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Volume 1 Number 5
March 21 - April 3, 1989



Panther Gazette

An Independent Alumni Publication Serving the Students and Community at Florida International University

Cries of satanism and censorship stem from UH Pit performance

Feb. 20 event ignites war of words between organizations

BY ROBERT STARK

Panther Gazette Editor/Publisher

What started out as a "sight and sound gathering" of local bands in the University House Pit, has ended up as a war of words and charges of satanism and censorship between two FIU organizations.

Melody, Rhythm and Noise, a performance of four bands, was sponsored by the Fine Arts Students Association on the night of Feb. 20 at the Pit on University Park.

"It all comes down to creative freedom."

— Hugo Fernandez, President, Fine Arts Students Association

The event, which featured the smashing of a television set, sexual innuendo, and music, angered members of the Jesus Students' Fellowship at FIU so much that a formal letter was sent to FIU President Modesto (Mitch) Maidique, the SGA executive board, and the *Panther Gazette*.

In the letter, Fellowship President Andre Vendryes claims that several people reported that profane language, satanic references and symbolisms, illegal use of alcohol on campus, and violent and destructive behavior all occurred at the performance.

"We demand that these bands be banned from ever performing at the university in the future. We also feel that the Inter-Organizational Committee should take steps to more closely monitor the type of events being planned or occurring on the campus. . . . We also call for some disciplinary action to be taken against the FASA for their sponsorship and participation of the event," the letter stated.

The main band featured was the F-Boyz with special guests of Sir Robert and the Naughty Puritans.

"They're taking it a little bit too far," said Hugo Fernandez, President of the Fine Arts Students Association. "They have a warped view of it.

"It all comes down to creative freedom," added Fernandez. "It's big-time McCarthyism and censorship."

But Vendryes saw a different view.

"I believe in freedom of speech, but I also think that the freedom must have a shape or form and that freedom has to be used responsibly," argued Vendryes, who wasn't at the event, but later saw part of it on video.

There were two officers, to be paid by the FASA, attending the event. And according to Harvey Gunson, director of Public Safety, no complaints were reported and no arrests were made on that night in the UH Pit.

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A member of the F-Boyz creates an illusion of smoke with baby powder during the Feb. 20 performance on University Park. photo by Rene Pulido

Former Russian refusenik to visit President Maidique March 22

A former Russian refusenik who has a PH.D in electronics will visit FIU President Modesto (Mitch) Maidique on March 22 to thank him for the role he played in helping the refusenik to get out of Russia.

Alec Zelichenok's long trek halfway across the world to America will end in the office of the FIU President at 10:30 a.m., when the two will meet for the first time.

Zelichenok, a former Gulag prisoner of conscience released recently by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, enlisted the aid of the FIU president through the

South Florida Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Steve Fain, director of the FIU Institute of Judaic Studies, heard about Zelichenok's quest, and Maidique agreed to write a letter on his behalf, offering him a visiting professorship.

Although Zelichenok did not accept the FIU faculty position since he plans to live in Israel, he asked to meet with Maidique during his seven-city tour of the United States.

Zelichenok and his family were also host to Sen. Bob Graham for Passover at their home in Russia during the senator's trip there last year. ■

FIU student off and running for North Miami City Council

Galvin campaigning for May 9 election

Scott Galvin wants the west side of the city of North Miami to remain as a nice place to live.

So to make sure of that, the 20-year-old FIU junior is running for the Group 3 position on the North Miami City Council, currently held by Bill Carr.

In preparing for the May 9 election, Galvin says being a full-time student at the North Miami campus and residing in the city are two positives for his campaign. Attending the campus "gives him a first-hand look" at the Interama land near FIU, unlike the other candidates.

Galvin, who is majoring in Social Studies Education, works part-time as a coach and referee for the City of North Miami Parks and Recreation. He is also concerned with after school programs and sees the need to improve them.

As far as experience goes, Galvin has been attending city council meetings since November. He served as student

body president at North Miami High and while attending Florida State University served as a member of the student senate.

But his stay at FSU was short.

"I didn't really like the atmosphere there," said Galvin. "It was too 'me-oriented,' and it was hard coming from a big place (Miami) and going to a smaller place like Tallahassee."

On the west side of North Miami, Galvin said the area is changing and is not as affluent as it used to be. He wants to upkeep the neighborhoods.

He added that he wants to "educate the new people moving in" on the rules, and to make sure that violations are taken care of. ■



Scott Galvin



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN The Midway, elephant ears, cotton candy, exhibits, and rabbits will all be at the Dade County Youth Fair next to University Park through April 2. And with the fair, come the crowds. Harvey Gunson, director of public safety at FIU, recommends any member of the FIU community having business on campus from Friday afternoon through Sunday, to use the 112th avenue entrance off SW 8th Street.

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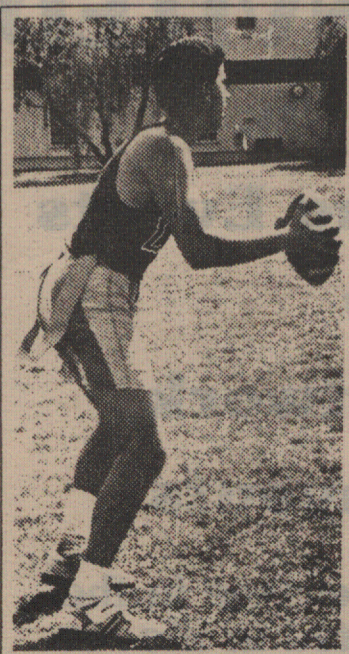
Tuesday, September 20, 1988

Volume 6, Number 4



Photo: Lisa Bevan/FIU Sunblazer

■ The Golden Panther Cheerleaders will compete at the national championships in Dallas. See story on page 5.



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SGA Senator organizes FIU's auxiliary police force

A Student Government Association Senator from the School of Public Affairs and Services at Florida International University is in the process of expanding FIU's Public Safety Department by establishing an auxiliary police force on campus to help ease the workload of the police department.

Barry Zabelinski, initiator of the project, told the Sunblazer that the auxiliary police force will provide services such as dormitory security, parking lot patrol units and added security at special events which include the Indy

500 auto races and the Dade County Youth Fair. "We are going to take over many of the functions that the police officers at FIU would normally perform," he commented.

"The police officers are doing a great job in crime prevention," Zabelinski continued, "but due to the limited number of officers on campus, they can't be everywhere at the same time. That's where we can help."

The auxiliary force will also assist students and staff with minor problems such as keys left inside locked vehicles, dead batteries and flat tires.

Its main focus, however, will be on safety in the campus dormitories. "Our number one priority is to insure the safety of the students living in the FIU dorms," said Zabelinski. "By increasing the number of police officers and auxiliary officers in specific areas, we hope to create a deterrent effect on crime in those areas."

Anyone interested in additional information should contact the SGA Office by calling 554-2121.

FIU Premedical Society seeks chapter recognition

RON LEE
Sunblazer Staff Writer

Members of Florida International University's Premedical Society are working on becoming a part of Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED), the national premedical society. The organization's new president, Wayne Burnett, and his fellow officers plan on establishing an A.E.D. chapter at F.I.U. by the end of the next year.

"This is the first attempt by the F.I.U. Premedical Society to become affiliated with A.E.D. We hope to have a chapter here by the end of next (Spring) semester," said Burnett. "A.E.D. is a nationally recognized and respected honor society for premedical students and is well established. It will provide us with much more clout as F.I.U. premedical students."

Officially recognized in 1975 by the Inter-Organizational Committee, the premedical society has been in existence for over ten years.

Getting into medical school is an extremely difficult task requiring community involvement as well as a high G.P.A. and a good Medical College Admissions Test score. Since A.E.D. is an honor society and is involved in community service, membership is extremely advantageous to a candidate for medical school.

"All the Florida universities with medical schools have A.E.D. chapters," remarked Wayne. "A chapter here will put us in a better position to compete with students at other universities wishing to enter medical school. For a student in medical school, membership in A.E.D., especially participation in founding an A.E.D. chapter, will undoubtedly be a noteworthy achievement in the eyes of admissions officers."

To establish an A.E.D. chapter, a minimum of 20 students at the sophomore, junior, and senior levels is required. According to Wayne, the student base is already present at F.I.U. Creating the chapter would also entail ex-

tensive paperwork and holding an initiation ceremony.

"We hope that the importance of this effort will be recognized by the pre-med students here so that it will be strongly supported and organized," concluded Wayne.

Students interested in helping establish an A.E.D. chapter or interested in joining the pre-med society should keep their eyes open for bulletins posted throughout the campus for meeting information. Meetings usually take place every other Wednesday and the location is printed on the posted bulletins. For more information about the society and membership, call Wayne Burnett at 688-9854 or Jorge Fleites at 221-5897.

Next week:
'Career Corner' and
'Speak out' return

The Independent

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Henington Island: 'a living museum'

Botanists looking for rare plants won't have to sail the seas in search of tropical islands teeming with exotic foliage. A unique man-made island on the north rim of Florida International University's University Park Campus will provide the rare foliage needed for instruction and research in tropical botany.

"It will take time, of course, but eventually we'll have a living botanical museum," said Suzanne Koptur, FIU biology professor. "The island will be used for research and learning and it will also be a place of great beauty."

The island, named Henington Island in honor of FIU's first groundskeeper Charles Henington, will be dedicated September 29 at University Park. Henington, who died of cancer last year at the age of 43, is credited with creating the lush, tropical landscape ambience of the University.

"Charlie was the man who made ideas happen," said Donn Ashley, the director of physical plant who worked with Henington for 12 years. "People would come to him with landscaping plans and he was the guy who did the work."

"We often talked of trying to put an island in the middle of the lake by the dorms," Ashley said. "Charlie would be proud of the concept of Henington Island."

Faculty and students from the biology, landscape architecture and environmental

studies departments assisted the groundskeeping crew and planted the first batch of trees and bushes several months ago. Currently the island contains oaks, a variety of Europe fan palms, mangroves, ceibas and cordias.

Once the island's plant life develops into a rain forest canopy, the foliage will provide a resource for students and scientists concerned with plant taxonomy, morphology, phytochemistry and ecology.

"After the present foliage takes hold, we'll plant ferns, orchids and other tropical and subtropical shrubbery," said Koptur. "Eventually rare plant specimen will be planted. It will be a living laboratory, a living botanical museum."

Henington Island was created when an adjacent area was dredged to produce the fill for the university's new engineering building which is under construction nearby.

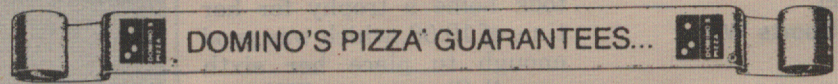
According to Koptur, the site can be used in research on reproductive biology and on turtle life. When lizard populations become stabilized, they will be the subject of exercises in population and material for research projects, she said.

"The continuing development of Henington Island will provide training for internship programs in environmental studies and tropical horticulture," Koptur said. "It's a very exciting concept."

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Cross Country team off to a rainy start

Photos: Jorge Blanco

SAM FISTEL
Sunblazer Sports Writer

What's black and green (mostly black), three to five miles long, and goes 'schluktpah, schluktpah, schluktpah...?'

Jacksonville University's men's and women's cross country course, as the Golden Panthers cross country teams found out Saturday, September 10. Led by freshmen Chris Chartier and Carla Nunziato, FIU placed third out of twelve men's teams and fifth out of eight women's teams in the first major competition of the season.

A week of rain in Jacksonville turned what should have been a delightful course into a disaster area. Nearly half of both the men's five-mile course and the women's three-mile course were run on the university's golf course just a few feet above the water level of the adjacent Saint Johns River.

They might just as well have been running through a swamp. With each step, the runners sank three to five inches into the shoe-sucking muck.

Cross Country running is supposed to be more difficult than road or track running, with traditional courses featuring water jumps, large logs, hay bales, and steep hills. But this course sapped the enthusiasm of runners lacking in mental toughness and it drained the energy of every runner who tried to fight past other competitors in the thick mud.

Eric Alvarez, a 20 year-old senior majoring in accounting, was the fastest Golden Panther, placing fourth in the men's race. "Some of these guys might have beaten me on a different course," Alvarez remarked while looking at a copy of the meet results. "But I went out fast, knowing that it would be difficult for others to catch me on such a muddy course."

Alvarez's time of 27 minutes and 18 seconds, well off his five-mile best of 25:12, reflected on the slowness of the course.

Carla Nunziato emerged from the woods first for FIU, even ahead of Assistant Women's Coach Liz Lewis, the top woman at FIU during the

last two seasons. Nunziato took home a trophy for her time of 19:06, which was good enough to place her sixth overall. She comes to FIU from Crestwood High in Roswell, Georgia, where she ran five kilometers (3.107 miles) in 19:09 and one mile in 5:20.

Chris Chartier was elated with his first five-mile cross country performance in which he beat two of the handful of Florida high schoolers who were consistently in front of him during his senior season last year. Chartier was the third finisher on the men's team and placed 20th overall, finishing in 28:48. "I want to go back to three miles," he joked after the race. "Five miles is too much to endure."

Junior Jorge Blanco was one second ahead of Chartier, finishing 19th overall in 28:47 and freshman Charles DeLay ran 30:27 for 41st place. Junior Mark Skold, consistently one step behind Alvarez in every training session, continues to have difficulties when the gun is fired. Skold started the race in second place, but he succumbed to the course and faded to 27th place in 29:10. Robin Jagessar and John Heller finished close together, running 31:12 and 31:15, respectively.

For the women's team, Kristin Elliott, who has been masquerading as the sixth-best runner for four weeks in practice, was the second-best this week, running 20:37 for 23rd place. Close behind were the team's only junior, Heidi Church who finished 24th and Angie McCall who came in 25th. Michelle Menendez, still suffering from a recent respiratory infection, was 51st with a time of 25:23.

Two other varsity runners did not compete in Jacksonville. Gina Gabrielle has a pulled Achilles tendon and Kara Kelly still has fluid remaining in her lungs from a recent bout with pneumonia.

Second-year coach Mike Becker was upbeat after his teams' first performance, speculating on what might have happened if the fifth and final scoring member of each team had finished closer to the fourth runner. "If Gina had run and finished behind Heidi, we would have been third in the women's division, too," Becker commented.



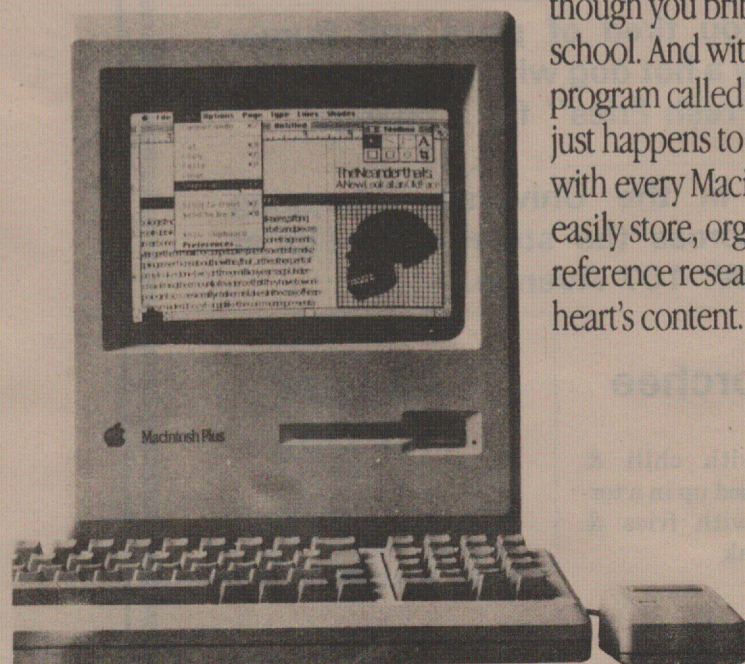
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Intramural sports under way at FIU

REY QUINTANA
Sunblazer Editor

Florida International University's intramural sports program is in full swing and according to program co-director Freddy Pineda, there is something for everybody to participate in.

"Intramurals are really growing on this campus," Pineda said. "We're very excited about the program."

Participation in FIU's intramural program is open to university students, faculty, staff and alumni, and Pineda stresses that a high degree of athletic ability is not necessary to join a team. "Everybody's good enough to participate," he said. "We would never turn someone away because of lack of ability."

The most popular sport on the program is flag football. Twenty-two teams are registered for the five-week season which began last

weekend. Volleyball is also underway with sixteen teams organized for competition.

Upcoming events include a racquetball tournament scheduled for September 30, a tennis tournament set for October 4 and intramural soccer which begins on October 22. "We get more international students every year, so the soccer program is really starting to take off," said Kiko Carrodegus, the other co-director. "And the individual sports are growing in popularity, also."

Anyone wishing to participate in intramural activities should contact Freddy Pineda or Kiko Carrodegus at the FIU Fitness Center. The phone number is 554-2575. "Students need to get out of the dorms," said Pineda. "And what better way to let out your frustrations after a tough week of classes?"

Cheerleaders qualify for national championship

ELISA FURMANICK
Sunblazer Staff Writer

They are a group of people whose institution dates as far back as hot dogs and apple pie (although most of them would probably prefer arroz con pollo). They are a spirited bunch, not the least bit reluctant to act as if they are suffering from some sort of severe mental regression.

The cheerleaders of Florida International University form a supportive network of individuals, all fully trusting one another's abilities. Perhaps Marie Acebal's comment, "It's a lot easier to depend on someone else than depending on your own body," best sums up the attitude that all of them share.

The Golden Panther cheerleaders recently qualified for the National Cheerleading Association's National Championships to be held in January in Dallas, Texas. They received this honor at the

National Cheerleaders Association cheerleading camp at Boston University. Bobby Diaz, boy's captain for the team, was named All-American Cheerleader, an honor bestowed to only seven out of 389 hopefuls.

Cheerleading began at FIU four years ago. The past two years have ushered in the addition of both male cheerleaders and collegiate-level techniques. The cheerleaders are presently ranked at the Division II level, which applies to schools without a football team.

The members of the team are Patty Sordo, girl's captain, Margarita "Maca" Grana, girl's co-captain, Bobby Diaz, boy's captain, Peter Guerrero, boy's co-captain, Marie Acebal, Danny Baptista, Cathy Cubine, Yocie Galiano, Rick Law, Cristy Rodriguez, Dan Sera, and David Solis. Michelle Ciochetti is the cheerleading advisor.

The squad meets approximately three times a week. Sometimes the members prac-

tice up to twice a day in preparation for special events. Their diligence paid off at the NCA Cheerleading Camp which they recently attended where their talents were recognized. The camp also served to help team members improve their technique, acquire knowledge of various stunts, and master pyramid formation.

In spite of the dedication and the reputation that these people offer to FIU, they still receive little support from the student body. Usually, blank stares and a random clap are there to greet them when they've finished 'doing their thing'.

The Golden Panther Cheerleaders will be holding various fundraisers for their upcoming trip to Dallas. Candy, coupon books, and car wash tickets will be amongst the items sold. A stone crab dinner, scheduled for November 10, will be held to help kick off the basketball season.

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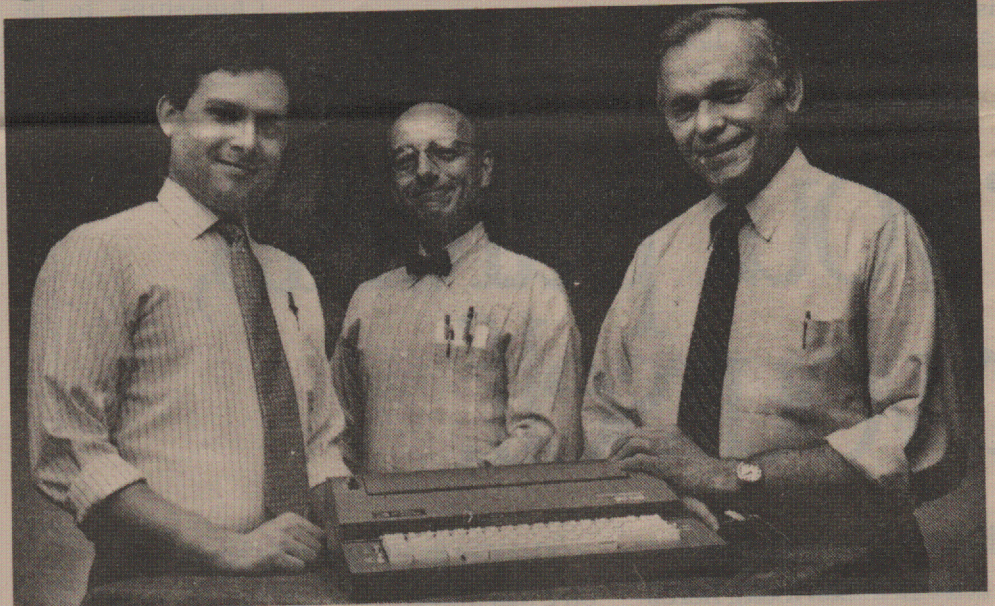
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Commentary: That first day

JULIO LORA
Sunblazer Features Editor

It was the first day of my new life. I wasn't sure what to expect. Just about everyone I know told me college was harder than high school and just about everyone else I know told me college was easier than high school. In any case it was a different world.

I had many anxieties about my first day. One was that my old high school nemesis, who made my ninth grade year an experience comparable to living in hell with a heat rash, would be waiting for me in the FIU cafeteria ready to take my milk money. This of course was a highly unfounded anxiety due to the fact that this ruffian was still in ninth grade.

Another fear of mine was that my professors would ask me to leave class on the basis that I looked stupid.

As I made my way about campus I couldn't help but feel extremely young and waif-like. Everyone seemed so much older-I think it had something

to do with the fact that everyone was so much older.

I had cunningly prepared for the task of not getting lost for many a day at the mall. I jogged up and down crowded stairs. I'd practice asking people running by for directions and got quite good at generally not knowing where I was. Just in case I did go astray I brought along a compass, flairs, rope, first-aid kit, and a map of Yellowstone National Park. And so when I did get lost en route to my first class, I was able to successfully maneuver myself to the south parking lot just in time for class, although no one was there. Maybe they went on a field trip to the zoo or something.

I had better luck in finding my second class. So I bravely

entered the classroom, ready for anything, be it a lunging ferocious professor with a dislike for stupid looking people, be it a milk-money grubbing hooligan. In the room I found no one because it was the wrong room - a bathroom actually. It's a good thing too, because I was carrying my "Star Trek" lunch box and I know how to use it with ninja-like accuracy.

By the time I found my class it was half-over. The professor must have liked me because he didn't give me a detention or make me clean the blackboards. I must remember to bring him an apple.

Relief for Jamaica

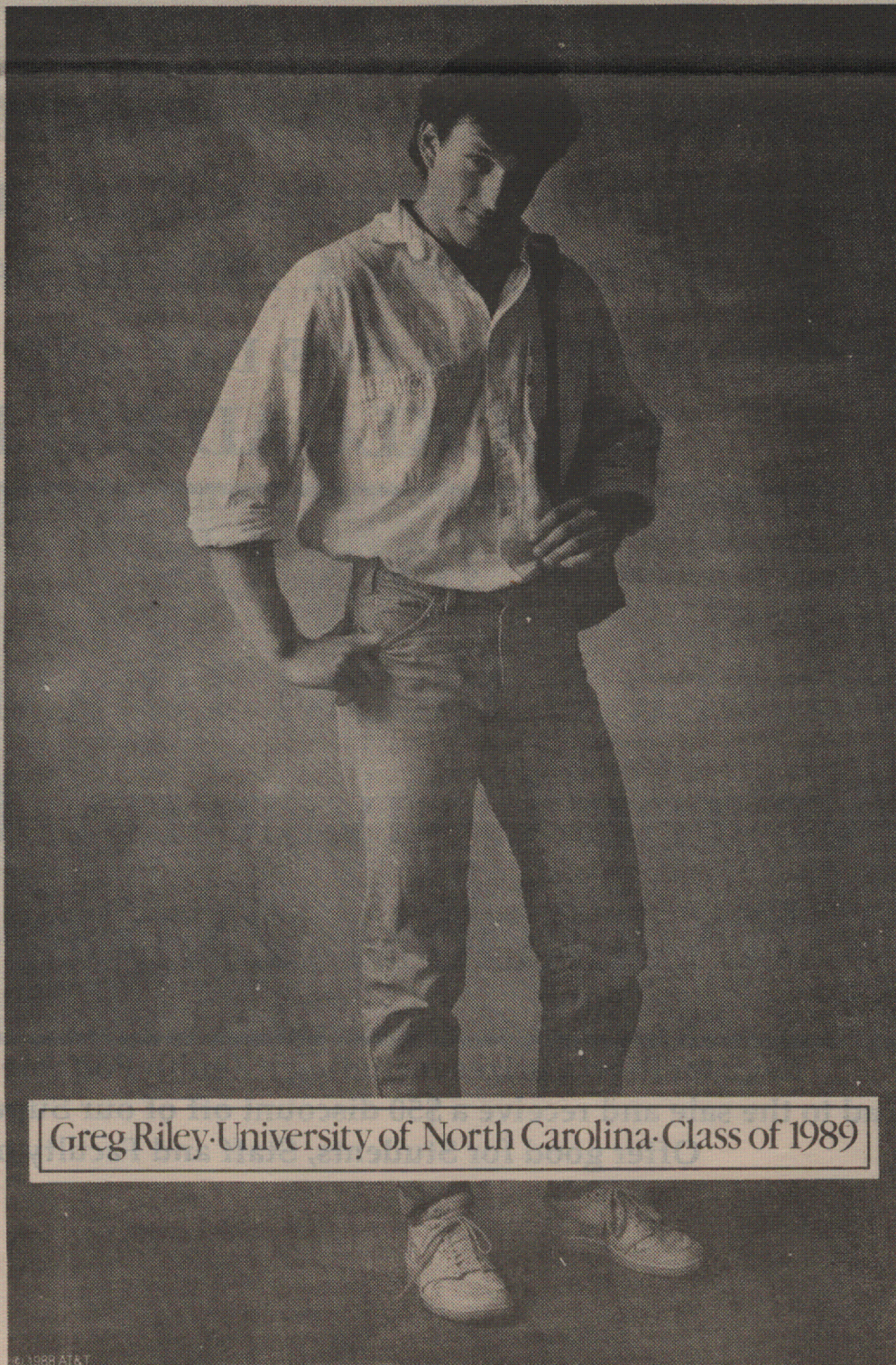
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