

ON CAMPUS

Senate gauging students' opinions

The Senate Student Service Committee has developed a survey to gather information and ideas about the student body's concerns. Surveys can be completed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Greene Street and will be available outside the SG office for the remainder of the semester. For more information, call Melissa Fletcher or Rebecca Payne at 777-2654.

MAP accepting more applications

The Minority Assistance Peer Program will be accepting additional applicants to serve as MAP counselors for the 1999-2000 academic year. Applications are due by 5 p.m. Tuesday in the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs. For more information, call Kristen Richardson at 544-1375.

Freshman halls to hold luau

Moore, Snowden, Douglas, Patterson and Bates residence halls are holding "Carolina Luau '99" from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday in the Bates House social room and on the patio and lawn behind Bates. The event will be catered with traditional luau food, including roasted pig. Activities include a dunk tank and music by local band Blackbeard's Truck. The luau is free and open to the residents of the dorms involved. For more information, call Grant Wooten at 544-3098 or Holly Hallmann at 777-0378.

Garnet & Black looking for editors

Garnet & Black is looking for section editors for the 1999-2000 school year. Applications are due Friday and are available in RH 331. For more information, call 777-1149.

AAAS sponsoring scholarship pageant

The Association of African-American Students will sponsor the first Elite Male Scholarship Pageant at 6:30 p.m. Sunday in RH Theater to celebrate and uplift college men who serve as leaders and role models. Admission is free. For more information, call Jotaka Eaddy at 544-1764.

SG wants campus to get naked

Student Government will hold its second annual "Let's Get Naked" clothing drive through April 28. Clothes can be dropped off at any residence hall and in the SG office, RH 110. For more information, call SG at 777-2654.

Psi Chi to hold inductions

Psi Chi, the psychology national honor society, will hold its induction ceremony for spring 1999 candidates at 7 p.m. Sunday in the Rutledge Chapel. Refreshments will follow.

Carolina Shuttle to collect canned goods

Beginning Monday, the Carolina Shuttle will be collecting canned goods for Harvest Hope Food Bank. Students cleaning out dorms can take all nonperishable food items to any Carolina Shuttle bus. For more information, call 777-1080.

'Doc Hollywood' writer to participate in benefit

Neil Shuman, author of the book "Doc Hollywood" will perform his stand-up comedy routine at a benefit for the Columbia Free Medical Clinic and CAMP KEMO from 7 to 10 p.m. Wednesday at the Millennium, located on St. Andrews Road. Tickets are \$10 and available by calling Chuck Carter at 799-5091 or Richard Hoppmann at 540-1000. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

Happy Hour to be held for Preston

Preston College alumni, residents and faculty associates are invited to Happy Hour at Bailey's Sports Grille off Harbison Boulevard, in front of the Carmike Cinemas. For more information, call Anne Knight at 782-4501 or Jenny Malizia at 544-0944.

Carolina graduates choosing between multiple job offers

by Audrey Y. Williams
Knight Ridder Newspapers

CHARLOTTE — When Khalill Smart graduates from Johnson C. Smith University next month, he's confident he'll have two things: a degree in sociology and a job.

The senior from Fairfax has already turned down two job offers, has a second interview coming up with one company and an oral offer from another.

"I didn't think it was going to work out like this," said the 29-year-old, who also was accepted recently into a graduate program in social work. "It's making me feel good that I have some options after May 2 when I graduate."

Smart and students like him would likely have even more options if this year's job market for new college graduates mirrored last year's.

But even though recruiting for the class of '99 hasn't reached the phenomenal levels of last spring, the job market for new grads still appears strong.

"Last spring, recruiters were just really frantic. You had recruiters going to clubs and handing out business cards," said Camille Luckenbaugh, employment information manager at the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

"It's much calmer for them now. The students are still getting jobs, and the recruiters are able to get the people they need."

What's different about this spring? Some colleges say many companies — in a move to get students committed to jobs early — have already hired the people they needed in the fall.

So they've cut back on recruiting this spring. Last school year, many companies looked for new hires during both seasons.

Denise Dwight Smith, who heads the career center at UNC Charlotte, has seen that trend locally.

"Last year for the first time, we had a spring [career fair]. Sixty companies came," Smith said. "This time, around 40 people came."

NACE also said some companies are worried that the overall economy is due for a slowdown and that has contributed to the decrease in demand for new college graduates.

The annual fall recruiting survey by NACE shows that employers expected to hire 10 percent more new college graduates than last year — compared with a projection of 19 percent in the fall 1997 survey.

"What we're hearing anecdotally is just that ... there seems to be a little bit of uncertainty among companies," Luckenbaugh said.

Still, the labor market is tight — especially in the Carolinas. With the nation's jobless rate at 4.2 percent — the lowest in 29 years — more companies are likely to hire entry-level candidates for jobs they would normally offer to more experienced workers, Luckenbaugh said.

In fact, in the NACE survey, 17 percent of employers said having fewer workers to choose from has caused them to hire more new college graduates. Starting salaries, according to the survey, are expected to increase nationwide by a 4.8 percent average.

Employers still seem to be most interested in graduates with technical-related degrees and skills.

But Carolinas career center directors say there's opportunity for all disciplines — even liberal arts majors.

In the Carolinas, those who want to teach — new college grads included — are hot property. The Greenville County school system has started talking about offering perks such as bonuses to special education teachers. They might also vouch for teachers with utility companies to help them sidestep paying deposits.

"The marketplace is getting much more competitive," said Oby Lyles, a spokesman for the school district, which hires about 300 teachers a year. "Those individuals who are education majors are going into other areas."

Bethany Linder, a 21-year-old psychology major at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, thinks she might have found her fit in human resources management.

She's working in that field now at Paramount Carowinds and has been job-hunting since October. Getting a master's degree in business is a possibility, too, she said.

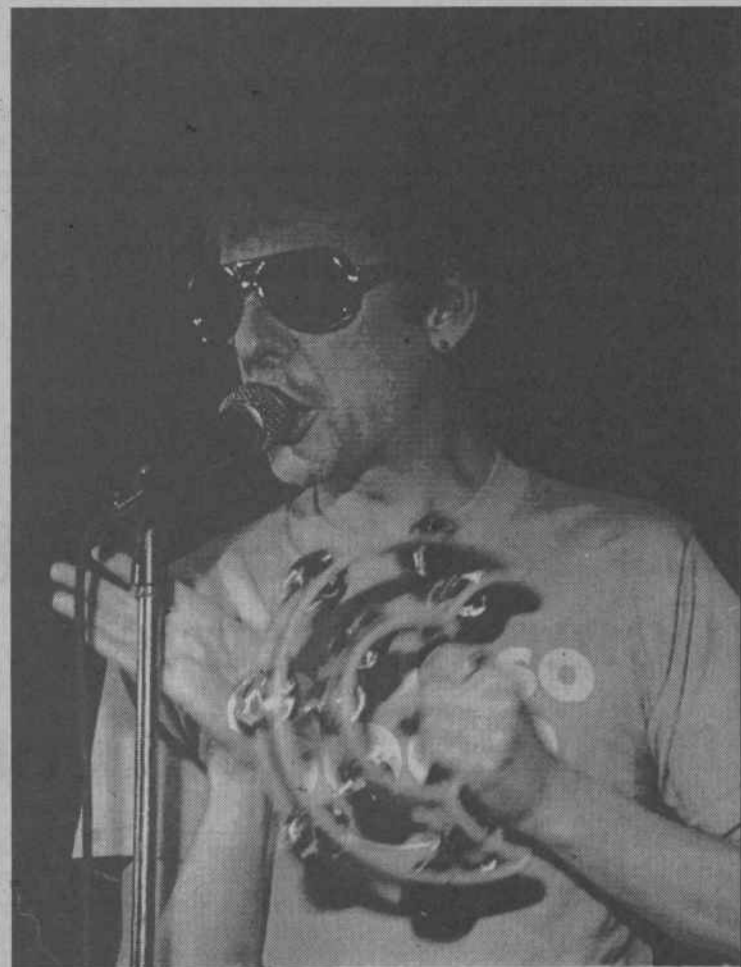
"Doing this [co-op] has very-much helped me narrow down what I want to do," said Linder of Greenville.

This school year was the first time Wingate University in Union County had recruiters come to campus, said Scott Hunsucker, who heads the career center there.

In the past, students met with several companies at a career fair sponsored by a consortium of nearby schools.

"We're a small school, but we've had some companies who want people who have been in small classes," Hunsucker said. Wingate has 1,300 students. Is the market good enough for

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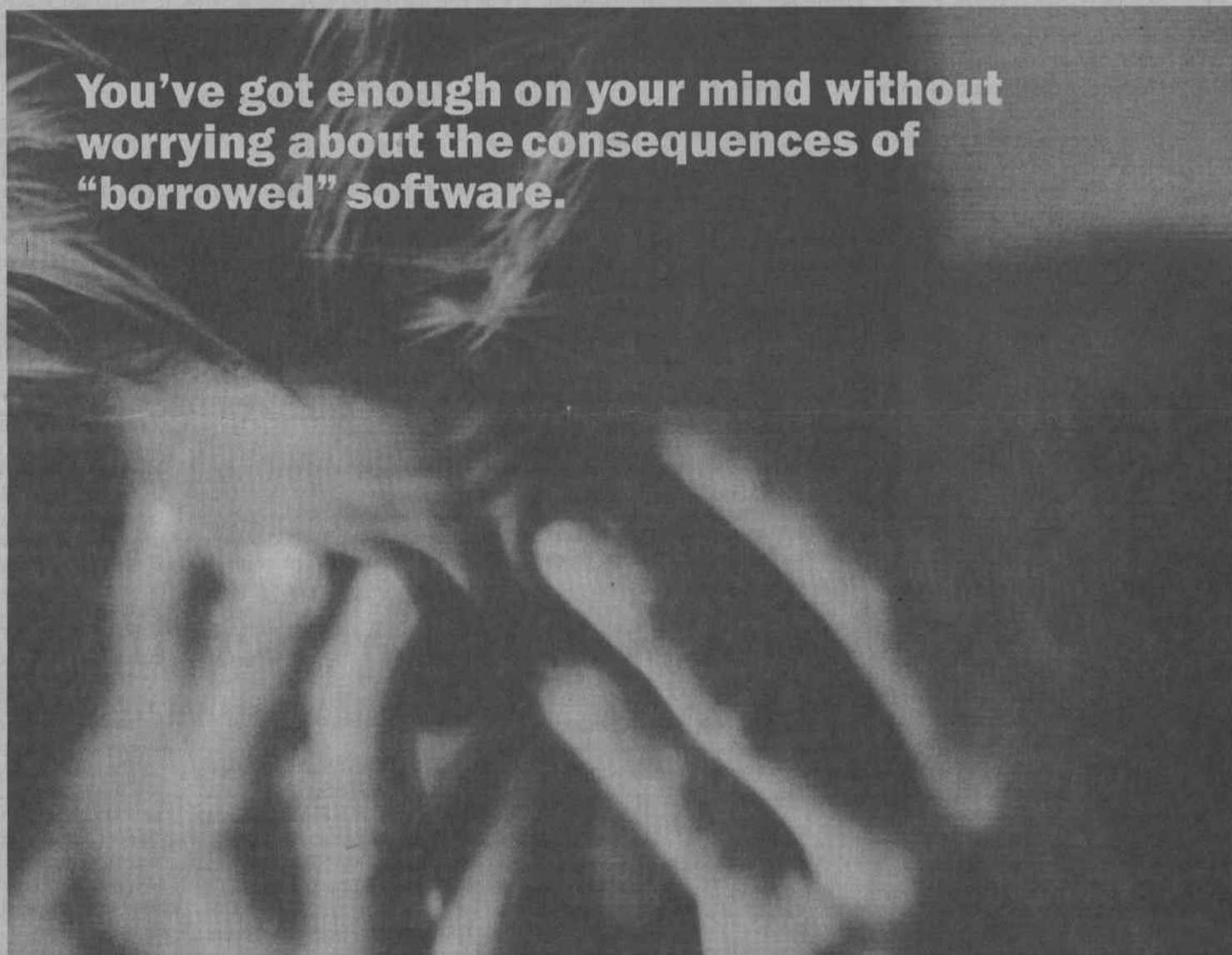


Sean Rayford Photo Editor

Modern English lead vocalist Robbie Gray entertains a nostalgic crowd Monday night at the New Brookland Tavern. The band gained most of its fame with the '80s anthem "I Melt With You."

new graduates to jump on the job-hunting bandwagon at the last minute — confident that they'll find work right away? Not quite, career center directors say. Looking for work early in the senior year — and laying ground-work with internships and co-ops even earlier — is still key.

"We had a career fair in November, and there wasn't a good student turnout. They didn't want to think about looking for work then if they weren't getting out in December," said Tom Injaychok, director of career services at Winthrop, where roughly 600 students will graduate May 9.



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