



Excellence award goes to the Pilot

For the second time in three years, *The State Port Pilot* has won first-place awards in both General Excellence and Best News Coverage from the North Carolina Press Association.

The *Pilot* was recognized for its achievement Thursday night at the Friday Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Also honored was municipal editor Richard Nubel, who won first place in News Enterprise Reporting for a series on the impact of a proposed hog processing plant on the Cape Fear River upstream from Southport.

Nubel, feature editor Marybeth Bianchi and county editor Holly Edwards accepted the award for Best News Coverage.

The same General Excellence and Best News Coverage honors were received in 1989. Last year, the *Pilot* was awarded second place in the General Excellence category among all North Carolina weekly newspapers. This year, weeklies were divided into two categories: Circulation under 3,500, and larger newspapers with circulations over 3,500, which includes the *Pilot*.

"These awards reflect a dedication among staff members to provide the best possible newspaper for our readers, both local residents and those who live elsewhere and rely on the *Pilot* for lively and dependable coverage of this area," said Ed Harper, editor. "It is especially gratifying that the General Excellence awards -- two firsts and a second the past three years -- have been determined by judges from across the United States -- Oregon, Minnesota and New Jersey."

In addition to the first-place awards, the *Pilot* received third place in Best Use of Photographs in the over-3,500 category.

Judges Donald Eldridge and Sanford Jacobs of *The Montclair Times* in Montclair, N. J., said Nubel's hog-plant series "shows first-rate enterprise" and provides a good breadth and depth of information about a proposed facility that could have a major impact on the community, yet avoids sensationalism.... Good job of writing, simplifying and explaining technical information...."

Other newspapers honored at Thursday's awards ceremony included *The Brunswick Beacon* of Shallotte, which won second place in Appearance and Design and third place in Best News Coverage in the over-3,500 category. Staff member Terry Pope received a third-place award in Editorials.

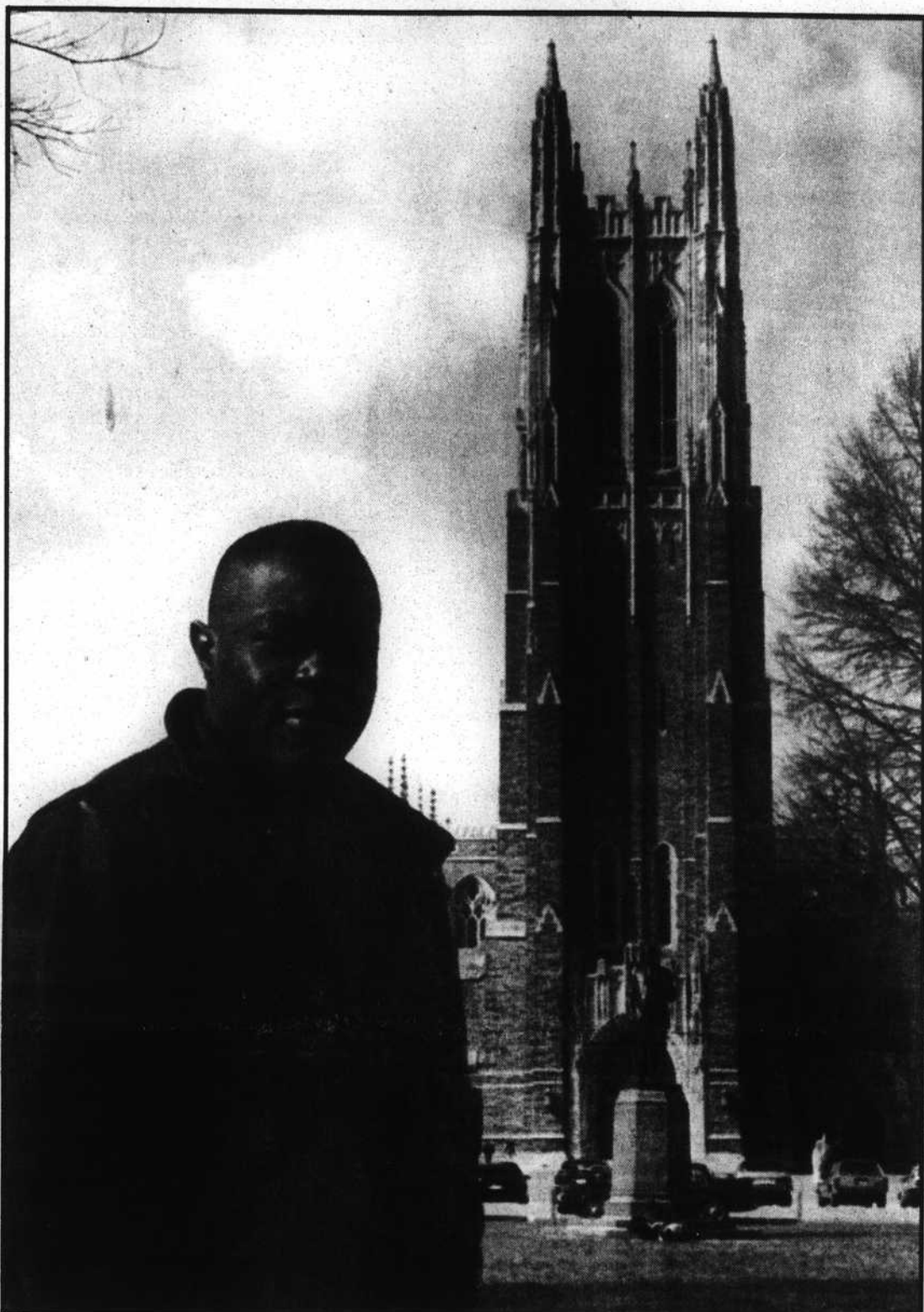


Photo by Richard Nubel

Southport's Quinton McCracken is a student-athlete in every sense of the term. As a standout city this May with a double major in political on the gridiron and the baseball diamond, science and history.

Baseballs and books: 'Q' hits 'em both hard at Duke

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Walk across the Duke University campus with him and just about everybody nods, offers a friendly and knowing smile and usually some sort of verbal greeting or another.

"What're you up to, 'Q'?"

Two coeds giggle as they pass him and wave, unwilling to interrupt his conversation with a stranger.

"Q", Quinton McCracken of Southport, is deservedly well-known on the Duke University campus.

For the last four years he's been a standout on the gridiron at cornerback each fall and at second base on the baseball diamond in spring.

But, McCracken is more than a college jock with pro potential. He is the best student-athlete ever to come out of South Brunswick High School, where he starred in both football and baseball, including the state championship baseball season of 1988, his senior year.

And when you speak of McCracken, put the emphasis on "student" in that much-abused and often

See McCracken, page 6

Schools flunk most areas of 'report card'

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

For the second year in a row, Brunswick County schools received a "below par" rating on the state's report card.

"I feel badly, but I'm not surprised because we have been attacking this problem all year," said Mose Lewis, assistant superintendent for instruction.

The 1992 Report Card issued by the N. C. Department of Public Instruction this week compares the state's 133 school systems according to overall student performance and in four areas of study, all adjusted for social and economic advantages and disadvantages within the school district.

Brunswick County schools were expected to fall within the state average range, but came up short in overall achievement, as well as in reading/language, science, social studies and math. The only area which showed improvement over last year, but still falling below the state's expectations, was social

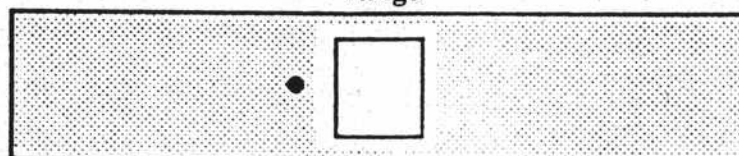
"The way to do better is to return to the basic elements, make sure you have competent people up and down the ladder and have a reward-and-punishment system that is in place and respected."

Mose Lewis
Assistant superintendent

studies. The other three areas continued a three-year decline, with See Achievement, page 6

1991 overall achievement

State average range



Director's assault charge is dismissed

A charge of assault on a female filed against Brunswick County's mental health director was dismissed last week in Brunswick County District Court after the alleged victim filed a request for dismissal of charges arising from a domestic dispute, according to court records.

"We prefer to try to accommodate the victims in an assault case," said Lee Bollinger, the assistant district attorney who signed the request for dismissal of charges. "I spoke with her at great length in my office, and assured myself that she was not being threatened, and no one was pressuring her.... A man is innocent until proven guilty, and as far as the state's concerned, (Walz) is innocent."

Long Beach police sergeant Sam

Massey charged William Allen Walz with assault on a female on November 18 after Massey allegedly witnessed Walz sitting on top of a woman and holding her down. Police records described the woman, Linda Burton McNamee, as Walz's "girlfriend."

"When I arrived (at Walz's residence), I saw the defendant sitting on top of a woman and holding down her arms," Massey reported. "She was screaming for him to get off of her. I told him to get off her, and then I arrested him."

Burton suffered a broken tooth, a broken toe, a scraped back and bruises, according to records on file at the Brunswick County Courthouse. She was treated at Doshier Memorial Hospital and released.

Town continues sewer talks

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

In the fourth of a series of workshops concerning a proposal to construct a public wastewater management system Wednesday night, Long Beach commissioners tentatively agreed to impose a \$6-per-front-foot assessment of all property owners and set single-family tap fees at \$350.

Commissioners reached "consensus" on these matters, though the decisions were not put to a formal vote. The board is to meet again tonight (Wednesday) to further refine system finance proposals. The meeting is to begin at 7 p.m. with a public hearing on a bond order commissioners received Tuesday. After that hearing, commissioners will begin their fifth workshop on the sewer proposal.

Long Beach voters looked on as commissioners kept the discussion

to themselves. Taxpayers have now had three opportunities to challenge commissioners and consulting

'We showed the state we could repay the \$15.5-million debt with a \$16 (user) bill. It gives the property owners a longer term to pay. It's got a lot of positives.'

Finley Boney
Consulting engineer

engineers on the proposed project. A referendum on a \$15.5-million bond referendum has been set for March 31.

If that referendum is passed, Long Beach will apply for two grants -- in 1992-93 and in 1993-94 -- totalling \$9 million. The remaining \$6.2 million for the project is expected to come from assessments and tap fees. Immediate flow of cash to the project is expected to come from bond anticipation notes, short-term instruments sold on the strength of a referendum allowing bond issuance.

Consulting engineer Finley Boney of Raleigh has said about \$9 million in actual bond sales may be needed. Operating and maintenance costs would be paid through estimated \$16-to-\$22 monthly user fees, which are based on an average use of 6,000 gallons of water. If the town received the under-four-percent financing it expects from the state's Clean Water Act revolving fund, the

cost for the average user would be closer to \$16 per month. If the cost of money runs to eight percent, the monthly average user cost would escalate to \$22.

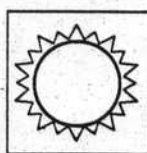
Mayor Joan Altman called the proposed \$6-per-front-foot assessment a "working figure" to be used as a "method of payment," but said there was no formal "agreement at this time." Under the law, commissioners said, assessments must be applied uniformly. The same \$6-per-front-foot fee would be charged both residential and commercial property owners.

By the time the proposal is advertised in advance of the referendum, commissioners will formalize all financing data.

Left unsettled was the matter of a proposed impact fee for owners who develop their property after the sewer system is built. Boney has proposed a \$3,000 impact fee for

See Sewer talks, page 8

OUTSIDE



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for partly cloudy skies Thursday with a high in the 60s. Fair skies are expected Friday and Saturday with highs continuing in the 60s and lows in the 40s. Cooler weather by Sunday, with highs in the 50s and lows in the 30s.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, JANUARY 30	LOW
4:53 a.m.		10:59 a.m.
4:59 p.m.		11:04 p.m.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31		
5:41 a.m.		11:48 a.m.
5:49 p.m.		11:54 p.m.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1		
6:26 a.m.		12:31 p.m.
6:31 p.m.		1:14 p.m.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2		
7:08 a.m.		12:37 a.m.
7:13 p.m.		1:14 p.m.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3		
7:45 a.m.		1:17 a.m.
7:51 p.m.		1:50 p.m.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4		
8:20 a.m.		1:56 a.m.
8:25 p.m.		2:26 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5		
8:52 a.m.		2:35 a.m.
9:00 p.m.		3:01 p.m.

The following adjustments should be made: Bald Head Island, high -10, low -7; Caswell Beach, high -5, low -1; Southport, high +7, low +15; Yampou Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -8.