## **BIG JOHN**

But perhaps the biggest shock came in the mail when Buoniconti was just 10 years old.

got a bill in the mail for \$1.2 million for my mother's treat-ments," he says.

Buoniconti, who has participated in charity walks since he was a child, decided to dedicate a larger part of his life to raising money for those affected by the disease.

In 2001, Big John's Team was created to raise money for people in Buoniconti's home state of Colorado. But that wasn't enough.

"I realized I just wanted to help people in other states," he says

So to raise awareness and funds

in on the action, but a deal hasn't been finalized.

The capabilities of such a highly scientific region will be attractive to many people and businesses

across the country, Broad said.
"The research that will be conducted here will attract some of

Construction on the first facil-

The facility will contain state-

By Verna Suit

13 Shabby 18 Skidded 19 Trumpets and tubas 24 Xmas month 25 Nappy leather 27 Like some eagles 28 Director Kazan 29 Yagred

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33 Mountain lakes 35 Actress Daly 36 No sweat 38 Smokey's middle

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for cancer patients across the counstarts where he left off. So far, about \$76,500 has been donated to the 501(c)(3) nonprof-

try, The Big Walk was created.
"In January of this year, we quit our jobs, sold our cars and left our home," Buoniconti says. "We basically left everything we had to

make this possible."
The 16,000-mile journey began March 26 in Augusta, Maine. The walk will culminate in San Diego on April 27, 2008.

His wife, Heather Buoniconti, drives their RV about 5 miles ahead and picks him up when he's finished his average stroll of 15

miles each day.

Most of the time they sleep in their RV at campgrounds, churches or parking lots. Sometimes, a donates a room to the couple. In the mornings, Buoniconti

for six years," he says. "I can walk for three years." of-the-art equipment used for everything from DNA sequencing to mass spectrometry, and could

of his family for inspiration.

open within two years. A 1,000-seat auditorium for national scientific conferences and local cultural events also is planned.

it, and funds have been placed into

The program has helped seven people, and about \$35,000 has been

given in assistance. Two applications

are pending in separate states.

"The feeling of helping people

survive is the best paycheck you can get," Buoniconti says. "I wouldn't be

out here doing it if I didn't think we would reach that goal."

Whenever the temperature is too hot or steep hills challenge his mus-cles, Buoniconti looks to memories

"(My mother) could fight cancer

accounts in 18 states.

The new campus ultimately could allow the city to lead the state in scientific research, said N.C. House Speaker Jim Black, D-Mecklenburg.

"Look out Research Triangle, here comes Kannapolis!" Black

Perhaps the most triumphant day was the day he visited his par-ents' grave site in Massachusetts.

"It just so happens that I was retiring my first pair of sneakers,"

And as he left those sneakers and a bouquet of roses by the grave site, for the first time a smile stretched across his face and he

wept tears of joy.
"I just had an overwhelming feeling of pride," he says.

The stories he's heard and the survivors he's met are all the motivation he needs to keep moving.
"It makes the rest of the day

walking with sore feet worth it." Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

said during the event.

Dole officials want to benefit

local farmers by purchasing large quantities of their fruits and veg-

gies for use at the center.

"The effect will reach far

beyond the borders of this

campus and involve the entire

state's agricultural community,

hired to fulfill the needs of the

About 300 researchers will be

Murdock said.

complex, he said.

And new training will be available for those who lost their jobs at

the textile plant in 2003. "A facility will be located right on campus to help former Pillowtex workers and others to be retrained for work in the biotechnical com-

munity," Murdock said. The creation of such a scientific utopia has long been a personal interest, he said.

"I've always dreamed of building a scientific community that is entirely scientific."

John Buoniconti (right) and his wife Heather (left) pose outside the RV

that Heather drives to keep up with her husband's miles-long treks.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2005

Such a community would be a huge lift for the economically scarred city of Kannapolis, Rutledge said.

"With that vision that (Murdock) had, it's just beyond anything that I dreamed of," he said.

"I hope I can live long enough to see the fruition of it."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

## **KANNAPOLIS**

struct an Institute for Advanced Fruit and Vegetable Science, which will work to find ways to manufacture more nutritious fruits and

vegetables. A school of science for 11th and 12th-grade girls will be developed by UNC-Charlotte. Officials said the university ultimately would work on the bioinformatics end of nutrition research.

Duke University might also get

ACROSS

Retired soldiers' org. Sub detectors

4 Sub detectors
10 Italian car maker
14 Actor Wallach
15 Historic Harlem theater
16 Sch. for Bruins
17 Three dry things
20 Explorer Tasman
21 Protest vote
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22 Ribbed cloth
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25 Vast expanse
26 Put down
27 Formed drops
29 Go after
31 Part of APB
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34 Do figure eights
37 Jaunty rhythm
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8 "Kidnapped" auth.
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Court
10 Honshu peak
11 Three dry things
12 Big name in aluminum

DOWN

the world's greatest scientists and graduate students," she said.

ity, a 330,000-square-foot Core Laboratory, will break ground within 90 days, Murdock said.

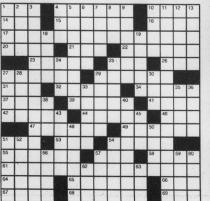
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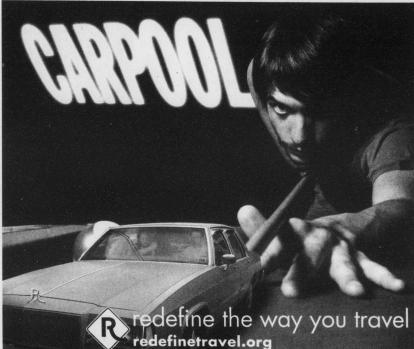
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62 Exploit 63 H.S dropout's cert.





## ROOMMATE TOO TALKATIVE?

