

Arts & Entertainment

March 1, 2000

Briefly...

County residents' appreciation day

The Cape Fear Coast Convention and Visitor's Bureau will hold a "New Hanover County Resident's Appreciation Day" March 5. 23 area businesses will offer free admission or discounted food, and it is the only day most of the attractions will do this. Last year, the 17 attractions drew more than 8,000 residents. For more information, call the Convention and Visitor's Bureau at 341-4030.

Post WWII art discussion

Art history professor Dr. Tony Janson will explain how painting, sculpture and architecture styles emerged after WWII to express the social changes that had occurred. The slide show and discussion will be in the Battleship Auditorium in the Visitor's Center at 8 p.m. March 15. It is a free event.

Stageworks to perform "Tom Sawyer"

Stageworks productions will perform an adaptation of Mark Twain's "Tom Sawyer." The show will be in Thalian Hall's Studio Theatre March 3 at 8 p.m., March 4 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and March 5 at 3 p.m. Rob Zapple will direct. Tickets are \$8, with discounts available for students under 17.

"Romeo and Juliet" ballet comes to Thalian

The full length ballet "Romeo and Juliet" will be performed at 8 p.m. March 17 in Thalian Hall by the Ballet de l'Opera de Bordeaux. The company of 50 dancers, elaborate costumes and sets, Ballet de l'Opera de Bordeaux will bring to life its acclaimed interpretation of one of the classics of world literature.

If you know of an upcoming event, contact A&E Editor Megan O'Brien at 962-7148 or e-mail her at shkartsent@hotmail.com

Outrageous television on the rise in America

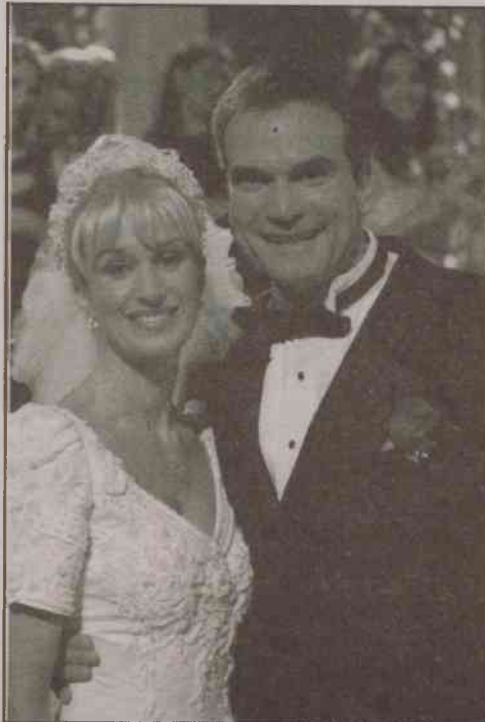
by RACHEL S. CRUZ

Staff Writer

Americans of all ages can turn on the television to see wild police chases, what it is like "When Animals Attack," or when everyday citizens win millions of dollars. No matter how demanding the viewers' appetites, the programs are there, seven days a week.

ABC's "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" is a reprise of a 1950's show that originated in England. It gained such popularity in the summer of '99 with 81 million viewers in the first seven days that producers agreed to a series contract. "Millionaire" now runs four nights a week and has been in the top rating spots for weeks.

"We are living in the U.S. during a time of substantial prosperity. 'Millionaire' offers the chance to, on a somewhat smaller scale, experience a wind-fall akin to those of young software entrepreneurs, elite athletes and entertainers," said Dr. David Weber, assis-



Total strangers Darva Conger and Rick Rockwell married Feb. 15 on Fox's "Who Wants to Marry a Multi-millionaire?"

tant professor of communication studies.

The ease of the wins troubles Weber. "I do feel uneasy about the values that the shows promote. The shows imply that when millions come one's way, it's easy," he said.

"Greed," Fox's answer to "Millionaire," uses a more competitive approach to lure viewers. Instead of simply watching an individual answer trivia questions, Fox entices contestants to "eliminate one another in ruthless one-on-one battles for big bucks," as boasted on their website.

The craving for this type of television does not stop at witnessing million dollar wins in merciless competition. The idea that everyday people can become instant millionaires was amplified recently by adding a marriage ceremony and two complete strangers in Fox's Feb. 15 show, "Who Wants to Marry a Multi-millionaire?" which got the top ratings spot that night.

Little did the show's producers know that the groom's shady past would give viewers more than what they wanted.

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Dance Marathon turns into "Relive Your Prom"

by RACHEL CRUZ AND MEGAN O'BRIEN

The Seahawk

The Student Government Association (SGA) turned the Dance Marathon fundraiser of past years and made it a themed dance, "Relive Your Prom" at 8 p.m. last Thursday.

The theme wasn't the only thing that had changed. Instead of having the dance last from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. the next morning, the committee decided end the dance at 10:45. The ticket price also increased from last year's \$10. It cost \$15 to get into the marathon this year.

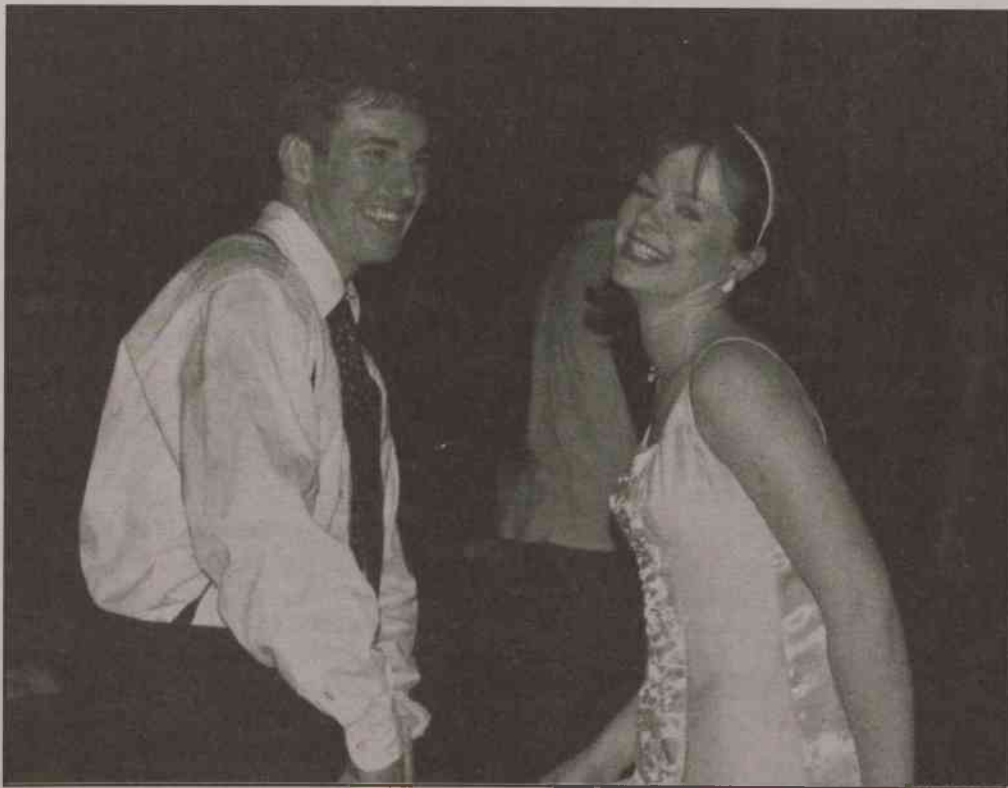
Not many people attended the dance marathon. By 10:20 p.m., 3/4 of the attendants had left, and by 10:45 the music stopped, the lights came on and the dance was over.

"100-200 people were expected tonight," committee chair Virginia Mattocks said. "I didn't get as much support from SGA as I had hoped. Only three out of 12 of my committee members showed tonight and only 15 of about 70 SGA members showed."

Junior Latanya Fullwood said the marathon was not publicized well enough.

"The dance marathon would have been bigger and better with more advertisement," she said.

Senior class president Shane Fernando



Jonathan Lynn and Rebecca Frierson spent the evening on the dance floor at the SGA's "Relive Your Prom." The event helped raise money for the Children's Miracle Network.

went to the dance to represent the SGA and praised Mattocks' work, in spite of the poor attendance.

"Virginia Mattocks, as the committee chair, did a fantastic job. I congratulate her

for all her hard work," he said. "I realize that it is a school evening tonight and many people have midterms this week."

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