

The Captain's Log

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Homecoming king and queen left danceless

Miscommunication causes cancellation

By Jenn Rowell
Managing Editor

The Homecoming Dance was canceled on Oct. 23, two days before the event.

A special committee was formed for the Homecoming Dance and met several times this semester to discuss the dance. "It was ultimately decided that hosting a dance was not plausible due to time constraints as well as lack of campus-wide interest," said Campus Activity Board President Katie Peterlin and Class of 2004 Vice President Nikki Wenzel in a joint e-mail to the Captain's Log.

Miscommunication played a part in the decision.

"There was miscommunication about what the theme would be and who would be involved in making the decisions," said Lynne Hodges, CAB Publicity and Promotions Chair. "I am sad that the dance was canceled, but I understand the circumstances," said Homecoming Queen Jen Dobratz.

Originally, the dance was to be semi-formal, according to an e-mail sent out by Rachael Harrell, Student Government Association Treasurer.

"Unfortunately, we did not have enough time to order decorations and truly plan for a beautiful and memorable formal event," said Hodges.

Several days following the original e-mail, another e-mail was sent in which the theme for the Homecoming dance would be "Club CNU."

The dance would be casual and a "relaxing atmosphere for students to just come out and hang out with their friends," said Hodges. "The idea was not appealing to students, but there simply was not enough time to change it."

It was also unclear who had the available funding to promote the dance.

"At this time, it is unclear exactly where the funding was supposed to come from. However, the Coordinator of Student Activities, CAB and Class Council offered financial support," said Peterlin and Wenzel. "There was no specific funding for the Homecoming



Senior Jennifer Dobratz, representing Phi Mu Fraternity, and senior Jonathan "House" Hedrick, representing Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, were crowned at Saturday's Homecoming football game against Methodist College. This year's Homecoming events did not include a Homecoming Dance.

See DANCE, page 2

Band to take the field, Fall 2004

55 students accepted, 100 plus still needed

By Tyrone Robinson
Staff Writer

After three years of planning and a budget crisis, CNU is in the process of forming a marching band.

Auditions for the band began on Oct. 17, with over 50 participants; there will be two additional auditions sometime during the spring semester, but exact dates have not yet been set.

"Our goal is a full band of 200

for the first football game," said Director of Music Dr. Mark Reimer. "If we don't reach 200, we will still do a great job with whom we have until we reach higher numbers."

Along with the next two auditions, there will be "heavy recruiting" from next year's freshman class, and Reimer said music majors are encouraged to audition as well.

The majority of the students who crowded the parking lots

See MARCHING, page 2



Junior Mandy Thomson prepares on Oct. 17 for her audition for the marching band that CNU is forming. She is trying out for the part of the flag line that will perform with the marching band.

See SVEA, page 2

First year of Quest Housing off to promising start

Opportunity serves as an intellect outlet for PLP and Honors students

By Lindsay Simpson
Staff Writer

In the past, Honors and President's Leadership Program (PLP) students were housed along with their peers in regular, non-themed housing.

This year it has changed: Honors and PLP freshmen are being housed in what is called Quest Housing.

Quest Housing, according to Director of the Honors Program Dr.

Jay Paul, is "a housing unit comprised of two floors. It is set up as a community where studying and intellect is respected."

Paul and many others were involved in the development of the housing, including Associate Dean of Students Donna Edleman, Director of Housing Jay Lambert, and Director of Residence Life Jerry Roeder.

Their goal in creating the Quest Housing was "to see that the Honors Program has the chance to develop a social dimension and that

[the students] benefit from it."

According to Paul, the idea of Quest Housing had been discussed early on, and in February President Triple approved the idea.

Freshmen Honors and PLP students received information by mail in late May. Approximately 80 students replied to the invitation and the Quest Housing program was explained to them in full during Setting Sail.

With the exception of the two

See QUEST, page 2



Freshmen Alyssa Jensen and Ashleigh Stacy spend time in Quest Housing in York River West. Quest Housing is offered to PLP and Honors program students.

Experiencing Theater CNU

Theater CNU puts on first major production of the year, with Theater Director Steven Breese in charge of "Our Country's Good."



Details on page 8

Local News

Hampton University newspaper confiscated by university administrators after staff refused president's request.

Details on page 3

World & Nation

President Bush declares state of emergency in four counties of California due to forest fires.

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Sports

Aimee Gibbs leads the way to her second conference title as she becomes the fastest female runner in school history.

Details on page 12

Campus In Brief

College in Walt Disney World

A recruiter will be making a presentation on the Walt Disney World College Program on Oct. 30, at 5 p.m. For more information visit www.wdwc.org, contact email Loni.Albertson@CNUDisneyReply@yahoo.com.

Pi Lambda Phi hosts parties

Pi Lambda Phi will host an 80's party at Savannah's on Oct. 29, from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. They will also host a Halloween party starting at 11 p.m. on October 30, at The Rupture in Hampton. It is open to all students, but you must wear a costume to enter. Ladies are free.

For more information contact Brian Smith, Pi Lambda Phi Secretary, at basmith@cnu.edu.

What is the deal with GRE's?

An informational meeting will be held Oct. 29 in Connolly 101 at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be Dr. Velkey and free GRE help books will be handed out.

History Department field trip

The History Dept. is going to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts on Nov. 1. Faculty members and tour guides will visit the Egyptian, Greek and Roman Collection, and the Asian Art Collection.

For more information email Dr. Santoro at santoro@cnu.edu.

Intramural basketball

If you are interested in playing 5-on-5 basketball this year turn in your registration form to Coach Harvell in Rathcliff 157, or by emailing it to him at harvell@cnu.edu, by Oct. 30.

Games will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 6 p.m.

VHS movie sale

CNU Presents will be selling VHS Movies in the Breezeway of the Student Center on Oct. 30 from 12-2 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. All movies are \$7.00.

Bad Boys

CAB will be showing "Bad Boys II" featuring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence on Oct. 30 from 9-11 p.m.

Karaoke Night

CAB will host Karaoke Night on Oct. 29 from 8-10 p.m. in Discovery Café.

Class of 2007

Class of 2007 open meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of every month for the remainder of the Fall Semester in the Student Center Lounge.

By Rita Hays
Asst. Managing Editor

Virginia 21 lobbyists for student help

Voter registration is main focus, as well as active political participation

By Regina Cerimle
Staff Writer

CNU's student government has become a founding member of Virginia 21, a statewide organization promoting the interests of 18-24-year-olds regarding the political process, as well as voter registration.

A steering committee composed of Student Body Presidents of colleges throughout the state of Virginia, hopes to get 40,000 students in the Commonwealth to become both active and educated in the political process.

"President [Ashley] Boyd and myself have been attending steering committee meetings in Richmond, where we contribute input and bring back action plans for our campus where we work hard with the Senate to implement them," said Melissa Bell, SGA Vice President of Student Relations.

According to the SGA, Virginia 21 will allow students to have a better relationship and understanding of the political process, as well as increasing the opportunities available for college students to become registered and active voters.

Homecoming Dance cancelled

DANCE, from page 1

Dance allocated to any of the organizations.

Due to the short notice, many female students had already purchased dresses.

Freshman Class Public Relations Chair Ashleigh Stacy found a deal on her dress.

"I got it on sale, so I only spent \$29.99. It was a great deal," said Stacy. "I guess I'll keep it for another dance."

Hodges, however, made a bigger purchase. "I spent about \$200 on my dress—a well-worth-it investment that can be worn at another event with just as much spirit as I would have worn it at Homecoming," she said.

Some students were upset about the cancellation.

"I had mixed feelings. On the one hand, being a first-year student, it was

SVEA fundraises

SVEA, from page 1

they missed while the school system placed them at other schools," commented Boyce.

Quest housing

QUEST, from page 1

Resident Advisors (RAs), all residents in Quest Housing are freshmen. Currently 80 students and two RAs that reside on both floors combined.

The Quest Halls are located in York River West, a residence hall that was chosen because "it was the newest and healthiest. York River was picked because it has a multi-purpose room and a computer lab," said Paul.

RAs for Quest Housing, Kestrel Elliott and Beth Emmeret, are both part of PLP and the Honors Program.

Paul said, "It's our liaison to the students—we couldn't do it without them," he said. "Both RAs are very young women."

Experienced RAs are not the only difference. Across the board, residents and their advisors voiced how their belief that there was a strong sense of community amongst Quest

Marching Band being formed

MARCHING, from page 1

in front of the Music Rehearsal Hall across from the Housing Office, were not music majors but generally were in marching bands in high school. Since the first message about the band posted on campus e-mail, students have been practicing in anticipation.

"I'm really excited that we will be able to participate in our football team's halftime next year," said junior Mandi Thompson. She was in the flag line at her high school and had to borrow one from there, as the University still did not have flags and rifles at the time of the rehearsal.

"I did marching band all four years of high school," said freshman Justin Gray, who auditioned on drums, though he also plays guitar. "I'm really excited to get back into it."

The marching band and the football team were to debut at the same time, but Reimer said, "the state budget crisis prevented us from purchas-

"It's time that students take matters into their own hands," said Boyd.

According to Boyd, the state has admitted that CNU holds a budget that "is \$7.8 million short of the bare minimum needed to even keep the doors open."

This and other reasons, Boyd said, are why CNU has joined Virginia 21, in the hopes of getting students involved to help improve conditions on campus.

"What are needed now are our combined voices and votes," said Boyd.

"To be a strong PAC [Political Action Committee], you need a strong constituency, but since our age group is the most apathetic, legislators do not pay a lot of attention to our issues," said Bell. "So the most obvious thing to do would simply be to make our constituency more active."

Virginia 21 is against Richmond lawmakers continually making budget cuts and educational amendments without first seeking students' opinions and ideas regarding these issues.

According to Executive Director of Virginia 21, Jesse Ferguson, a main goal of Virginia 21 is to be a direct link from students themselves to Virginia lawmakers who may lack understanding of what the youth themselves feel about an

kind of a let down," said Stacy. "On the other hand, I was disappointed that the dance would not be formal. I was all set for a formal dance."

In place of the Homecoming Dance, plans for a Winter Formal are now being

"It could establish a legendary tradition here at CNU that students in the future may treasure."

-Lynnette Hodges,
CAB Publicity and Promotions Chair

made.

"I am somewhat disappointed that the dance was canceled; however, I am looking forward to what CAB and Student Life have in store for us at the Winter Formal," said Homecoming King

The schools have applied for a grant from Virginia Literacy to help with Fries, but still need help with the other independence's library and books.

The school system has asked VEA, along with SVEA, to help with their situation.

Boyce, who attends the VEA meet-

residents.

"I believe that the Quest halls have extraordinary community. The residents share similar interests, classes and a passion for learning which translates to great relationships," said Elliott.

Quest resident Alyssa Jensen agrees.

"We are a really close community—we are always together. It's uncommon to see one Quest person without another," she said. "Quest people share a lot of religious beliefs which helps us keep each other strong, which you don't find in a lot of places."

"People often say that they don't want to be in Quest because all they do is study, but that's not true," Jensen said. "People will respect you if you choose to [study]."

An added bonus of living in Quest is having someone to check in with about coursework.

"We have similar schedules, so it's easy to make study groups and remind each other of upcoming events," said Matthew Creasy. "Plus we all know

ing uniforms and hiring the director, a position necessary to bring this all together."

Despite the crisis, the Music Department managed to buy instruments and equipment over the last three years.

"The funds for instruments and equipment continue to come from the Department of Music," said Reimer, "and we have been adding equipment gradually over the past three years."

Reimer and Margaret Yancy, Director of Development, did not comment on the source of funding for the director.

According to a post on CNU's website, the University hopes to find a full-director of Athletic Bands who will also direct the Pep Band, which will continue to play during basketball games and special occasions, and teach courses within the music department. Most of the marching band will also serve as a second concert band, according to Reimer.

"It'll be a new experience to be in a higher level marching band," said freshman Shannon Nester, a music major who plays the flute. She currently plays the saxophone in the Pep Band and auditioned for the saxophone in the marching band. It is not necessary for members

issue.

"We can no longer afford to stand by while Richmond makes short-sighted decisions to cut funding, good financial aid, fire faculty and eliminate programs," said Ferguson.

Since Sept., the SGA, combined with Virginia 21, has been promoting voter registration on campus, and through the distribution of applications for absentee voting ballots, is encouraging students to make steps toward becoming involved in politics not only on campus, but on a national level as well.

"We can no longer be silent while [state lawmakers] mortgage our future, its time to speak with our votes," said Ferguson.

The Virginia 21 team, composed of a Board of Directors, an Advisory Council, and a Steering Committee made up of students and officials from various organizations and universities, hopes to make themselves familiar with students in colleges and universities across the state of Virginia in the hopes that they will not only develop a better understanding of political processes, but also become more directly involved in the actual voting of legislative officials.

Jonathan "House" Hedrick.

It was a "group decision from the Homecoming Committee," said Peterlin and Wenzel. The date and other details concerning Winter Formal have not yet been released.

"It is our hope that all clubs and organizations will want to be involved in this wonderful new tradition," said Peterlin and Wenzel. "The money that would have been used for the Homecoming Dance will go to other campus wide events including the Winter Formal."

Students are looking forward to the event that will replace the Homecoming Dance.

"If we can have a formal dance in the winter instead of Homecoming, I'm ok with the decision," Stacy said. "As long as it's well done and fun, I'm cool with it."

Hodges agrees.

"I love the Winter Ball idea. I think it is something truly original that students will have a part in creating," she said. "It could establish a legendary tradition here at CNU that students in the future may treasure."

ings, has asked all chapters to contribute \$25 dollars, but as the vice president of the CNU chapter she believes that SVEA-CNU can raise more.

"We are asking for any donations for the project. We just want to help these poor kids," said Boyce.

each other very well, better than we would if it was a regular hall."

The residents and their friends sense a difference in the community and the academic performance of the Quest residents.

Some of their professors have yet to see a significant change. Dr. Mario Mazzarella, who teaches Honors History III, said he has not noticed a difference. "But I have a higher concentration of Honors students, so I assume that they are a bit more passionate academically," he said.

Regardless of whether or not any change or difference is apparent to those living outside of Quest, the residents, such as Michael McDonald, said, "I couldn't imagine not living on a Quest."

There are plans to continue Quest Housing next year, due to the high demand from current Quest residents.

"So far, I see the students all the time, and they ask about doing it next year," said Paul. "I couldn't think of a better way to do it."

to be in both bands. Along with everyone else, those in the Pep Band who did audition played a short piece on the instrument they wished to play in the marching band. Those trying out for the flag line and rifle guard performed a routine of about a minute. Most of those lasted longer because the routines generally included flag or rifle tosses, which had to be performed outside of the rehearsal hall.

"I'm very excited because this was talk of an indoor guard but it didn't happen," said junior Sara Warrick. "I really hope [if the marching band] happens."

On Oct. 20, Reimer sent an e-mail listing names of the 55 people who made the band. Those in the nine sections posted—flutes, clarinets, saxophones, horns, trumpets, timpanes, baritone, percussion, and guard—are now the beginnings of the marching band.

Once the director is hired, and there is a stable number of band members, the marching band will begin to practice. Most likely near the beginning of the fall semester. All band equipment will be stored in the portion of the Center for the Arts that will be open at the start of the spring semester.

Virginia In Brief

New policy to take surrounding areas into consideration

The Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) recently issued a new policy that will take surrounding schools and churches that were to be in close proximity to ABC liquor stores in the past, according to Virginia 21.

That was until two ABC stores were to be opened, one in Falls Church and one in Arlington, as told by Miller. The "upshot" caused by the proposed stores has forced ABC to take a closer look at the surrounding areas.

Miller said that as part of ABC's new policy, there will be a full review of schools, daycares, churches, and any other buildings or establishments that could be affected by the opening of an ABC store.

The Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control has approximately 26,000 residents per store, but by increasing the number of stores to 325 statewide, Virginia would have approximately 24,000 residents per store.

Marine Corps Marathon

Hemdon High School's cross-country track coach, Peter Sherry, won the 26th annual Marine Corps Marathon on Oct. 26, according to marathonsguide.com. Sherry completed the marathon with a time of 2:28:24.

Sherry, according to marathonsguide.com, fought for the first place position with two others, 24-year-old Eric Poirier and 28-year-old Aaron Church. Poirier finished with a time of 2:27:49, and Church finished with a time of 2:28:24. All three led the marathon at one point in time.

According to marathonsguide.com, Church led the marathon for the first 14 miles, but then Poirier caught up and led the marathon for another ten miles. Sherry then pulled into the lead.

Heather Harsen won the women's marathon division, but that wasn't her only feat, she also qualified for the U.S. Olympic trials with her time of 2:37:59, according to the marathon website.

Multiple lane closures

The Coliseum Central Highway Improvement Project that aims to improve a stretch of 1.64 between the 1466 split and the Hampton Roads Center Parkway is going to cause some disruptions on both 146 west and 146 east, according to VDOT's website, virginiadot.org.

On 146 east, a single lane will be closed between the stretch of Magnolia Boulevard and the 1464 split from 6pm to 6am every night between Oct. 27 and Oct. 30, according to VDOT's site.

According to the site, more work on 146 east will be done from Oct. 27 to Oct. 30, multiple lanes will be closed from Mercury Boulevard to the Cunningham overpass, nightly from 10pm to 6am.

As for 146 west, the project will affect multiple lanes from Mercury Boulevard to the Magnolia Boulevard Bridge every night from 6pm to 6am, from Oct. 28 to Oct. 29 to have overhead brackets, as stated by VDOT.

According to virginiadot.org, other overhead brackets will be hung up nightly, Oct. 27 and Oct. 28 from 10pm to 6am, and will affect Magnolia Boulevard since again.

By Lindsey Simpson
Staff Writer

Lawyer: University of Michigan ruling is not a blank check

By Maryanna George
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

The lawyer who won the University of Michigan law school case in the U.S. Supreme Court issued a stern warning on Oct. 22 to colleges nationwide: The court's ruling is not a blank check to use race to boost minority enrollment.

Universities must make sure their admissions process is fair and gives individual consideration to each applicant, Maureen Mahoney said in an interview in Ann Arbor. Mahoney is a partner at Latham & Watkins in Washington D.C.

The court upheld U-M's law school admissions policy in June but struck down the 150-point undergraduate system that awarded 20 points to underrepresented minorities the equivalent of a full letter grade boost.

The court found that the policy did not consider each applicant as an individual.

"The decision should not be viewed as a green light to use race in an unchecked way," said Mahoney, who has won 11 of the 12 cases she's argued before the high court. "Universities should place emphasis on the need to

beat or exceed last year's minority enrollment percentages. It's not about ensuring specific percentages; it's about fair consideration for everyone. That includes the special contribution minority students can make to the class."

The decision in the law school case reaffirmed the court's 1978 ruling in the Bakke case that permitted race as a factor to further diversity. But many universities overemphasized the use of race, Mahoney said.

Universities also have a responsibility to improve the quality of K-12 education so consideration of race can be eliminated, Mahoney said. In her majority opinion in the law school case, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said that in 25 years, racial preferences should not be necessary to further diversity.

It was the same hope expressed by Justice Lewis Powell in 1978.

"The educational community has to take steps to reduce the disparities that make preferences necessary," Mahoney said. "They need to make sure there is enough money left over for early education initiatives. If they only try to get their share of the pie at the expense of these other efforts, they are not meeting the responsibility imposed by the court's directives."



Students celebrate on the campus of the University of Michigan Monday, June 23, 2003, after a U.S. Supreme Court decision on the use of race in admission policy.

Communities also need to step up, she said.

"It's not just about what universities do. It's about every America and how we're going to prioritize," she said. "We can all help in ways such as volunteer tutoring."

Mahoney is a former U.S. deputy solicitor general and law clerk for Chief Justice William

Rehnquist. Former U.S. Solicitor General Ken Starr volunteered as a judge on her moot court panel when she prepared to argue the law school case this year.

As California businessman Ward Connerly prepares to launch a ballot initiative banning the use of racial considerations in public education admissions and hiring

in Michigan, educators need to defend the value of diversity, Mahoney said.

"Universities have a responsibility to persuade the electorate that the benefits are just as important as the court thought and the programs are going to be applied in a way that minimizes the burdens," she said.

Prescription drug abuse on the rise in America

By Judith Graham and
Michael Higgins
Chicago Tribune

At colleges across the country, students are taking pills they've sneaked from home, tossing them into bowls and swallowing handfuls with a chug of beer or a sip of a margarita.

It's called "pharming," for the pharmaceuticals ingested.

In office workers, workers sitting at computers are harassed by spam e-mails offering prescription drugs at low prices, no prescription required.

No physical exam," promised one message widely circulated last week, touting painkillers, stimulants, tranquilizers and antidepressants.

The face of drug addiction is changing in America, from cocaine or heroin addicts snorting or shooting up to teenagers and grandmothers popping pills purchased at the local pharmacy or delivered through the mail in plain packages.

Rush Limbaugh turned a spotlight on the epidemic this month when he admitted being hooked on prescription painkillers and told his radio audience he intended to get help.

Prescription drug abuse is the fastest-growing type of substance abuse in the United States, a phenomenon fed by aggressive drug marketing, Americans' habit of taking pills for any ailment, physicians' tendency to over-prescribe and the Internet, which is expanding the availability of drugs exponentially.

About 6.2 million Americans, including disproportionately high numbers of young people and the elderly, abuse prescription drugs, according to government data released in September.

More than 14.5 million people report they've taken such drugs for non-medical purposes during the past year.

Meanwhile, 2.4 million people in 2001 started abusing pain relievers—the drugs Limbaugh allegedly asked his housekeeper to buy for him—almost a four-fold increase over the 628,000 reported as abusers in 1990, according to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The problem of prescription-drug misuse is so acute that parents may need to start locking their medicine cabinets, just as liquor cabinets were locked decades ago to keep children away from booze, said Joseph Califano, president of the National Center of Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia

University.

"For many people, popping pills may appear to be a more sanitized, less stigmatized way to get relief from the stress of daily life."

Instead of dealers on mean streets, frequent sources are doctors duped by patients or pharmacists responding to call-ins for fake prescription refills.

Califano, a former U.S. Cabinet secretary, cites 2002 figures for legal prescriptions in the U.S.: 153 million for narcotics, such as Vicodin, Percocet or OxyContin; 53 million for tranquilizers such as Xanax or Valium; 23.5 million for stimulants such as Adderall or Ritalin; and 5 million for sedatives such as Soma.

On top of that is an unknown quantity of counterfeit prescription drugs streaming into the country through the Internet and other sources, often of unknown quality and diverted to the underground market.

Officials from the Food and Drug Administration, Secret Service, Justice Department, pharmacy groups and others met last week in Washington to develop strategies for keeping counterfeit pills out of the country.

But the rise of the Internet as a source of illegal prescription drugs presents new challenges.

At least 2,000 Web sites now

sell prescription drugs, the FDA estimates.

Traditionally, investigators have looked for geographic "clusters" of drug-related problems—whether admissions to emergency rooms or to jails—to identify physicians who may be over-prescribing, buyers who may be doctor-shopping and other drug scams.

With the Internet, though, clusters are readily detectable. In the past several months, authorities have seen "a new and troubling evolution of this business," from the Internet sale of lifestyle drugs such as Viagra and diet aids to the pervasive marketing of all kinds of prescription drugs, said William Hubbard, assistant commissioner at the FDA.

The FDA and the Drug Enforcement Administration last week teamed to form a task force, Operation Gray Lord, that will aggressively pursue outfits that market prescription drugs illegally over the Internet.

Doctors who prescribe drugs over the Internet based only on customers' answers to e-mail questionnaires also may be targeted.

While some Web-based outfits are legitimate—filling prescriptions written by patients' doctors online for a reduced price—many are rogue pharmacies, offering to be both doctor and drug salesman

to anyone with a credit card.

They're typically secretive, rarely listing their full corporate names, business addresses or the names of doctors and pharmacists they employ.

Many are based in foreign countries.

Most require only that the shopper fill out a short online questionnaire and provide no prescription drugs obtained from the Internet, up from almost none just two years ago.

"Basically, you can get as much as you want of anything if you know how to do it," said Dr. Daniel Angres, director of Rush Behavioral Health, a treatment program with several sites in the Chicago area. "It's so frightening. None of us wants to think about it in terms of where it might go."

Several Chicago-area treatment clinics report that 10 percent to 25 percent of their clients abuse prescription drugs obtained from the Internet, up from almost none just two years ago.

"It's so easy. You don't have a doctor adding, 'I'm not going to write this prescription anymore,'" said addiction specialist Jake Eppery, president of Midwest Rapid Opiate Detoxification Specialists in Chicago. "I've worked in addiction for 24 years and I've never seen anything like it."

Hampton University, student paper reach accord

The Virginian-Pilot
Knight-Ridder Campus

Hampton University's acting president and the editors of the student newspaper reached a resolution Oct. 24 after all copies of the latest issue were confiscated earlier this week.

The acting president, JoAnn Haybert, had complained that the students had ignored her request to put on the front page her letter about recently corrected health violations in the cafeteria. It appeared on Page 3.

In the agreement, the students said they would reprint copies of the paper Oct. 24, with Haybert's letter on the front page, said Chris Campbell, director of the journalism school. In return, Haybert appointed a panel to draft guidelines for the operation of the newspaper, he said, and she agreed to abide by its recommendations.

The panel will be led by visiting professor Earl Caldwell, a former columnist for The New York Daily News, and will include student journalists, Campbell and the newspaper's three advisers, Campbell said.

"I think it's a good resolution to a difficult situation," he said. "This gives us a great opportunity to design a model for how newspapers at private universities should function."

Cadets may get anonymity soon in reporting sexual assault

By Pam Zubeck
The Gazette

Air Force Academy cadets could be granted anonymity in reporting sexual assaults as early as next week, an academy official said.

The program could be run as a one-year test to see if confidentiality encourages victims to come forward and aids in prosecution, Commandant of Cadets Brig. Gen. Johnny Weida said in an interview Wednesday.

As the Air Force considers confidentiality reporting and other steps to cope with the sexual assault scandal, Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., on Wednesday asked for additional hearings on an inquiry into what who's to blame.

Allard wants the Defense Department's Inspector General's Office, which began investigating last month, to define its scope and describe preliminary findings into what top officials knew and when.

Allard's request comes after a call by a congressional oversight panel for an inquiry into controversies academy and Air Force officials ignored sexual assault reports.

The panel is named the Fowler commission for its chairman, former Rep. Tillie Fowler. It reported last month that 142

sexual assaults were reported from 1993 through 2002 proof of a "deep chasm of leadership."

Allard has said he wants to find out the role played by previous leaders, including a former assistant defense secretary and past Air Force secretaries and chiefs of staff, who records indicate knew of rising numbers of assaults years ago.

There was no indication Wednesday whether Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sen. John Warner, R-Va., would grant Allard's request.

In addition to accountability, the scandal has triggered debate about whether victims should be allowed to withhold their names from commanders and investigators.

In 1993, the academy allowed confidentiality reporting after female cadets said one in 10 had been raped.

Three years later, and again in 2000, Air Force officials reviewed that policy and labeled anonymity a chief barrier to prosecution and some cases weren't investigated.

As a result, some accused rapists may be serving as officers although it's unknown because of lack of investigation.

In May, Air Force Secretary James Roche ordered the academy to conform to Air Force standards by abolishing confidential

reporting.

In recent weeks, however, he's agreed with the Fowler panel that granting victims anonymity is essential to encouraging them to come forward.

Roche will be presented with options for a confidentiality policy next week.

Weida said Wednesday he and Superintendent Lt. Gen. John Rosa Jr. don't want the policy to be seen as set in stone.

"What Gen. Rosa and I are hoping is that we do this, though as a one-year test," he said. "We want to review it every year ... just to see how it's going."

Weida recently reviewed policies at the U.S. Military Academy and the Naval Academy.

At West Point, psychotherapists and the counseling center maintain confidentiality, but victims can be forced to cooperate with prosecutors under certain circumstances, such as when an attacker could be a threat to others.

At the Naval Academy, victims report to a peer group or counselors, who forward reports to the commandant without names.

Weida said he can't see confidentiality as a plus without a senior officer being in on the details. At the Air Force Academy, that officer is Vice Commandant Col. Debra Gray, head of the sexual assault response team.

Without that, he said, "what the system will do over time is gravitate totally to the victim, and you'll never be able to prosecute. The hard part is how you come up with that balance so you can prosecute."

Weida said the response team is working a dozen cases. Of those, one is a "serious" harassment case; the others are alleged sexual assault cases, nine of which involve cadets assaulting other cadets.

Academy officials said the reports are being made closer to their occurrence and that more reports are a good thing. However, they didn't say when the alleged assaults occurred.

If they all happened during the past year, the reports may signal attacks have subsided, the Fowler panel said. The academy averages 14 assault reports per year from 1993 through 2002, or they aren't being reported, Weida noted.

"We don't know what we don't know," Weida said of unreported cases. "All of the outside experts have been telling us that if you don't have some form of confidentiality, the vast majority of folks will never come to your doorstep, regardless of how good your [program] is working."

He said West Point and the Naval Academy are eager to take part in surveys to help measure success and compare results.

World and Nation

North Korea rethinks offer from White House

By Tim Johnson
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Days after dismissing an offer of U.S. security assurances as "laughable," North Korea on Oct. 23 did an about-face and said it would sound out the Bush administration over what it has in mind.

In another development that spurred hopes of movement in the crisis over North Korea's nuclear program, China announced that it is sending its No. 2 leader to North Korea on Tuesday for four days.

China, North Korea's only ally, has actively sought to broker six-nation talks to quell soaring tensions over North Korea's threats that it is building nuclear weapons.

The chairman of China's national legislature, Wu Bangguo, will be the most senior Chinese official to visit North Korea since President Jiang Zemin traveled there in September 2001.

South Korea immediately voiced its hope that Wu's visit would coincide with an announcement that Pyongyang will return to suspended talks.

"I hope there will be progress in arranging a new round of nuclear talks as China has been playing a very active role regarding the six-party talks," Unification Minister Jeong Se-hyun told reporters in Seoul. Jeong said North Korea's invitation to Wu might indicate it plans an "important policy decision" during the trip.

North Korea appeared to be rethinking its initial dismissal of President Bush's offer of a possible written multilateral security guarantee in exchange for the dismantling of its nuclear program. North Korea demands that the U.S. government must go further and sign a non-aggression treaty that would ban any U.S. pre-emptive attack.

The U.S. government-run Xinhua News Agency, citing a diplomat with close ties to Pyongyang, said North Korea wants to sound out the true intention of the remarks, which he made earlier this week while traveling in Southeast Asia.

The remarks signaled a significant shift in U.S. posture. While Washington has ruled out a non-aggression pact, the promise of a secu-

rency guarantee for a nation that Bush once declared part of an "axis of evil" marked a softening of the earlier U.S. position. North Korea wants more details before deciding whether to take part in a new round of regional talks, the diplomat told Xinhua.

"The (North Korean) representative in New York will contact American government officials soon," the unidentified diplomat said, adding, according to Xinhua, "The North wants to know the true intention of Bush's remarks."

Pyeongyang earlier rejected Bush's remarks as "worthless" and "laughable," saying they were part of a hostile campaign to win North Korea's unilateral disarmament.

North Korea on Monday fired a short-range missile off its eastern shore, unnerving its Northeast Asian neighbors and giving new urgency to the crisis.

China's instrumental role in pulling off an initial round of six-party talks in August, hosting a closed-door meeting in Beijing that involved China, Russia, the United States, Japan and the two Koreas.

Since then, North Korea said it lost interest in further talks. It also announced that it had finished reprocessing some 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods to produce nuclear fuel for weapons. Last week, it threatened to conduct a nuclear test.

China is working to renew multiparty talks. The Chinese government fears an influx of refugees if the crisis worsens. In addition, China's desire for peace in its region has an economic component: South Korea and Japan are among its important trade partners.

"In China's eyes, the danger is developing quite rapidly. China feels that the situation is acquiring urgency," said Shi Yinhong, a foreign-policy expert at People's University.

Shi said North Korea believes it can buy time by exploiting differences between the countries arrayed before it in the six-party talks, but that North Korean leader Kim Jong Il fears that the U.S. military may eventually strike his country.

"He realizes that if George W. Bush were re-elected (in 2004), and if Iraq quits down, there is a possibility of a military strike in the future. He doesn't want to risk that," Shi said.



Investigators look over damaged cars after a car bomb exploded on Oct. 27 outside the Al Khadra police station in Baghdad, Iraq.

Continued violence in Baghdad, Iraq, complicates Pentagon's exit strategy

By Warren P. Strobel
and Dave Montgomery
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

The terrorist attacks that have shaken Baghdad over the last few days threaten to undermine the Pentagon's strategy for extricating U.S. troops from Iraq, senior U.S. officials and independent experts said on Oct. 27.

The brazen and well-organized strikes, they said, could prevent an accelerated handover of security duties from American to Iraqi forces and the creation of a new Iraqi government.

"What it means is that we're stuck," said one senior administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The strikes, the worst since the Iraqi capital fell to U.S. troops in April, included the suicide bombings on Monday of three Iraqi police stations and the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and a rocket attack Sunday on the heavily fortified al Rashheed Hotel.

The violence on Monday alone killed at least 35 people and wounded about 230 others, mostly Iraqis.

The officials and analysts said President Bush has few good options now other than staying the course in what has become an increasingly costly venture in Iraq and hoping that military pressure and civil reconstruction will

eventually snuff out armed resistance.

Bush on Monday sought to portray the attacks as acts of desperation by insurgents waging a losing battle against the American-led reconstruction.

"There are terrorists in Iraq who are willing to kill anybody in order to stop our progress. The more successful we are on the ground, the more these killers will react," Bush said at the White

house, where he met with L. Paul Bremer, the U.S. administrator in Iraq, and Army Gen. John Abizaid, head of U.S. Central Command.

Powell, however, acknowledged "today was a difficult day. The last 24 hours has been very difficult."

He expressed concern that the unprecedented attack on the Red Cross

a heavily fortified building near the heart of a special U.S. security zone.

The four car bombings took place in a 45-minute window and were aimed at the very Iraqi police force that American military planners hope can someday relieve them of security burdens.

Initially, the resistance was scattered and uncoordi-



A woman peers from the window of her home Oct. 27 near where a car bomb exploded in Baghdad.

near where he met with L. Paul Bremer, the U.S. administrator in Iraq, and Army Gen. John Abizaid, head of U.S. Central Command.

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nated," said Brian Michael Jenkins, a terrorism expert at the Rand Corp. and former Special Forces captain. "Now we are seeing evidence of greater skill and more audacious operations."

"They're getting themselves organized," Jenkins said. "They're getting their act together."

In the days before the latest violence, U.S. officials had talked of accelerating the handover of political power from Bremer's Coalition Provisional Authority to Iraqi officials and of letting Iraqi forces take a greater role in security.

As Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Nebr., put it in a televised interview Sunday: "There's only one way out of Iraq for America, and that is working with our allies to get the Iraqis in a position where they can defend themselves and govern themselves. And we're kidding ourselves if we don't have that as the primary focus."

But some Bush advisers, including Powell, are concerned that the 25-member Iraqi Governing Council, which has largely advisory powers, is not ready for a more substantive role.

The attacks Sunday and Monday have increased fears that Iraqi politicians and security forces could be overwhelmed by a precipitous U.S. departure.

"You've got to have sort of trustworthy partners there," said Thomas Donnelly, a defense analyst at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative Washington think tank. "There is a balance between speed ... and doing it sufficiently well."

Rather than withdrawal, Donnelly said, U.S. military commanders should refocus their forces, and even increase them, into a classic counter-insurgency campaign.

Robert J. McGuire, who served on a task force that recommended security improvements after the bombing of the Marine barracks in Lebanon in 1983, said U.S. planners could improve security conditions by essentially isolating U.S. service personnel, humanitarian organizations, construction workers and other foreigners behind rigidly guarded compounds and away from the Iraqi population.

But that, they said, would effectively undercut their mission of rebuilding Iraqi society.

"The more you isolate yourself, the more you make it difficult to do the other things you're trying to do," said Jon Alterman, director of the Middle East program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

California firefighters battle to keep wildfires from merging

By Gary Richards,
Kate Folmar,
Dawn Chmielewski
and Putana Reang
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Thousands of weary firefighters on Oct. 27 dug in from Mexican border to the northern edge of Los Angeles, waiting for reinforcements to help them try to beat back a dozen infernos and keep several from merging in what already is California's worst firestorm in 12 years.

Blistering Santa Ana winds eased Monday, but 90-degree weather, low humidity and tinder-dry terrain left fire officials worried that the inferno could burn through out the week and into the weekend.

President Bush declared a major disaster in four Southern California counties, opening the way for federal aid, while Gov. Gray Davis readied the National Guard and sought help from neighboring states. By Monday night the fire had killed

13 people, destroyed more than 1,100 homes, threatened 30,000 other dwelling and devastated 400,000 acres.

Davis predicted the fires would be the state's most expensive ever, eclipsing the \$1.7 billion price tag of the 1991 Oakland Hills wildfire.

Anger began to surface as one major fire burning closer to Los Angeles is believed to have been started

by arsonists.

"Those who start these fires are no better than desperate terrorists and should be dealt with as such," said Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley.

Attention turned away from San Bernardino County, where two fires combined Sunday to create a wall of flames 35 to 40 miles long, to San Diego, where three

fires had kindled 585 homes and 200,000 acres were perilously close to becoming one major blaze.

Hundreds of reinforced fire crews from other western states were rushing from fire to fire, many expecting to be fighting with their backs to the Pacific Ocean.

Simi Valley fire threatened to race unchecked to the sea, imperiling the famous beach haven of Malibu.

"Worst case scenario, and that's the Simi fire, this fire could spread to the west across Los Angeles County to Rocky Peak and into Malibu," said California Department of Forestry Battalion Chief Thomas Foley said.

But Monday, for the first time since the fires erupted last weekend, there was relief as 70-mph winds eased to gusts of 45 mph.

"We feel very good," said San Diego City Fire Chief Jeff Bowman, "because the weather has worked with us and not against us."

Gov.-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger had a briefing in Ventura County and

thanked the president for swiftly declaring an emergency. Schwarzenegger will go to Washington on Tuesday to meet with federal emergency and congressional leaders "to make sure that the federal money will come through."

"I want to thank them for their hard work," he said. "The firefighters are the true heroes. They're risking their lives in order to save people's lives."

Local airports had shorter delays and fewer canceled flights than Sunday, when a key Federal Aviation facility in San Diego was evacuated after it was inundated with smoke. The center was expected to reopen this morning.

CHP officers said roads between Northern and Southern California were clogged because of freeway closures and because people chose to drive after their flights were canceled.

For displaced residents Monday was a day of tears. Monday Lane stood at the edge of Interstate 15, help-

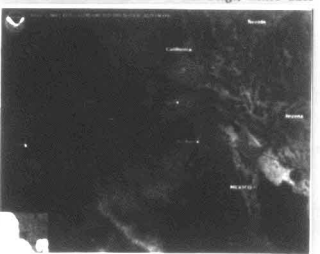
lessly watching the flames move closer and closer to her home in the San Bernardino mountains.

The sheriff's deputies had roused Lane and others in the Inyo County community of Devere at 2 a.m. Sunday, ordering them to evacuate. The lanes had enough time to find shelter for their male and three dogs, gather their belongings and check in to a nearby Motel 6.

Firefighters assured her that the family's two-acre ranch was untouched by the fire, which has consumed 56,474 acres of San Bernardino National Forest and destroyed 60 homes.

But those assurances offered little comfort, as Lane stood helplessly watching fire trucks race up the Cajon Pass toward her home and helicopter circles overhead.

"What else do you do? It's your home. It's hard to walk away and just leave it," said Lane, her eyes welling with tears. "I don't want to want to watch my house go up in flames, but I can't go away."



A satellite image of the California wildfires on Oct. 26.

Opinion

Where We Stand

Homecoming without a dance?

Last week was filled with Homecoming festivities. It had a ice cream social, a Spirit Week party, a Homecoming Fest on the Great Lawn, a bonfire, a football game, and it even had a Homecoming King and Queen.

But there was one thing that last week didn't have: a dance.

Campus-wide e-mails over the last month concerning the details of the Homecoming Dance have degenerated.

First it was the semi-formal attire; it was going to be a "spectacular evening." Then, appropriate dress became club attire for "Club CNU." And then, two days before the dance, students were informed that there wasn't going to be a dance.

There are a couple possible reasons for why this happened, the first being an issue of communication.

As the Campus Activity Board (CAB) and Class Council were preparing for Homecoming, the real responsibility for the dance remained at the desk of a vacant position: the Coordinator of Student Activities (CSA).

The CSA must "assist with the development and implementation of social events for Orientation, Homecoming and Family Weekend," according to the job description provided by the Office of Student Life. As the advisor to CAB, the CSA is responsible for a significant amount of available student funds for programming.

Fortunately, Jonathan Janis, CNU alumnus and former SGA President, has temporarily filled the position of CSA. (An update on the CSA will be in next week's edition of the Captain's Log.)

But when a program as large as Homecoming gets canceled two days before the event, the student body has a responsibility to ensure that its money is actually being spent in a useful way. Students should ask where the money that they are paying for programming is going. That may mean attending the committee meetings for preparing the supposed Winter Formal.

The second possible reason for not having a dance could be a lack of student interest. Which begs the question, what will a Winter Formal do for student interest that a Homecoming Dance couldn't do? Traditions can't be defined, only developed. So what good would taking away a recently established tradition and replacing it with a new one do? Perhaps having a Winter Formal wouldn't be a step in the right direction.

A lack of interest has not typically been a problem in the past. Dances over the past several years have been packed with students. Weeks before the dance, students discussed possible plans for the Saturday night that would create lasting memories for outgoing seniors. Some people spent hefty amounts of money on suits and dresses.

Therefore, changing the dance to "Club CNU" very well could have decreased student interest. Being a young school, CNU has developed a tradition of honoring the Homecoming King and Queen and celebrating a spirit-filled week through a semi-formal dance. And now it's gone. Those who wanted a club could have gone down the street.

Granted, last week was successful. Activities occurred, and candidates were crowned. The football team had an immense victory. And who knows, maybe many students weren't needing to attend the dance.

But a two-day notice is ridiculous for those who have been a part of the Homecoming tradition. Leaders should communicate. Students should take interest.

The Captain's Log

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original, providing a full address and telephone number for verification purposes.

Students: please indicate your class status. If the writer is affiliated with an organization, that may be noted.

For a letter to be considered for publication in the next issue, we must receive it by noon of the Wednesday prior to publication. Corrections/Clarifications to published in the issue following the Log will be published in the issue following the error.

What does 'America' mean?

Americans need to develop an identity as a nation

By **Jean Rowell**
Managing Editor

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

America.

Melting pot.

One nation under God? Perhaps that's not what the author even intended the pledge to say. Perhaps we shouldn't base so many arguments over whether or not this country was founded on a belief in God.

Lady Liberty invites everyone to our shores; we do not, however, accept everyone the way the words would lead you to believe. The tired and the poor come to America in search of a better life. That means they want the life Americans live, they don't want to bring the life they live to America. Or do they?

Yes, America is a melting pot. People from all nationalities come here to find a haven. But what is a melting pot? Usually, when we put two different things into a pot and they melt, they become one thing.

But tell me this, why does the United States of America cater to everyone but Americans?

Every country in the world has its own religion, its own language, and its own customs.

Granted wars are being waged over religion, it is a religion all their own.

Countries have culture, and we flock to them because of it.

What culture does America have besides baseball, hamburgers, and July 4?

Maybe I'm wrong, but I haven't ever driven across the American countryside

and observed a nation with rich culture, heritage, and tradition. All I see is industry, poverty, and big business. Should you ever travel to another country, you would follow their customs. In most European countries, you would drive on the other side of the road, eat their food, and observe their tradition.

When people from other countries come to America, they bring their culture here and are offended that America places its trust in God.

Have you ever noticed everything we call tradition

"

Why does the United States of America cater to everyone but Americans?

"

is something we got from somewhere else? We battle over religion, and yet several of our major holidays are religiously based.

Halloween. Maybe the founders didn't walk around in clown costumes from Wal-Mart, but the holiday comes from All Saints Day. People used to dress up with hideous masks to ward off evil spirits.

Irish immigrants brought Halloween customs to America in the 1800s.

Christmas. Sure not everyone goes to church, but the entire holiday comes to us from religious celebrations and the traditions of other cultures. Santa Claus himself originated from the church (St. Nicholas). It all started with the birth of Jesus.

Easter. Kids line up to see the Easter bunny and search for eggs, but really this holiday celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. I'd say very much a religious holiday.

Not only do we share holidays with the rest of the world, but foods too. Pizza isn't even American.

I guess we do have some of our own culinary delights, however, most of those either make Americans dangerously overweight or cause heart disease.

Diversity is a great thing, but what is it at the expense of an American culture?

You've seen the commercials following Sept. 11 that showed people of different backgrounds all saying, "I am an American." If everyone wants to be American, how come I can't figure out what being American really is?

I know that I live in a free country and I wouldn't change that for anything. I know that we have rights and liberties that you can't get anywhere else.

But is the fighting worth it? Are we fighting for the right things?

If taking the word "God" out of the pledge is our biggest problem, then there's something wrong here. People are starving and without places to live.

Maybe taking a little bit of faith out of the equation isn't such a good idea just yet, since we obviously can't do it on our own.

Maybe Americans should mind a little more of their own business when dealing with foreign affairs, and maybe we should create a true American culture.

Yes, America was born from people of different backgrounds, but after 200 years can't we branch out on our own and find our own identity?

Social Security: The subtle subterfuge

By **Stefan Veldhuis**
Contributing Writer

Imagine the federal government telling its citizens that since not everyone is a good driver, no one should be allowed to drive. Furthermore, everyone must now ride in the government bus driven by politicians and their motives, even as it careens along the edge of a cliff.

This anecdote is quite analogous to Social Security, and mirrors the deficiency, in theory and practice, that this federal program contains.

Politicians offer a myriad of reasons for hanging on to control of your retirement.

One argument is that some people don't know how to invest properly. Yet, this is simply another example of the government breaking your legs and claiming only it can provide the crutch.

If the government did not tax interest earnings, and didn't create inflation through their monetary policies, you could be assured a comfortable and reliable retirement simply by putting 5 to 10 percent of your paycheck into a bank savings account, or have your employer do it for you. Even if you know little to nothing about investing, you could easily take care of yourself, if the politicians would simply leave you alone. Forcing everyone into a fraudulent system, based on the assumption or reality of a few irresponsible persons, is infinitely iniquitous.

Those on Social Security

have already been raised 16 times since its creation in 1935, averaging a tax increase every four years. So essentially, every time a president is elected to office,

"This system is inherently unsound, relying on taxing and spending for a program that ... implies saving and investing..."

whether Republican or Democrat, tax increase becomes an inevitable reality despite political rhetoric declaring otherwise.

Social Security is not an everyday insurance program. It collects and dispenses money without regard to time-honored concepts such as personal savings and wealth building.

There is no choice in the matter, no individual input, aside from the mandatory pecuniary remuneration to which citizens are subjected. Social Security operates on the very socialist principle that the government can take your money, and spend it how they please, leaving you hoping that one day you will actually see the benefits of your tax investment.

For all your working taxes, 15 percent of what

you earn goes to the government as Social Security tax. However, none of the money you are required to "invest" in your retirement is put into an account with your name on it. In fact, your money is not invested at all but instead helps to make up 33 percent of the federal government's revenue every year, according to the author of Public Administration.

Robert B. Denhardt. So, no matter what you have paid into Social Security, the government has put nothing aside for your retirement, in fact, every penny has already been spent. This system is inherently unsound, relying on taxing and spending for a program that ostensibly implies saving and investing. According to the latest forecast from the Government Accounting Office, Social Security will be void by 2014 if it doesn't get another fix soon.

Social Security is a paradigm of a government that takes from some, and gives to others, meanwhile promising money to everyone. Trusting politicians with your health, the safety of banks, or putting your fiscal security in their own hands is not practical, and surely not feasible under our current system.

Turning anything, especially one's personal savings, over to the government makes it a political issue; one to be decided in favor of whomever has the most political influence. Surely,

See SECURITY, page 7

Arts and Entertainment

'Our Country's Good' defies one student's stereotype of theater

Behind-the-scenes experience brings a greater appreciation for Theater CNU's recent production

By Brian Foster
Contributing Writer

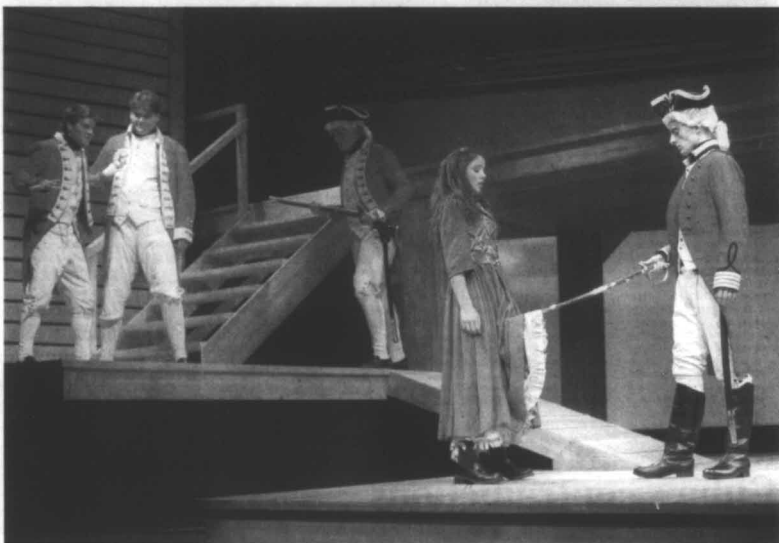
I've never really been a fan of theater. Sure, I'd seen a few plays in my time, but the appreciation was never there. Like most red-blooded American kids, I was raised on Looney Toons, Fraggle Rock, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles; the great productions of my time. The small screen, the boob tube, the magic box was my theater and the goofy Saturday morning animated characters were my dancing, fighting, singing, and laughing actors. How could a live performance without laugh tracks or exploding cigars or giant fighting amphibians possibly hold my ever-diminishing attention? How could a bunch of college students speaking in British accents keep me entertained for an entire evening? How could I justify spending my Friday night in a dark auditorium, squirming in an uncomfortable chair, with no pause, no fast-forward, and absolutely no food or drinks allowed "past this point?"

The humanity of it all! Cruel fate, cruel editors had sent me to a place where people become actors, actors become characters and characters become people. I asked myself the questions that everyone asks when they walk into a strange and alien place: Who were these people? What are they doing? How did these college kids learn to sound British? When did the theater become so complicated? Where am I? Do I get to go home soon? Is there a story here?

The answer to my questions, of course, was waiting in the wings.

In less than a week, I learned more about theater than I knew there was to learn. Watching the extensive and painstaking preparations, from rehearsals to voice training and lighting choices to set design, has opened my eyes to a world of art that I had never taken the time to look at before. The people of Theater CNU have managed to bring to life a story; to transport an audience to the other side of the world; to turn a bland old auditorium into a shared dream; to impart upon us a real experience, one that taps into the power of the human spirit rather than the cable jack. And if there be any man, woman, child, or other who believes the theater must necessarily be boring, may they see "Our Country's Good" and learn to whistle a different tune.

Despite the now typical Hurricane Isabel-related delays, the cast and crew of "Our Country's Good" were raring to go after Thursday night's dress rehearsal. The man behind the scenes (production stage manager) was performance major Jason Linett, junior. He seemed calm and reserved after an almost flawless dress rehearsal. The crew and cast were working together beautifully; things were coming together. All of a sudden



Major Ross (freshman Aaron Page) violates Mary Brenham (senior Alexandria Finnegan) to humiliate her and the other convicts of the first penal colony in Australia. From left to right, Second Lieutenant Ralph Clark (sophomore Justin Sease) struggles with Captain Jimmy Campbell (senior Carrington Brooks) to defend Brenham. In the background, Captain Watkin Tench (senior Craig Pilkington) prepares to stop Clark from defending Brenham. The show had a 30-day rehearsal, one of the shortest rehearsal schedules of production that Theater CNU has had in recent history. With an all-American cast, the actors were required to speak in Cockney, Upper-British and French dialects.

quiet confidence. Linett made the claim, "I think we're ready to open tonight."

Backstage after rehearsing the curtain call, senior Bryan Wakefield was having large prosthetic scars removed from his back by the makeup crew. When asked if he was worried about anything in

Breeze gave his cast some final notes the clock steadily crept on past midnight. Less than twenty-four hours remained before opening night. Breeze was impressed with their last rehearsal but had some last minute suggestions, additions, and changes. A cue was off here, a fight scene needed some work here, a little more emotion here, a little more involvement there. It is his job to guide the actors, to help them find the characters within themselves, to make the performance real, to put the squeeze on the cast when there is squeezing to be done. On this last night before the big show, however, he had kind words for his cast: "I've loved watching these scenes grow," he told them softly.

Something strange occurred that night as I left the auditorium. On my way out, I looked back at the now empty stage and felt like I had something invested in this play. Although I had only been present for a few rehearsals, although I had admittedly never been a fan of plays, although I generally avoid any so-called extracurricular activities, something about this play clicked in my brain. These people, actors, sound designers, stage managers, and makeup artists, had spent the last several months of their lives preparing to put on a show for the students, teachers, family and friends. I felt the anticipation of opening night approaching. As I walked to my car after that final rehearsal, I found that I honestly couldn't wait to see how it all turned out. This was something no movie or TV show could ever do; this was the excitement of the theater.

I met up again with the ac-

tors two hours before the show. The atmosphere backstage at the Gaines Theater was electric, dense and almost tangible. Stage hands and actors were virtually bouncing off the walls. Many of them had been there for hours already. When asked about the status of her nerves,

character, opening night is always the biggest thing to overcome. "Why are opening nights so nerve wracking?" "I think its going to go a lot different with an audience, a lot of unexpected laughs," Denton explains.

Sophomore Nick Childress, wide-eyed and holding a cup of coffee, says about his state before the show, "I wouldn't say nervous. I'm anxious to see how the audience reacts to it. It gives it a whole new feel to the show." Childress explained how he could stay so relaxed, "I drink a cup of coffee, start my warm-ups, relax, read through my script just ... relax."

Stage combat can be one of the most difficult skills to master as an actor. Senior performance major Craig Pilkington said about his fight scene in the first act, "It's one of those challenges that you love throwing everything you got into it. You get to sit there and pretend to beat somebody up." How do you prepare for something like that? "It's just working hard and getting it done and then you can cut loose."

Kate Collins Brown, freshman, was found bouncing around backstage preparing for her performance. Like several of her fellow cast members, Brown was using her British accent when I spoke with her. "Oh of course I am so nervous," she said, "Nerves are never a bad thing if you're an actor because that only provides you with energy, gets you going." Brown says, "You need to have nerves if you're an actor; if you don't there's something wrong with you!" Why the British accent before the show? Brown revealed that she'd been using it outside of rehearsal in order

“Once the audience laughs or they become engaged, then you know everything's ok; then I can relax and enjoy the show.”

- Stephen Breeze,
Director of "Our Country's Good"

particular, Wakefield responded, "The hardest thing for the show is most everyone has two characters, so you're not worrying about the thoughts and characterizations of just one person ... you have to create a multiple personality ... its hard but, you do the same work you do for one character, but twice." Wakefield grimaced as the last bits of plastic were peeled from his back. Wakefield has been in six mainstage productions and is almost done with his time at CNU. "This is my last run, all fingers crossed."

As Theater Director Steven



Meag Long (sophomore Gabriele Young) teases Lieutenant Clark as he attempts to cast the production of "The Recruiting Officer."

freshman Carol V. Wilson replied, "It's starting to hit me, I've been so calm all day." Wilson wasn't the only nervous actor backstage.

Sophomore Casey Denton seemed impatient. "I'm starting to get nervous, a little bit, opening nights are just..." Denton trailed off momentarily. "I don't know, the nervousness gets in the way of my



The Aborigine (senior Stephanie Nicole Shipp) completes her ritual dance in the beginning of the show. Many actors in the show were double-cast; Shipp also performed as Black Caesar, a convict of the colony.



Robert Sideway (senior Bryan Wakefield) unchains Liz Morden (freshman Kate Collins Brown). Brown was awarded The Premiere Guild Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a freshman entering Theater CNU.

OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD,
page 8

to internalize the technique. "I found that if you just talk like this all the time it gets into your system," Brown explained. "People think I'm crazy but I'm like, 'It's for the show!'"

I found performance major Justin Robert Sease, sophomore, standing alone on the empty stage belowing into the rafters. "It's almost like yoga when you do breathing and stuff; it allows you to relax your voice," said Sease. Sease, who appeared to have chosen a less immersed approach to learning the accent, said "The dialect was the hardest thing for me." How did he conquer the obstacle? "We would talk to my dialect coach. We'd even go out to eat together and speak in dialect," Sease explained. "For me it was trying to find myself within the character."

Performance major Stephanie Nicole Shipp, senior, plays a mysterious aborigine observer and busts out some mean moves in the opening scene. "This is kind of one of my breakout roles," Shipp shyly said. In one of the most physically difficult scenes in the play, Shipp stomps and spins and hollers and twirls a spear with precision and grace in an elaborate tribal dance. "I've had about 10 years of dance," she said. "Dance background helps a lot." Shipp nailed the routine time and again during the rehearsals, and although she's done it countless times, she admitted, "The only thing I'm worried about is my dance."

It was getting close to half-past six. By then all of the actors had arrived and I had been told to finish

my business and allow the performers and crew to get their collective game faces on. I spoke with Jason Linett right before my deadline and asked him how things were coming along. As the stage manager, Linett was in charge of every aspect of the show from behind the scenes. If something goes off cue, if the lights don't work right, if someone breaks a prop, it's his show. Linett said with the air of someone who needs to get back to business, "We're ready to go."

Not everyone backstage was so nervous. Paul E. Bunch, a recent transfer student and senior performance major, showed up at the last minute with a smile on his face. Did Bunch have any pre-show rituals to go through? Nope. "I put my makeup on, put my costume on, read over the script," Bunch said.

Returning an hour later, the actors had been sequestered and guests were starting to fill in the seats at the Gaines Theatre. Outside in the lobby I found Breese schmoozing with the theatergoers. Breese was bursting with energy. "The show is absolutely ready to open," he proclaimed. As the director, Breese was in the position of having to sit back and watch while his actors take it away, but he had confidence. "The last dress rehearsal was absolutely fantastic. The show exploded last night. The actors took over the show, which is what you want," Breese beamed. "I've said everything I can say; I've done everything I can do." The director seemed earnestly proud of his cast. "This is a show that five years ago would not have been possible to do here because we

didn't have a large enough theater company or strong enough people and now it is possible."

"I'm nervous about everything! I'm nervous about nothing!" he said. "Once the audience laughs or they become engaged, then you know everything's ok; [then] I can relax and enjoy the show."

At eight o'clock, the music began to fade in softly, dual haze machines filled the room with a dreamy mist, the lights went down, and the action began. These people who I had been talking to for the past few days seemed to suddenly to change from so-and-so junior performance majors into British Marines, convicted murderers, thieves, and whores. The scene went off without a hitch, and as I sat there looking around at my fellow audience members I could see the connections forming. I could see the audience becoming "engaged," as Breese would say, and I knew that everything would be ok for the same reason I knew that in the back somewhere, Breese was relaxing and enjoying the show.

Opening night was a success. The actors came out into the lobby to a cadre of family and friends. They were glowing with relief and excitement. Everyone had a good run; nobody had any fruit thrown at them; nothing went terribly awry. Performance major Carrington Brooks, senior, was very happy with the show. "This is definitely one of the most entertaining shows I've worked on. I feel like this has been my most complete performance." The stage manager wasn't ready to celebrate. "Let's do it five more times," Linett joked. "I feel good, that is the right word. I feel incredible," beamed Brown.

Bryan Wakefield knocked them dead in a few scenes when he played a pickpocket with a gentleman's streak. "After the first show, it always feels good, especially with the audience," he explained. Modestly obviously being one of his other talents, Wakefield denied any comedic prowess. "It's an awesome script, you could just go out there and say the lines and be funny."

So there I stood as the actors filed out with their respective families, and the whole shebang seemed suddenly over. I looked back into the auditorium and saw someone sweeping up and realized that in fact, she had only just begun to bang. I had done my time, I had learned to appreciate theater in a way no classroom ever could have, my work was done, and my story was completed. But the cast and crew of *Our Country's Good* would be there to wow us again tomorrow night at the same time in the same place. Theater folk, my we never underestimate you again.



Mordon (Brown) gets in a cat fight with Dabby Bryant (freshman Carol V. Wilson) after Bryant insults her in front of Brenham, her best friend.

Review: 'Our Country's Good'

By Annie Ferenbach
Staff Writer

"Our Country's Good" takes you to Australia in the late eighteenth century. England has lost the Revolutionary War to America. In the spirit of keeping the British Empire alive, approximately 800 convicts (mostly thieves) along with several British officers in the Royal Navy and Marines are shipped off to the wild and unsettled land of Australia. It's a hellish eight-month journey, and it becomes even more hellish once they arrive. Food is scarce, convicts unpredictable and the officers are cruel. To escape this miserable existence, the governor (portrayed marvelously by sophomore Casey Denton, who also plays John Wisenhamer) declares that the convicts should put on a play to be directed by Second Lieutenant Ralph Clark (sophomore Justin Sease, who carries the play very well).

The decision to put on a play is a controversial one, as many officers think it's a waste of time, or even an outrage—they're convicts, not actors free to do as they please.

The standout performer among the women would have to be freshman Kate Collins Brown, in a role most actors would die to play. She is Liz Morden: a foul-mouthed, hot-tempered, violent convict who is cast as the noblewoman as the play. Her performance is callous, sympathetic and hilarious and she does a seamless job going from one to the other. Her most impressive scene would have to be one wherein Morden and Robert Sideaway (senior Bryan Wakefield, who gives as dynamic and diverse a performance as Brown) try to continue rehearsing a scene while being terrorized. They try desperately to keep composure as their world is crumbling around them and they eventually break down.

The convict's terrorist and chief voice against the play is Major Robbie Ross, played with bone-chilling coldness by freshman Aaron Page. He plays his part without overdoing it—he keeps just enough rage boiling on the inside so that it's still

shocking and frightening when he has his real moments of fury.

Despite his fierce and formidable opposition, the play and players struggle to go on. Most of the players of "Our Country's Good" are actually double-cast, meaning one actor plays more than one part. After seeing the play, I can't imagine it without the double-casting. It also gives the actors a wonderful chance to show their range. In addition to Brown and Wakefield, senior Carrington Brooks also has wonderful dualities—making the audience giggle hysterically in one scene, and showing great vulnerability and heart in the next. It's wonderfully theatrical.

Possibly the most moving character in the play is James "Ketch" Freeman, the hangman. He's portrayed as a kind, gentle lonely man by senior Paul Bunch. Shunned by the other actors (especially the women) for his sordid duty, Ketch only wants to belong and act alongside his fellow convicts. Ketch is truly a heartbreaking character.

As a subplot to the play, we follow the story of Midshipman Harry Brewer as he struggles to keep his lover, Docking (a young convict portrayed with heart wrenching emotion by senior Caryn May) faithful to him and struggles to keep away the ghost of a man he had to hang. The guilt of hanging this man and not completely regretting it eats away at Brewer more and more in the play, building up to a frenzied climax for the character. Brewer is portrayed by sophomore Nick Childress, who completely blew me away in this role.

What impressed me the most about his performance was that he never once broke character. That may not seem so impressive—after all, actors aren't supposed to break character. However, the way the set is built and the play is constructed, actors are

oftentimes on stage, but not in the present scene. They're perhaps not fully lit and are simply there to wait until the lights shift and it's their scene again. During one such time when the action was in the center of the stage and Childress lay in wait on stage right, I looked over and saw him mumbling to himself, continuing the mental breakdown of Harry Brewer.

That's just one example of the consummate professionalism shown in "Our Country's Good." The actors never once broke character in the two times I saw this play. The set looks like it took an entire professional construction crew to erect, the lights are seamless, focused and beautiful (setting the eerie and disturbing mood) and the actors "Standard British" and "Cockney" accents were nearly flawless.

What stays with me the most after seeing "Our Country's Good," even beyond the talent of the actors (there are so many more great performances: Alexandria Finnegan's Mary, Carol V. Wilson's Dabby...), is the feeling and the message that it sends. This actually happened. These people were living in a hellish environment and situation that we can only imagine, suffering and committing brutalities we can't imagine—yet theatre changed things. Not their situation, but it let hardened convicts forget and pretend for a while. It allowed them to forget they were hungry, they were aching from whippings or that they had committed atrocities. Theatre has the power to give people dignity again and to humanize even the unredemptable in a society.

Directed by Professor Steven Breese

Starring Justin Sease, Kate Brown, Casey Denton, Alexandria Finnegan, Bryan Wakefield, Carol V. Wilson, Allen Brooks, Nick Childress, Aaron Page, Caryn May, Paul Bunch, Craig Pilkington, Gabrielle Yount, and Stephanie Nicole Shipp

Written by Timberlake

Rating 5 out of 5 stars



After Sideaway (Wakefield) accuses Mordon (Brown) of stealing his handkerchief, he attacks her. Mordon quickly gets her revenge by, as the cast commander describes it, giving him the over-the-shoulder crotch grab.

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October Frights: Was Busch Gardens Worth the Wait?

For one student
Howl-O-Scream
is just scary
enough

By Lacey Milburn
Contributing Writer

"What's that noise?" a little boy with short brown hair and a navy blue shirt whined while in line for the Curse of Pompeii.

"What noise? If you're scared now, wait until you go in there," responded an older man he was with. He referred to the entrance ahead laced in fog and darkness that a winding line of people looked eagerly at.

These were only two of the almost 33,000 people that Busch Gardens took into its park on Saturday, Oct. 18, starting at 6:00 pm from Oct. 3 through Oct. 26. Busch Gardens transformed itself into Howl-O-Scream, an amusement park dedicated to Halloween filled with mazes and demoted spirits.

The cultural, artsy normalities of Busch Gardens and it's many featured costumes became haunted in hopes to frighten guests who dare to come inside.

It may not have been the most frightening as far as haunted houses and mazes go, but Howl-O-Scream certainly boasted the spirit of Halloween, and it was certainly frightening for wimps like me.

The Howl-O-Scream attractions consisted of shows made for the season as well as more frightening mazes. Each attraction is labeled with a certain number of pumpkins from one through five. Those with only one pumpkin were considered "Fun Fights For All," and those with five pumpkins suggested to guests, "Run For Your Life." Five pumpkins were recommended for those ages 17 and up.

The downside to Howl-O-Scream came when guests wanted to go into a haunted maze labeled with three pumpkins or more. Once the maze went down, these were the most popular and required long, tiresome waits in curving lines that seemed to never end.

By the end of the night, everyone I was with complained that something on them ached.

Sleepless Hollow Manor (five pumpkins), new for 2003, was a haunted estate filled with ghosts murdered by the Headless Horseman.

Guests walked inside and went their way through black fabric, netting, and fake dead bodies hanging from

the ceiling. Meanwhile, the ghosts of the mansion leapt out from hidden doors, revealed themselves from hiding places, or stuck their arms through convenient holes in the walls.

Some people were startled by any of this, however they certainly were amused by the jumping and screaming of my friends and I.

The Curse of Pompeii (four pumpkins) was a haunted archeological dig. Again, guests wound their way through dark corridors that resembled the usual ride, Escape of Pompeii. This was less frightening, but certainly got my heart pumping.

Another new addition to 2003 was the Nightmare Express. Marked as three pumpkins, it was definitely a step down from the four and five pumpkin attractions.

It was apparently a trip through a person's worst nightmares aboard the train that encircles Busch Gardens, yet the nightmares remained far away and unthreatening.

Wanting to be scared, I should have steered clear of Nightmare Express as it was ideal for children who wanted to do big kid stuff. In addition to not being scared, I got wet when the train attempted to simulate a thunderstorm.

Other attractions included, Festa Dementia (three pumpkins), Distorted Dimensions (four pumpkins), and Sea Dog Cemetery (five pumpkins). Festa Dementia is a traveling circus train caught in an electrical field, and Distorted Dimensions was a 3-D maze with special effects.

Sea Dog Cemetery (five pumpkins) put guests face-to-face with barbarous and piratical scenes in the cemetery of malicious dead pirates.

The Howl-O-Scream shows included the 4-D "R.L.I. Haunted Lighthouse," "Monster Stomp," and various others geared toward younger children.

Easy to frighten, I enjoyed my day at Howl-O-Scream. Regardless of long lines, I met my two goals of the night: I rode the roller coasters and I was frightened.

How much Howl-O-Scream would frighten other, less wimpy people. I'm not sure, but they could have a good time watching the others that scare easily. Of 2003, I am excited to see what 2004 brings.

CD Review: Maroon 5's 'Songs About Jane'

Group formerly known as 'Kara's Flowers' bounce back with new sound

By Megan Tucker
Asst. Arts & Entertainment Editor

Five white boys playing some funky R&B is definitely something worth a listen. LA-based band Maroon 5 decidedly broke the barriers of rock and R&B with their new album, "Songs About Jane." This 13 track LP promises a rewarding trip of smooth guitars, pounding drums, and lyrics that

speak to the souls of many.

The album's first single, "Harder to Breathe," released in fall of 2002, has continuously stayed on multiple radio charts. As the year progressed the song found constant rotation on VH1's "Inside Track." The band has promoted their new single and album on such shows as "Late Show with David Letterman," "Last Call with Carson Daly," and most recently, "Ellen."

Maroon 5 appears to be an overnight success, but that is not quite the case.

Maroon 5 was formerly Kara's Flowers. The group released an album, "The Fourth World," which received little critical acclaim. The band was subsequently dropped from their

label and parted ways for a while. Drummer Ryan Dusick and bass player Mickey Madden attended UCLA while keyboard player Jesse Carmichael and singer Adam Levine trained at the State University of New York.

After being at college for a while, the band decided to try again. The group picked up new guitarist James Valentine and a new name, Maroon 5.

It wasn't long before the band were picked up by a branch of J Records, Octone Records. The band was on a mission to get this new album finished and released to the public.

"I was all about making a hardcore, straight-up, funk R&B record," Levine stated in an online news article

from the official Maroon 5 website, www.maroon5.com.

Soon after the album "Songs About Jane" was released to rave reviews. Maroon 5's sound of R&B and rock is reflected in the songs: "This Love," "She Will Be Loved" and "Sweetest Goodbye."

Each song off "Songs About Jane" speaks of love, loss, and eternal memory. The music of Maroon 5 is pure and melodic with an equal amount of groove and soul.

Maroon 5 is currently on tour with Matchbox Twenty in the U.S. and plan on heading back to the studio for their sophomore album. For tour info, visit the www.maroon5.com official website, www.maroon5.com.

Theater Review: 'The Odd Couple'

By Annie Ferenbach
Staff Writer

"The Odd Couple" is, as the show's program states, several times, possibly Neil Simon's funniest plays of all time. It's a script so packed with one-liners and hilariously contrasting characters that anyone can pull it off.

Luckily, the Peninsula Theatre Company (located on Warwick and Main) does more than simply "pull it off." I had an incredibly enjoyable two-or-so hours that was worth twice what I paid (which was 12 dollars, by the way—perfectly affordable, even for poor college students).

For us young'uns who may not know the basic outline of "The Odd Couple," here it is: Recently divorced, neat-freak and uptight Felix Unger is taken in by his friend, less-recently-divorced, disgustingly messy and laid-back Oscar Madison. Wackiness and hilarity ensue.

This is a comedy that relies very much on physical comedy and set atmosphere. Both these aspects were definitely superb. Director Lucy May skillfully creates hilarious and natural physical comedy that all the actors executed wonderfully. The set, which I had a chance to see up close, was perfect. It took the last minute detail. It seemed professionally designed and constructed.

The real backbone of this production, however, was Mike Diana as Oscar Madison. He took a role widely associated with the great Walter Matthau and truly made it his own. He brings a fantastic energy to the production that is noticeably lacking whenever he's offstage. There's a great presence about him that commands attention whenever he's onstage, and he's a joy to watch.

He delivers his wonderful dialogue flawlessly and slam-dunks every gesture and facial expression.

Denis Brown as Felix was also very enjoyable. He was a great casting choice, as he is a perfect contrast to Mike Diana as Felix is to Oscar.

His body language is all about tension and precision, and he makes the audience very sympathetic to his plight and his self-deprecation. He and

he cast a stronger actor in that role as it's the largest supporting role. Murray has several hilarious lines that never quite gelled for me because of Steiger's hesitant and unexpressive delivery.

Additionally, while Jeannie Hansen and Lydia Mugler were rather funny as Gwendolyn and Cecily (every good intro to World Drama student should be amused at the homage: Si-



Charles Lynam/The Captain's Log

Mike Diana (Oscar Madison) and Denis Brown (Felix Unger) breathe life into Neil Simon's famous "Odd Couple."

Diana have a flawless chemistry that makes up for a successful production of this play: without a strong Felix and Oscar pairing, you've got nothing.

The supporting cast is fair, but not nearly as strong and outstanding as Diana and Brown. Dennis Moll and Keith Smith are the standouts as poker buddies Speed and Vinnie, respectively. I would have liked to have seen far more of Moll, who had wonderful comedic delivery and timing. Speed captured Vinnie's nervousness wonderfully, eliciting a laugh (from the very warm audience) nearly every time he spoke.

However, I was not too impressed with Daniel Steiger as Murray. They should

mon uses the same name as characters from Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest." I was greatly irritated that neither of them had proper British accents, particularly not Mugler's Cecily. In my opinion, if you're playing a British character, you should either take the time to learn the accent properly, or simply make the character American.

Having never been to the Peninsula Community Theatre before, I was excited to see what it would be like. It had a very warm atmosphere; you can tell the ushers, house managers and folks at the box office were excited and happy to be there. Also, during intermission, they offer drinks and snacks for free to the audience.

The next show lined up for PTC is thriller "Wait Until Dark" which will be shown from Dec. 5-21. The next two shows of the season will be "To Kill a Mockingbird" in February and "Into the Woods" in April and May. I'm looking forward to seeing more of what PTC has to offer. Though not without flaws, it was a truly enjoyable night at the theatre. As a Neil Simon comedy, it did its job: it left me with a good feeling and a smile on my face.

Directed by Lucy May
Starring Mike Diana, Denis Brown, Daniel Steiger, Keith Smith, Dennis Moll, Dave Norman, Jeannie Hansen, and Lydia Mugler
Rating 3 out of 5 stars

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Romantic and Crosswords

Mystic Stars

Weekly Horoscope
For October 27-November 2

By Lasha Senik
Knight Rider/Tribune News Service

Aries (March 21-April 20). Detailed agreements and short-term contracts require scrutiny over the next few days. Thoroughly check records, facts or figures for costly errors. Some Aries natives will need to verify outdated documents to prove employment or financial history. Go slow and expect unique challenges. Thursday through Sunday, loved ones ask probing questions concerning yesterday's romantic obligations. Offer detailed explanations. Your comments will be closely studied.

Taurus (April 21-May 20). Consistency in the workplace is vital this week. Colleagues will rely heavily on a predictable response to controversy. Group relations and bold opinions may be unnecessarily dramatic over the next few days. Find positive ways to privately settle ongoing disputes. After midweek, a long-term friend may introduce a new romantic interest into your social circle. Emotional triangles and ongoing jealousy may be bothersome. Avoid public discussions or criticism between friends.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Late Tuesday, loved ones begin 12 weeks of active social participation, revised home activities and family involvement. Allow social and romantic improvements to develop at their own pace. Group invitations and renewed trust will ensure lasting success. Wednesday through Saturday, money restrictions are annoying. Large purchases and last-minute investments may need to be postponed. Remain determined, however. Financial resources will increase.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Financial habits and new business attitudes are vital for lasting success. Over the next few days, expect relatives, close friends and key officials to ask for detailed explanations or official documentation. Don't be unnerved. Before October, others may need to feel more in control of practical decisions. Later this week, a long-term friend may announce unexpected travel plans. Foreign educational programs, relocation or distant job assignments are accented. Stay alert.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Romantic partners may press for concrete commitments. Loved ones are motivated to improve family life or expand their emotional security. Both are positive, but may also be temporarily annoying. Expect fast proposals and intense emotions before Thursday. After midweek, business partnerships and new employment contracts may be canceled or postponed. Prepare creative group alternatives. Key officials will respond positively to team enthusiasm.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Minor workplace jealousies may cause irritation. Over the next two days, expect younger colleagues to ask for greater responsibility or assume a leadership role. Avoid confrontation, if possible. At present, youthful pride will bring unnecessary confusion. Later this week, a close relationship intensifies. Romantic partners or friends may demand revised routines, new family roles or reliable social promises. Respond quickly and trust your instincts.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Love relationships will take on a serious or committed quality. Long-term obligations and increased home security are accented. Single Librans can expect a variety of intriguing invitations before midweek. Remain dedicated to strong social ethics and all will work to your advantage. After Thursday, yesterday's financial mistakes may reappear. Work partners or officials will need to review legal documents. Ask for full disclosure. Accuracy is vital.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22). Colleagues will favor an individual approach to work projects. Avoid public or team discussions, if possible. Group participation may cause duties may be difficult over the next few days. After Wednesday, social invitations prove delightful. Someone close is willing to explore new levels of trust, intimacy and commitment. Remain open and plan new home events or family gatherings. Friends and lovers will soon ask for a more involved role in your daily life.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21). Gossip and romantic speculation are intriguing this week. Late Tuesday, expect a close friend to reveal an ongoing attraction or private love affair. Social complications or competing love interests will demand delicate balance. Refuse to pick sides or act as mediator. Minor jealousies and group conflicts may steadily escalate. After Friday, several weeks of financial and business advancement arrives. Ask for special favors. Key officials will accept new ideas.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20). Business officials may outline unrealistic time schedules or flawed assignments. Respond with a detailed description of all possibilities. Before next week, authority figures may need to be informed of lagging resources, potential mistakes or revised limits. After Thursday, family events and group social plans may be quickly canceled or rescheduled. Remain optimistic. At present, loved ones and long-term friends need extra time to accept change or resolve past differences.

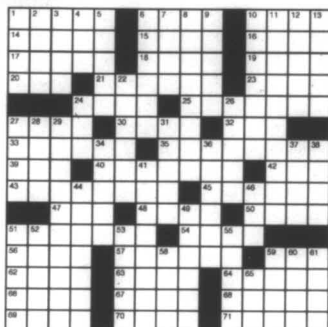
Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19). An unexpected flirtation may captivate your thoughts over the next eight days. Early Tuesday, someone close may reveal a special interest in private family events, home planning or social habits. Before mid-November, many Aquarians will attract romantic invitations from unlikely sources. Potential love affairs are passionate and exotic. Take extra time to fully evaluate all consequences. After Saturday, money restrictions will be slowly lifted. Pace yourself accordingly.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20). Past family history and repeated home patterns are highlighted this week. Respond to new emotions by confidently stating your opinion. This is the right time to bring clarity to yesterday's social events or debate ongoing expectations. Be expressive and expect decisive answers. Thursday through Sunday, friends and lovers compete for your attention. Previously stalled relationships will move steadily forward. Expect complex new choices in the coming weeks.

If your birthday is this week ... Workplace differences will briefly escalate over the next few weeks. Pay special attention to minor financial jealousies and private feelings of isolation. Close friends or colleagues may feel unappreciated or ignored. After Nov. 21, a new era of shared duties will slowly arrive. Remain patient and let authority figures set the standard. Early in 2004, romantic and social relationships will intensify. Before mid-March, long-term friends and romantic partners will ask for new emotional roles and permanent promises. Honestly express your needs and expectations. Relationships that are not actively redefined by the end of March will rapidly fade.

Crossword

ACROSS
1 In the midst of
6 Passed with flying colors
10 Tucked in
14 Algeria neighbor
15 Eternal City
16 Afrikaner
17 Vole in
18 Revise for print
19 Yesteryear
20 Coquetteish
21 Decorative
23 Slatons
24 Type of rug
25 Locks
27 Greek letters
30 Italian wine region
32 "Norma"
33 Egyptian pharaoh
35 Signer-upper
39 "The Haven" poet's initials
40 Apothecary units
42 Poetic meadow
43 Gilts
45 Some valuables
47 Lair
48 Stanton film, "Man"
50 Formerly, formerly
51 Adriatic gull
54 Dieter's word
56 Freeway exit
57 Baltimore team
59 Island garland
62 Branchchild
63 Dictator id
64 In touch with
66 One of a "Tutandor" trio
67 Penny
68 School in central England
69 Betting
70 Low card
71 Make off with



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10/29/03

5 Croc cousin
6 Sports venues
7 Concluding passage
8 Giving off
9 Hinder
10 Of oceanic depths
11 Place to get paperback
12 Unworldly
13 Attire
22 Explanation
24 Blockhead
26 Irregularly notched
27 Private school, briefly
28 Moselle tributary
29 Obstruction
31 Tantalize
34 Utropas
36 Sign up again
37 Sea shockers
38 Bridge position
41 Long, narrow pennant
44 Amount of ooze

Solutions

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Car and Ruby

By Juli Alford



Sports



Photo: The Captain's Log

Sophomore quarterback Chris Roncetti (2) gets sacked behind the line of scrimmage by defensive lineman Tyrell Venney (5). CNU's defense held Methodist to 136 yards on the entire day; propelling CNU to the 49-0 shutout.

POUNDED TO THE GROUND

Homecoming culminates as the Captains shutout Methodist Monarchs 49-0

By Rob Silabee
Asst. Sports Editor

In 2 hours and 45 minutes last Saturday, the Captains of Christopher Newport shattered more than a few records. For the first time in school history, the team took 6 wins straight. For the first time in school history, a fumble was returned for a touchdown. For the first time in school history, there were 3 touchdowns passes.

George Jones obliterated the former receiving record of 80, and set the new high at 190 yards. He also added one to his own record for receptions raising it to 8, and outscored Mario Marin's former 18 point high and set the new high at 26. Phillip Jones hooked up with George Jones for the second longest completion in school history, one of 68 yards. Phillip Jones also was just shy of setting a new passing yards record,

with 193, short 20 yards of the record.

Beyond all that, CNU broke their former team points record. The team put up 49 points to the Methodist 0. Not only were there school records, but George Jones' point record, receiving yard record, and most touchdowns caught were all also USA South Conference records.

In a lot less words, the Captains dominated Methodist last Saturday. Coach Jim Syputt of the Monarchs attributed the win to the pure skill of the Captains.

"Man, for many, every position on the field, they're better than us," Syputt said. "People gotta step up and when our guys step up and their guys step up there is a vast difference."

However, it wasn't a sure thing coming into it. Methodist was coming off a comeback win last week

against the usually USA South dominant Ferrum College. The Monarchs were averaging 309 yards per game rushing. The Captains didn't pay much attention, however, and rolled right over the Monarch football team.

The game sparked right away when Rob Rodriguez took the opening kickoff 73 yards to give the offense great field position for the first drive. Four plays later, Thomas Thornton found himself in the end zone just 2 minutes into the game. Jason Broskie's point-after-attempt was good to put the score at 7-0. The defense, which has been dominant all year from the Captains, stopped Methodist on its first drive in four plays.

Just from the start, the whole team was emotional. We wanted to get out and break their spirits," wide out George Jones said.

The next drive also

ended in a touchdown for the Captains off a reverse to George Jones. Broskie's PAT bounced off the upright and left the score at 13-0. The CNU defense showed its strength during the entire first half. The defense never allowed 21 first downs in a series until the third quarter. In the meantime, the Captains offense scored twice more. George Jones caught a 68-yard pass for six more, and then converted a two-point conversion to put the score at 21-0. The score going into the half was 28-0 off another pass from Jones to Jones.

The first drive of the second half found Methodist fumbling around looking for light in the game, literally. Chris Roncetti, star quarterback for the Monarchs, fumbled the ball and after a scramble, Jovonn Quillen came up with the ball and

See FOOTBALL, page 13

One win away: Captains need one win for conference title

Men's soccer
team sails past
Methodist 3-1 as
playoffs
approach

By Tom Geary
Staff Writer

The depleted CNU men's soccer team is giving it all that they have – and this may just be the beginning.

With nagging injuries plaguing the USA South leaders, the Captains split a pair of games, but maintained the conference lead with one game remaining.

"The ball's definitely in our court," junior Nick Yannitello said. "I'm pretty confident."

CNU (10-4-2 overall, 5-0-1 conf.) dropped a 6-1 decision to nationally-ranked Salisbury, Md., on Oct. 22, but bounced back to defeat conference foe Methodist 3-1 on Oct. 25.

In the first game, Salisbury (11-2-2) took advantage of the wounded Captains by jumping out to a big lead and cruising to victory.

The visiting Captains were down early when Salisbury's Dan Meehan rebounded a blocked shot and put it in the net in the ninth minute. Meehan then set up a 10-yard strike by David Pusinski in the 18th minute.

CNU's starting goalie Brian Shumate left the game in the 18th minute

with a sprained collarbone, leaving freshman Ben Crowder in at goal.

Christopher Mills added two goals, and Reid Klopp and Meehan each contributed one as Salisbury became the first team to score six goals on CNU since Mary Washington won 6-0 on Oct. 1, 2002.

Freshman standout Ernesto de Gasparin scored the Captains' only goal in the 80th minute off an assist by junior Justin Chazean. "We just weren't clicking. We have a lot of injuries that we're trying to deal with," Shumate said. "We weren't ready to play. It's one of those days. Any given day you can have a bad day and it gets run up on you a bit."

CNU was playing without several key players, including juniors Billy Lucas and Rob Leadbetter.

Junior Nick Yannitello felt that maybe the team wasn't as well prepared for Salisbury as it should have been.

"I think we just started focusing on the conference games rather than the game at task," Yannitello said. "We were focusing more on what we thought was more important. We let it slip our minds."

The Captains, however, were ready for Methodist on Homecoming night.

CNU, which has not lost consecutive games this season, defeated the Monarchs 3-1 to improve to 5-0-1 in the conference. Second-place Greensboro is 4-0-2 in the

See MEN'S SOCCER, page 13

Gibbs is fastest female runner in CNU history

By Rob Silabee
Asst. Sports Editor

I've got a riddle for you. What would you get if you crossed a cheetah, Christian, and doctor, painted it blue and white, and gave it tear holes and a funny uniform?

Aimee Gibbs is her name, the phenom of the Women's Cross Country team.

As for the cheetah, Aimee Gibbs holds nearly every record in the book for cross-country including the number one spot for fastest CNU women runner in history. She holds 14 of the top 20 fastest times in CNU history. Including two times recorded this year in Bethlehem, Pa., and Williamsburg, Va. The latter was the Mason-Dixon Conference championship last year. Which she won.

Gibbs, listed as a 5-4 senior, has won two of the four Mason-Dixon Con-

ference championships she's ran, including this year. She won the former Dixie, now USA South Conference, each of the four times she's competed. With the victories she was named to each All Conference team. Gibbs also ran to the All-South-Southeast Conference teams each of her first three years and runs toward a 4th this November 15th.

Her most astonishing feat is her NCAA National Qualification each of her first three years. She has a chance at Regionals to place herself as the only CNU runner, male or female, to make it to nationals all four years of her college athletic career.

Gibbs is USA South Female Runner of the Year two years running, on her way to a third, with phenomenal numbers this year, her final.

"My relationship with God. Also, my family, they've always been there. They come to all of my

See AIMEE GIBBS, page 13

Women's soccer team defeats Lynchburg 2-1; ranked sixth in NSCAA

Defensive stance holds strong as Lady Captains hold on to defeat Lynchburg; Shelly Rusnak has a career game

By Erick Hellwig
Contributing Writer

When raw frustration is mixed with an uncontrolled environment, injuries become commonplace on any playing field. Luckily for the Lady Captains, they walked away from Sunday's game against Lynchburg without any serious health issues and a 2-1 victory.

Strong team defense

nailed down the victory at the end, but strong team unity began from the start. "Our offense was attacking, we are peaking at the right time of the season as we approach the playoffs. We are working cohesively as one unit," said Head Coach Kwame Lloyd. While the Lynchburg sideline sat and watched the game, the Lady Captains all stood near the sideline watching, even as the latter stages of the game

were shadowed by light rain. The extremely physical Lynchburg team came into this game and CNU looked hungry from the opening whistle. A collision course is what happened due to the physicality of this emotional game. Shelly Rusnak's goal in the 17th minute gave CNU the early lead and the defense was relentless from then on out. Lynchburg's first shot came in the third minute of the second half,

and they only finished with three shots.

Megan Guisti assisted Lindsey Baskin in the 53rd minute to push the lead to 2-0, but Meredith Rooney of the Lady Hornets put Lynchburg right back in the game only thirteen minutes later. At this point, it became a battle of keeping the ball out of CNU's territory, and collisions with loose balls became all too routine. Controversial officiating was the source

of upheaval on the CNU bench and the bleachers, with many close calls favoring Lynchburg in the waning minutes of the 2-1 slugfest. Lady Captains coach Kwame Lloyd commented that "[the referee] did make some calls for us, but he let the game get out of hand. It's about not letting that affect you."

Sophomore Kristina Ortiz added, "You just gotta play the game. It doesn't matter what we do, because

they aren't going to change the call."

The win moves CNU up in the USA south standings, and improves their conference record to 6-1. After this win the Lady Captains are sixth in the NSCAA.

The Lady Captains will try and build the momentum they've established and a late playoff push seems in order for a team finding ways to win close games.

Weekly Sports Wrap-Up

Football

CNU crushed Methodist 49-0. The defense sustained the team holding the Methodist offense on nearly three and out for first half. The first kick-off was returned by Rob Rodriguez 73-yards back to the Methodist 23-yard line, setting up the offense for its first touchdown. The offense exploded behind freshmen George Jones' three touchdowns and 193 yards on eight catches. Mario Marin added 69 yards on 11 carries. Thomas Thornton had 65 yards on 12 rushes. The Captains improve to 6-1 overall and 4-0 in the USA South.

Men's Soccer

The men's soccer team kept for the USA South Championship behind a 3-1 win over Methodist on Saturday. Justin Ayotte had the first goal off of a penalty kick. In the 35th minute Billy Lucas scored off an assist from Ernesto de Gasparin. The first goal came from Nicci Yantello with Matt Mertz assisting.

Goalie Brian Shumate had three saves. Methodist outshot CNU 13-6. CNU improves to 10-1 overall and 5-0-1 in the USA South.

Women's Soccer

In a physical battle, CNU came out on top over Lynchburg 2-1. The Lady Captains' Shelley Russell scored in the 17th minute for the game opening goal. Lindsey Baskin put home a second goal off of a rebound shot from Megan Giardi in the 53rd minute. DeLorenzo had six saves in goal and Kasey Davenport made two saves for CNU. The Lady Captains outshot Lynchburg 10-5. CNU is now 11-5 overall and are ranked sixth in the NSCAA.

Field Hockey

CNU dropped a suspended game against Frostburg 5-1. The Lady Captains outshot Frostburg 28-10. Goalie Elizabeth Werbisick had six saves in goal. The Lady Captains finish the season 6-8 under coach Carrie Moura.

Volleyball

CNU defeated Ferrum College and Greensboro in the USA South Tri-Match held this weekend at the Freeman Center. In the first match CNU won 3-1 with scores of 30-9, 24-30, 30-23, 31-29, and 15-11.

In the second match the Lady Captains came from behind to defeat Greensboro 3-2. CNU won each match with scores of 28-30, 25-30, 30-23, 31-29, 15-11.

Brit Broadshaw had a career high 56 assists and 15 digs. CNU improves to 15-17 overall and 10-2 in the USA South.

Cross Country

Aimee Gibbs brought home her fourth championship win. CNU dominated this event. Emily Low ran a great race to take second place behind Gibbs in a time of 21:57.

On the men's side of things Cary Chaffee took first place with a time of 26:22, Brandon Miles took second (26:26).

The cross country team goes on to Atlanta for the NCAA South/Southeast Regional meet in two weeks.

MEN'S SOCCER, from page 12

USA South.

Sophomore Justin Ayotte put the Captains ahead in the 22nd minute with a penalty kick. Lucas, playing with an injured ankle, scored off a pass from de Gasparin in the 35th minute.

Methodist's Matt Kenworthy cut the Monarchs' deficit to one goal early in the second half, but the Captains answered back. Yantello scored in the 69th minute with an assist by senior Matt Mertz.

Shumate had three saves in goal for the Captains, who were playing with their injuries.

"We know how to lose now and how to bounce right back and come up with a big win," freshman Steve Keller said. "[We can] keep that game in the past and not let it haunt us anymore the rest of the season."

Despite the injuries keeping several players out of the Salisbury game and the non-conference Mary Washington match on Oct. 28, the team expects to have everybody playing in this Saturday's game against N.C. Wesleyan at Captains Field.

"I think everybody's got a knock or sprain or something along the way, but everybody's just learning to suck it up," Shumate said. "Suck it up and just do the job because winning right now is more important."

"I think home-field advantage will play an integral role," Keller said. "Hopefully we'll have enough fan support on Saturday night to help us out."

AIMEE GIBBS, from page 12

meets, even traveling to Spokane, Washington. We have great coaches," Gibbs ranted about everyone who helps her on a day-to-day basis.

Gibbs went to Greenbrier Christian High School and attributes much that she does to her relationship with God. She has been running since 6th grade, because "everyone else in the family was an athlete."

So now that we're through the cheetah and Christian, the doctor comes into play. It's not enough that Gibbs can run faster than any one of Tim Allen's super-powered devices on Tool Time, she is also a Pre-med student who was 2003 Female Recipient of the Don Scalf award, the conference's top academic award. Cross Country Coach Keith Maurer went as far as to say that if Aimee Gibbs weren't a CNU runner, she would be "anything she wanted to be." Maurer says that you "can't replace an Aimee Gibbs."

"The biggest asset is her work ethic. She has an incredible work ethic. She runs against opponents more physically gifted, but it all comes down to work ethic. I have never seen her give less than 100 percent unless we've asked her not to," Coach Maurer supported his number one woman's runner.

Gibbs' favorite color is blue, and as for that interesting uniform, Gibbs smiled and said:

"They're much of an improvement from last year's."



Kate Buckner/The Captain's Log

Defensive back Reggie Greene (38) gets upended after running for a short gain during Saturday's game. Greene had the last touchdown of the game making the final 49-0.

Football, from page 12

returned it for a touchdown.

"We've been working hard to get some points on defense to help out the offense," said Quillen about his fumble return, the first in school history.

"The offensive line really handled it up front. I just got it to George and he did all the work," said Phillip Jones.

The best opportunity for the Methodist offense to score came on fourth down on their first drive of the fourth quarter. Setting up for a 30-yard field goal attempt, the CNU defense needed a block to maintain the shutout. Ryan Fleischer came flying in from the left side and got a couple fingers on it. Reggie Greene got the

ball for the final touchdown of the game, a two-yard rush with six minutes left on the clock.

"[The block] pumped us up, but more than that it pumped the second team up. It made them play harder and gave them a lot of confidence," Quillen said.

As for that defense, the Methodist 309 rushing average was held to 96 yards on the ground. The defense held the Monarchs to just 40 passing yards and forced a lost fumble and 7 punts. Justin Wood led the D, with 6 unassisted tackles, 9 total.

The offense of the Captains wasn't only found in the Jones-to-Jones combo, as Mario Marin rushed for 69 yards on 11 carries and Tommy Thornton rushed for

65 on 12. The total offense for the Captains added up to 486 yards.

The Captains were looking to make a statement and move up in the national rankings. CNU is now ranked higher than ever before at no. 12. Coach Matt Kelchner credited his defensive coaching staff for the shut out.

As always though, Kelchner doesn't look to celebrate for too long and knows that they have two weeks to prepare for Averett.

When asked what his team might do to beat CNU, Methodist coach Jim Syputk chucked to himself and said:

"Get me those boys from Oklahoma, and we might be able to take 'em. They just kicked our tail."



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(in the heart of Chesapeake)
285-0030
(closed Sundays)

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Marketplace Shoppers
4500 York Boulevard Ave.
254-8120
(closed Sundays)
CHESAPEAKE
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469-8080
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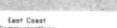
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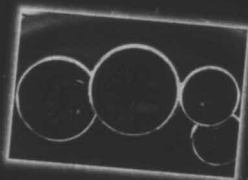
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