms or some stronger drug, I now cast off the very idea of attempting another hallucinogen. My quick taste of Salvia was more than enough to show me that a bad trip could be the worst experience of a lifetime, and that the risk wasn't worth the possible benefit.



Salvia divinorum leaves

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Salvia divinorum leaves can either be chewed whole and swallowed, ground and smoked, or crushed and mixed with a liquid to drink.

***I Can't Believe I... is a continuing feature that allows UNCG students to tell a funny story, describe an extreme adventure, or just write about an odd experience they've had. Submissions or ideas for an I Can't Believe I... can be submitted to: the\_carolinian@hotmail.com***

## The power of digital cuteness

*Who can resist the magnetic draw of kittens that cute?*

### Tech Junkie

**Melissa Kurland**  
Staff Writer

Love your pet? We all do. What's not to love? Pets are cute, cuddly and give us unlimited affection when we get home. Some people, however, have taken their love for their kitties to a whole new level.

Many cat lovers have signed onto websites submitting photos of their kitty caught either in a humorous or cute moment. If you love your cat this much, and want to share your photos with the online world or are just bored and curious, then these sites may be something definitely worth checking out.

Like to dress up your kitties? On [www.stuffonmycat.com](http://www.stuffonmycat.com) hundreds of cat owners submit photos of their cats dressed in all sorts of peculiar ways. Some pictures are of their cats stuck in jars, some dressed in a suit and tie, and others chilling out with their friends. One category worth looking into is their "naughty stuff on my cat" section. There you can find pictures of some kitties that appear to have had too good of a time, drinking booze, partying up on the drug scene. The creator of the site, known as just Mario, has even set up a weekly contest. Each week has a special theme that the site is looking for. The theme this week is based on the location you are from.

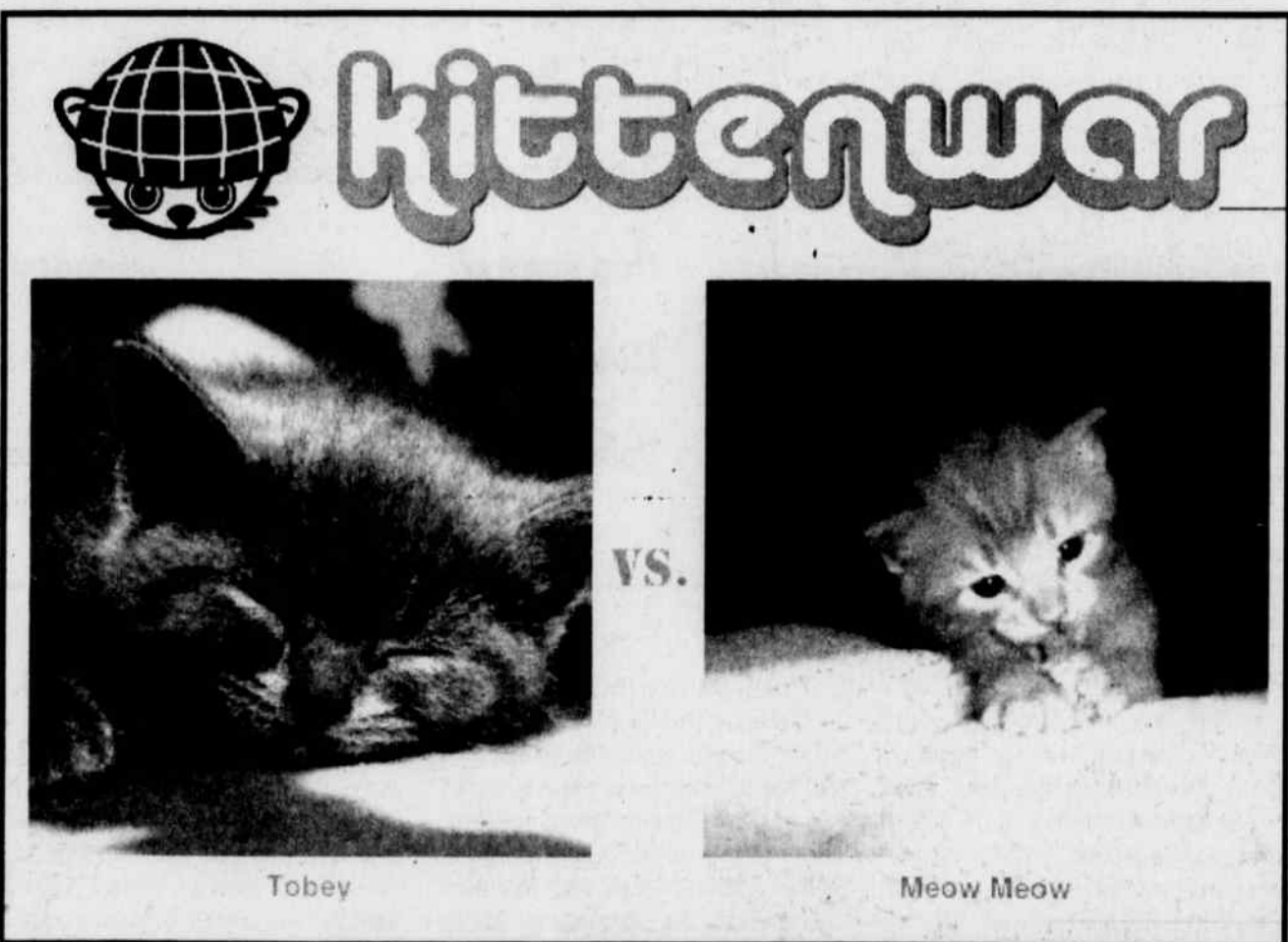
"I thought it would be a little fun if there was a contest that allowed people to show a bit of hometown pride and represent where they're from.

Agriculture is huge where I'm from (Fresno, Ca) so I would probably put a bundle of grapes, a picture of Bubba (our mayor) and maybe a gigantic sun that represents the Californian heat," suggested Mario.

The photos must be submitted by Saturday at midnight. If your photo is selected you could win a variety of cat lover's paraphernalia. This week Mario is offering winners a free t-shirt, postcards, a promotional book, and a cat toy for your kitty, amongst a few other freebies.

Another site offers the battle of the cutest kittens. Each kitten's picture is posted up against another candidate for the cutest kitty award, on [www.kittenwar.com](http://www.kittenwar.com). There are no prizes to be won on this site, but the voting of which is your favorite is a fun way to help pass the time.

Whether you are a fellow cat lover or have a funny picture you want to share with others, this might be of some interest to you. Many sites feature contests. If you do submit your photo and your kitty ends up not winning, don't feel bad. You know you love them win or lose.



[WWW.KITTENWAR.COM](http://WWW.KITTENWAR.COM)

52% of voters agreed that Tobey (left) is cuter than Meow Meow (right).

***Submissions for Tech Junkie, articles about websites, video games, technology, or just about anything you can plug in, can be sent to the\_carolinian@hotmail.com***



# The "ex" factor

## The Erogenous Zone



**Brook Taylor**  
Opinions Editor

I was walking back to my dorm after class last week when I saw him for the first time in two years: *the ex*. He was sitting in his car at a red light and I just happened to glance over and recognize him at the same time he recognized me. The story my friend had been telling me on our walk went in one ear and straight out the other as my mind started reeling with all the horrible distant memories that I have indelibly tied to that man in the car.

Everybody's got one—the *ex* that so severely fucked you up and over that even the mere mention of his name sends yucky cold chills through your body. If you're lucky, all your pain from the breakup turns into anger, and therefore, becomes bearable relatively quickly. If you're not, the pain sticks around to eat away at you, leaving you to feel like one big cesspool of wasted emotion. I was among the unlucky.

It won't do you any good for me to tell you what he did or how badly it hurt. If you've heard one heart-wrenching breakup tale, in essence, you've heard them all. The same ingredients are there: one of you blows it, and the other is left to pick up the pieces, shell-shocked and jaded.

My case was so severe that I kicked him out of my life entirely. At the time, I thought it was the only possible thing to do because his absence would give me time to heal and forget all about him. Even though I wouldn't go back and change my decision if I had the chance, I still think I sabotaged myself by eliminating him from my world because it automatically made him my Boogiem. He and all the things he had done became the stuff of my nightmares, and I rued the day that I would run

into him again. My utter disbelief and awe of the terrible things he had done literally turned him into a monster to be feared in my mind.

The worst part was how I unknowingly allowed my hatred and fear of him to change me and how I felt about matters of the heart. I went from being someone who whole-heartedly believed in love and put all her stock into it to someone with huge trust issues that could not handle emotional intimacy on any level.

It was another year and a half after that big, horrid breakup that I gave relationships another try. There had been a few hookups and one night stands before that point, but nothing of substance. I didn't feel like I was ready to open myself up yet and give another person the chance to hurt me. But when I did finally jump into my next relationship, I was amazed at how much the tables had turned.

Instead of being the hopelessly smitten participant willing to do anything to make it work, I was the inconsiderate one focused not on the union, but solely on what I could get out of it. I was the taker, the energy-drainer, the opportunist, and the one inflicting the pain. Basically, I was behaving like my *ex*.

And let me tell you, that is not an easy pill to swallow. Once I had made the connection between the two of us, I was horrified. I did not even want to entertain the thought that I had the same capabilities that he did of being a complete and total bastard. But I did.

It takes a lot to forgive someone who made you feel the lowest you've ever felt, and I still don't think I'm at that point with my *ex*. However, it's an entirely different thing to finally understand why someone did what they did. Maybe someone broke his heart once and left him unable to stop himself from breaking mine. Maybe all of us in the dating pool are just dealing with the messes that our bad *exes* left us.

*Brook's sex column, The Erogenous Zone, is in its third year.*

# College students' religious outlets grow

**D. Paul Harris**  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch (MCT)

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — As summer break comes to an end and students head back to institutions of higher learning, religion is becoming an increasingly significant part of campus life.

"Over the years, my observation has been that students are very much attuned to increasing more deeply their spiritual faith," said Patrick Stack, director of counseling services and campus ministry liaison at Webster University in St. Louis. "I guess each year that goes by it just astounds me how important this is in people's lives."

Stack says the religious landscape at Webster University has changed tremendously from when he started there 18 years ago. At that time, there were no religious groups, and now there are 18 campus ministries, representing Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Three Bible studies are held each week by different campus ministries, Stack says.

Aubrey and Tim Dorsch, a husband and wife team, lead the Campus Crusade for Christ ministry at Webster and Washington universities. It's the largest student organization on the Webster campus and one of the largest at Washington University.

"During this time of the year, we are reaching out to freshmen in a big way," said Aubrey Dorsch. "The freshman year can be very hard. For many of them, it's their first time away from home and they are dealing with situations they've never dealt with before. We feel it's important for us to get out there and meet and greet them."

Josh Chan, a member of the Campus Crusade for Christ at Washington University, was on hand Friday at the university's Ursas cafe passing out snow cones and freshmen survival kits, which included Bibles and assorted

items.

"I think the freshmen really appreciate the items that they are getting," said Chan, who is a junior majoring in mechanical engineering and finance. "I hope that in their own time and in their personal way that they can just take a look at the items and maybe be intrigued by it, and perhaps think a little more about spiritual matters because that's the purpose behind the items."

As a counselor, Stack finds that students have concerns about their religious faith and the struggles they have trying to be genuinely faithful.

"I wouldn't call it a surge, but there has been a noticeable increase of issues pertaining to spirituality and religion by each subsequent new group of students who come to us over the years," said Stack, "and I don't see that changing."

Jill Carnaghi, assistant vice chancellor for students and director of campus life at Washington University, says college gives students an opportunity to find their niche, and "check out some other religious beliefs just to see if they are compatible or not with their own values."

Carnaghi says students make multiple connections within the university community "and their spiritual and religious life is just one of those connections."

Stack agrees.

"I think people are yearning for more connections," he said. "The emphasis that religion provides to people in general is a connection with one another in fellowship. I think that's very attractive to many students."

Although many Webster students participate in campus religious groups, resident students as well as commuter students also attend churches, mosques or synagogues in the area.

Jeff Briggs, a senior at Webster from Alabama, is a musician for a Jewish congregation in Creve Coeur.

"Being in a college environment has facilitated spiritual awareness because I am surrounded by people who are pursuing various disciplines and they are very focused," Briggs said. "That keeps me sane because I'm in biology and math. Having music and mysticism is my release, especially doing the prayer services. It's very grounding, very inspiring."

Campus ministers and ministries have to meet the requirements of the institution.

"We at Webster University do not provide any stipend to any campus ministry," Stack said. "We will assist them in terms of the university's resources such as helping with a room or with technological equipment. On some occasions I might be able to shake the money tree and get cookies and maybe punch or something. All the campus ministries are here because of our students."

Washington University, like Webster, is not affiliated with any religious group. The 21 student religious groups at Washington University are registered through the student government and work with an adviser.

"As a liaison, I work with priests, rabbis, advisers and lay folks to find out, how do we provide guidance for our students in this area of spirituality?" Carnaghi said.

"It's not that they (the advisers) are going to direct, proselytize or tell them what to do because that would be the biggest turnoff to a college-aged student. That would be the kiss of death."

# Guiding students away from junk foods will help trim U.S. waistlines

**Arthur Garson Jr.**  
McClatchy Tribune (MCT)

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — For the first time since the Civil War, life expectancy of Americans is likely to decrease. Why? More people are obese, and obesity is linked with several diseases, including diabetes, heart and blood vessel disease, and colon cancer.

All kinds of tactics are being used to reverse the trend. The American Medical Association recently recommended a comprehensive analysis on the effect of a tax on unhealthy drinks. Bravo! At the University of Virginia Medical Center, we already have shown that a "tax" along with education works.

We introduced healthier snacks to vending machines and healthier choices to cafeteria selections. We didn't do away with the junk food, but we did educate our employees and the other primary users of our vending machines: our patients and their families.

For the vending machine program, we color-coded different snacks in vending machines. Items with more than 40 percent fat and 200 calories were coded with a red sticker, items with 35-40 percent fat and 140-200 calories were coded yellow and items with less than 5 percent fat and 140 calories

were coded green.

Baked chips and trail mix are examples of green items. Colorful educational posters next to the machines explained the program and the preferred choices for healthier eating. We added a 5-cent surcharge to the red items.

Results from the first year of sales showed sales of the red items went down 5 percent; the yellow went up 30 percent and the green items went up 15 percent.

Overall sales increased by 4.5 percent. We collected over \$7,000 in nickels that were contributed to the Children's Fitness Center. This was a "triple win": Consumers are eating healthier food, the vending machine companies are selling more product, and the Fitness Center started a new exercise program.

In other words, consumers are eating healthier food, while the vending machine companies are selling more products.

The program demonstrates that consumers made healthier choices when given the opportunity. They didn't have to be forced down that route.

As a physician with a keen interest in public health and public health policy, I've come to believe that in the

long run, educated consumers are more likely to make better choices than coerced consumers.

Our next plan in Virginia is to move the project into the school system — again with education and choices, not an outright ban.

The most important point about the school program will be the message that children will take home with them. This is an opportunity for children to learn and even to educate the adults in their lives.

There's a market for all this learning. We hear a lot about employers who want to cut health care costs.

One way to do this is to persuade employees to eat healthier foods and get moving. If employees are healthier, they will make fewer visits to the doctor and will file fewer medical claims. My phone keeps ringing and my inbox is full of requests from employers and other medical centers that want to know what kind of program will help people make healthier choices at work or in school and keep their resolve when they get home.

Obesity is killing us. Let's try education -- and maybe a tax -- just like cigarettes.

# Effective steps to quit smoking

**MyStudentHealthZone.com**  
McClatchy Tribune (MCT)

For most people, quitting smoking isn't easy. After all, the nicotine in cigarettes is a powerfully addictive drug. Many people don't quit smoking because they think it's too hard to do — but with the right approach, you can overcome the cravings.

**THE DIFFICULTY IN KICKING THE HABIT:** Nicotine is both a stimulant and a depressant. Like caffeine, nicotine increases the heart rate at first and makes people feel more alert. Then it causes depression and fatigue, which in combination with the drug withdrawal from nicotine, makes people crave another cigarette to perk up again. According to many experts, the nicotine in tobacco is as addictive as cocaine or heroin.

Millions of people have permanently quit smoking. These strategies can help you quit, too:

**PUT IT IN WRITING.** Write down all the reasons why you want to quit smoking, like the money you'll save or the stamina you'll gain for playing sports. Keep the list where you can see it, and add to it as you think of new reasons.

**GET SUPPORT.** People whose friends and family help them quit are much more likely to succeed. If you're having a hard time finding people to support you, consider joining a support group, either in person or online.

**SET A QUIT DATE.** Pick a day that you'll stop smoking and mark it on your calendar. Think of that day as a dividing line between the smoking you and the new and improved non-

smoker you'll become.

**THROW AWAY ALL OF YOUR CIGARETTES.** You can't stop smoking with cigarettes around to tempt you. Get rid of your ashtrays and lighters, too.

**WASH ALL YOUR CLOTHES.** Get rid of the smell of cigarettes by washing all your clothes. If you smoked in your car, clean that out, too.

**THINK ABOUT YOUR TRIGGERS.** You probably have "trigger" situations when you tend to smoke, like after meals, while drinking coffee, or as you're driving. Once you've figured out your triggers, try these tips:

-- Avoid these situations. For example, if you smoke when you drive, get a ride to class, walk, or take the bus for a few weeks. If you normally smoke after meals, make it a point to do something else after you eat, like read or call a friend.

-- Change the place. If you usually smoke in restaurants, sit in the no-smoking section.

-- Substitute something else for cigarettes. It can be hard to get used to not holding something and having something in your mouth. Stock up on carrot sticks, sugar-free gum, mints, toothpicks or even lollipops.

**EXPECT SOME PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS.** Your body may experience some symptoms of nicotine withdrawal when you quit, including:

-- headaches or stomachaches.

-- crabbiness, jumpiness, or depression.

-- lack of energy.

-- dry mouth or sore throat.

-- desire to pig out.

Be patient -- the symptoms of nicotine withdrawal will pass.

**KEEP YOURSELF BUSY.** The more distracted you are, the less you'll crave cigarettes. Staying active also is a good way to keep your weight down and your energy up, even as you're experiencing nicotine withdrawal.

**QUIT GRADUALLY.** For some people, gradually quitting smoking is effective. However, this doesn't work for

everyone -- you may find you have to stop "cold turkey."

**USE A NICOTINE REPLACEMENT IF YOU NEED TO.** A nicotine replacement like gum, patches, inhalers or nasal sprays, can be very helpful. Sprays and inhalers are available by prescription only, and it's important to see your doctor before buying the patch or gum over the counter.

**IF YOU SLIP UP, DON'T GIVE UP!** Major changes sometimes have false starts. If you slip up, it doesn't mean you've failed, it just means you're human. Remember that one cigarette didn't make you a smoker, so smoking a cigarette or two after you've quit doesn't make you a smoker again. Re-

mind yourself why you've quit and how well you've done.

**REWARD YOURSELF.** Set aside the money you usually spend on cigarettes. When you've stayed tobacco-free for a week, 2 weeks, or a month, buy yourself a treat. And every smoke-free year, celebrate again. You earned it.



# Bad news on Labor Day Keeping college bills down

## Studies reflect more work, less pay

**Niala Boodhoo**  
McClatchy Newspapers  
(MCT)

MIAMI — All that hard work probably isn't paying off — for you.

In the past 10 years, U.S. productivity, a measure of worker output, has increased 33 percent, something economists have hailed as a victory for America's "new economy," because productivity is often seen as the key to raising living standards.

In a speech last week, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke called the gain one of the past decade's most significant economic developments.

But the problem, according to a new book-length study, is that workers are no longer seeing those increases where it matters most to them: in their paychecks.

Wages stopped rising and actually began losing ground starting in 2001, despite continued growth in productivity and corporate profits, according to an analysis of government data in "The State of Working America: 2006/2007" by the Economic Policy Institute, an independent Washington think tank.

"We've had stellar productivity growth over this recovery, but the economists' mantra - such growth automatically translates into improved living standards - no longer holds," said Jared Bernstein, an EPI economist and one of the authors.

Case in point: UPS driver Mike Cortez. Last month, he got a 4 percent raise on his hourly pay, which is around \$27 an hour. But with South Florida's inflation rate running at 5.8 percent, his costs are increasing much faster. A Weston, Fla., homeowner, his insurance premium alone is up 66 percent this year.

"I really feel like corporate America forgets about the working guy," said Cortez, who feels jobs like his are a key contributor of the company's strong profitability of late. UPS, the world's largest shipping carrier, earned more than \$1 billion in its most recent quarter, a 7.6 percent increase over the year before.

He thinks he gets some share of that, but only because he's with the Teamsters. "We're better off than some," he said.

Between 1995 and 2000, U.S. productivity - the amount that an average worker produces in an hour - grew about 2.5 percent annually. And real median family income grew right along with it, at about a 2.2 percent annual clip.

Productivity grew even faster between 2000 and 2005, an average of 3.1 percent annually, helped by improvements in technology. But real median family income dropped 0.5 percent each year during that same time, according to the study's data.

"Too many forces are wedged between overall growth and paychecks, with the result that wages as a share of national income are the lowest on record while the corporate profit share stands at a 56-year high," said Bernstein. Among the ways to help reverse the disparity are raising the federal

minimum wage, creating universal healthcare coverage and increasing union membership, he said.

Productivity isn't measured at the state level, but wage growth is, and in Florida that has declined steadily the past five years. Adjusted for inflation, real earnings grew 0.8 percent in 2005, from a recent high of 1.8 percent in 2002, the state employment arm, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, said Friday in a Labor Day report.

FPL worker Dwight Maddox makes \$30 an hour working as a restoration technician for the utility company, which made \$238 million in the second quarter, up 17 percent from the year before.

"The general public might say, 'Man, I wish I was making \$30 an hour,'" said Maddox, who is the person who goes out to fix the power lines and other services required to get electricity back on. "It's certainly not in line with what management gets, especially with their bonuses."

But with the higher prices of food, gas, and of course, homeowner's insurance, "I think right now, my dollar may be worth 50 cents," said Maddox, who lives in Miami Gardens, Fla. He gets a 3 percent wage increase each year.

Wachovia Bank Senior Economist Mark Vitner cautions that looking at wages doesn't tell the whole story of worker compensation these days, because companies are investing more in benefits like healthcare and 401(k) plans in lieu of raising salaries.

Still, he agrees with EPI's conclusions that productivity gains and increased corporate profitability haven't been passed down to the workers of today. And on that front, he's not too encouraged that will change anytime soon.

Building a fortress balance sheet is the priority now, especially since companies are under much closer scrutiny in the post-Enron era, said Vitner. He calls the corporate mindset for the first half of this decade one of "excessive caution" rather than the infamous "irrational exuberance" of a decade ago.

"They're worried about soaring healthcare costs, they're worried about pension liabilities. They're being extremely cautious and trying to hold the line on compensation," he said.

The only workers who are going to see big salary hikes are those who are willing to shop their talents around to the highest bidder, he said - one explanation why CEOs and other senior executives are able to command such high salaries.

In 2005, CEOs earned about 262 times more than the average worker, according to EPI data. Forty years ago, that ratio was much smaller, with CEOs earning 24 times more.

"Those guys are brave enough to say, 'Hey Coca-Cola, if you're not going to make me CEO, I'm going to Clorox,'" Vitner said. "If you're going to be a foot soldier, odds are, you're getting squeezed."

**Ieva M. Augstums**  
Dallas Morning News (MCT)

DALLAS — Everyone knows college tuition costs have been soaring. If you're going to college this fall, presumably you've already worked out how you're paying for tuition.

What you may not have fully grasped is how much the other costs of college have risen — costs for things like books and supplies, travel, room and board, and other incidentals.

According to the College Board, in the past five years, for resident students at four-year public universities, tuition and fees have increased by more than 50 percent. At the same time, the costs for books and supplies have increased by one-fourth, and room and board and transportation have each risen by one-third.

Fortunately, savvy students know there are ways to save. And they know that successfully managing your finances in college is one of the most important lessons you'll come away with.

"When kids are living at home, they are used to certain things," says Cindy Bailey, executive director of education finance services at the College Board. "At college, things are different. ... There are standard-of-living costs."

The national average for personal expenses at four-year public colleges is about \$200 a month, not including books and supplies, according to the College Board.

You can spend more. Or you can spend less. But you have to live within your means.

"Think of it this way," says Steve Loven, director of the College Planning Center in West Des Moines, Iowa. "You want to live like a college student today so you don't have to live like one when you graduate."

The main decision that will have a big impact on your spending is where you will live.

Living in the residence halls with a seven-day meal plan is the most frugal move, because your basic needs are taken care of. But there's no point to buying the meal plan if you're going to break down and order a pizza several nights a week.

Robert Alviar, a University of North Texas senior who lived on campus for his first two years, dealt with that issue.

"When people wanted to go out to dinner, I stayed in because of my meal plan," he said. "You figure out what works best for you."

If you live in a fraternity or sorority house, your costs are also fixed, although probably at a higher level.

If you live off-campus in an apartment, it's possible to keep costs down by having roommates and cooking your own meals, but you also face many more unexpected costs and temptations to spend money.

Alviar experienced that, too. He lived in an apartment last year.

"Once we got that first electric bill for our apartment, our mouths dropped," Alviar said.

John Hoffmann, 18, starts classes this month at the University of Dallas in Irving, Texas.

"I'm doing what I can to help pay for my college costs,"

says Hoffmann, who has received roughly 25 percent of his tuition in scholarships. "Some of it's being paid for, but not all."

Hoffmann will live on-campus with a roommate in the residence halls. He plans to drive home once a week to do laundry and eat dinner with his parents.

"That's my plan for now," Hoffmann says. "We'll see how it goes with gas prices and how much time I have."

Hoffmann is responsible for his own gas money, but his parents have agreed to help him with his auto insurance and maintenance. He also has to pay for his own cell phone and any meals he wants outside of his meal plan.

Other choices that will affect your costs are the location of your school and your choice of subject matter.

Some urban campuses have access to public transportation, while those farther removed from city life may not. And if you're really "going away" to college, you have to weigh the costs of flying vs. driving home for holidays and school breaks.

Your choice of major can affect your costs for a computer, lab fees and textbooks.

While college campuses have student computer labs, many students find it beneficial to bring their own computer to school, says Maria Ramos, director of financial aid at the University of Texas at Dallas.

"The newer generation of students are very computer-savvy," she says. "With the prices of computers dropping, they don't find it really difficult to get a computer."

Textbook costs, however, are soaring.

Experts advise buying early to get the best deals. You can save by purchasing used books online or even from friends who already took a course.

"Buying early is a big problem for college students, who tend to procrastinate," says Steve Loyola, president and founder of BestBookBuys.com. "As soon as you get that course list, you should start looking."

One perk to look forward to - you get to sell the books back at the end of the semester. But don't expect to make a lot of money.

"The extra cash is nice," says Marcie Jenkins, a senior interior design major at UNT. "But you may be better off keeping them or selling them to your friends."

As you'll learn in Accounting 101, cash flow is important.

On the receivables side of the ledger, some students find getting a part-time job helps.

A job also gives students an understanding of fiscal responsibility.

Too much fiscal accessibility can be a problem.

Jenkins learned the hard way. After spending her monthly allowance on books and supplies, she ended up maxing out her credit card.

"You can run out of money fast, but don't do what I did," Jenkins says. "The card is paid off, and I only now use it in emergencies."

The key is to understand that college is not about the present, says Paul Goebel, director of the Student Money Management Center at UNT.

"You're investing in your future," Goebel says. "The money decisions you make here will stay with you for the rest of your life."

## Freshmen, put down those credit cards

**Paul Gores**  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
(MCT)

MILWAUKEE — As both a professional consumer counselor and the mother of a 19-year-old son who is about to go off to college, Connie Kilmark has no qualms about what to do with the three-or-so credit card applications the young man receives in the mail each week.

"I shred them," she said.

The last thing her son — or any new college student who probably won't have a steady source of income for at least four years — needs is the temptation to spend money he doesn't have, said Kilmark, who runs the financial counseling firm Kilmark & Associates in Madison.

"He has more financial common sense than average because he's heard me talk for so long," Kilmark said. "That doesn't mean he has the habits ingrained inside of him. He's still a beginner."

As young adults go off to school, many will do so as beginners in the world of personal finance. Some, college finance experts say, are certain to cave into the bombardment of credit card solicitations they receive.

The trouble is that many won't realize what they're really doing when they use plastic. They're making purchases by borrowing at high interest rates and, at the same time, establishing a credit history that will follow them for years.

"Certainly building credit — good credit — is essential in today's world," said Jane Hojan-Clark, director of financial aid at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. "But for the individual who is not savvy and really is not financially literate, credit cards can be very dangerous."

A national survey published last year by the college loan organization Nellie Mae found that 76 percent of undergraduates started the 2004 school year with credit cards and that the average outstanding balance was \$2,327. About 42 percent of freshmen had at least one credit card.

A survey of 2,300 UWM students last spring revealed that 86 percent had at least one credit card, and that 23 percent of card-holders carried a monthly balance of between \$1,000 and almost \$5,000.

That's expensive debt — often at an 18 percent interest rate or more — on top of obligations students are accumulating from college loans and, in many cases, living on their own for the first time. Students who make minimum monthly payments on credit cards often don't understand the true cost of their borrowing, college financial experts said. Someone making monthly payments of \$100 on a \$3,000 balance for a card carrying an 18 percent annual percentage rate would need more than three years to retire the debt, and interest alone would amount to nearly \$934, according to CarWeb.com's online calculator.

Banks and card issuers pursue college students because they represent potential new, long-term customers.

"It's an affinity thing," said Mark McCarthy, dean of student development at Marquette University in Milwaukee. "They would like to be the bank or credit card company that a student starts with, knowing that for many of us, once you lock into a credit card or you end up paying an annual fee, there is a greater likelihood that you'll maintain that card over a longer period of time."

Said Kilmark: "Lenders know that if they can be the kid's first credit card, there is a huge sentimental right of passage that happens, so it's extremely valuable to the lender to be the first one."

Perhaps surprisingly, students tend not to be considered high-risk borrowers by lenders, said Marie O'Malley, vice president of marketing for Nellie Mae.

The thinking goes like this, she said: "They are in college, it's anticipated that they will graduate and get jobs, and if they do incur any debt while in school, they will be able to pay it off when they graduate. And there is also an underlying assumption with some card companies that the parents will step in if their child gets in trouble and help pay off any cards."

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WRITING CONT. FROM PAGE 6

writing.

"There is a big variety of ages," Schubert says, referring to Dorothy O'Neill, a mystery group member who has published various works and is still writing in her early nineties. "We range from recent college grads to grandmas."

Age, writing level and literary genre aside, the essential quality of the Writers' Group is that it accommodates the needs and wants of all of its members and of the community. The spectrum of group members' goals is a broad one. Some, like Schubert, who has written one novel that will be published next year, hope to turn their writing into a career; others enjoy getting together and socializing with peers and getting feedback on their works. Either way, the Writers' Group and its professional group facilitators cater, with open arms, to the

different needs and goals of all of its members, providing an atmosphere in which writers can create, change and enjoy their art.

"We want people to be able to find what they need in the Writers' Group," said Schubert.

People are welcome to visit any critique groups for a couple of meetings before paying the annual membership fee of \$30 to "get a feel for the group," Schubert says.

Groups affiliated with WGOT provide support for play writing and song writing, as well.

"We artists..." Schubert laughs, "we tend to stick together."

POTTERY CONT. FROM PAGE 6

pieces include beer steins, shot glasses, wine glasses, and picture frames.

Since both of the owners are recent grads, they feel strongly about being student-friendly and reaching out to the campus community. The Mad Platter sponsored the hunger project Empty Bowls last semester, and also has a program called "Pottery on Wheels" where they visit groups — most recently one of the sororities on campus — and bring everything you need to create your own little work of art. Dahlia and Meredith refer to hanging out at The Mad Platter as a 'pre-party': they hold date nights on Fridays and waive the studio fees, offer student discounts all week long, and, especially for the ladies, have a program they call "Girl's Night Out," where you can bring food and drink and your friends and enjoy painting and relaxing at a reduced rate. The

store welcomes families and children and even conducts a babysitting program.

The Mad Platter is a great place to hang out and relax by yourself or with friends. Whether you're just looking for a little something different for your dorm room or apartment, or you're searching for the perfect, unique, personalized gift, you can find something interesting at The Mad Platter.

The basics:

For the most up-to-date information, always check out their website, [www.madplatterpottery.com](http://www.madplatterpottery.com). You can also call the store to find out what their hours are at (336)540-9823. The cost of pottery is by the piece, and starts at only \$1.50 and goes up from there. Studio fees are \$5 for the first hour and \$3 for each hour thereafter. Students get \$1/hour off the studio fees.

*The reviews and opinions expressed in the Arts and Entertainment section are solely those of the writer. They do not reflect the opinion of The Carolinian as a whole.*

UNCG TO DO  
September 5-September 11

TUESDAY, SEPT. 5

Steel Drumming featuring Tracy Thornton  
Lunch Series of Cultural Music  
EUC Food Court  
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Sponsored by Office of Multicultural Affairs

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6

Art Exhibit Reception: "The Art of Gladys Madauss, Mujeres Bonitas." 5 p.m. Join the artist to honor her exhibition depicting Latin American women and their important role in Latin American families. Multicultural Resource Center, EUC, Stirling Street. Free. (336) 334-5090. <http://maf.dept.uncg.edu/>

Artist Reception featuring Gladys Madauss  
Multicultural Resource Center (EUC 062)  
5:00 p.m.  
Sponsored by Office of Multicultural Affairs

THURSDAY, SEPT. 7

Film Screening: "Downtown NYC: Circa 1970." 7 p.m. Screening of two films; "Suite 212," Paik's personal New York sketchbook that presents multiple perspectives of New York's media landscape and "Participation," a portrait of wildly creative people, places and times including Warhol Superstars on stage and Jimi Hendrix in concert. Weatherspoon Art Museum, Spring Garden and Tate streets. Free. (336) 334-5770. <http://weatherspoon.uncg.edu>

Reading: Claudia Emerson. 8 p.m. A poetry reading by MFA alum and Pulitzer Prize Winner Claudia Emerson. Reception and book signing will follow. Curry Auditorium, Spring Garden Street. Free. (336) 334-5459. [www.uncg.edu/eng/mfa](http://www.uncg.edu/eng/mfa)

Keynote Speaker Helen Prejean, the Real Woman Behind Dead Man Walking Human Rights Event  
EUC Cone Ballroom C  
7:00 p.m.  
Sponsored by Office of Multicultural Affairs

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8

Dance: Latina Dance Project presents, "Coyolxauhqui ReMembers." 8 p.m. A collaborative project interpreting the Aztec myth of the moon goddess Coyolxauhqui. Dance Theatre, Walker Avenue. Tickets: \$12 Adults, \$9 Seniors/Students, \$6 UNCG Students. UNCG Box Office: (336) 334-4849. [www.uncg.edu/dce](http://www.uncg.edu/dce)

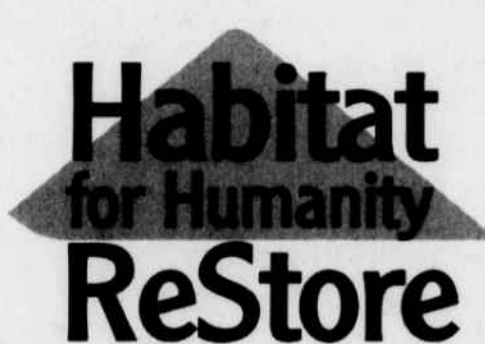
SATURDAY, SEPT. 9

Dance: Latina Dance Project presents, "Coyolxauhqui ReMembers." 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. See Sept. 8. (matinee added)

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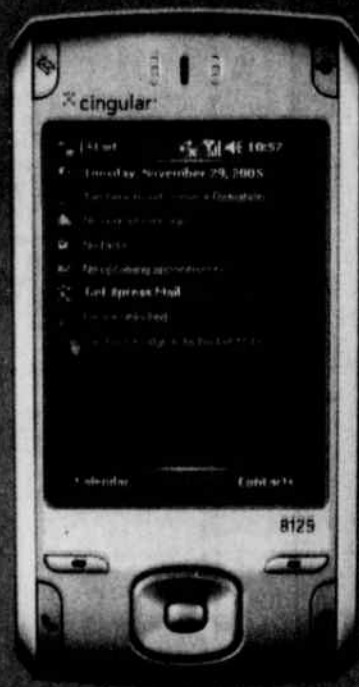
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