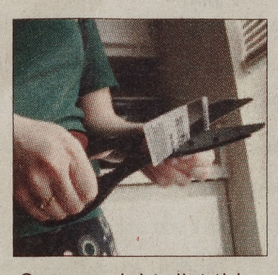
The East Carolinian

WELCOME BACK!

VOLUME 82, ISSUE 39 { www.theeastcarolinian.com } **WEDNESDAY** JANUARY 10, 2007

MCT

Start off the New Year right with a snazzy wardrobe to fit your personality and wallet.....**Page A4**



Go on a debt diet this semester and slash your debt in a matter of months.....**Page A4**

Quit bad habits such as smoking with some tips on how to keep your resolutions this year.....**Page A4**

The men's basketball team takes on Tulsa tonight. Read what awaits the Pirates and what the team will have to do to get out of its shooting slump and secure a win...**Page A5**

11 Thurs

Keith Beauchamp will present *Race in the South: What the Civil Rights Movement Did Not Accomplish* in Hendrix Theater at 7 p.m. For more information and more calendar events, turn to.....**Page A2**

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Photo by Zach Sirkin

Citizens of Greenville congregate in the third floor of the Municipal building on Martin Luther King Street to discuss plans for 2007.

City Council meets for first time in 2007

Opportunities for ECU to address underprivileged discussed

SHANNON DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

The Greenville City Council met for the first time this year on Monday, Jan. 7 at 6 p.m.

"The City Council's biggest accomplishment of 2006 was the roadway and drainage projects. Some are in design, about to begin or are currently under construction," said David Brown, Greenville City engineer.

The meeting opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Adopt-A-Street program was discussed during the meeting; eight sections of streets throughout Greenville were adopted. ECU Greek organizations, private ECU student groups and Greenville businesses contributed to the program.

Ulrich Alsentzer, the chairman of Greenville's environmental advisory commission, spoke on behalf of the Environmental Initiatives Commission. Alsentzer proposed a tree ordinance plan, advocating the preservation of mature canopy trees.

"This preservation will make the air healthier to breathe for children and senior citizens," said Alsentzer.

Alsentzer promoted his recycling program stating it "creates new jobs, allowing the East Carolina Vocational Center to add a third shift. Recycling also saves on landfills nobody wants in their neighborhoods in the first place."

Alsentzer also said it is imperative to reduce emission from school buses in order to reduce asthma in school children. He asserted his point by stating, "30 percent of sixth graders suffer from asthma. Kids who can not go to school can not be educated."

Ariel Lopez, chairperson of the Youth Council of Greenville is a junior at J.H. Rose High School in Greenville. Lopez spoke of the American homeless statistics, the Youth Council's trip to Nevada and homeownership.

"The youth in the city [of Greenville] is an unprecedented voice that is and will be strong, influential, groundbreaking and most importantly heard," said Lopez.

Among programs requesting to receive funds from the Governor's Crime Commission grant was the McCloud computer skills and training center and the Boys and Girls Club.

While talking about supporting ECU to establish a school of dentistry, Mildred A. Council, mayor pro-tem realized an opportunity for ECU students to reach out to those in need within the Greenville community.

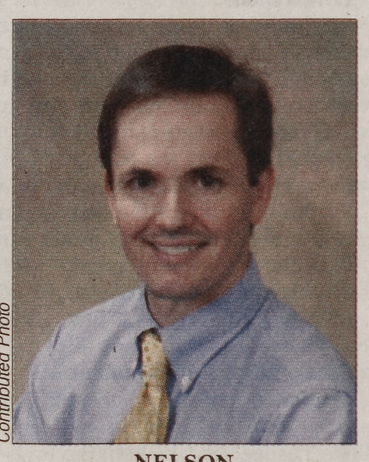
"ECU should address the rural, under privileged population. Those living in moderate to low-income households do not have proper dental care. ECU should seek to utilize these dental students in the community," Council said.

The City Council members, including the Mayor, are all elected officials. The Mayor and City Council Members serve two-year terms. Elections are held every other November, in odd years, and the elections are non-partisan. Council meetings typically occur twice a month on Mondays and Wednesdays.

For more information about the Greenville City Council go to greenvillenc.gov.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

ECU physician named Educational Scholar of 2007-2008



Contributed Photo

NELSON

National program promotes women's health education

LISA URAM
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Keith Nelson, an assistant professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, was selected from a nationwide group of applicants to join the 2007-2008 class of the APGO/Solvay Pharmaceuticals Educational Scholars Development Program.

Nelson was inducted to the program on Jan. 3 at the APGO faculty development seminar in Amelia Island, Fla.

"I was extremely excited and appreciative to have this experience," said Nelson.

According to a press release, the criteria used to choose participants of the program were based on professional credentials and a demonstrated commitment to women's health education. As a long-term goal, program graduates such as Nelson, are expected to share the knowledge gained from the program with their communities.

"Our community will benefit from students being better trained physicians," said Nelson.

"Even during the educational process, hopefully our patients will see an improvement in their interaction with our learners."

According to APGO and Solvay pharmaceuticals, the Educational Scholars Program is the first comprehensive educational curriculum designed to help obstetrics and gynecology professors teach women's health more effectively.

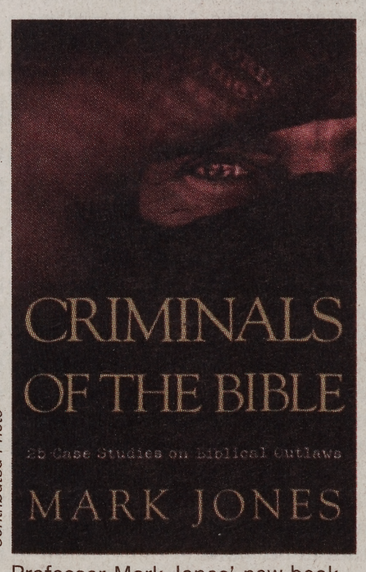
"I will be able to absorb the experience of many gifted educators and clinicians and implement new and exciting teaching methods into my course," said Nelson.

The vigorous 15 month program is led by clinician/educators who represent leadership in education for APGO and five Ph.D. educators, who are considered national leaders in medical education in the United States. The curriculum will cover four major areas: Curriculum and instruction, measurement and evaluation, research and statistics, and leadership and management.

Nelson graduated Wake Forest University School of Medicine in 1997 and completed his residency at ECU, where he joined the faculty in 2001. Nelson is also the clerkship director for third and fourth year medical students doing OBGYN rotations and director of the ECU Dysplasia Clinic.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

Professor outlines biblical "bad men" in book



Contributed Photo

Professor Mark Jones' new book examines crimes committed in stories in the Bible.

Authored by criminal justice professor

ZACK HILL
SENIOR WRITER

Mark Jones has been a student of criminal justice for 25 years and a student of the Bible for even longer.

Now, Jones, professor of criminal justice, has been able to combine the two with a fondness of biographies into his third book, *Criminals of the Bible: Twenty-five Case Studies of Biblical Outlaws.*

"What I did was take a Biblical story, person or event, give some brief information about what crime the person committed or was accused of, and then examine the crime now, across cultures and across time," said Jones.

Jones said that it is important to remember that not everything that was a crime then is a crime now, and not everything that is a crime now was a crime in the past.

Also, there were harsher, as well as different kinds of punishments in the time the Bible was written than there are today. Now, the same crimes would be taken care of in a much different manner.

"And not everybody in the book is a bad person," Jones said, citing chapters about John the Baptist and Jesus Christ.

The book will be utilized in "Criminals of the Bible," a selected topics in a criminal justice course, that will be offered this summer.

The course will be open to non-criminal justice majors, and Jones is encouraging students who are interested, and not overtly religious to register for this class.

"This course would be interesting for anyone," Jones said.

Jones is also using the book as part of the curriculum for a criminal justice history class, though the text is not required.

He has been teaching at ECU for over 10 years, after spending time working in the penal system in Georgia before earning a master's and doctorate in criminal justice.

The actual text took two years to complete, but Jones said that the book is the product of a lifetime's experience.

"Anytime you write a book, you call from all of your past experiences," Jones said.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

ECU gains membership in exclusive alumni association

One of four North Carolina schools to be accepted

BY VANESSA CLARKE
STAFF WRITER

The East Carolina Alumni Association recently accepted an invitation to join the Council of Alumni Association Executives, a professional organization for executive officers to talk together, trade ideas and heed industry trends.

CAAE is made up of about 80 different alumni associations from both private and public institutions, according to PirateAlumni.com, the Web site for ECU's alumni association. Only the chief executive of a school's alumni association may join CAAE. Associate Vice Chancellor for Alumni Relations Paul J. Clifford will be ECU's representative in CAAE.

In a news item posted on ECU's alumni association Web site, John Feudo, CAAE President and Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations at Boston College said, "CAAE is comprised of many of the leading alumni organizations in North America. We reach out to strong alumni offices with solid professionals managing those programs. Paul J. Clifford and East Carolina University clearly represent the type of individual and alumni association we welcome to our group."

With its inception, ECU becomes only the fourth CAAE member in North Carolina, after N.C. State, Duke University and UNC Chapel Hill.

This is the third year in a row that ECU has applied to this organization. After being denied for two years, the university's application was finally accepted. Clifford said he knows why.

"There is a minimum criteria that we were close to meeting in the past," he said. Those criterion include having a staff of a least 10 people, which the association now has, and having a budget of at least $1 million, at least half of which must be self-generated, through donations from private parties, for example.

The East Carolina Alumni Association, "exists to inform, involve and serve alumni in their lifelong association with the university," Clifford said. There are over 120,000 alumni worldwide, many of which still keep up-to-date on university happenings, through an e-newsletter or its print counterpart.

However, the association also does a great deal for current students. It gives out $15,000 in scholarships to "deserving... full-time undergraduate students," according to their Web site.

The association is also a major sponsor of the ECU birthday party, many Senior Week programs and the freshman picnics.

"They are send-off parties, over the summer at 11 different locations," said Clifford. "We invite incoming freshmen to picnics and give them a little welcome and a taste of East Carolina."

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

News

{ Campus & Community }

CORRECTIONS

The *East Carolinian* is dedicated to providing accurate information, and corrects mistakes printed in the newspaper.

To report a correction, send an e-mail to editor@theeastcarolinian.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

American Literature and Environment

English 4540 is a new class offered this semester on literature of the environment. The professor and currently enrolled students are hoping more students will sign up for this class before the end of the drop/add period ends. Consider adding this great new class to your schedule for MWF at 1 p.m.

Study Abroad Information Session

Wednesday, Jan. 17 from 3-5 p.m. in Mendenhall Great Rooms 1 & 2
Have you always wanted to study abroad but you are unsure where to start? This information session will answer your questions about participating in an ECU-sponsored study abroad program.
Contact Brandi Dudley, 328-1937 or dudleyb@ecu.edu for more information.

Information Session on Trip to Japan

Thursday, Jan. 25 from 5:30 - 7 p.m.
Willis Building
The Japan Center East is leading a trip to Japan, including the cities of Tokyo, Hakone and Kyoto. This information session will give details about the trip planned for later this year.
Visit ecu.edu/japancentereast or contact Chikako S. Massey at masseyc@ecu.edu or 737-1352.

East Carolina Alumni Scholarship

The East Carolina Alumni Association will sponsor 15 $1,000 student scholarships for the 2007-2008 year. Current ECU students who will be full-time students in the 2007-2008 academic year are eligible to apply for an Alumni Scholarship. Applications must be received or postmarked by 5 p.m. on Jan. 31. Visit PirateAlumni.com to download an application or call 800-ECU-GRAD for more information.

Dance 2007

Thursday, Feb. 1 through Wednesday, Feb. 7
8 p.m. except Sunday at 2 p.m. at McGinnis Auditorium
original choreography by ECU School of Theatre and Dance Faculty and Guest Artist(s) TBA
Sometimes serious, sometimes funny, sometimes lyrical, and sometimes eccentric, this annual dance showcase has become an immensely popular event. Sure to have something for dance aficionados and newcomers alike, this is a fast-paced and unpredictable cornucopia of dance styles.
Visit ECUARTS.com or e-mail theatre-dance.ecu.edu.
Ticket Required.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The ECU Volunteer & Service-Learning Center, in partnership with the MLK Day Committee, invites you to participate in the MLK Day Challenge, Monday, Jan. 15 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. In memory of Dr. King, we commit a day to serving our neighbors, "simple acts" that continue to build towards his dream. Please use Internet Explorer when selecting a project at ecu.edu/volunteer. Deadline to register for a MLK Day Challenge project is Thursday, Jan. 11. This event is much like the 2006 Make A Difference Day; however, you must provide your own transportation to your project site. Questions? Contact Shawn Moore at Volunteer & Service-Learning Center 328-2735 or volunteer@ecu.edu.

10 Wed

Blood Drive
Greenville Public Works
1500 Beatty Street
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Student Organization Registration Information Sessions
These hour–long information sessions are open to all student organization members, officers and advisors. The S.A.C. in conjunction with SGA and Event Planning will outline the new registration process, funding processes, event planning and room reservation (Web-viewer) as well as many other resources available to student organizations.
Mendenhall Student Center
3 - 4 p.m.

11 Thurs

Last day for late registration and schedule changes (drop and add)
Ends at 5 p.m.

Driving Workshop
SRC 238
4 p.m.

Business Workshop
SRC 238
5 p.m.

***Documentary filmmaker Keith Beauchamp presentation**
Documentary filmmaker Keith Beauchamp investigated the murder of Emmett Louis Till 50 years after Till's death. Beauchamp will present *Race in the South: What the Civil Rights Movement Did Not Accomplish.* A reception will follow in the Multipurpose Room of Mendenhall Student Center.
Hendrix Theatre
7 p.m.

Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival Concert "From Russia to Bohemia"
A. J. Fletcher Recital Hall
7 p.m.

12 Fri

Student Organization Registration Information Sessions
These hour-long information sessions are open to all student organization members, officers and advisors. The S.A.C. in conjunction with SGA and Event Planning will outline the new registration process, funding processes, event planning and room reservation (Web-viewer) as well as many other resources available to student organizations.
Mendenhall Student Center
3 - 4 p.m.

Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival Concert: "From Russia to Bohemia"
A. J. Fletcher Recital Hall
8 p.m.

13 Sat

Free Dependent Day
Student Recreation Center
9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Contra Dance
Sponsored by the Folk Arts Society of Greenville, ECU Folk & Country Dancers
Willis Building, First & Reade Streets
6 p.m. potluck dinner
7:30 p.m. lesson
8 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. dance

14 Sun

Want to see your event here?
Submit your event information at theeastcarolinian.com/calendar

15 Mon

State Holiday (no class)

Community Unity Breakfast
An annual celebration designed to recognize the diversity and unity within the community.
Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce
7:30 a.m.

Screening of *Flock of Dodos: The Evolution/Intelligent Design Circus*
Panelists: Calvin Mercer, Religious Studies Program Director, ECU; Kyle Summers Evolutionary Biology Instructor, Associate Professor of Biology, ECU; Jason Bond, Phylogenetics and Speciation, Associate Professor of Biology, ECU; Linda Wolfe, Human and Primate Evolution, Chair of Anthropology, Professor of Anthropology; Tricia Kelley, Paleontology, Professor of Geology, UNCW
Hendrix Theater
7 p.m.

16 Tues

Bowling Team Registration Begins
SRC 207
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Screening of *Flock of Dodos: The Evolution/Intelligent Design Circus*
Panelists: Calvin Mercer, Religious Studies Program Director, ECU; Kyle Summers Evolutionary Biology Instructor, Associate Professor of Biology, ECU; Jason Bond, Phylogenetics and Speciation, Associate Professor of Biology, ECU; Linda Wolfe, Human and Primate Evolution, Chair of Anthropology, Professor of Anthropology; Tricia Kelley, Paleontology, Professor of Geology, UNCW
Hendrix Theater
7 p.m.

*Featured Event:

Documentary filmmaker Keith Beauchamp presentation
Documentary filmmaker Keith Beauchamp investigated the murder of Emmett Louis Till 50 years after Till's death. Beauchamp will present *Race in the South: What the Civil Rights Movement Did Not Accomplish.* A reception will follow in the Multipurpose Room of Mendenhall Student Center.
Hendrix Theater
7 p.m.

BRIEFS

Georgia brothel case to be presented to grand jury

(AP) — Prosecutors plan to go to a grand jury with their case against two women accused of running a brothel out of a mansion in an exclusive suburban neighborhood, and they continue to compile a list of the suspects' alleged customers.

Additional arrests are expected, Porter said. Anyone found to have paid the women for sex could be charged with soliciting an act of prostitution, a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail, Porter said.

"Basically, what we're going to do is create a list of customers from the records seized in the course of the search warrant," Porter said.

The brothel's customers included doctors, lawyers and businessmen, Porter has said. No names have been released, and Porter said Monday authorities plan to release only the names of persons who are charged with a crime.

Probert's attorney David Fuller has denied his client was involved in prostitution, saying she was a successful real estate developer and a single mother who recently came into an inheritance and did not need money. Porter said he does not know if Taylor, a 1985 Penthouse centerfold who used the name Melissa Wolf professionally, has an attorney yet.

N.C. legislators from Hertford County die on successive days

(AP) — Two Hertford County lawmakers have died in as many days, leaving several northeastern counties without veteran representation as the General Assembly prepares to reconvene this month.

Sen. Robert Holloman died early Monday at age 53 after a short illness, according to his office. A day before, House leaders announced the death of Rep. Howard Hunter. Hunter, 60, had been in and out of the hospital over the past several years with lung problems and carried an oxygen tank wherever he went.

In another unusual occurrence, the State Board of Elections ruled against both Holloman and Hunter for campaign finance violations after they testified before the panel on the same day last March.

The board penalized Holloman $1,750 and referred his case to Wake County prosecutors after accusing him of failing to report $23,275 in campaign contributions since 2002. Holloman said he hadn't violated any rules intentionally and vowed to fix them.

Board members also determined that Hunter failed to file required reports, but delayed a decision on a penalty against him.

Holloman had paid the penalty, but neither case had been resolved, state elections director Gary Bartlett said.

Hunter's funeral is scheduled for noon Thursday at an Ahoskie church, with visitation Wednesday afternoon at his funeral home. Funeral arrangements for Holloman were incomplete Monday.

Prosecutors want DNA from suspect in Clemson student's slaying

(AP) — Prosecutors want to collect a DNA sample from a convicted sex offender charged in the slaying of a 20-year-old Clemson University student who was strangled with a bikini top.

Prosecutors previously said they used the genetic material to link Jerry Buck Inman to the slaying, and asked for the additional sample to eliminate "any chain of custody issues."

Circuit Judge John C. Few scheduled a hearing Monday afternoon at the Pickens County courthouse on the DNA request and other issues.

Inman, 36, is facing kidnapping, rape and murder charges in the death of Tiffany Marie Souers, an engineering student from Ladue, Mo., who was found inside her off-campus apartment May 26. Police said a bikini top used to choke her was still around her neck.

Investigators previously used a DNA database to link Inman to evidence collected at the scene, according to the motion, filed Dec. 21.

No trial date has been scheduled for Inman, who was being housed at the Lee Correctional Institution in Bishopville, a state prison about 175 miles away from Pickens.

Few has signed a wide-ranging gag order in the case, not only keeping prosecutors and lawyers from talking to reporters, but also law enforcement officers, including those in Tennessee where Inman was arrested, as well as the relatives of both the defendant and the victim.

Film students chase elusive Skunk Ape in Florida

MCT

Sudents at Florida International University search for a shaggy creature.

(MCT) — Four college kids, armed only with a night-vision camera, trudge through palmetto thicket, guided by a snake-booted man who claims to have had multiple encounters with the state's most elusive creature.

They seek a half-man, half-simian, fully reeking legend known as the Skunk Ape.

This is not some cheesy monster movie. It's the real experience of Florida International University film students who spent months on the trail of one of the shaggiest tales in folklore, the Skunk Ape, aka Florida's Bigfoot.

What they found in "Footprints," a brisk and engaging documentary completed last month for a class project, won't rewrite anthropology texts.

Turns out that unsettling flash came from an automatic camera set up by their guide to record what a skeptical world still awaits, ironclad evidence of the existence of the Skunk Ape, Yeti, Sasquatch and other hulking, hairy relations.

"We looked and we looked and, of course, we didn't find anything. We came to the conclusion that it's a myth," said Romy Santana, one of eight seniors who teamed on the film.

And yet after much digging, talks with claimed witnesses, interviews with scholars of Bigfoot lore and other experts, they're not dismissing every believer as hoaxer or wacko either.

"There are a lot of things going on in the Everglades, a lot of reports of smells and sightings and a whole bunch of things," Santana said. "Who are we to say because we didn't see it, it doesn't exist? Maybe there is something out there."

Several Web sites about "cryptozoology," that being the study of supernatural creatures, chronicle steady sightings.

Most recently, there was 2004's Green Swamp Ape episode in the Panhandle and the mysterious, much-analyzed Port Myakka photos of 2000 depicting an orangutanish beast hunkered behind saw palmetto. In 1997, a flurry of reports emerged from the Big Cypress National Preserve, including a supposed sighting by a busload of British tourists.

In the 1970s, the infamous Green Chimp apparently stalked south Broward County. A decade earlier, rumors circulated about a Bigfoot in Everglades National Park, possibly held under government guard.

Still, the students, Santana, Kallie Burke, Kirmaya Cevallos, Maria Delgado, Claudia Echeverria, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Lino La Rosa and Luis Vale, confessed to knowing squat about Sasquatch when they started. The project began when Bert Delgado, an associate professor of film at FIU, teamed them for a final test before graduating, make a movie, anything from a music video or a thriller to a documentary.

In a brainstorming session, Cevallos brought up a beast she had once seen on TV, a story that stuck in her mind.

"It just caught my attention about the Everglades, about how huge it really is and how little I knew about it," Cevallos said. 'It's a myth you always think about."

It offered an entertaining mix of mystery, history and nature. Plus, for students with a lean budget (ultimately, about $700), the story had the practical benefit of providing a beautiful and absolutely free scenic backdrop.

What they wound up putting together looks as slick as much of what airs on cable. They filmed on location in the Everglades and Big Cypress. Vale even managed to sweet-talk a helicopter business into a free flight over the Glades.

Though at less than 15 minutes, it's shorter than professional features produced in the past, including episodes of the "In Search Of" and "Unsolved Mysteries" series, "Footprints" covers a lot of ground and never stumbles into spoof or hype. Nobody, for instance, shows up in an ape suit in the few "re-created" sightings.

"The topic really surprised me," said Professor Delgado, who gave a thumbs-up that echoed reviews from friends and fellow students. "They were really interested in this thing, and they went after it. To me, it was very appealing."

Your roommate's dog pooped on your bed.
You can afford to live alone.
Wesley South Apartments 758-1921

Opinion

{ Your new best friend }

RANT OF THE DAY

To the person who stole my bike outside of Cotten Hall, I bought that thing for $30. I'll buy it back if you're that desperate.

The color of your skin is beautiful

Thoughts on dating outside your ethnicity

CLAIRE MURPHY
NEWS EDITOR

Why is it that so many people aren't "allowed" to be with the person they genuinely care about because of conflicting races and ethnicities? It seams like there are rules on who you are allowed to spend your time with, especially romantically. Why shouldn't a black man be able to date a white woman? Why shouldn't a white man date a black woman? Why shouldn't it be OK to fall for someone who is Arab or Asian? Love is present in different situations whether society wants it to be or not.

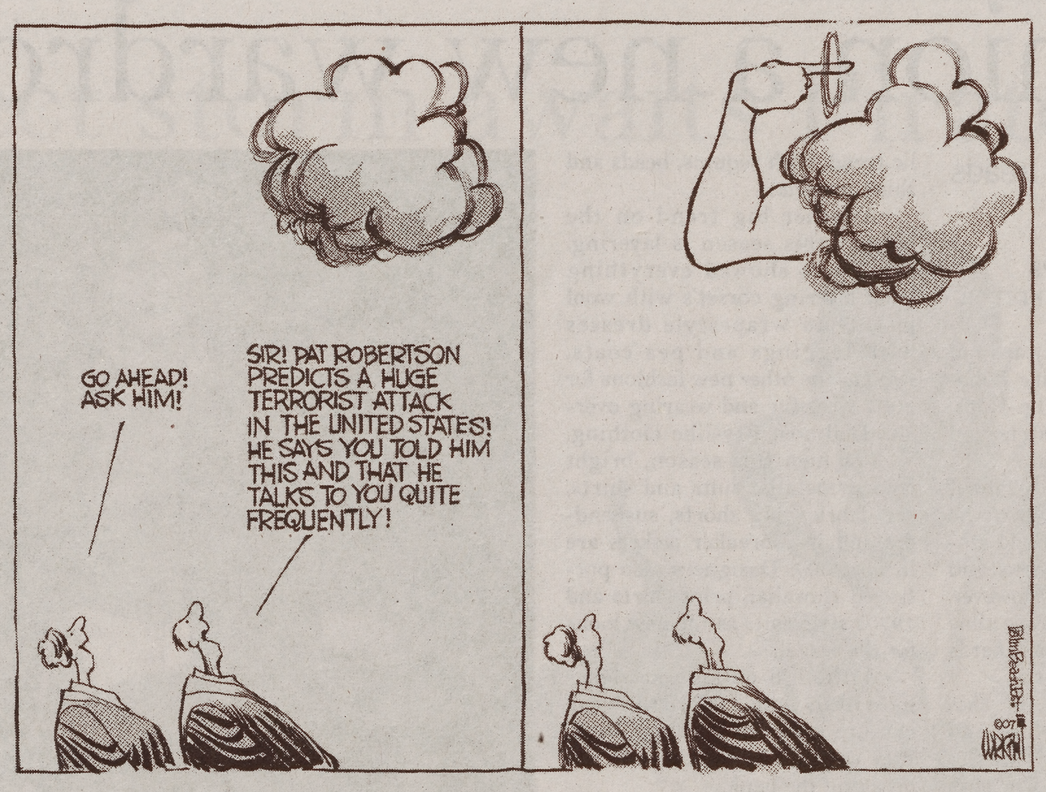
For one thing, the only people a relationship really pertains to are the two involved. The outsiders are the sources of drama. This includes parents most of the time.

In high school, I was challenged a few times for dating a multi-racial guy. I thought it was so ridiculous because it did not affect any of those people. It's said to be hard to find a decent guy these days of any race. I believe that racism and discrimination as a whole are only present because of complete ignorance. To dislike an entire community of people is ridiculous. We are all different but we are all people. If anything, our differences are incredibly fascinating.

When you want to be with someone, you know better than anyone else whether or not you should be. Race and ethnicity should not play a role in what you think of someone as a person. If two people of different races or ethnicities get married, what's the worst that can happen? Offspring of interracial couples are physically the most interesting and exotic in today's society.

My entire life my parents have taught me to see everyone equally. Since they always have, I always have, and I have never known anything different. When I see a person, that is exactly what I see. I do not see a Mexican person, a Chinese person or a white person; I just see a person. So many people always refer to a stranger's skin color to identify them. For example, "I met a really nice black girl today." Although it sounds like a compliment, I find it to be offensive. How about you met a really nice girl today? Isn't that the point of the statement anyway?

If you are in an interracial relationship, stand your ground to the closed-minded people who don't understand what it's like to be human. Be attracted to whomever you want. Ditch the stereotypes and try to understand that we live in a place where we are free to fall in love with whoever makes us happy. That is not something to discriminate against. It's something we should definitely be thankful for, because it will make us better parents, and more compassionate people all around.



MCT

PIRATE RANTS

The *East Carolinian* does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants. Questions regarding Rants can be directed to Rachel King, Opinion Page Editor, at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com. Log onto theeastcarolinian.com to submit a Rant of your own.

We would have won the bowl game, too. If it wasn't for those meddling kids!

Skip got how much more cash?! I know who to send my financial aid packet to.

Are we 100 years old yet? Who's gonna blow out the candles?

Has anyone seen the banner on campus with that guy eating mustard on pancakes? I'll pay good money to see someone eat that many for real. Any takers?

Our Basketball billboards on the highways look like complete crap! Our players are too small and can't be seen. Plus they don't get me excited. Sorry Terry, try again!

I'm a freshman and I've had two bikes stolen already. I think there is a conspiracy against me.

I wish professors received a list of how many semester hours people in their class are taking. I'm currently taking 21 and I'm wondering how I'm gonna get all the reading done for next week, and this is only the first week. *Sigh*

I know I love you. I just don't need to be around you all the time.

To the people who park in the neighborhood behind Rivers and take up two spaces... Way to go! Is it that hard to get back in your car and pull up! The rest of us thank you for making us walk six blocks in the rain!

It makes me sick how spoiled college kids get everything, when they need to know how to start becoming an adult and making their own money!

OK, decorating a Christmas tree on campus was awesome, but it needs to be undecorated now. I mean, now it just looks tacky.

Being friends with someone shouldn't be this hard.

It sucks that an alumna from my sorority lost her job over a rant I sent in. If I could take it all back I would.

Grow up already!

I want to fall in love.

Rough times suck and I am here for you. Just learn to appreciate all I do for you. I wouldn't do it if I didn't care, so you shouldn't take advantage of that or make me feel bad when I don't do something for once.

You are from Cary, not Connecticut.

To my girlfriend who loves the pirate rants: You are an amazing person. Every time I look at you, I think about how I can't live without you. I'm going to do everything I can to be everything you need. I'm going to give you time, space, support and most of all love, because I love you. I can't wait to start our life together.

Is it bad that part of me enjoys getting honked at?

I hope there are some new faces because I'm tired of looking at that guy from the computer lab.

Am I the only one who thinks the girl at the West End Subway is sexy?

You know you've found the right one when they look in your eyes and it all seems to disappear and fall away.

You were smokin' till I saw you smokin'.

I own more sandals than Jesus – two pairs.

Maybe nice guys finish last, but nice girls get treated like doormats. Even by "nice" guys.

I think you are a great catch of a guy. You will find a girl who will appreciate that.

Don't you love it when people call, don't leave a message, and then take personal offense when you don't call back?

Who else thinks Target has the cutest shoes?

I look at you now and think, "What the hell was I thinking?!"

I know you were looking at me on the bus ;)

If you start a rant with "is it bad that..." the answer is undoubtedly yes!

I have an unhealthy addiction to TLC's "What Not To Wear."

I don't look down because I'm trying to be rude, I'm just shy, I promise!

I may be fat, but I get good grades!

Why is it so hard to find all the opinion articles on this site? I don't always want to post something. I don't want to have to click on a billion things to read something that should be easy to find.

So I think the rants should have a link so we can check out past rants!

The basketball team has lost seven games in a row... I say we cut them like soccer and put an ice rink in Minges for the ice hockey team.

I'm tired of the bridge at the bottom of College Hill being closed. It was repaired months ago!

OK, the washer and dryers on the fifth floor of White Hall have been broken for like two months now... When is maintenance gonna stop standing around and actually do something about it?

The bouncers at The Other Place are some of the rudest people I have ever come in contact with. I understand that they are doing their jobs, but man! You can do your job without being a jerk!

To the guy on the Minges Park and Ride this afternoon, next time you feel the need to cough up a lung on my back, maybe you should invest in some cough drops, I hear they work wonders.

I went and tried to buy big sunglasses over the break and I got groped by the salesman. I guess they really do give off a slut radar.

I hijacked a rainbow and crashed into a pot of gold!

I'm on my third roommate, but I really don't think I'm the one that's hard to live with.

I wanted to express my love to my boyfriend and tell him I love him. We're engaged but we can't get married yet since we're gay, which will change soon!

Online poker ruined my life.

It's funny that you said you won't be returning to ECU because you already graduated, yet you still write Pirate Rants. Good job.

To all the people who still have that high school mentality where how pretty you are measures how well you are liked, it's time to move on. We're adults now.

Dave Matthews Band is simply the greatest band ever.

Man you know I love you, but I don't think this moving in thing for next year is going to work.

If you're gonna throw up in the bathroom, do so in the toilet and not in the sink. Thanks.

Maybe it's just me, but even though there are thousands of people here, sometime I feel so lonely. It's almost depressing.

Pursuit of Happyness was the best movie ever.

This school needs to stop working my buddy so hard so we can hang out sometime.

I miss my mommy!

Any guys want to be roommates off campus next year?

Why is it that I always meet a great guy, and we hit it off so well, and it seems that it could really go somewhere, and then he doesn't call?

Don't be hating on me because I don't mind walking everywhere, and don't have to drive or ride a bus just to get on the other side of campus.

The new suite mates have got to go. I want this hall to be the way it was last semester.

It seems like every time I try to apply for a job or volunteer on campus, I get rejected because I'm a freshman. So much for trying to do something positive with my life.

A perversion of justice

Trouble in reality-TV paradise

BRIDGET TODD
OPINION WRITER

Anyone with a television has seen them. Maybe you're flipping channels and you come across grainy reenactments of typing hands or grown men hunched at tables weeping. That can only mean one thing: You've stumbled across another installment of one of America's highest rated prime time shows: "Dateline's To Catch A Predator." The setup is always the same: Decoy from the vigilante group Perverted Justice, poses as a frisky minor in a chat room. Adult man engages in a sexually explicit chat with the decoy and agrees to meet in person. Man arrives to find not "SexyBaby4U," but (surprise!) Chris Hansen from "Dateline" NBC. At this point, Hansen usually delivers some clever zinger to the man: "No hug for me?" or "Am I not what you were expecting?" The now confused man is stammering and apologetic, often times assuming Hansen is the girl's father. He is told to sit, and Hansen reads excerpts from the sexually explicit chat logs. Hansen grills the man on his sexual history and why he chose to chat with a minor. Then, several minutes later, Hansen reveals that the man is on national television. Perhaps, now, the man thinks it's over. He gets up to walk back to his car, only to be arrested as soon as he's outside. The account is presented as a form of whole and instantly edifying gratification. This man is bad, and now his life is ruined, the end.

Or is it? These men are likely guilty. They chatted with what they thought were minors, and now they are paying the price. But Hansen only shows the most racy experts of the chat logs. He doesn't show exactly how the two began chatting. Often times the men say the decoy messaged them first. Are these men being tricked, lured or even entrapped? No one knows. Perverted Justice doesn't even leave it open for debate by failing to disclose the full chat logs.

Moreover, when Hansen greets the men, he doesn't tell them what is going on until much later. Surely this is to maintain the taut drama the show is attempting to achieve, but is it really fair? Chris Hansen certainly has no legal jurisdiction over these men. If they don't want to answer any of Hansen's questions, they don't have to. But they aren't informed of this. Often times the men quickly apologize to Hansen then ask to leave only to have Hansen respond firmly that they cannot.

Another concern is that these accounts are televised. Everyone gets to tune in to watch the public humiliation and shame. People used to talk about "Seinfeld" around the water cooler, now they can talk about the guy who showed up naked to what he though was a young boy's home. "Dateline" doesn't stick with the case long enough to show whether or not these men were convicted. Perhaps some are found innocent, but of course, "Dateline" doesn't show that part. After all, it doesn't help the ratings. And even if they did, it would already be too late. Once associated with sexual misconduct on national television, there is no going back. This is all part of a growing "frown campaign" to get the public involved in the justice system. It certainly serves as a strong example to people considering talking to a minor online, but is it really acceptable? Guilty or innocent, these men's lives are ruined. So, is it really all that different?

OPINION WRITERS WANTED!

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JUST ASK JANE

Need advice? Want answers? Just ask Jane.

Dear Jane,

I met this guy this past semester and we've become best friends. Problem is, he has a new girlfriend now who's jealous of me, and now he doesn't want to be my friend. How do I let the girl know she has no reason to feel threatened, and that I really just want my friend back?

Signed,
Friendless in the New Year

Dear Friendless,

I don't blame you for being sad. The "New-Girlfriend-Stole-My-Best-Friend" syndrome is not a fun one to have to suffer through. Of course, there is a silver lining. As far as I am concerned, there is always a silver lining… If there wasn't, I'd be out of a job. OK, so you have already recognized that your friendship is a platonic one and you aren't trying to lure him into bed, or anything, so the easy part is over. The hard part is convincing the girlfriend. There are several ways to go about doing this. You don't have to actually convince anyone, per se, but sometimes the medicine goes down smoother with a little sugar, know what I mean? Try finding out when you're going to have to surrender him to his woman and when he has to be working or doing something else. Add those up and what's left is free time he can spend (hopefully) with you, doing whatever it is that made you such good friends. If this approach isn't working or he shirks out of chilling out with you, suggest that the three of you go play a friendly game of racquetball at the rec. center or hit the badminton around or shoot hoops… If athletics isn't your thing, invite them to a late lunch or something. Make it a semi-public affair so it's less personal. She has to get to know you better, and this is probably less threatening to her, and make sure you include her in conversations and such. It may be difficult for you and a bit awkward for everyone, but if she sees that your intentions are good and you and your friend are just that, no more, than she should calm down some. If that doesn't work or she never warms up to the idea, you'll have to sit down and have a serious chat with your friend, if he is to remain so. It's not your place to tell her that she needs to stop being so possessive; it's his. If he fails at that, then perhaps you ought to put yourself back on the "Seeks-New-BFF" market. No one should put new girlfriends (or boyfriends) before established friendships.

Good luck,

Jane

Pulse

{ Pirate Buzz }

Horoscopes:

Aries
You'll do better if you delegate the negotiations to an expert. Choose a person who has a lot more patience than you do.

Taurus
The urgency is increasing, which only makes your imagination work overtime. Face it _ you do better under pressure.

Gemini
A way is discovered where everyone thought there wasn't one, before. They're right. This one just appeared out of nowhere. Choose it, while you can.

Cancer
Cleaning up messes at your place moves up into a higher priority. Be careful not to make things too much worse, before they get better.

Leo
The more you educate yourself, the more attractive you'll become. You're always most interesting when you're interested.

Virgo
It seems that an expenditure will be required to fix what's broken. Luckily, you can afford this, due to previous careful spending.

Libra
The results are coming in, and soon you'll be past this testing phase. Don't worry; you'll do well, as usual. You always do.

Scorpio
You could be confronted with information you'd just as soon avoid. Confession is good for the soul, and this time, it's good for business, too.

Sagittarius
You've earned the admiration of others, through your recent actions. Accept the encouragement, and you'll be inspired to even greater heights.

Capricorn
Show that you're ready to take on more responsibility. Get all that stuff done that you've already been asked to do.

Aquarius
A visit to friends who truly understand you is in order. You know, the crazy, generous, hilarious bunch who always make you laugh. Funny movies will work, too.

Pisces
Count up the money you've got saved away. It's not as much as you need, but it's a start. Without much effort you can get matching funds.

Drink Recipe

Ultimate Margarita
1 lime, halved
Coarse salt
1/2 cup freshly squeezed lime juice, from about 4 limes
1 tablespoon sugar
1/4 cup orange-flavored liqueur (recommended: Grand Marnier)
1/4 cup Triple Sec
1 cup gold tequila
Ice
1/2 can good quality lager-style beer
Lime wheels, for garnish

To salt the margarita glasses, rub the outside rims of four big glasses with a cut lime and press them lightly into a plate of kosher salt, to coat.

Combine the lime juice, sugar, orange liqueur, Triple Sec, tequila and a big handful of ice in a cocktail shaker (or blender). Shake the margarita really well, for a good 20 seconds, add a splash of beer and strain into the salt rimmed glasses filled with ice. Garnish with a lime wheel.
Please drink responsibly.

Fashion a new wardrobe

Designer inspired treads of 2007

ELISE PHILLIPS
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

Fashion. To some, it's jeans and tennis shoes. To some, it's Bohemian-style skirts and flip-flops. For others, it's mini skirts and stilettos or an Armani suit.

It may be hard to think about high fashion designs when the daily uniform for most ECU students is a sweatshirt, jeans and flip-flops or tennis shoes. However, it's a new year so take some time out to fashion a fresh look that is distinctively yours.

Designer's choices for this season include bold colors and prints on sculpted but flowing dresses. The palette for this new trend of "bubble" dresses (which they are called by designers because of the puff design at the bottom of the dress) includes anything from plain, clean white to bold red Japanese prints.

The shape of these dresses, which flatters any woman's figure, can be dressed up or down. The dresses were found in Vera Wang, Oscar de la Renta and Peter Som's spring collection for 2007.

Following 1980s style trends, designers like Gucci are reinventing metallic shirts, skirts and evening dresses throughout Fashion Week.

Shiny shirts worn over leggings, shimmering short skirts and copper-colored floor length gowns were among the styles walking down the runway. Shoes and handbags followed the metallic trend, with sequins, beads and shiny materials.

Another big trend on the runway this season is layering. Designers showed everything from layering corset's with wool jackets to wrap-style dresses with leggings and pea coats. Among the other new fashions for 2007 were fur and wearing oversized, almost boy-like clothing.

For men this season, bright colors, metallic suits and shirts, raw fabrics, big shorts, suspenders and windbreaker jackets are in for 2007. Designers also portrayed Hawaiian print shirts and 1970s style suits as the new looks for the season.

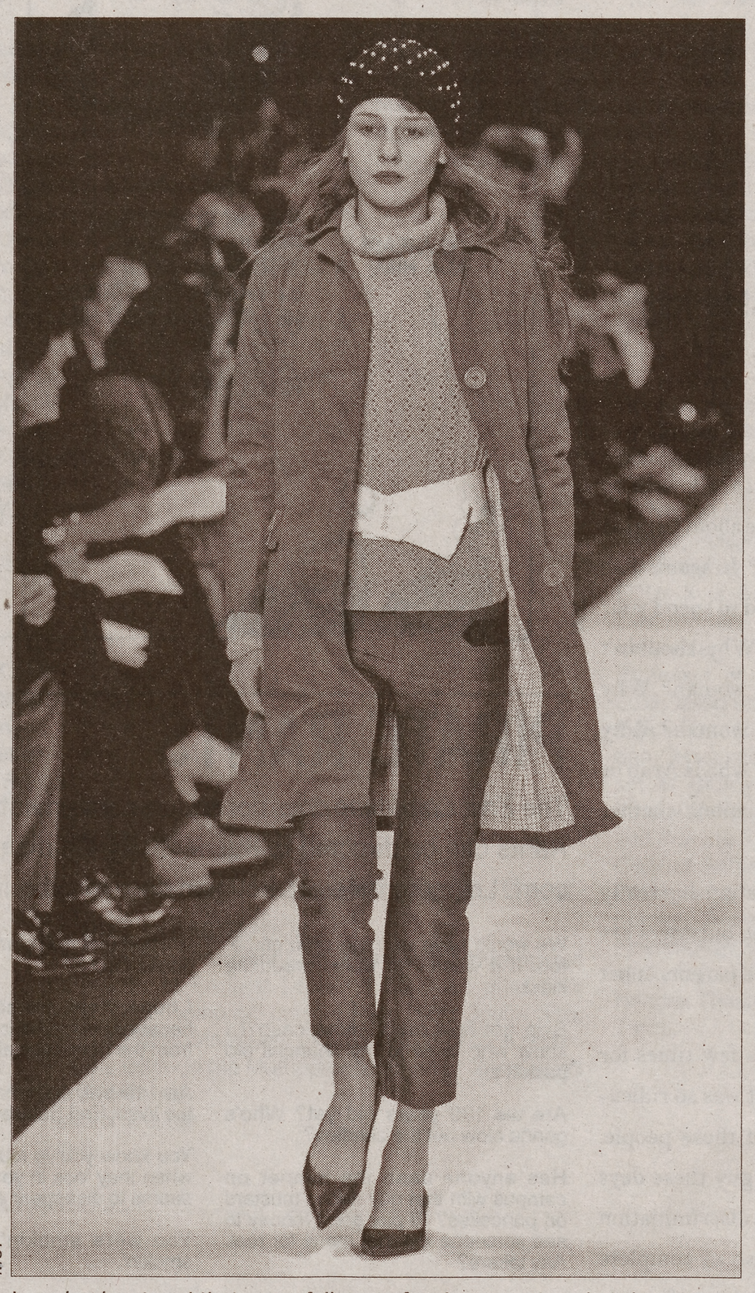
Although college students most likely cannot afford the haute couture styles of Fashion Week, they can still be in style without breaking the bank.

For women, many stores, like New York & Company, Charlotte Russe, H&M and Forever 21 sell styles that emulate pricey designers clothing. Leggings, metallic, bold prints, puffy dresses, ballet flats – they can all be found at a much more affordable price.

Men can stay up-to-date on the latest fashions without the high prices by checking out stores like GQ, Belk and Locker Room. Athletic wear, brightly colored shirts, bold prints, and suits can be found at these stores without the expensive price tag of designer duds.

Remember to start your new year off right with a new look. Now is the best time to hop on the fashion bandwagon or create unique new trends.

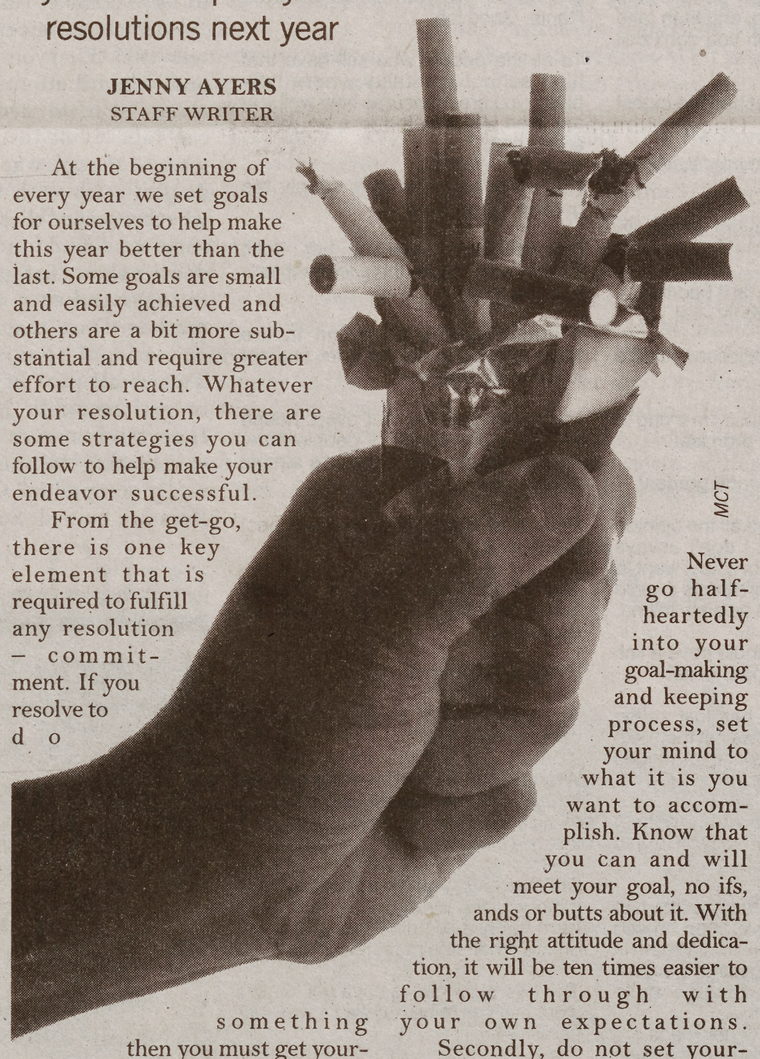
This writer can be contacted at pulse@theeastcarolinian.com.


MCT
Layering is a trend that never falls out of style no matter what the year.

Keys to keeping your resolutions

Some hints to ensure you don't repeat your resolutions next year

JENNY AYERS
STAFF WRITER


MCT

At the beginning of every year we set goals for ourselves to help make this year better than the last. Some goals are small and easily achieved and others are a bit more substantial and require greater effort to reach. Whatever your resolution, there are some strategies you can follow to help make your endeavor successful.

From the get-go, there is one key element that is required to fulfill any resolution – commitment. If you resolve to do something then you must get yourself in the correct mind-frame of dedication and determinism.

Never go half-heartedly into your goal-making and keeping process, set your mind to what it is you want to accomplish. Know that you can and will meet your goal, no ifs, ands or butts about it. With the right attitude and dedication, it will be ten times easier to follow through with your own expectations.

Secondly, do not set yourself up for failure. You should only set goals that can be achieved gradually and in moderation. Rather than attempting to give up something cold turkey that is a big part of your daily routine, set a date that you will have given it up by. Gradually cut back and pace yourself so that you will have reached your goal by some point in the year and not simply overnight. If you set too high of goals that you expect to achieve in no time, you are more likely to become discouraged and simply give up on your resolution altogether.

Another key to success is to keep track of the progress you are making towards your goal. Keep some sort of journal or chart that helps you to see a visual on how you are coming along. The visual representation will also help you to meet your goal quicker by making you more aware and accountable for your actions.

If your goal is to lose 20 pounds and you keep track of your daily diet, you will be more likely to eat healthier foods so that you aren't as ashamed when it comes to charting your progress.

Limit how many resolutions you make for yourself. If you put too much on your plate, you will feel overwhelmed and end up forsaking them altogether. You should have no more than three resolutions which are all reasonable goals. Take your goals one at a time and break large resolutions down into steps which can be achieved over time. By segmenting your hopes for your new year you are more likely to feel successful come December.

Reward yourself when you have made substantial progress toward your goal. Treat yourself somehow when you feel that you are nearing the end of your game plan. Set mile markers for yourself and have specific treats in mind for when you reach the desired point. Just as when we were little, we are more likely to do something if we know there is a reward at the end.

Your biggest asset in maintaining focus and drive toward your mark is the help of others. Letting your friends and family know where you would like to be in a few months will ensure that you are not the only one who is keeping track of your progress.

If your friends participate in the same bad habits you're trying to kick, ask them to cut back when you're around or try to kick the habits with you. Either way, friends will keep you in line and encourage you when you are at the end of your rope.

Keeping New Years resolutions is rarely an easy process since we typically resolve to stop doing things that we really enjoy but aren't exactly good for us.

If you follow these simple guidelines and tips, your chances for success are greatly increased. If you're reasonable, keep your eyes on the prize, and maintain a good attitude, then you're certain to come out strong in the end.

This writer can be contacted at pulse@theeastcarolinian.com.

Anatomy of the perfect attraction

New Year, new dating material

JESSICA DUNLOW
STAFF WRITER

New Years resolution: Do not fall for the same old junk. This year should begin positively; leaving the past relationships in last year and moving on to those people we never had the guts to talk to. However, what traits are we looking for in these mysterious people to give us what we want and need?

Physical attraction is the first thing everyone looks at when observing a new possibility. Therefore, obviously, a person needs to have that special vibe going on to grab your attention.

However, do not let a person's physical attributes rule the game. Personality is imperative. If someone looks fabulous, but they have absolutely nothing relevant to say they are not worth the time.

A little creativity is an ideal trait. That special person makes you a simple meal just for alone time or they give you something they made for you. If someone is physically repulsive, but they manage to arrange a romantic, heartfelt date idea, then you should definitely give them a fighting chance.

Morals are another attribute to discuss. *John Tucker Must Die* depicts how angry girls get when a male is a total player. Indeed, stay away from players, because even if they are Johnny Depp or Orlando Bloom look-alikes in the long run you will be crushed that you are not their number one.

Your special person also needs to have similar ideas of how the whole dating thing goes. Exclusiveness, daily phone calls, weekly dates, etcetera. Alert! Watch out for the "stage-five clingers," if a person is already calling you six times a day and already wants to hang out every second of the day; you might need to rethink your decision. Generally you can find these clinging traits out in the first couple of days, especially if they already Facebook stalked you for your screen name, and continue to send you messages constantly. Stay away.

Remember the past. If something angered you when you were with someone else, it is still going to bother you. If the person you are into is friends with your ex, avoid it. They are only going to remind you much more of the person you just got rid of.

In addition, if someone has every opposite characteristic than you... this is not a good thing. Honestly, what will you talk about? Considering the past, do not try to defy everything you like because one person screwed it up.

Go with your instincts and make 2007 the year of love. Forget about all your reservations and nerves by taking a chance on someone new.

This writer can be contacted at pulse@theeastcarolinian.com.

Escape the debt trap

A guide to eliminating debt

ELISE PHILLIPS
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

People go to college to get ahead in life, achieve their goals and make more money. However, no one ever said money would be readily available while you were in college. It's no secret that college students are in debt up to their eyeballs. When factoring in academic loans and high interest credit cards, its no wonder debt is so prevalent on college campuses.

The burning question on everyone's minds remains. Is there a way to become debt-free without having to sacrifice too much? The answer is yes; there are a few things that students can do to start digging themselves out of debt now.

First, college is not the time to keep up expensive habits. Make a budget plan every pay period for each expense that you will have until the next pay period. For example, estimate your total cost for food, entertainment, rent, hygiene products and other bills to better prepare yourself from blowing the money on luxury items.

Secondly, if you are used to buying and doing things a certain way, look into a cheaper alternative. For example, buy generic hygiene products and buy in bulk.

Planning meals for the week, and finding cheap entertainment options are also a good way to cut back on spending. Having game nights with friends instead of going downtown, renting movies instead of going to the movies and cooking a meal from food in the cabinet instead of going out every night can be fun without spending too much money. Cutting corners when possible can save big bucks by the end of the month.

For those who have credit cards, paying above the minimum payment, even if it is a small amount above the minimum, can drastically decrease the amount of time it takes to pay off the card. Setting a monthly card limit for yourself can also help keep you from overspending.

Another way to guarantee financial success is to save money.

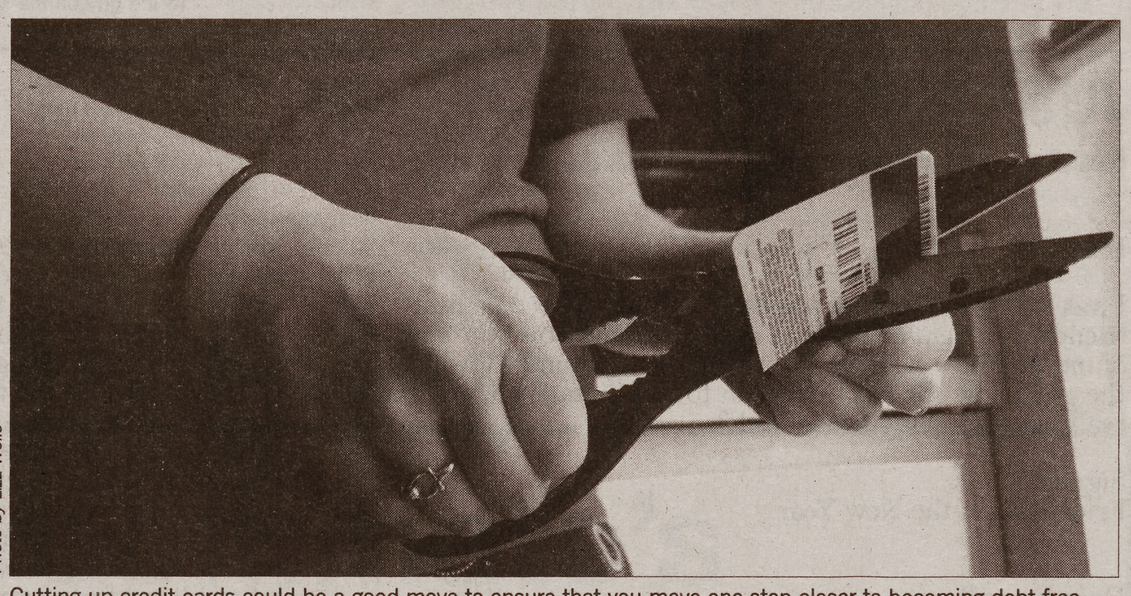


Photo by Lizz Wells
Cutting up credit cards could be a good move to ensure that you move one step closer to becoming debt-free.

Setting aside even a little bit of money every month can come in handy for emergencies and other expenses. It can also be a great resource when it comes time to pay back those student loans.

Looking for alternatives to student loans can also improve your financial future. Talking to the financial aid advisors at ECU about grants and scholarships is a good idea for any student to consider.

There are also hundreds of Web sites that offer a chance to apply for scholarships and grants. Check out sholarships.com, fastweb.com and finaid.org. Last year, millions of dollars went unclaimed in grants and scholarships. The money is out there; you just need to find it.

Finally, if you hit a tough spot, ask for the money. Parents, grandparents and other relatives or friends know how it is to need money from time to time. Remember to thank them and promise payback if they ask. This is not something to be ashamed of since it happens to almost everyone.

Making small changes in your daily spending habits will greatly affect your financial future and help get you on the road to being debt-free.

This writer can be contacted at pulse@theastcarolinian.com.

Sports

{ECU's Inside Source}

SPORTS BRIEFS

Meet the Pirates is scheduled for Jan. 27 at 11:30 a.m.

(SID) — ECU baseball fans will get their first chance to meet the 2007 Pirates up-close and personal on Saturday, Jan. 27, as ECU hosts its seventh annual "Meet the Pirates" luncheon.

Scheduled to start at approximately 11:30 a.m. at the Murphy Center's Harvey Banquet Hall, "Meet the Pirates" offers fans a chance to get autographs and photos of the ECU baseball team and second-year head coach Billy Godwin, as well as enjoy a catered lunch with the Pirate coaches and players. The catered meal will feature a baseball menu with hot dogs, hamburgers, side items and dessert.

A limited number of tickets are available at $7 for adults, $3 for children (12 and under), and $5 for ECU students (with valid One Card) and advance reservations are required.

Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations will be accepted through 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 23 and may be made by calling the ECU Ticket Office at 1-800-DIAL-ECU. Fans can also reserve their seats by online at ECUpirates.com.

The Pirates will open the 2007 season at home against Liberty in Clark-LeClair Stadium on Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. For season ticket information, call 1-800-DIAL-ECU.

Louisville gets its man in Kragthorpe

(AP) — The University of Louisville introduced Steve Kragthorpe as its new football coach Tuesday, less than 48 hours after Bobby Petrino left for the NFL.

Tulsa's Kragthorpe and Louisville athletic director Tom Jurich agreed to a five-year, $1.1-million deal that runs through the 2012 season. The contract was approved by the Louisville Athletic Association's Board of Directors on Tuesday afternoon.

"This truly is a destination for us," said Kragthorpe, 29-22 in four seasons at Tulsa, at a news conference. "There's no question that we feel like this is a place that we've come to stay."

"We might have just completed the shortest search in the history of the NCAA," Jurich said. "I thought we needed to move quickly."

It wasn't fast enough to keep running back Michael Bush, though. Bush, who broke his right leg in September, said Tuesday he planned to enter the NFL draft.

Junior quarterback Brian Brohm has until Jan. 15 to decide whether to bypass his senior year and join Bush in the draft. Brohm is expected to meet with Kragthorpe in the next few days before making a decision.

Brohm's decision could rest on whether any of the current staff stays with the program. Older brother Jeff was the team's quarterbacks coach under Petrino.

Kragthorpe helped resurrect a Tulsa team that had won just two games in the two years before he was hired in December 2002. He led the Golden Hurricane to three bowl appearances in four seasons. Tulsa finished 8-5 this year, losing to Utah in the Armed Forces Bowl.

Special Presentation Of East Carolina vs. Tulsa Men's Basketball To Be Made Available Nationwide

(SID) — CSTV Networks, Inc. has announced that the Wednesday, Jan. 10, men's basketball contest featuring ECU and Tulsa will be available across the nation as part of a special pay-per-view event. The special presentation of this match-up will be available live and on-demand via Internet video streaming.

Availability Online:

Exclusive online pay-per-view events offering live, streaming game video from tip-off to post-game.

Available nationwide.

Fast and easy sign-up online at cstvppv.com.

Pricing for this game will be $9.95.

These pay-per-view events are one-time special video presentations. Purchase price of an event entitles viewer to that game only.

Perfect storm awaits Pirates in Tulsa

Golden Hurricane undefeated at home

BY GREG KATSKI
SPORTS EDITOR

The men's basketball team has played numerous formidable foes all ready this season, but face their most daunting challenge in Tulsa.

Tulsa is 10-0 at home, with an average margin of victory of 19.5 points. Their three losses of the season are at Arkansas, North Texas and on a neutral court against Oklahoma. Arkansas and Oklahoma are universities with historically good basketball teams, and North Texas is no slouch at 11-5.

ECU will have to play better than they have been recently. So far the season has been a roller coaster ride of tough losses, blowouts and respectable wins.

After a convincing season opening win over Morgan State, the Pirates lost a heartbreaker at Richmond in overtime. The close loss seemed to energize the team, as ECU strung together three straight wins. They beat UNC Greensboro on the road, and took it to Limestone and North Carolina Central at home.

After losing another close game at Liberty, the team went in a free fall. By the end of the freefall, the Pirates had lost seven straight games, four by double-digits. Then ECU got a breather in Division II Chowan, winning handedly. This leaves the Pirates at 5-8, needing a big road win to right a once sinking ship.

ECU's most consistent player has been newcomer Darrell Jenkins. Jenkins has taken over as the starting point guard and shown he can run the offense effectively. He leads C-USA in assists per game (5.7). Along with his ability to dish the ball off, Jenkins can score from inside and outside the paint. He averages 12.8 points a game and has made 19 three-pointers in 13 games this year.

Jenkins thinks ECU's woes derive from one common source. According to the Associated Press, Jenkins said, "I think we're in a shooting slump, it can be fixed. We have shooters on this team and right now we're just frustrated. Once the shots start to go in we'll start winning games."

After the Chowan game, it appears that this problem has been fixed. Bad shooting can be contagious, and for the Pirates everyone was coming down with the cold. But with a healthy John Fields, ECU started knocking down shots against Chowan. The Pirates shot 47.2 percent from the field, making 25 of 53 shots attempts.

Another problem for ECU has been getting consistent play from Jenkins' teammates, especially the starters. With so many fresh faces on the team, this is understandable. According to the Associated Press, Ricky Stokes is not concerned and expects the team to get better with age.

"The best thing about this team is we only have one senior so the future is bright for these young guys," said Stokes.

Courtney Captain, the lone senior on the team and unanimous captain, echoed this sentiment to the Associated Press.

"We just try to improve our play every day at practice. We want to get better. When it comes to game time everyone just has one goal, to win," said Captain.

One freshman that has been consistently improving is John Fields. Fields leads the league in blocks per game (3.2) and field goal percentage (66.7 percent). Fields sat out three games with a shoulder injury in which his play was much needed. With Fields on the end of the bench ECU lost by double-digits at home to Winthrop and on the road at Wake Forest. Sandwiched in-between the two game, N.C. State was another tough loss.

According to the Associated Press, John Fields said, "I feel like I am maturing as a player offensively. Now I feel like I'm adding a scoring threat to my game."

To beat the Golden Hurricane, ECU will need strong play from their two emerging leaders. The Pirates definitely have the talent to go up against a team of Tulsa's caliber.

The Golden Hurricane might have a better out of conference record than ECU, but each club is built similarly. Both teams are in a "rebuilding" period and are relatively young and inexperienced.

Tulsa started three true freshman against Texas-Pan America, their last out of conference foe. In addition, Golden Hurricane Head Coach Doug Wojcik is in his second year at the helm.

The Pirates hope to mirror the success that Tulsa is having with their young players. On thing that's apparent, is other coaches are starting to take notice of the untapped potential the "fresh faces" have.

"East Carolina has got a lot of young and athletic people, I'm sure they will go through some aches and pains, but I think the future is bright," said North Carolina Central Head Coach Henry Dickerson, according to the Associated Press.

Tip-off for the game is set for 8:05 p.m. The game will air live on CSTV.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

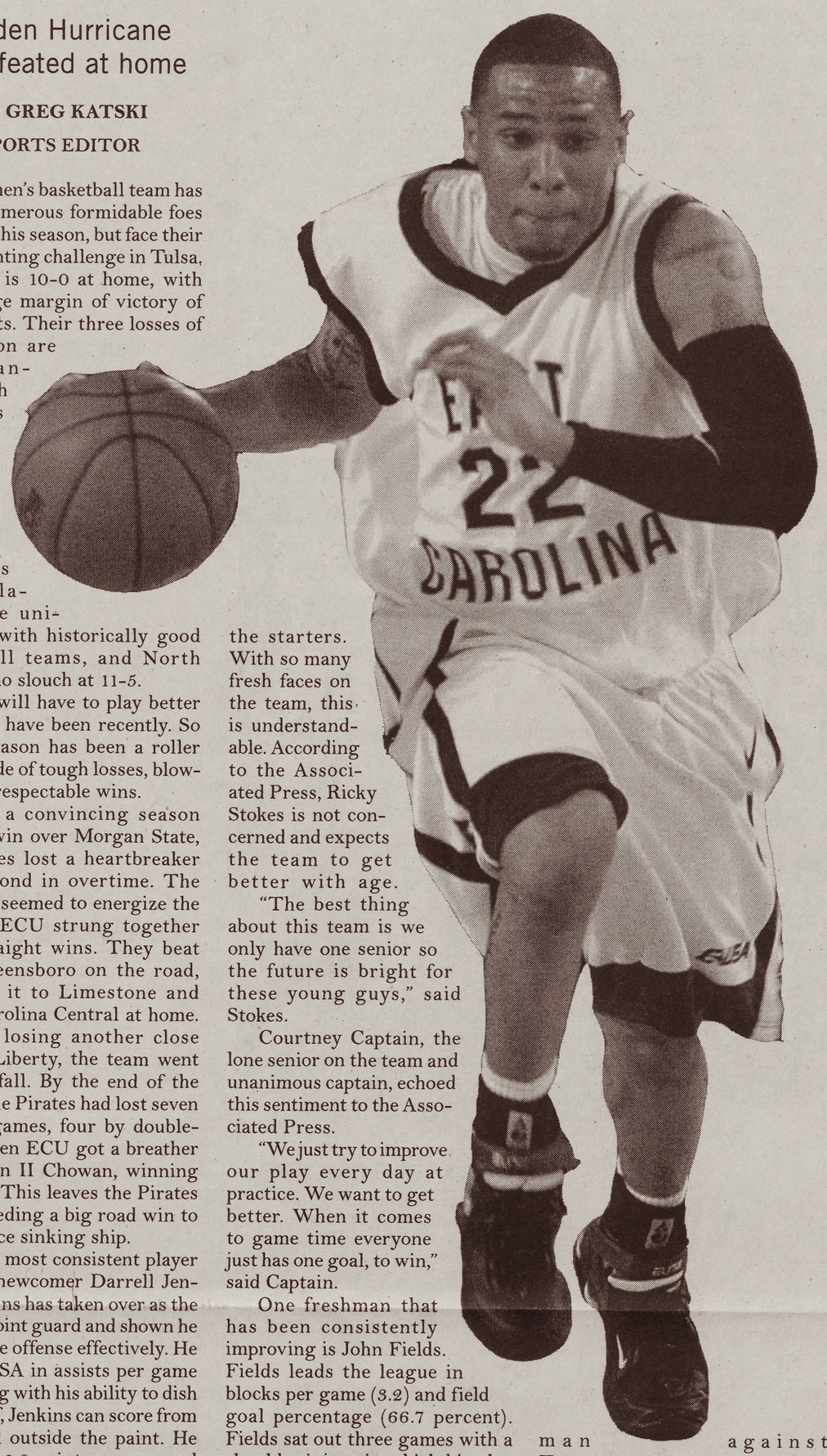


Photo by Zach Sirkin

Houston:
Three Starters return from 2005-2006 squad that had 20 wins for the first time since 1993; the Cougars advanced to the second round of the NIT and won back-to-back games over nationally ranked teams (#25 LSU and #13 Arizona)

Marshall:
Home record of 99-34 in the Cam Henderson Center since 1996; posted a record of 35-7 since 1996 in non-conference match-ups, including wins over Wake Forest, Georgia and U Mass; ECU plays at Marshall Jan. 31 at 7 p.m.

Memphis:
Enters the 2006-07 season as the 10th most successful (based on number of wins) NCAA Division I basketball program since 2002-2003; the Tigers have won 100 games since then; Duke tops the list with 116 victories

Rice:
Morris Almond, a CollegeInsider.com All-America candidate last season is an early favorite for C-USA Player of the Year honors; in 2006, he led C-USA in scoring with 21.9 ppg, and set a conference record with a 25.1 ppg-average in C-USA games

Southern Miss:
In three Divison I coaching stints, Head Coach Larry Eustachy has had success, going to the NCAA Tournament three times and the NIT twice; in addition, Eustachy has been named conference coach of the year four times, twice in the Big West and Big XII

Tulane:
After Hurricane Katrina, the team was forced to relocate to College Station on the campus of Texas A&M; the team played four games in College Station, before returning to New Orleans on Dec. 24

Tulsa:
In all 28 games last year, Tulsa did not allow an opponent to shoot over 50 percent from the field

UAB:
New Head Coach Mike Davis takes over this year after being let go by Indiana; Davis led the Hoosiers to the postseason in five of his six years as coach, including a loss to Maryland in the national championship game in 2002

UCF:
In 2005-2006, the Golden Knights were the top three-point shooting squad in the league, making 36.5 percent of shot attempts taken from long-range

SMU:
New Head Coach Matt Doherty has posted a 90-71 career record in five seasons as a head coach; Tar Heel fans might remember Doherty from his semi-successful stint at North Carolina, where he posted a 53-43 record in three years

UTEP:
Have appeared in three consecutive postseason tournaments, the NIT in 2006, and the NCAA in 2004 and 2005; the Miners have also posted 20 victories three years in a row

Men's Conference-USA statistics and standings

C-USA TEAM STATISTICS LEADERS

	PPG
1. Memphis	82.4
2. UTEP	79.7
3. Houston	78.4
4. UCF	78.1
5. Tulsa	73.5

Rebounds RBG	
1. Memphis	42.4
2. UTEP	40.1
3. Houston	40.0
4. Southern Miss	39.6
5. Tulsa	38.8

Field-Goal Shooting	TEAM FG
1. UCF	49.5
2. Southern Miss	46.8
3. Memphis	46.5
4. Rice	46.2
5. SMU	45.8

3-Point Shooting	3PT%
1. UCF	43.4
2. Rice	40.9
3. UAB	38.5
4. Southern Miss	35.8
5. Tulsa	35.8

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS LEADERS POINTS C-USA INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS LEADERS

Player	Team	PPG
1. M. Almond	Rice	29.7
2. S. Jackson	UTEP	19.8
3. R. McKiver	Houston	17.7
4. P. Delaney	UAB	17.6
5. J. Wise	Southern Miss	16.5

Rebounds Player	Team	RPG
1. J. Dorsey	Memphis	9.4
2. D. Dowell	Houston	8.7
3. G. Blair	**East Carolina**	**8.2**
4. D. Rackauskas	SMU	7.7
5. I. Ofoegbu	SMU	7.3

Assists Player	Team	APG
1. D. Jenkins	**East Carolina**	**5.7**
2. J. Killen	SMU	5.6
3. M. Alvin	UTEP	5.3
4. P. Delaney	UAB	5.1
5. D. Green	Southern Miss	4.4

Field-Goal Shooting Player	Team	FG%
1. J. Fields	**East Carolina**	**66.7**
2. D. Gomez	Tulane	59.3
3. J. Thorpe	Houston	59.2
4. J. Taylor	UCF	57.6
5. C. Douglas-Roberts	Memphis	55.0

STANDINGS CONFERENCE OVERALL

	CONFERENCE RECORDS				OVERALL RECORDS		
	W	L	GB	PCT	W	L	PCT
MEMPHIS	1	0	-	1.000	11	3	.786
UTEP	1	0	-	1.000	9	6	.600
SMU	0	0	1-2	.000	11	3	.786
UCF	0	0	1-2	.000	11	3	.786
S. MISS	0	0	1-2	.000	10	3	.769
TULSA	0	0	1-2	.000	10	3	.769
TULANE	0	0	1-2	.000	7	5	.583
RICE	0	0	1-2	.000	6	7	.462
HOUSTON	0	0	1-2	.000	5	7	.417
ECU	0	0	1-2	.000	5	8	.385
UAB	0	1	1	.000	8	7	.533
MARSHALL	0	1	1	.000	5	9	.357

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Mommy's helper/ Babysitter: Must be non-smoker, active, and love children. Good driving record is a plus. Pay Starts at $6.00/hour. Call Melita at 328-5696, leave message. References required.

A Small Miracle is seeking dedicated dependable employee(s) to wok with individuals with disabilities. Various hours are available. HS diploma, clean background, and a one year commitment is required. Experience working with children or adults with special needs is important. Great pay. Please call 252-439-0431 www.asmallmiracleinc.com

Christian Nursery Workers needed Sunday mornings 9:15-12:15. Additional hours available. Call 752-3101 or go by Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church 510 S. Washington St.

Do you need a good job? The ECU Telefund is hiring students to contact alumni and parents for the ECU Annual Fund. $6.25/hour plus cash bonuses. Make your own schedule. If interested, visit our website at www.ecu.edu/telefund and click on JOBS.

Food delivery drivers wanted for Restaurant Runners. Part-time positions $100-300/week. Perfect for college students!!! Some lunchtime (11am-2pm) Mon-Fri advantageous and weekend availability required. 2-way radios allow you to be anywhere in Greenville when not on a delivery. Reliable transportation a must. Call 252-551-3279 between 2-5pm only. Leave message if necessary. Sorry Greenville residents only.

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Do you have what it takes to represent ECU?

It's time for the University Unions Recreation Tournaments!

Bowling
Thursday, January 25, 2007
6:00 p.m. - Midnight
MSC Outer Limitz Bowling

Billiards
Thursday, January 18, 2007
6:00 p.m. - Midnight
MSC Pirate Underground

Table Tennis
Sunday, January 21, 2007
4:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
MSC Pirate Underground

Chess
Saturday, January 20, 2007
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
MSC Social Room

Spades
Tuesday, January 23, 2007
6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
MSC Great Rooms

There will be a $3 Registration Fee for each participant in each event.

Participants selected as winners will represent East Carolina University at the Association of College Unions International Region 5 Recreation Tournaments, February 23-25, 2007, in Knoxville, TN.

To view the rules and registration information for each event, please visit our website: http://www.ecu.edu/universityunions

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