

# Currents

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# An Inside Look

## A peek into the world of the Independent Register

STAFF REPORTS  
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

It's 3 o'clock in the morning.

There are three computers on. Behind three desks littered with notebooks, miscellaneous papers and caffeinated beverages sit three sleep-deprived young men.

For the co-publishers of the *Independent Register*, this is a common occurrence.

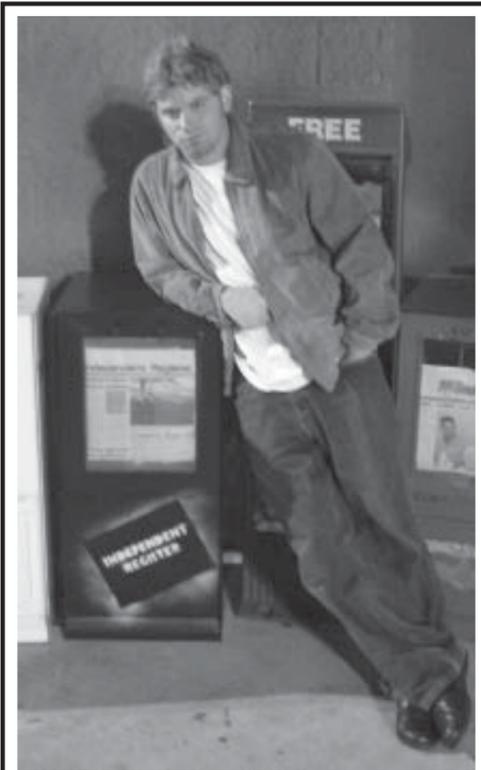
Corey Friedman, editor, scratches his head and stares — sometimes shouting profanities — at his computer screen, trying to work out a lede for one of the “umpteenth” news stories or editorials in his section. Two weeks worth of press releases and notes from various news events wait their turn to be compiled into their final form.

Sports Editor Eric Voliva, meanwhile, is in his room/office playing back coach quotes from a recent high school game on a microcassette recorder. Elated from a recent Carolina Panthers victory, he gathers national sports scores in a spreadsheet for his back page. Later, he will poll the other two for their picks on a sampling of upcoming games and to select

The end result of two weeks of gathering, a weekend of writing and designing and a trip to Morehead City is a copy of the alternative newspaper you now hold in your hands.

The lads cut their teeth on various media outlets before coming together on their current venture. The tie that bound them together was the experience of working on the *Campus Communicator* (affectionately referred to as “the Commie”) at Craven Community College. Their writing, photography and layout skills developed as they worked their way up becoming the top editors of the monthly publication.

Toler took over layout of the *Campus Communicator* — which had previously been done by a desktop publishing class — in November of 2002. During 2003, he also assisted in ad design for *Dad's Magazine* and interned for the morning television show “A.M. Scuttlebutt.” In addition, he served as historian for the state chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, a national collegiate business organization. His main duty was to design two issues of the chapter's newsletter, *the Heartbeat of PBL*. With the stress of television and other school related activities, Toler resigned from the Commie, only to return as managing editor



William R. Toler poses by one of the racks.

players for their fantasy football teams.

Walking in from the cool night air after his hourly smoke break, self proclaimed “jack of all trades, master of jack” Features Editor William R. Toler sits down at his desk to prepare local band listings, transfer pictures and figure out ad placement.

a year later.

Friedman served as editor of the *Campus Communicator* for one year after a year of reporting. In addition, he worked part-time as a general assignment reporter for the *Sun Journal*. He began as a freelance columnist while in high school, moving on to become a freelance sportswriter, and was

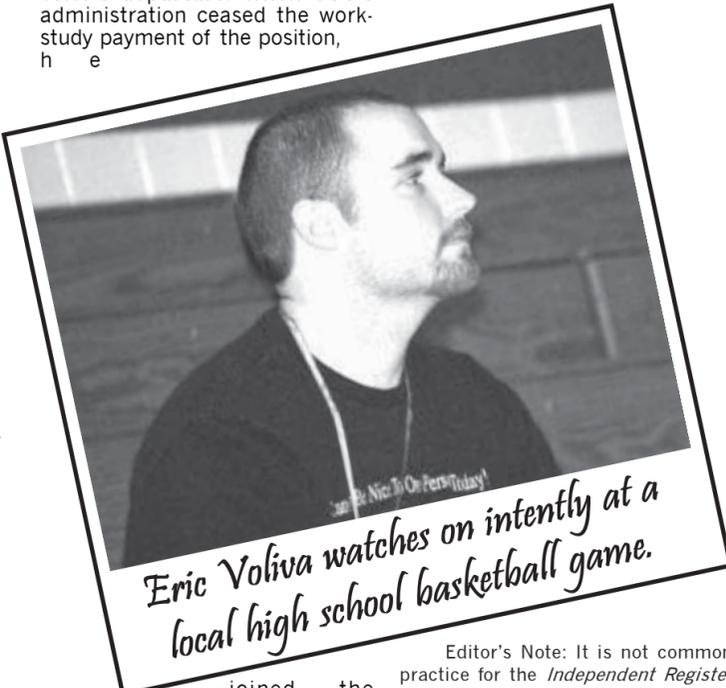


Corey Friedman types in an obituary.

hired for part-time employment following a summer internship. He also worked for the local public access station C-TV 10 and freelanced for the short-lived publication *Wheelhouse Magazine*.

Following two months of sports writing for the Commie, Voliva took over as production manager after Toler's departure. When CCC's administration ceased the work-study payment of the position, he

paid, Friedman, Voliva and Toler say that they strive to put out a publication that provides Craven County with accurate information and gives citizens an open forum for the free exchange of ideas.



Eric Voliva watches on intently at a local high school basketball game.

joined the *Pamlico News* as a sportswriter. During the summer, while high school sports were on hiatus, the aspiring novelist served as a journeyman reporter covering local government and writing features.

After the dishes are washed, the laundry is done and the bills are

Editor's Note: It is not common practice for the *Independent Register* to publish stories about this newspaper and its co-publishers. This feature appears this week due to the increase likelihood that financial shortfalls may force the *Register* to suspend publication.

While we hope to continue publishing regularly, we feel it is necessary for our story to be told — while we still have the means to tell it.

## Events of Interest

STAFF REPORTS  
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

### Save the last dance

The public is invited, by the Shire of Cathanar, to participate in a workshop in traditional Medieval Country Dance and Middle Eastern Dance Saturday, at 5 p.m., Jan. 28 at the Hispanic Center on 925 George Street in New Bern.

The pace of instruction will be determined by the skill level of the participants, new or experienced. For more information, call 617-6773.

### Play at the Palace

Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens will present a one-act play, “Box and Cox,” 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21 in the Visitor Center Auditorium.

The 19th-century comedy involves a landlady who rents the same room out to two different men as a ploy to double her income.

“Since Mr. Box works days and Mr. Cox works nights — neither is aware of the other — that is until an unexpected holiday for Mr. Cox puts them both home together, exposing Mrs. Bouncer's scheme,” according to a news release from the Palace.

“Things get even crazier when the two men discover they are both engaged to the notorious Penelope Ann.”

For more information on this free event, call 514-4900 or visit [www.tryonpalace.org](http://www.tryonpalace.org).

### Concert for Amy

A benefit concert will be held for cystic fibrosis patient Amy Holliday at 6 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 24 at Cross Roads Baptist Church on U.S. 70 East.

The second-generation southern gospel group, the Second Edition, will be performing.

Holliday is trying to raise \$55,000 for a double lung transplant. More than \$19,000 has been raised so far.

Donations are accepted at Bank of America branches in New Bern and various local businesses displaying collection boxes. Check writers should make checks payable to COTA for Amy H.

### Grease is the word

The New Bern Civic Theatre is currently presenting the rock 'n' roll Broadway classic “Grease,” which will continue to run Jan. 20-22 and 26-28.

Tickets are \$16 in advance and \$18 at the door and can be purchased by calling the New Bern Civic Theatre Box Office at 633-0567.

### Correction

In the Jan. 4 issue of the *Independent Register*, Skip John was incorrectly identified as Butch Miller in a cutline for a picture of John playing guitar for the Earplugz on New Year's Eve.

We apologize to both John and Miller for the mistake.

Send your upcoming concerts or events to the

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# Rockin' in ENC

## Vision of Silence reunites with singer Ransom

Black Sky Radius, Narallis and Parmalee work on fresh material

STAFF REPORTS  
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

Despite the lack of a vocalist, Black Sky Radius has been busy in the recording studio laying down tracks for an upcoming album.

This newest release from the progressive metal band is set to have 10 tracks on it, according to the band's blog on the popular networking Web site Myspace.com.

The band boasts the range of the album, saying that there are "songs that are beautiful and songs that will make the hardest cat want to smash something."

They added, "...we believe that the way to greatness [is] to try to find the future of music so anyone who believes in the future of music and tomorrow you will love the record."

Anyone interested in auditioning as lead singer for Black Sky Radius should call (252) 638-5555.

Indie rockers Vision of Silence have reunited with former lead singer



Brigitte Ransom. She took a hiatus from the band during the end of her pregnancy.

While she was out, Patrick Edwards took over on vocals. The band plans to keep Edwards on board and is considering a name change.

Rocky Mount-based Narallis has just completed its latest CD, with a release party scheduled for Feb. 4 at the Salty Dawg. The band also plans to have new T-shirts and other related paraphernalia.

Other bands set to accompany Narallis at the event are Your Name in Vain, Breaking the Girl, Offshore Lights and Sunset Greet the Moon.

Greenville's Parmalee is taking time off from touring this month to write to new material. According to www.parmalee.com, the bandmates will soon be recording in Los Angeles, Calif. But before they go, they will have several shows in the area.



Note: All photos are contributed.  
Top left: Black Sky Radius guitarist Tom Spellman shreds through a classical influenced riff.  
Left: Brigitte Ransom, lead singer for Vision of Silence, poses with an electric guitar.  
Above: Greenville-based Parmalee is seen in one of the band's promotional photos.



Jan. 20  
*Decypher Down*  
White Oak Church of God,  
Cape Carteret  
*Jata*  
Theo's, New Bern  
10 p.m.

Jan. 21  
*Bearfoot*  
Theo's, New Bern  
10 p.m.  
*Silver Spire*  
Bear Town Bistro, New Bern  
6-9 p.m.  
*Parmalee*  
Deja Vue, Greenville  
*Johnny Dollar Band*  
Emerald Club, Emerald Isle

Jan. 27  
*Double Tap*  
Theo's, New Bern  
9 p.m.  
*Downside*  
*Vision of Silence*  
*Payback*  
Salty Dawg, New Bern  
*Side Project*  
Mickey Milligan's, New Bern

All shows at Theo's are free  
All shows at the Salty Dawg are for all ages with a \$5 cover

### Got a Gig?

Let us know.

Bands: Send your gig announcements to  
william@indieregister.com

Jan. 28  
*Just Joe*  
Theo's, New Bern  
10 p.m.  
*Narallis*  
*Breaking the Girl*  
*Forget About the Stars*  
Salty Dawg, New Bern  
*Global Village Garage Band*  
Bear Town Bistro, New Bern  
6-9 p.m.  
*Snatch Apple*  
Cheezeburgerz, Jacksonville  
*Absynth*  
Hot Shots, Havelock

Tuesday Nights  
*Eddie Kwasnick*  
Open-mic Night  
Harvey Mansion,  
New Bern  
10 p.m.  
Free

Second Tuesday Nights  
Irish/Celtic Sessions  
Gallery Cafe, New Bern  
7 p.m.

Wednesday Nights  
*Stretch*  
Island Grille,  
Bridgpointe Inn  
New Bern  
Free

Thursday Nights  
Open-mic Night  
Theo's, New Bern  
9 p.m.

Friday Nights  
Bluegrass/Country  
Jam Sessions  
Twin Rivers Mall,  
New Bern  
Free



Family Fun

# Monday

## "Dollar Mania"

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