

Derrick Bethal, #22, battles for possession of the ball.
PHOTO: Liz Meador

Bisons streak toward playoffs

BY BRYAN HEDRICK

The Wayne Community College basketball team continued its winning charge with a 79-64 victory over Forsythe Technical Community College (FTCC) Monday, January 31.

With the win, the Bison team raised its record to 14-5 and increased its current winning streak to 8 games.

In contrast to their current success, the Bisons started the season with a disappointing 1-3.

The poor start was punctuated by two blowout losses to Catawba Valley Community College, 122-97 and 124-91.

However, the Bisons recovered quickly and went on to post victories in 13 of the next 15 games.

The current record also includes a 5-0 conference mark.

These recent victories have given the team momentum for the upcoming play-off tournament, slated to begin in early March.

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WCC links with Information Highway.....

By BRYAN HEDRICK

On Friday, January 7 representatives from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce, Wayne Memorial Hospital, Southern Bell, the Department of Community Colleges, the Economic Development Commission, as well as Congressman Martin Lancaster, met in the Seminar Room of Wayne Community College to discuss the future of the North Carolina Information Highway.

Presenters included Mark Collins and Carol Johnson, representatives from Southern Bell.

The meeting gave an initial taste of the widespread applications of the proposed Information Highway.

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce a barebones framework of the Highway to local leadership to

determine interest.

All representatives who attended expressed interest, although a few raised concerns over the economic feasibility of the project.

Dr. Charles Rivers from the Wayne County Public School System warned, "Inevitably in a project like this the public schools are the low men on the totem pole. We would need aid in the funding of this project."

Future meetings are planned to solve these and other problems involving the implementation of Information Highway.

Once completed, the NCIH will put North Carolina at the forefront of modern communications technology, Collins said.

Through the use of fiber optic technology, the NCIH transmits audio, visual, data,

and multimedia information at mind-numbing speed.

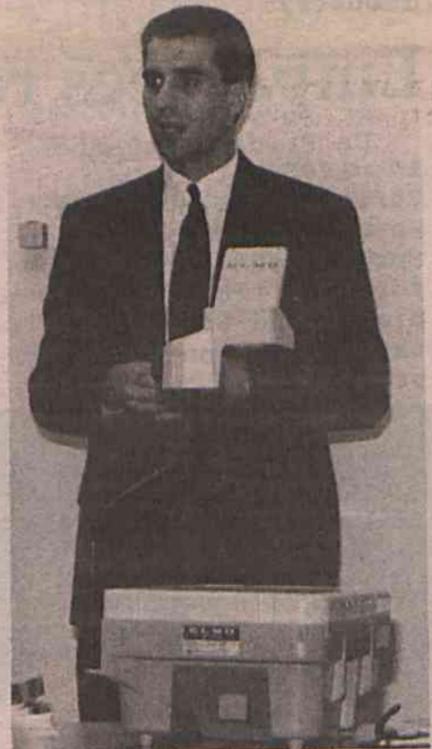
"The highway can transmit 155 megabits, or the equivalent of 33 volumes of Encyclopedia Britannica, in 4.8 seconds," according to Johnson.

Possible uses for this type of technology are innumerable.

For example, college courses could be taught simultaneously to students across the state by a single instructor.

Doctors could consult one another, determine the proper dosage of certain important treatments, and transfer important information such as x-rays with an efficiency previously unattainable under conventional technology.

These goals would be only the beginning of the NCIH project, however.



Mark Collins, Southern Bell representative, welcomes participants at the first meeting about the North Carolina Information Highway.
PHOTO: BRYAN HEDRICK

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