

Gary

On Friday, Aug. 25, we were heading out to our weekend after our first week of school. Gary had stressed to us the importance of always being who we want to be and never letting anyone dictate our feelings or choices.

The following Monday, we gathered back in the classroom for a new week. Instead of Gary at the desk, we were greeted by Danny Rollins, head of the English Department. He gave us the terrible news that Gary had

died that weekend.

We were shocked. It was almost inconceivable that he could have slipped from us so suddenly.

No matter how hurt we were, including the faculty and staff, everyone agreed that, instead of grieving Gary's passing, we should celebrate his life. Gary was a joyful person and wanted everyone around him to be as happy as he felt.

Gary had hired Mr. Rollins to work as his business manager

while Gary taught in the theater department at East Carolina University. Mr. Rollins said that Gary "was always fair, considerate and optimistic," and that he was "one of the nicest guys I ever met."

Mr. Rollins said that Gary was on a first-name basis with everyone. That was the way he liked to relate to people and feel closer to them.

Gary loved doing flower arrangements and crossword puzzles, and his radio station

was permanently set on 100.7, The River.

He cut hair part time at Hairmasters in Goldsboro, and the station he worked at was covered with pictures of Marilyn Monroe, one of his favorite people. He once told us how beautiful he thought she was.

Gary taught on campus and at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. He had degrees in theater, English, art, and business

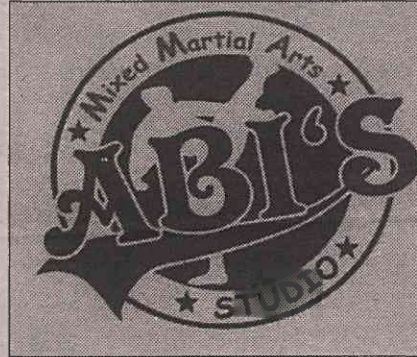
and information systems. He especially loved art and had many paintings and portraits in his home.

He even taught himself to knit. Gary always made Halloween costumes and clothing, including winter scarves, for his friends.

English instructor Kathryn Spicer was a close friend of Gary's. She talked about how loving he was, and how that love included animals.

See Gary, page 3.

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