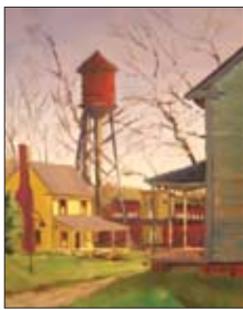


A local woman cheers for the Charlotte Bobcats.



ACCENT

Restoring, reliving

A new exhibit recalls what mill life might have been like in Glencoe.

SPORTS

Defensive victory

Wake Forest turns up the pressure in ACC rout of Florida State.



Times-News

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Weather

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Details/Page B8

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February 13, 2005

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HOME GROWN

LabCorp drives downtown revitalization

Peter Schumacher / Times-News
Laboratory Corporation of America was formed in 1995.



Buildings that LabCorp either owns or leases in Alamance County:

DOWNTOWN BURLINGTON:

- 133 E. Davis St. — office
- 309 E. Davis St. — corporate office
- 271 E. Front St. (the former CB Ellis Building) — office
- 508 S. Lexington Ave. — office
- 338 S. Main St. (the former Churchill's Restaurant) — office
- 348 S. Main St. (the former Jewel Box) — office
- 358 S. Main St. (the former AB&T Tower) — corporate office
- 400 S. Main St. — office
- 432 S. Main St. — office
- 440 S. Main St. — office
- 448 S. Main St. (the former Central Furniture building) — offices
- 458 S. Main St. (the former JC Penny's) — corporate office
- 500 S. Main St. (in the Wachovia Building) — office
- 534 S. Main St. — warehouse
- 126 E. Maple Ave. — future office
- 231 Maple Ave. — corporate office
- 337 Maple Ave. — carpenter's shop
- 1316 S. Mebane St. — offices
- 430 S. Spring St. — corporate office
- 431 S. Spring St. — future office
- 437 S. Spring St. — future office

ELSEWHERE IN BURLINGTON AND ALAMANCE COUNTY:

- 2469 Anthony Road — airport hanger
- 1231 Chapel Hill Road — office
- 1250 Chapel Hill Road — office
- 855 Heather Road — patient service center

By James Moffat
Times-News

In 1995, cities were fighting over the newly formed Laboratory Corporation of America.

They wanted the company — especially its headquarters and its executives — in their backyards.

“There were people that were working hard to have that (headquarters) somewhere else,” recalls Brad Smith, the company’s executive vice president of corporate affairs.

But LabCorp officials, especially its founder and former CEO Jim Powell, knew the gem they had in Burlington. A good tax rate. Plenty of available office space. A reliable work force.

That’s why Powell had it written in the merger agreement that LabCorp’s corporate headquarters must be in Burlington when the company came into being after the 1995 merger between Burlington-based Roche Biomedical Laboratories and California-based National Health Laboratories Inc.

See GROWN/Page A2

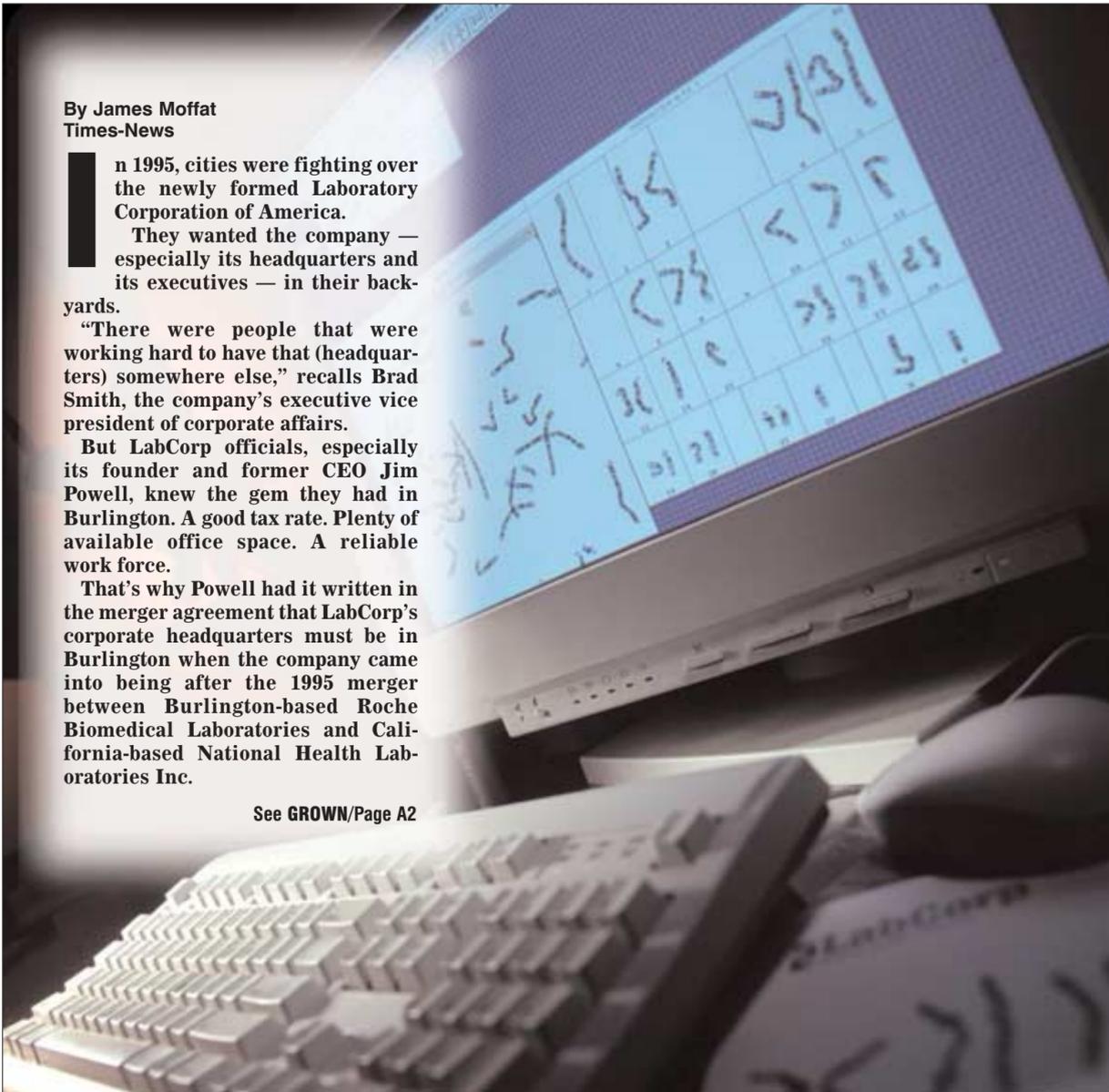


Photo submitted

See OWNS/Page A2 LabCorp has more than 3,200 workers in Alamance County and owns or leases nearly 20 buildings in downtown Burlington.

Unburying the General Strike of 1934

By Keren Rivas
Times-News

It only takes a stroll down the old parts of town to figure out the textile roots of this community.

It is not unusual to see the names Holt, Gant and Love — all family names of past textile barons — immortalized in the names of streets, buildings and business awards as reminders of the textile heritage of Burlington.

More to the story

Alamance Reads has a busy week planned/ Page B1

But it takes a lot more than cruising through town to find out about the past struggles of local textile workers.

Struggles like the General Textile Strike of 1934.

In the late summer of 1934, mill workers across the East Coast, including thousands in North Carolina, were part of one of the

biggest strikes in the industrial history of the country.

About half a million workers walked out of the weaving, winding and spinning rooms for three weeks, causing mills to shut down, including many in Alamance County.

“This is the most important unknown event in American history,” author Doug Marlette says. “The closest to a revolution,” since the

See GENERAL/Page A6

The uprising of '34

For those interested in knowing more about the General Textile Strike of 1934, the Alamance Reads program will show “The Uprising of '34,” a documentary film that explores what led to the strike and its consequences.

The film will be shown Tuesday at 7 p.m. at May Memorial Library.

Train hits car, kills woman

Unidentified victim was trying to cross tracks

By James Moffat
Times-News

A woman died early Saturday evening after a passenger train hit her car in downtown Mebane.

The wreck occurred shortly before 6 p.m. Saturday at the railroad crossing at the intersection of N.C. 119 and U.S. 70.

Mebane Police Chief Gary Bumgarner said that based on interviews with eyewitnesses, the woman’s car was stuck between the crossing gates as the Amtrak train came down the tracks.

He said that the woman “panicked” and tried to drive the car around the gates, but couldn’t. Bumgarner said the woman, whose name has not been released, died instantly. “I’m sure,” Bumgarner said. “Definitely.”

Bumgarner and Mebane Fire Chief Bob Lewis said investigators have also questioned the train conductor about the accident, but could not comment about the conductor’s statement.

Bumgarner and Lewis said that there were no other injuries as a result of wreck, even though there were other cars in the vicinity of the collision and there were passengers on the train.

According to eyewitnesses, the car was driving north on N.C. 119 when the warning lights on the track began to flash. Beverly Hester, who was at the opposite end of the intersection, said the car became “boxed in” by the crossing gates and the woman tried to drive around the gates.

“I said, ‘That lady’s going to beat the train,’” Hester said. “You can tell she was trying to get out (of the intersection).”

“As soon as (the train) hit her, it was over. The whole car blew up. I knew she was dead.” Wanda Holt said she and

See HITS/Page A8

Valentine’s now a day for activists

By David Crary
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Chocolates and flowers still abound, but Valentine’s Day is acquiring a new, politically tinged layer of symbolism: For many activists, it’s now the date of choice to mobilize on matters of the heart — advocating abstinence, decrying divorce, rallying nationwide to demand

gay marriage.

Across the country, teens from hundreds of schools and youth groups will make chastity pledges Monday on the “Day of Purity” — organized by the Liberty Counsel, a Florida-based conservative legal group.

In Arkansas, Gov. Mike Huckabee and his wife, Janet, will renew their

See DAY/Page A3

Are arthritis drugs too risky?

FDA to assess the safety of Cox-2 inhibitors

By Randolph E. Schmid
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vioxx and other pain-relieving drugs have given many people with chronic pain the chance to resume normal lives. But an increase in heart attacks among users of the popular arthritis drug led the manufacturer to pull it from the market and has cast a shadow over similar medications.

Advisers to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) meet this week to see if a balance can be found between benefits from these kinds of prescription drugs and the dangers they may pose.

Over three days beginning Wednesday, two

advisory groups will hear from regulators, pharmaceutical companies, researchers, doctors and the public in an effort to understand what went wrong that led to Vioxx being withdrawn and raised doubts about others — and what needs to be done now.

Merck & Co.’s Vioxx and two similar drugs — Pfizer Inc.’s Celebrex and Bextra, both of which remain on the market — are among a new class called Cox-2 inhibitors used widely to treat arthritis and other chronic conditions.

These drugs, which target the Cox-2 enzyme involved in inflammation, avoided the stomach and intestinal problems that can occur with other medications that affect both Cox-1 and Cox-2 enzymes. The Cox-1 enzyme helps the stomach maintain its protective coating.

Clinical trials found few serious problems with the new drugs. But there was an increase

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