



The East Carolinian

WELCOME BACK!

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THURSDAY JANUARY 11, 2007



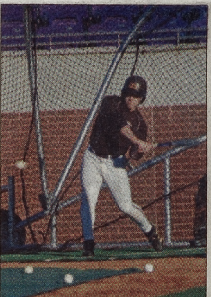
Your days of sitting at home with nothing to do are over – grab some friends and start gaming. Read more about game systems.....Page A8



Find out the worst albums of 2006 according to John Bosco and tune into the WZMB to hear the new artists of 2007.....Page A8



The Pirates of the ice look strong at the midpoint in the season and are dreaming big. Read more.....Page A10



Head Coach Billy Godwin and the Pirates look to new faces to fill gaps in the team. Read about the team's first practice Wednesday afternoon.....Page A10

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A screening of *Flock of Dodos: The Evolution/Intelligent Design Circus* will take place in Hendrix Theater at 7 p.m. For more calendar events, turn to.....Page A2

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General Manager of WZMB appointed, resigns after an hour

Search for another General Manager to begin soon

SARAH BELL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ECU's student radio station, WZMB 91.3 FM, had a new general manager for approximately one hour – and then she quit.

Thelma Toodle, a senior community health major with a minor in media studies, was selected by the student Media Board after a series of interviews that started in December.

Toodle officially accepted the position Wednesday evening, then changed her mind and resigned approximately an hour later.

Toodle was selected to serve as GM until the end of the semester to fill the vacancy left by Jarrod Cox, who resigned from his position as general manager of WZMB this past fall.

"I will not be GM for the spring semester," said Toodle. "These were unforeseen circumstances; some unexpected events that hap-

pened in the last 24 hours."

Dana White, Media Board chair and vice president of SGA, said the board selected Toodle because of her experience at the station.

"After reviewing both candidates the board felt that Thelma was well qualified for the interim manager position, having worked as news director," said White. "We felt that she could take the role on."

Now the Media Board will have to reconvene and decide how to proceed with the selection of yet another general manager for WZMB.

Ken Robol, director of Student Media, expressed his disappointment that WZMB was still without a GM, but remained optimistic about the station's future.

"It is unfortunate that Thelma made this decision, however, we are excited about the future at WZMB," said Robol.

"They have had a major investment from students into the technology of the station. The OMT-MediaTouch automation system is used by over 900 radio stations is available now for students to use

at WZMB."

Although management turnover is nothing new at WZMB, the station has seen some changes in the past several weeks.

Recently, under the supervision of the administration, the station purchased a delay system to help comply with Federal Communication Commission regulations, and raised disc jockeys' wages from \$4.50 to \$6.15 per hour. Additionally, the position of promotions director was combined with that of the GM to raise the general manager's monthly stipend from \$325 to \$750.

Corey King, assistant vice chancellor for student experiences, authorized the changes directly without presenting them to the Media Board.

Although an administrator appointed by King serves as a member of the Media Board, Article V, Section 1 of the Media Board's constitution outlines that the board as a whole is responsible for the "approval of budgets and appropriation of funds to the individual media."

King said the changes he enacted did not require the

approval of the Media Board because they were mandated by state law.

"Students have been known at times to use language on the radio that is against FCC policies. If that happened, we can be fined," King said.

"The DJs were being paid \$4.50 an hour... so what I did was say they needed to be brought up to minimum wage."

King said the DJ's hourly wages had fallen behind the current minimum wage of \$6.15 an hour because the radio station had maintained operations without much scrutiny for the last 10 years.

"We had to go in and do what I consider some administrative oversight," King said.

King stressed that the changes made at WZMB were made with student input.

"We had a series of meetings with all of the staff of the radio station, and asked for the direction that they thought we should be taking. They heard everything that we talked about and provided input," he said.

Rufus Jones, a sophomore



Contributed image

health fitness major and promotions director for WZMB last semester, attended one of those meetings and said the discussion was relevant to the progression of the station, and that the changes implemented by the administration are positive.

"They're making it easier, not overloading one particular person with everything, but evening everything out," Jones said in regards to the responsibilities of the staff.

"Everyone can find out where to go and who to talk to. One thing most people don't know [at the station] is who to go to for what

see WZMB page A3



Photo by Terrell Corry

Jimmy Goose addresses the crowd at the awards banquet held in the Murphy Center last night at 7 p.m.

Greek leadership holds first awards banquet

All Greek Organizations came together for recognition

GENERRA CORNWELL
STAFF WRITER

For the first time all of the Greek organizations here at ECU came together to celebrate and recognize the hard work, commitment and leadership roles that the sororities and fraternities demonstrate on campus as well as in the community.

There are three umbrella organizations that include the Interfraternity Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council and Pan-Hellenic Council.

The Interfraternity Council is a governing body for a branch of social fraternities on campus. The National Pan-Hellenic Council is the governing body for the historically African American Greek organizations on campus.

The Panhellenic Council is a governing body for a branch of social sororities on campus.

Dana White, 2006 Panhellenic executive council president

stated, "We overlook and oversee everything that NPC sororities do to make sure that they are following our national guidelines."

In the past, each branch of Greek organizations had their own individual awards banquet. This year they held one banquet together as a united front to represent the Greek life of ECU.

"The purpose of this awards banquet is to recognize our Greek organizations that have excelled in leadership, scholarship and service," said Kay Christian, asso-

see AWARDS page A2

College of Education receives scholarship gift

Alumni pledge to donate \$100,000 over five years

ADELINE TRENTO
STAFF WRITER

The ECU School of Education has received a new scholarship fund thanks to two ECU alumni, Jim and Evelyn Kirkland.

Jim, who received his bachelor's degree from ECU in 1962 and Evelyn, who received hers in 1961, have pledged to donate \$100,000 over five years towards a Middle Grades Education scholarship.

The fund, which will be called the James Bryant Kirkland, Jr. and Evelyn Johnson Kirkland

Middle Grades Scholarship Fund, will provide scholarships to undergraduate students majoring in Middle Grades Education with a concentration in math, language arts or science.

Evelyn, who has been a sixth grade teacher for 30 years, received the Prospective North Carolina Teachers Scholarship in 1958 when she was a student at ECU. The Kirklands wanted to donate money for a scholarship fund to give back to the university and help other ECU students.

"We wanted to give ECU back what it gave to us," said Jim Kirkland, according to a press release.

A scholarship selection committee will determine how to award the scholarships using

certain criteria such as academic ability and major.

Qualified students from Robeson County will receive first preference and then students from Brunswick, Sampson, Cumberland, Columbus, Duplin, Bladen, Onslow, Pender and New Hanover counties will be considered.

According to a press release, Evelyn said that the couple decided to establish the scholarship for Middle Grades Education because they believe that the middle grades are a great place to reach students who may be the future leaders of tomorrow.

see SCHOLARSHIP page A2

Students remember Emmett Louis Till



Photo by LeVonia Tyrrell

Students attend the documentary about Emmett Louis Till in Hendrix.

Those involved talk about Till and what happened

VANESSA CLARKE
STAFF WRITER

Hendrix Theatre showed a documentary yesterday on the life, death and trial of 14 year-old Emmett Louis Till, whose 1955 murder sparked the civil rights movement.

The movie, *The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till*, featured friends, family and others who knew Till or were involved somehow with the case telling the story. Their interviews were interspersed with news clips from the era.

There was also some background on Jim Crow, or segregation laws, in the South. Rev. Al Sharpton described that blacks at the time were treated as "less than human." "We couldn't get a drink of water, no matter how thirsty we were, unless we could find that colored water fountain," said Charles Evers, a civil rights activist and head of the Mississippi NAACP.

Several of those interviewed in the film commented that the police did not support them, and that they could not be counted on.

Till was not familiar with Southern treatment of blacks, since he was from up North.

Emmett Louis Till was described by his friends and family as a smart boy who was good in art, science and spelling. He was also fearless; one cousin gave the example that he would set off firecrackers within the town limits of Chicago, which was, of course, illegal.

Some of his family members were going to Money, Miss., during the summer, and Till convinced his mother, Mamie Till-Bradley, to let him go too.

His mother said that the day he left he was so excited, that he nearly forgot to kiss her good-bye. She insisted that he did because she never knew, she might never see him again.

It was harvest time when Till and his relatives arrived in Money. When the boys had money, they would go into town. Till went with his cousins and some friends to buy some bubble gum and, according to Ruthie Mae, a neighbor, put his money directly into the hands of Carolyn Bryant, a white woman.

Later, when she came out to her car, Till whistled at her. This scared all of the other boys and so they jumped into their car and sped away. They thought nothing would be made of the whistle, until Ruthie Mae said she heard that Bryan's husband was talking about "letting Emmett have it." She wanted them to get on a train and go back to Chicago.

The boys did not take her seriously and soon forgot about it. Later, they decided to go to Greenwood, Miss., and stayed with Till's great uncle, Moses Wright.

"We couldn't get a ring on with his initials," Wright said that Roy Sammy Wright said and his son Sammy and friend, J.W. Milan, drove to Greenwood and took Till out of his bed.

"I was laying in bed, waiting for them to bring him back. Every car that went by, I thought maybe it's him. But when it got toward dawn, I knew they weren't going to bring him back," said Wright.

Till's body was found in the Tallahatchie River, bound with barbed wire and weighted down with a 70 pound cotton gin.

Moses Wright went to identify the body. "The body was so badly damaged that we could hardly tell who it was," he said. "But he happened to have a ring on with his initials."

When the body was finally shipped back to Chicago for the burial, which Mississippi officials decided to have done as quickly as possible, the funeral director had been ordered not to open the box.

But when his mother Till-Bradley finally opened the box, what she saw was horrific.

see E.M. TILL page A3

News

{ Campus & Community }

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.

Pete the Pirate Crab

The crab was last seen at 11 p.m. on Friday night and noticed missing on Saturday morning on Dec. 2 around 9 a.m. The crab is valued at over \$4,000. Stealing one of these crab sculptures is considered a felony.

Anyone knowing anything about the Pete the Pirate crab and/or the attachments to the city's crab should report it to the Washington Police Department. A reward is being offered for their return.

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/japancenter 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 (as defined by ECU) 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.

Salsa Dancing

On Friday, Jan. 19 in the Willis Building on First and Reade downtown.
ECU Folk and Country Dancers. 752-7350
Instruction: 7:30; dance: 8:30 - 11 p.m. Admission charged.
A non-alcohol/non-smoking event.

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.

11 Thurs 12 Fri 13 Sat 14 Sun 15 Mon 16 Tues 17 Wed

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.

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.

*Featured Event:

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, UNCW
UNCW
Hendrix Theater at 7 p.m.

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

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

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, UNCW
Hendrix Theater
7 p.m.

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, UNCW
Hendrix Theater
7 p.m.

Study Abroad Information Session.
From 3 until 5 p.m. in Mendenhall Great Rooms 1 and 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.
For more information, contact Brandi Dudley, 328-1937 or dudleyb@ecu.edu.

BRIEFS

Bush plan to send thousands more Marines, soldiers to Iraq

(AP) — A brigade of soldiers based at Fort Bragg will be the first to move into Iraq under President Bush's plan to increase troop levels in the troubled nation, a defense department official said Tuesday.

The 3,500 soldiers of the 2nd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division arrived in Kuwait last week after being deployed on short notice and poised to move quickly into the country.

Up to 20,000 troops will be put on alert and be prepared to deploy under the president's plan, but the increase in forces on the ground will be gradual, said the official, who requested anonymity because the plans have not yet been announced.

By March, about 17,400 Marines from Camp Lejeune are expected to be in Iraq as well.

About 3,500 paratroopers

from the 82nd Airborne's 3rd Brigade Combat Team are already in Iraq along with some 1,800 to 2,000 Marines in two Lejeune battalions.

N.C. NAACP, other groups announce march to Legislature next month

(AP) — The state chapter of the NAACP and at least 20 other groups announced plans Tuesday to march in downtown Raleigh next month to push their aims at the General Assembly.

The Feb. 10 march will highlight a 14-point agenda that includes more help for public schools, abolishing the death penalty, collective bargaining power for government employees and expanding health care coverage for all.

After a program at Memorial Auditorium, participants will march through the city to the Legislative Building. Speakers at

Tuesday's news conference outside the building's front doors pledged to work to keep their issues in front of lawmakers beyond just their planned event.

"We need a movement and not just a moment," said the Rev. William Barber of Goldsboro, the state chapter president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "We're calling on people to come from all 100 counties of North Carolina."

Representatives of the state AFL-CIO, the N.C. Council of Churches and the Hispanic advocacy group El Pueblo also spoke in support of the program.

N.C. pilot walks away after plane, out of fuel, crash lands

(AP) — A single engine plane apparently ran out of fuel and crashed in northeast Ohio on Tuesday, but the pilot was able to walk away with minor injuries, the

State Highway Patrol said.

The patrol said the plane flown by Robert Carpenter, 56, of Pinehurst, N.C., apparently ran out of fuel while headed to the Portage County Airport. It clipped trees and crashed south of Ravenna about 10 miles from the airport.

Carpenter walked to a nearby home and was taken to Robinson Memorial Hospital to be checked. He was treated for minor cuts and bruises, hospital spokeswoman Christine Isenberg said.

Timeline in the rape and murder case against U.S. soldiers

(AP) — Significant events in the deployment of the 502nd Infantry Regiment in Iraq in 2005-06 and the investigation that led to five soldiers being arrested and charged with murdering four members of an Iraqi family on March 12, 2006. It is based on court proceedings and documents

viewed by The Associated Press.

March 20, 2006: Green is summoned for an exam by the Combat Stress Team, his first contact with the doctors and clinicians since he was diagnosed as a homicidal threat. He is diagnosed as having an anti-social personality disorder and deemed unfit for service. Eight days later, a process for his discharge from the Army begins and he is sent home.

May 2006: Green's discharge from the Army becomes final.

Oct. 18, 2006: The Army decides to hold courts-martial for four of the accused soldiers.

Nov. 15, 2006: One of the accused, Spc. James P. Barker, pleads guilty to the murders to avoid the death penalty. As part of a plea agreement with military prosecutors, his sentence is limited to 90 years in exchange for his cooperation and testimony against three others.

SCHOLARSHIP

continued from A1

"We both believe education is where everything begins," Kirkland said.

Students that wish to learn more about scholarships offered through the ECU College of Education can visit ecu.edu/cs-educ/scholarships.cfm.

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

AWARDS continued from A1

ciate director of Greek Life.
When asked how she felt about all of the Greek organizations having an award banquet together, sophomore social work major Rallah Burnett, member of Sigma Gamma Rho stated, "I feel like it's a good thing that we can all come together and have everything as one of a change."
Christian also commented on

the change.
"I like it [the change], it's about a Greek community. It also allowed us to invite people from outside the Greek community like the faculty and community," she said.
Numerous awards were presented at the awards banquet including, Highest Chapter GPA, Outstanding Community Service, 2006 Chapter of the Year, and

2006 Greek Hall of Fame, just to name a few.
"We would like to win the award for outstanding community service the most," said Burnett. "I feel like it's important because we work hard to improve the community and encourage other people to go to school and succeed. It's something to strive for."
Although each individual fra-

ternity and sorority has their own unique characteristics, they all have common goals, which are to provide leadership, scholarship and service. The first Annual Greek Leadership Banquet honored these organizations for their commitment to reaching these goals.
This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

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It's never too late to stop procrastinating

(MCT) — Vickie Austin didn't put off her Christmas shopping to the last minute this year.

A full 10 days before the holiday, her presents were bought, wrapped, mailed and sitting under her relatives' Christmas trees.

"For the first time in years, I didn't pay more for postage than gifts," she said, laughing. "Last year, I procrastinated. I spent a fortune on Priority Mail and it still didn't get there on time."

Austin, a Wheaton, Ill., business

coach, credits a "Procrastination Cessation" seminar by Chicago time-management consultant Marianna Swallow for her turnaround this year.

"When there's a group like that in a seminar setting, you get a sense of 'You're not the only one.' I don't think anybody completely overcomes procrastination; it's something that goes in waves."

As people start thinking about how to change their lives in the new year, getting a grip on procrastina-

tion is one way to find some peace, said Swallow, president of M. Runge and Associates (mrunge.com).

"How important is it for you to save that time?" she asked. "How important is it for you to get those things done and not have it hanging over your head when you go to bed at midnight tonight?"

Even if she were in bed before midnight, Maria Burud of Chicago would find herself waking up with concerns about the coming day.

Four years ago, she launched her

own sales training and consulting firm, the Zanon Group, after years as an executive with technology companies. She no longer had an assistant to keep her on track. Plus, she was a single mom juggling her three children's sports and musical activities.

She hired Swallow in 2004 for one-on-one sessions to help her get organized and stop procrastinating. Burud said a key tip that Swallow suggested was to break her tasks down into small steps to avoid discouragement.

Mark A. Ward
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WZMB continued from A1

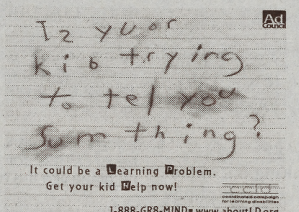
problem. Now it's easier to figure that out," he said.

Dana White, vice president of SGA and Media Board chair, agreed the changes taking place at the radio station are positive.

"I'm excited about the new changes," she said.

"The radio station has not been looked at for nine years, so it's time to promote it more and have more diversity. I think it's going to be an eventful year, but hopefully after we're done WZMB will be a better radio station to benefit the students."

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



E.M. TILL continued from A1

One of his eyes had been popped from the socket and was hanging on his cheek. His other eye was gone. His ears were missing. His face and the back of his head were separated. There was a hole in his skull, "and I could see daylight on the other side," Till-Bradley said. "Was it necessary to shoot him? If that's a bullet hole, was it necessary?"

Despite, or rather because of how her son looked, Till-Bradley decided to have an open casket funeral.

"People can sort of deal with things they don't have to look at," said Sharpston. Till-Bradley made America deal with its ugly racial problem in a way that "a thousand speeches couldn't have done."

Roy Bryant and Milan were arrested for kidnapping and the murder of Emmett Till.

"They had to prove they were superior," Roy Wilkins, of the NAACP, said of Bryant and Milan. "They had to prove it by taking away a 14-year-old boy."

Sheriff H.C. Strider said, "We will give a fair and impartial trial and we don't need to have the NAACP and we don't need their help. We never had any trouble until someone go up North and the NAACP talks to them and they come back down."

Dan Wakefield, a reporter for *The Nation*, remarked that he was surprised at how much the town supported the men who had murdered Till and that journalists were resented for digging around where they were not wanted.

"The reporters were shocked that everyone in town knew that these boys murdered the boys... but they didn't want the murders to be punished," Wakefield said.

The verdict on the murder trial was as everyone expected: Not guilty.

"When they interviewed the foreman of the jury, he said, 'It wouldn't have even taken us that long, but they told us to make it look good. So, we had a soda pop, some beer and then we gave the verdict,'" Till-Bradley said.

Tim Shortley, an anthropology graduate student, did not know much about Emmett Till before seeing the documentary.

"It was enlightening, see as I didn't know anything about Emmett Till," said Shortley. "Unfortunately, injustices like this have been going on for thousands of years."


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

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Opinion

{ Your new best friend }

RANT OF THE DAY

Does anyone else try to cough when they pass gas to cover up the sound?

Questioning U.S. involvement in Somalia

Is the West truly the best?

ALEX LAROCCA
OPINION WRITER

In 1954, America provided aid in a coup in Guatemala to help stop the spread of communism and secure America's ability to keep getting its bananas. In 1953, America was also present for a coup in Iran to stop the spread of communism and secure oil for Great Britain. Many can argue the righteousness of such campaigns, but history speaks of a different set of facts concerning these events. The Guatemalan Coup may have caused two young communists to despise America, and become avidly anti-Western. Perhaps you have heard of them — Che Guevara and Fidel Castro. After the Iranian Coup, many Iranians lost hope in the West and in 1979, revolution came to the conclusion that the West, i.e. America, was not only holding them down, but was also evil. This led us to see that those "backwards Persians" now have nuclear capability.

After this brief history lesson, what am I getting at? In case you do not follow the news, African Islamists, part of the Union of Islamic Courts, were recently pushed out of Somalia. With the West backing the Ethiopian invasion, I must ask, "Why?"

I followed this event from day one, since the Islamists began to take over the tribe-infested Somalia. One interesting fact I noticed about Somalia is that it isn't technically a country. For the most part it is an amalgamation of various tribes and unruly warlords. So when I read about Islamists taking over, I thought "Good! Perhaps the country will finally find some stability." Unfortunately the West, along with the invading Ethiopians, did not see it this way.

The justification for pushing Islamists out was that, being Islamic, they could/would harbor terrorists. Of course this completely ignores that Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys, one of the more powerful leaders of the Islamist group, was a moderate who is quoted saying, "I am not a terrorist. But if strictly following my religion and love for Islam makes me a terrorist, then I will accept the designation." The facts are he and the African Islamists are not affiliated with any murders of innocents or any anti-American terrorist movements. The Union of Islamic Courts and the Brotherhood of Islam are all organizations that halted violent aggression against the West years ago and have instead adopted peaceful and more diplomatic means to spreading their ideas.

In the time before this Islamist invasion, and in my opinion the times to come, Somalia was very unruly. Women had to fear for their sanctity, many professionals were left with no jobs, food was used as a political tool, and Technicals, cars with machine guns attached to their backs, would crazily roam the streets and roads looking to cause mischief. In the brief time the Islamists had taken over, women didn't have to worry about being disrespected; professionals were urged back into business and random acts of violence were against "the law." Why exactly? The answer lies in the peace of Islam.

Most Somalians are Muslim and stick to their religion in a serious manner. The Islamists stick to Muslim law, which, although strict, holds society together in a manner even westerners can appreciate. Women, children, taxes, murder and stealing... all of these and more are outlined in the Quran and the Hadith and have laws in order to structure or stop them. So, for instance, if you decided to rape a woman, you could have your head chopped off. Granted, this is very Biblical, but if such a thing was so widespread then perhaps an outlandish law such as decapitation would curb the crime.

So yes, this is different, and it is hard to imagine such laws for us, but this is a cultural difference. I am sure that Somalians would find it hard to imagine why alcohol isn't available to an American until he or she is 21 or why officers in Wilmington, NC find it all right to shoot someone over a PS3. This is just the way it is, and I think our generation needs to accept the age old saying, "To each his own."

In a time where a college student simply has to type "Islam" into Google to discover almost everything about it will we, as Americans, live our lives as those during the Cold War? We all know that communism is not the devil incarnate nor is it automatically anti-Western. Although communism was our big enemy at one point and at one point it had a chance of spreading, Islam is bigger and has been around for much longer and leads this writer to say that if we keep up these "Red-Scare" tactics then the so called "War on Terror" is going nowhere.

Sarah Bell
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Serving ECU since 1925, the *East Carolinian* prints 9,000 copies every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the regular academic year and 5,000 on Wednesdays during the summer. "Our View" is the opinion of the editorial board and is written by editorial board members. The *East Carolinian* welcomes letters to the editor which are limited to 250 words (which may be edited for decency or brevity). We reserve the right to edit or reject letters and all letters must be signed and include a telephone number. Letters may be sent via e-mail to editor@theeastcarolinian.com or to the *East Carolinian*, Self-Help Building, Greenville, N.C. 27858-4353. Call 252-328-9238 for more information. One copy of the *East Carolinian* is free, each additional copy is \$1.

The Opinion Page talks back

We receive many questions and comments via Pirate Rant submissions that deserve a response. Below are the answers to some of your recent questions and concerns.

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

A: Although the Web site is supposed to be easy to access and navigate, we understand that sometimes, things get a little tricky. So here are the steps to getting to our past opinion articles:

- 1) Go to our page at theeastcarolinian.com
- 2) Click "Options" on the toolbar
- 3) Choose and click on "Archives" from the drop-down menu
- 4) Choose an individual issue and click on the date
- 5) Enjoy.

Q: I'm a guy, and I need a date to the North Carolina Nurse Scholars formal reception ceremony in three weeks. Any takers?

A: Perhaps you should consider taking out a classified advertisement with us and include your phone number and other pertinent information. We're sure someone will respond. Unfortunately, though, you can't get a date through a Rant because we cannot and will not publish names and personal information. It's not exactly anonymous that way.

Q: There is a celebrity that goes to our school.

A: Really? We'd love for you to send another Rant divulging the name of this so-called celebrity... Of course, we cannot publish that rant, but we could get the news section to look into it. How could no one else on campus know about this? Can you say "exclusive interview?"

Q: My dad makes over a million dollars a year and I got \$5,000 for Christmas and I thought that wasn't enough; I guess I'm the snob. Ha.

A: That's terrific news! Everyone here really needs a raise. If you're a big fan of Pirate Rants and the rest of our paper, you should definitely encourage him to send some cash our way in the form of a donation... or 10,000 subscriptions or something.

Q: Who is the Jane in Just ask Jane?

A: "Jane" is indeed a real person, but this person prefers to remain anonymous due to the fact that the advice that is administered in the column should be taken for what it is worth and not for whom it was written by. Jane takes his/her job very seriously and hopes that everyone continues to send in his or her questions. Sometimes an outside perspective is helpful and refreshing... and this one is free.

Q: Someone needs to teach the News Editor how to spell.

A: We sincerely wish that they didn't, but, believe it or not, mistakes happen. Every newspaper in the country makes spelling errors at some point and we do our best each production night to ensure that the information we present to you is accurate and correct. Unfortunately, in the production process, things that have been checked over twice already have to be changed last minute, and that's how most of our mistakes happen. We apologize to anyone who's ever had a negative experience with our paper and encourage all of you to continue reading.

Q: 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?

A: We would love to see this, too; we think it'd make a fun story for Pulse. If you are a taker, make sure to let us know! E-mail the Opinion editor at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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

A: Again, if you go to our Web site and click on "Options" and "Archives," you can pull up every edition of the paper and read your hearts out!

JUST ASK JANE

Need advice? Want answers? Just ask Jane.

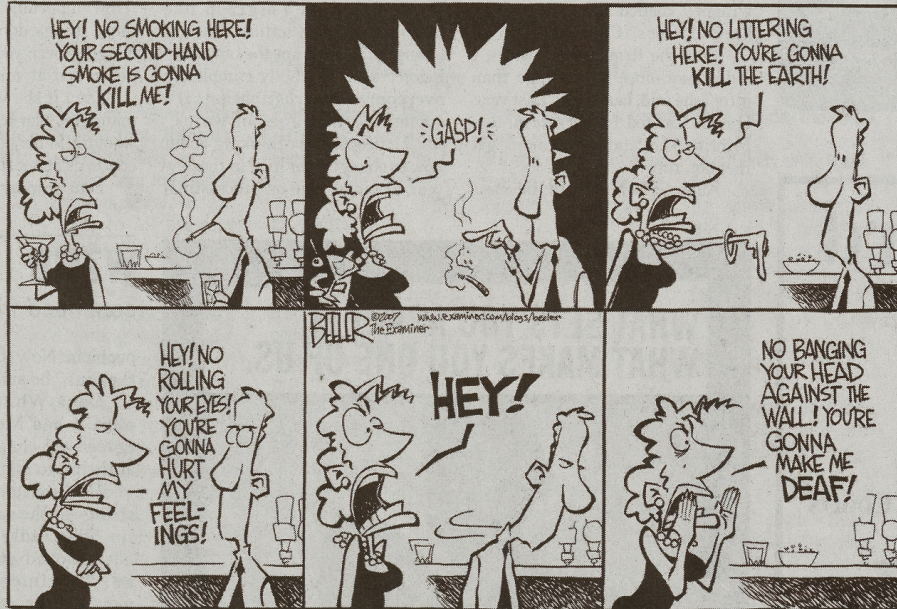
Dear Jane,

I usually wouldn't get into all this, but there is an issue that arose and I think it needs to be addressed, but I don't know how to address it. My roommate's boyfriend is homosexual and has been seeing other men sexually, as well as my roommate. How do I tell her? I know that this is going to hurt her but so will AIDS.

Signed,
Concerned Roommate

Dear Concerned,

The issue of someone cheating on his or her significant other is always an issue worth addressing, as far as I am concerned, so I don't blame you for writing. It's particularly difficult since you know more about your roommate's boyfriend than she apparently does, and that's going to weigh heavily on your conscience, I'm sure. I do not think that you should say anything to her unless you can prove



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.

To the person having trouble with the best friend, I know how you feel. We should hang out and become best friends.

I don't care what anyone says. I will never call this dorm my home. There is no place like the home I grew up in.

To the skateboarder who cut me off — thanks for making me wreck and breaking my bike. Maybe next time I'll just slam into you.

A country boy will survive at ECU, even after all the Yankees take over our school.

Let's leave the high school drama in high school and grow up please! Thanks!

There is a celebrity that goes to our school!

Where are all of the gentlemen at?

Happy Leif Erikson Day!

Someone needs to teach the News Editor how to spell.

If you want to see the video of that guy on the banner, just search YouTube for "mustard pancakes."

Why is it so hard to figure out how to send pirate rants online?

I don't care what you say. I absolutely loved *The Night At The Museum* and have gone to see it twice!

Hey do you remember when I rode that bike into the creek at the bottom of the hill?

To the online poker player, sorry for ruining your life, but thanks for the extra spending money.

Peanut butter jelly time.

I am a Geology major, what am I going to do with my life?

I am in Math 0001 and glad, there is an abundance of hotties there.

There is no fear when deuce has got your back in a co-op game of Halo.

The people in my classes last semester were cool, especially in Marketing Management, these new people suck.

Sandals in January almost make up for the 100 degree temps in July.

8 a.m. happens way to early.

I just want to say what's up to my friend from Connecticut, get back up on that pogo stick.

Maybe later we'll go ice skating on a rainbow.

I think about you all the time.

No one cares that you're gay and you can't get married! It won't change... Democrats don't want homosexuals to get married either. They just use that as a way to get you to vote for them. Trust Me!

For all of you dummies complaining about bus schedule changes, maybe if you took the time to read the fliers and signs that people take their personal time to put up around campus, you would have known and wouldn't be late for class. You're so inconsiderate!

I graduated in 2001 and like reading Pirate Rants from here in Raleigh...

P.S. — all ACC teams suck!

Stop telling me how to do my job.

I cannot wait until next year. I will finally be with my girlfriend in a sweet apartment and will finally get out of this house with my horrible roommate.

I wish I could get paid for sitting at home and watching T.V.!

Financial aid sucks! Thanks to your wonderful error, my money got put on hold! I can't believe the university hires people who are so rude!

I really hate it when I'm in the library doing work and there is someone talking on their cell phone very loudly. Do you know how to whisper? Better yet, you should take your conversation to a different area. Nobody cares that you are going to get your nails done!

UGG boots should be out; it's the damn South, not the North Pole!

I think the military is the most underpaid job in the U.S. I think we should take money from Hollywood stars and give it to the military. They are risking their lives for us and we are acting like they are in the military!

My God is still so good to me!

I'm a guy and I need a date to the North Carolina Nurse Scholars formal reception ceremony in three weeks. Any takers?

I made several New Year's resolutions — and so far, none of them have worked out, though I have kept up with them...

It ain't like in the movies — nice guys do finish last, all the time.

Apparently, it is possible to be too much of a Southern gentleman that you scare the girls off...

Don't say anything tonight if you're gonna say good-bye.

"Don't get excited, she'll say no without a doubt you see. And I've decided college girls just won't go out with me."

"80 grand later, I found out that all that I have learned is that you should show up to take your finals and your mid-terms."

Um... if you're looking for the past Pirate Rants, they're in the Archives section. Maybe you should look around a little bit more before you ask such pointless questions.

Tell Jane to keep it short and give us more Pirate Rants!

Then why the hell are you taking 21 hours? There is a thing called summer school.

Why do girls wait for guys to come to them? Ladies, if you find a guy attractive, then why not tell him?

For girls who rant about wanting a good man or relationship, how can I contact you?

Is it bad that when I found out my soon to be 24-year-old ex-boyfriend is dating a 17-year-old high school student I got a little sick? I didn't think so, because that's just gross!

When I see you up in the club, I'm gonna flirt.

There's nothing good on T.V. anymore.

Bridget Todd, I totally agree with your opinion on "Dateline: To Catch a Predator." Perverted Justice and Chris Hansen are doing nothing but harassing innocent people who just want to talk to young boys about sex. They should just be left to their own devices. Now, if only there was a way to blame George Bush for this, An idea for a follow-up piece, maybe?

Secretaries are not morns, so do not act like one!

What's wrong with the Jones Administration? First the Chief-of-staff leaves, then the SGA treasurer. Who is next? The SGA secretary? Why is everyone trying to leave?

I really liked the article, "A world without winter." Good job. I love cold weather, but today and tomorrow are supposed to be cold and below freezing at night. Too bad it won't last long.

Can we please have paper toilet seat covers available for the bathrooms on campus? I hate having to spend the extra time putting toilet paper on the seat. If ECU needs help with this, just get the people who did the Greenville airport's bathrooms to do it. They can afford it. Toilets are a big part of our life; let's make them better for our lives!

Fat chicks need lovin' too, just not from me.

Tequila is no longer my friend.

Do people with herpes only marry other people with herpes?

Am I the only one looking forward to Barefoot on the Mall?

Oh, I've got a lovely bunch of coconuts. There they are all standing in a row.

It figures that the one time my Rants are actually used, the paper isn't printed. Ugh...

All I want is a dancing hamster. Is that too much to ask for?

I wish I was in New York City right now.

The drunk bus is awesome, especially when you're sober.

Is a working wireless connection on campus too much to ask for?

I'm so glad I don't live all the way up on College Hill.

Alas, poor fountain, I knew you well. You shall be missed. The construction outside of my dorm, however, shall not.

Is it weird that I actually enjoyed the drunk guy singing Beatles songs outside my dorm at midnight?

Yay! Pirate Rants are back! My life just wasn't the same without them...

No... I'm not going to stop doing naughty things with my girl to entertain you... get a life!

Do a barrel roll!

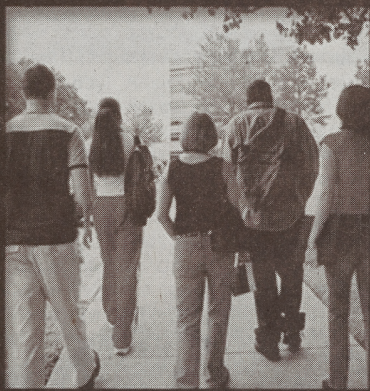
Golf sucks.

My girlfriend thinks I'm obsessed with Ranting.

You made Just ask Jane take up more space than the rants today, or just as much. Clearly, you don't understand what the students would rather see... no one cares to read books from Jane. Why did you make it so much bigger than last semester?

Here's to honesty in love and in life,
Jane

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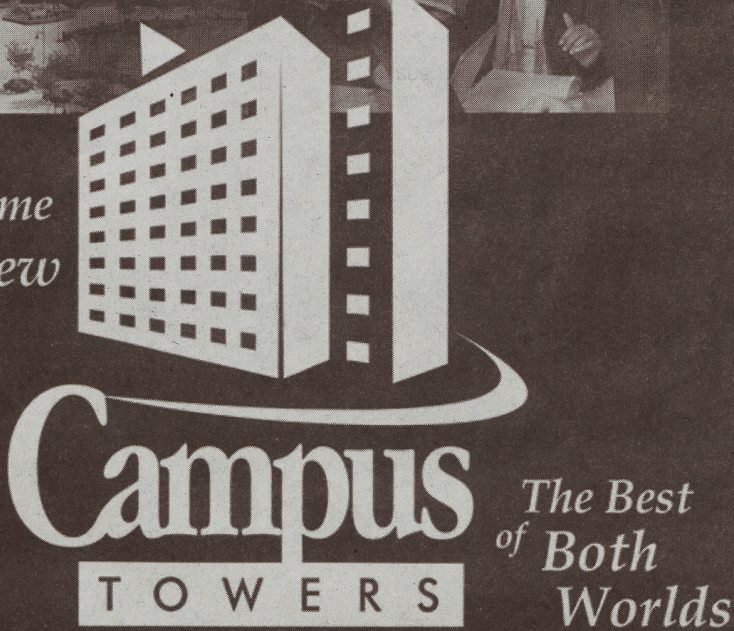
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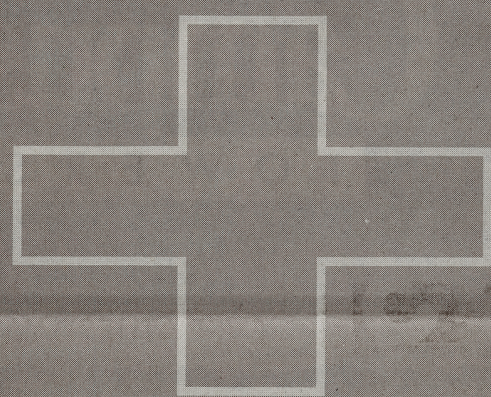
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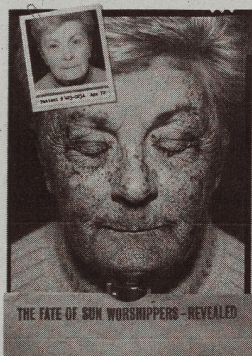
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Pulse

{ Arts & Entertainment }

Horoscopes:

Aries
It's unlikely you'll get everything you want if you go after it all by yourself. So relax, and let somebody else go and get it for you.

Taurus
Proceed to take care of whatever issues you've been contemplating. Move quickly now, while the time is right. Put your plan into action.

Gemini
You're lucky, especially if you're working with a good advisor. Don't even try to come up with all the answers on your own.

Cancer
Matters seem to be going well, all things considered. Continue to fix up your own place before taking on new projects.

Leo
Your luck improves dramatically as you improve your own skills. Winning in just about everything gets a lot easier, too.

Virgo
Shopping should go well, especially for household items. You could find an excellent deal in real estate too, if you want some.

Libra
The subject that was confusing not very long ago is beginning to seem very easy. It's amazing how that happens.

Scorpio
You're still gaining money without doing any more work. Obviously, you have a system figured out that works for you.

Sagittarius
Your honesty is appreciated now. As you well know, that isn't always the case. So educate them clearly, simply and with confidence.

Capricorn
You'll be asked to reveal some things you've kept private, to advance your career. The higher you go, the more transparent you'll have to become, so keep it clean.

Aquarius
You need to hang out for a while with people who will renew your sense of humor. You need psychic rejuvenation. Do something downright goofy.

Pisces
You have hidden resources you may have forgotten about. Some of them may be stuff that's greatly increased in value. Find out how much you really have.

Drink Recipes:

El Presidente
2 1/2 ounces light rum
2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
2 tablespoons pineapple juice
Dash grenadine
Ice
Slice lime, for garnish

Combine the rum, lime juice, pineapple juice, and grenadine in a cocktail shaker filled 2/3 full of ice. Cover and shake well, then strain into an ice filled old-fashioned glass. Garnish with the lime slice.

Chili-tini
1 lime, juiced
5 ounces gin
1 ounce dry vermouth
15 drops favorite chili or hot sauce

Brush five martini glasses with half lime juice and freeze. Shake the gin and vermouth with ice in a shaker. Get glasses out of freezer or empty ice out of glasses. Pour a few drops of hot sauce into the bottom of each martini glass. Pour gin mixture into the glasses. Stir very lightly and serve.

Please drink responsibly.

Gaming soars to new technological heights



The Nintendo Wii offers players a phenomenal interactive experience.

The new generation of game systems

SARAH CAMPBELL
FEATURES EDITOR

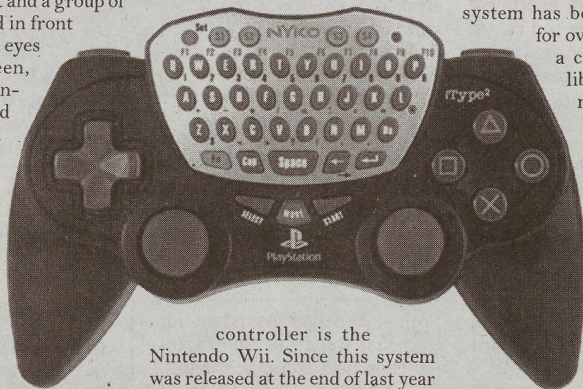
It's Friday night and a group of friends are crowded in front of a television their eyes glued to the screen, fingers slowly beginning to numb and feet asleep from being positioned in the same chair for hours on end. This scene has become commonplace in the world of students who are searching for ways to occupy their time within the comfort of their own homes.

These days' students are spending vast amounts of time in their residences playing all sorts of video games. Now, more than ever before there are endless options when it comes to gaming, but some may wonder which system offers the best quality for their buck.

The hottest video gaming systems on the market right now include the Nintendo Wii, Micro-

soft Xbox 360, Sony Playstation Portable and Nintendo DS Lite.

Known for its exciting interactive qualities that allow players to actually participate in the action thanks to a motion sensitive



controller is the Nintendo Wii. Since this system was released at the end of last year people have been flocking to local stores vying for a chance to purchase the popular system, which at around \$250 costs considerably less than other popular systems.

The Wii currently boasts a game collection of around 60 games. Players need not fret if they still cherish their older Nintendo GameCube games since they are also compatible with the Wii.

For those in the market for a more high end gaming system,

Microsoft's Xbox 360 is sure to satisfy any appetite that is craving quality graphics and integrated online gaming capabilities.

At around \$400 the Xbox 360 offers serious gamers the best deal for their buck. Since the system has been on the market for over a year it features a considerably larger library of games than many other systems.

However, those interested in gaming online with the Xbox 360 should note that doing so is not free. The cost of a one year subscription is a stifling \$50.

One step up from the Xbox 360 is the new Sony Playstation 3, which was released at the end of last year. The Playstation 3 offers gamers a free outlet for online gaming opportunities and a built-in Blu-ray DVD player for the technologically inclined.

A major disadvantage to the Playstation 3 is the price tag, which rings it at around \$600. Another

see GAMES page A9



Cover your ears

From the disappointing to just plain awful

JOHN BOSCO
SENIOR WRITER

As promised, this week I'm looking at last year's music in a slightly different way - The albums that just didn't make it, and, truthfully, weren't even close to making it.

Each album has slightly different reasons for making the list, be in a drain of inspiration, a lack of talent or a host of other reasons... I'll just let the list speak for itself.

1. The Decemberists - *The Crane Wife*: First off, I love the Decemberists. Colin Meloy is a musical genius and has a great voice, both literally and poetically. But this album rings less like a Decemberists album and more like a... hodgepodge of electric crap. The biggest thing that bugs me about this one? The band is getting huge credit for stepping outside themselves and adding the electric instruments - I just happen to think that it doesn't work for Meloy's vocal style.

2. Bruce Springsteen - *We Shall Overcome: The Seeger Sessions*: I love the Boss, too. Springsteen always brings it home for me, except last year. I don't know if it's because Springsteen is a true from-the-streets-rocker, covering folk tunes on this album, but the end result was cheesy and seemed overall un-hip, the antithesis of what he stands for.

3. Sufjan Stevens - *The Avalanche: Outtakes and Extras from the Illinois Album*: Alright, already. A few good tracks on this one, and one billion different versions of "Chicago." Seriously though, I would have liked to have seen a new state from Stevens, instead of a re-hashing of outtakes from *Illinois*, which was packed with tons of tracks already. If anything, this album proved he definitely chose the right songs to put on the album... these ones don't do it.

4. Mars Volta - *Amputechture*: I'm in love with Omar Rodriguez-Lopez's guitar playing style, but on my first listen of this one, I thought it was horrible. The second time around, it grew on me a little, but not enough to save it from making this list. Maybe it was the lyrics or the track order, but this one falls short.

5. The Strokes - *First Impressions of Earth*: The Strokes aren't a bad band. I like their music, but my

first impression of *First Impressions* was that it's too long, too drawn out, and not as catchy as their past albums. Cut off a few tracks, and then maybe you've got an OK album, but even still, they've yet to tap the brilliance of their first full-length.

6. Neil Young - *Living With War*: I know Young is a protest singer, but I think this album is, at least lyrically, his worst, and the worst I've heard all year. It's too forced and too obvious, like that bad Rilo Kiley anti-Bush tune from their last album, it's lame and bad (assuming you can ever consider protest songs not lame and not bad.)

7. Willie Nelson - *Songbird*: This sounds like Ryan Adams, not Willie Nelson. No surprise, Adams' production led to his band, The Cardinals, backing Nelson and ruining what, I think, could have been a major comeback album for the aging Nelson. Vocally solid, but the arrangements didn't impress me.

8. Scissor Sisters - *Ta-dah!*: Too much of this album sounded similar. There were a lot of creative tunes and good styling that reminded me of some Paul McCartney and Wings albums, but in the end, it wound up a slightly bland, over-the-top production.

9. Matisyahu - *Youth*: I just don't like him. Plain and simple, I think Matisyahu is awful and it's a shame that people think it's so amazing that he's this spiritual rapper. Not so impressive, sorry.

10. Matthew Friedberger - *Winter Women/Holy Ghost Language School*: This was a hard one for me to put on the list, but I think it's true. I love everything he's done with the Fiery Furnaces, and this album wasn't so much bad as it is disappointing - maybe I was expecting something else, but it irks me that I can't listen to any of the songs from these albums by themselves. Still, not a bad buy, if you're looking for something that's a little more long-play than the Fiery Furnaces stuff.

Still, hopefully 2007 will bring better luck for these artists and others. There's plenty of time left in this year to have some great albums and undiscovered gems. Let's just hope it's a good year for music.

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

Web site of the week:

Colbertnation.com speaks to the world

LIZ FULTON
SENIOR WRITER

If you have ever caught an episode of "The Colbert Report" (the 't' is silent) and it didn't satisfy your daily dose of Stephen, let your fingers do the walking and check out ColbertNation.com.

"The Colbert Report" is a complement to "The Daily Show" where Stephen Colbert anchors a thirty-minute news show packed with facts about Congressmen and the righteous right.

Independent of Comedy Central, ColbertNation.com is maintained by a Colbert fanatic, Avery. In the top left-hand corner, the androgynous web master has placed a countdown of when the next show airs. Avery also does a recap and a preview for nearly every episode.

The site's décor is painted in the patriotic hues of red, white and blue. A courageous eagle swoops onto the page regally presiding over Colbert's land.

The Colbert Nation also provides its visitors with the chance to purchase merchandise promot-

ing the greatest show on television. They sell three different types of T-shirts, a classic reproduction of Colbert's self portrait and his comic book superhero, and a window sticker. The popularity of "The Colbert Report" is so widespread that often the products stay sold out.

Dedicated fans might also want to try their hand at Stephen Colbert's green screen challenges. Every so often, Colbert will create a video of himself standing in front of a green screen and challenge his viewers to compose a video of him doing heroic things. These can be viewed on the show or the Web site.

Basically, this Web site is a must for anyone obsessed with Stephen Colbert. Avery posts many quips on the episodes you might miss and there is a message board that allows you to chat with other fans.

It will not only tell you everything you need to know about the life and times of Colbert, but your time will be filled perusing all of the interesting sections that the site has to offer. On behalf of Stephen Colbert in regards to the Web site paying homage to him, "You're welcome."

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

Favorite Feature:

On notice/Dead to me: Pretty much any noun that does something to annoy Colbert's world, he places them first "on notice." If they further continue to cause him distress, they then move over to the "dead to me" column. Notable members of this list include: Grizzly bears, Lutherans and irony.

The rebirth of the thriller

'Children of Men' redefines a genre

BEN HARRIS
STAFF WRITER

Early January has the distinction of being a very slow period in cinema. Usually studios put out leftovers from the late December Oscar rush or mediocre fillers until late February. This is why *Children of Men* is such a welcome and much needed surprise.

The film redefines the concept of the thriller and sets a high bar for the mixture of creativity and overall entertainment value in a thriller. Thrillers come in all shapes and sizes.

On one hand there is *Seven*, the very well done detective thriller, and on the other hand there is *The Sixth Sense*, possibly the only good movie to ever come out of a wannabe Hitchcock. The thriller genre is the most diverse group of movies and there are many films vying to become the best. While it may not be the best thriller of all time, *Children of Men* certainly deserves its spot among the top 15.

The film's plot is original yet disturbingly prophetic. It is set in the year 2027 in England and Earth is in a state of utter chaos. There is constant warfare, severe prosecution of immigrants and worst of all women have become infertile.

Clive Owen, the man who rightfully should have been James Bond, stars as Theo. Owen is excellent as always and in this film he does a great job of showing his ability to play both dramatic and action roles in the same film.

Julianne Moore, known for a variety of roles from *The Hours* to *Hannibal* to even *Jurassic Park: The Lost World*. Moore's role is very pivotal yet surprisingly short.



Clive Owen stars alongside Julianne Moore in the thriller *Children of Men*.

The great Michael Caine, star of such masterful films as *Zulu* and *The Man who Would be King*, stars as a political cartoonist who plays a father figure to Theo.

The supporting cast is made up of largely unknown actors although these actors do a great job of keeping up with their heavyweight leads and holding up the story.

In the movie, the state of near martial law and the constant chaos seems very much like what the world is heading towards in reality. The cultural and social fabrics of the world are constantly being unraveled and destroyed in the inferno known as ignorance and arrogance. The inhuman prosecution of immigrants is a central focal point of the film.

It is hard to turn on the news without hearing something about the immigration debate. Each day there are more restrictions put on immigrants and at the current pace it is very likely the world will

end up very much like the world in the film where immigrants are herded into detention camps and slaughtered like animals for the slightest infraction. Humanity is destroying itself and instead of rectifying the problem with meaningful and efficient solutions, politicians and activism groups attempt to disguise the problem with endless rhetoric.

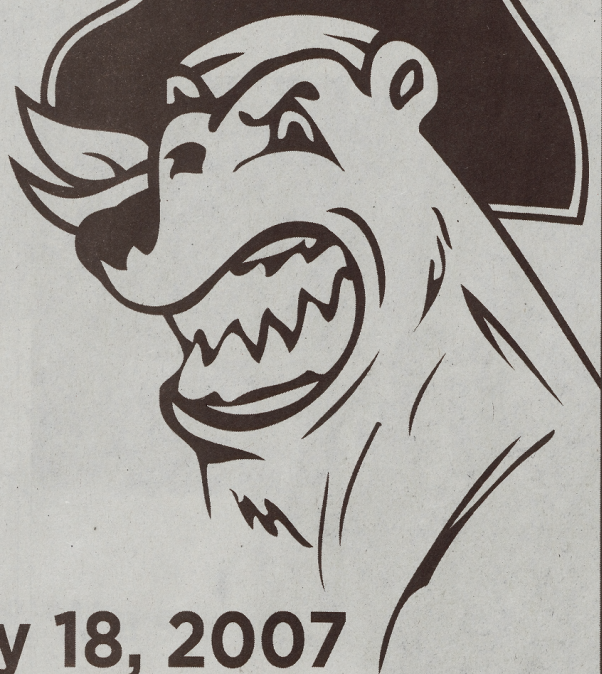
Children of Men is a breath of fresh air in a blackened smoke stack. Its creativity along with its excellent acting and directing make the film an excellent start to what should be a very exciting year in cinema. The film transcends the typical drab of many movies and enters the much sought after realm of cinematic art.

Overall Grade: A

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

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GAMES continued from A8

drawback is the small library of games that are compatible with it; this number was just around 10 by the end of last year.

Those who love to travel and do so often may find themselves lusting for a system that can go wherever their heart desires. This is where the portable systems come into play.

For a mere \$130 a Nintendo DS Lite can be purchased. The DS Lite features two three inch screens, a touch screen, a rechargeable battery and Wi-Fi connectivity for online and local networking.

A major advantage for those purchasing this system is that Nintendo Game Boy Advance games are compatible with the DS; therefore the choices are endless when it comes to picking a game.

The Sony Playstation Portable is available for around \$200 which is a bit pricier than the DS Lite, but in the long-run a much better deal. The PSP allows owners to play MP3s and videos from memory stick cards or UMD discs, which can be purchased for about \$20.

Game systems are becoming a large source of entertainment in our society. From the young who play after school with friends to the college students who spend sleepless

nights battling to get to the next level, it is clear that gaming is here to stay.

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

Out of the box

Comparison of recently released game consoles:

Sony PlayStation 3

Advanced processor, Blu-ray Disc drive that plays high-definition games and movies, wireless Internet connection



Cost: \$500 for basic system with 20-gigabyte hard drive; \$600 for 60-gigabyte model with built-in wireless

Microsoft Xbox 360

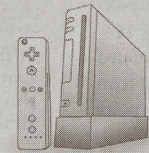
High-speed processor, separate graphics processor, high-definition video; those with high-speed Internet access can download games from Xbox Live Marketplace



Cost: \$300 for basic system; \$400 with 20-gigabyte hard drive, headset and wireless controller

Nintendo Wii

Unique wand that mimics motion, such as swinging a tennis racket, to control games



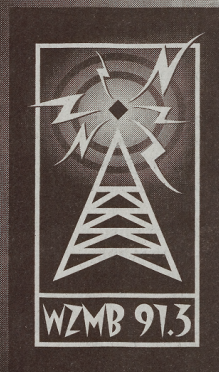
Cost: \$250

Source: Sony, Nintendo, Microsoft
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Sports

{ECU's Inside Source}

BY THE NUMBERS 2

Practices a week for the ECU men's ice hockey team (9-1, 9-0 in BRHC, 18 points); the Pirates practice every Tuesday and Thursday at 9 p.m. at Bladez On Ice, located on the corner of Red Banks Road and Evans Street

9-4

The ECU men's ice hockey team's regular season conference record for the 2005-06 season, accumulating 18 points; the team has equaled the win and points total from last year at the midway point in the season

3RD

Seed the ECU men's ice hockey team received going into the Blue Ridge Hockey Conference playoffs in 2005-2006 out of the Southwest Division; the top three seeds from both the Southwest and Northeast divisions make the conference tournament; the Pirates upset no. 2 VMI (5-2) and no. 1 Clemson (5-3) to make it to the conference championship against Richmond; ECU lost the championship game 6-4, ending the season as runner-up in the conference and Southwest Division Champion

88.8

Percentage of shots on goal that Brent Falcon, starting goalie for the ECU men's ice hockey team, has saved; Falcon has logged a whooping 540 minutes in the net in nine starts as goalie, saving 222 of an attempted 250 shots

75

Number of strikeouts in 83.2 innings pitched for new Pirate closer Shane Matthews; as part of ECU's starting rotation last year, Matthews went 5-3 with a 4.73 ERA; Matthews (who was drafted by the San Francisco Giants in the 2006 MLB draft, but decided to stay at ECU) is ideal for the closer role, and thrived in the position playing for the Cape Cod League in the off-season

33-26

Record of the ECU baseball team in 2006, missing NCAA regional play for the first time since 1998; the Pirates reached the Columbia Super Regional, in Columbia S.C. in 2004, losing a best-of-three series to the South Carolina Gamecocks in two games

They said it

"I don't think I could coach a losing hockey team. I have the up most respect for the basketball coaches because I couldn't coach a team that had losing record and I have a real problem with that. Winning becomes contagious, and guess what, losing becomes contagious too."

-Head Coach Wayne Cox, speaking on how he envisions success in the second half of the season.

"I certainly wasn't pleased with the way things ended last year and my expectations are high for this season. This team is hungry right now and I'm seeing a different sense of focus with them."

-ECU baseball Head Coach Billy Godwin

Pirates deck competition halfway through season

Men's ice hockey team seeks Blue Ridge Championship

JARED JACKSON
STAFF WRITER



In only their second year of competition (last year the team went 9-1), the ECU men's ice hockey team sits in first place in the Blue Ridge Hockey Conference (BRHC) southwest division and are on pace to not only win the league championship, but might even go to nationals.

Head Coach Wayne Cox feels that the team is in control of its own destiny.

"The first half of the season was a success," said Cox. "The only thing we can really control is our own future in respect to winning hockey games. We are 9-0 in the Blue Ridge. The initial goal is to win the Blue Ridge. From there is to get to nationals and compete well in nationals."

Cox also thought the Pirates' success in the first half of the season set the team up for great things in the second half, even though he admits that there are still some tough games ahead.

"If you look upon our season as like playing a golf hole, what we have done over the first half of the season, basically, is to put the tee shot 300 yards down the middle," Cox said. "We have 150 yards in but we still got a couple of traps around us but we're in pretty darn good position right now."

The first half of the season wasn't without a low moment, however. The Pirates dropped a 5-4 decision to Loyola College in which junior forward Corey Fleitz thought they should have won.

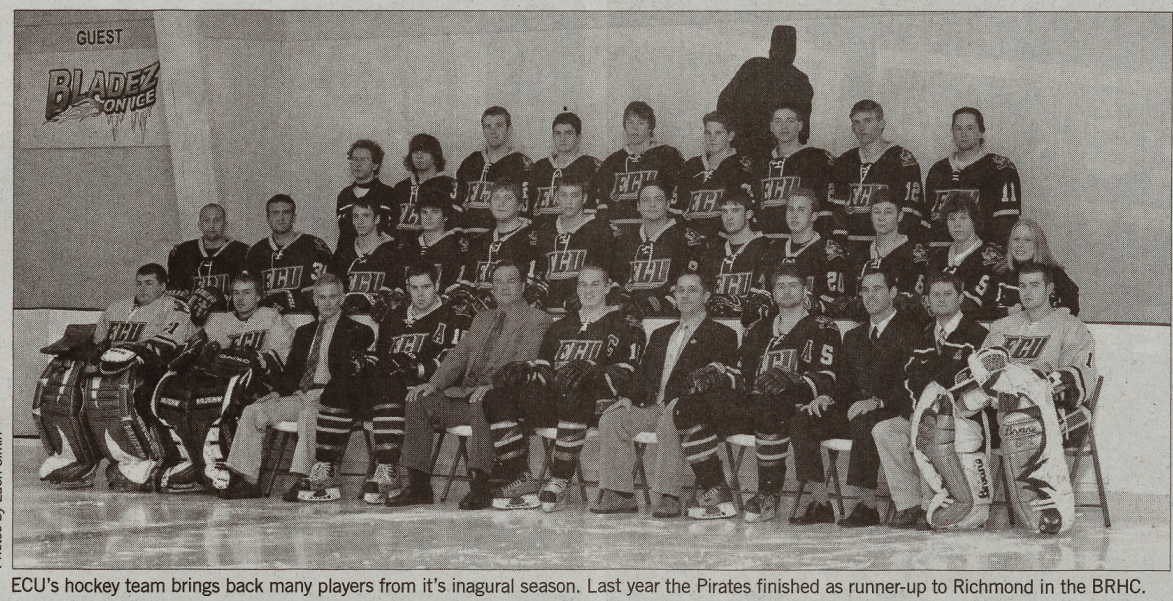
"We're 9-1. We had a tough loss against a team we should have beat (Loyola). Other than that, we had a great first semester" said Fleitz, who had five goals and eight assists in first semester play.

Statistical wise the Pirates were very dominating, tallying 18 points in BRHC action. The team scored 80 goals, while only allowing 31. Freshmen Kyle Johnson tallied eight goals and five assists over the 10 games played. Freshmen Dan Duda and Mitchell Sears, scored six goals to go along with an outstanding 11 assists each. Brent Falcon, the team president as well as the



The Pirates of the ice prepare for the Canes Cup in Raleigh, hosted by N.C. State.

see HOCKEY page A11



ECU's hockey team brings back many players from its inaugural season. Last year the Pirates finished as runner-up to Richmond in the BRHC.

Pirates hit the field with a clean slate

Pirates begin preparation for upcoming season

RONNIE WOODWARD
SPORTS WRITER

The ECU baseball team conducted its first official practice of the 2007 season Wednesday afternoon at Clark-LeClair Stadium. The spirited three hour session marked the first time the entire team has practiced together since closing fall practice in early December. Coach Billy Godwin was excited to begin his second season as Head Coach of the Pirates.

"The intensity was great for the first day and we had a very solid practice," said Godwin. "This is a great time for our players, coaches and fans and we're just excited to get things going again."

ECU finished last season with a 33-26 record, missing NCAA Regional play for the first time since 1998. Godwin said that the team had a tremendous fall practice and the difference between last year's team and this year's is night

and day at this point.

"I certainly wasn't pleased with the way things ended last year and my expectations are high for this season," said Godwin, who enjoyed great success at Louisburg College before coming to ECU. "This team is hungry right now and I'm seeing a different sense of focus with them."

The Pirates will look to rely on their pitching this season. Godwin has strengthened the bullpen by moving pitcher Shane Matthews to the closer role. Matthews has been a dependable starting pitcher for ECU since the 2004 season, but enjoyed great success in the Cape Cod League this past summer pitching out of the bullpen. Matthews is returning to ECU for his junior season despite being drafted by the San Francisco Giants in the 2006 MLB draft.

"Pitching is setting up to be one of our strengths," Godwin said. "I feel real good about our bullpen situation, it will be nice to roll Shane out there in the ninth inning. Matthews is looking to carry

see BASEBALL page A11



The Pirate pitchers loosen up at the first practice of the season outside Keith Le-Clair Stadium.

ECU men's basketball team gets caught in a hurricane

(AP) — Rod Earls scored 25 points, hitting 7-of-9 3-point attempts, as Tulsa pulled away from ECU in the second half for a 67-49 victory on Wednesday in the Conference USA opener for both basketball teams.

Tulsa (11-3), which has won all 11 of its home games this season, also received 12 points and eight assists from point guard Brett McDade and 10 points from freshman Ben Uzoh.

Darrell Jenkins scored 15 points and fellow guard Jeremy Ingram added nine to lead East Carolina (5-9).

The Pirates' duo was hot through the first 25 minutes, as ECU shot 60 percent and trailed 33-32 at the half. ECU then made four of its first five shots in the second half.

The score was 42-42 until a short jumper by Tulsa's Charles Ramsdell — his first basket in seven attempts — started a 12-2 run that gave the Golden Hurricane command at 54-44 with seven minutes left.

A 3-point play on a twisting drive by McDade gave Tulsa a 57-48 lead with 5:14 left. Earls blew the game open with consecutive 3-pointers from the corner that made it 65-48 with 2:10 to go.

ECU played a packed-in zone the entire first half. Tulsa responded by attempting 20 of its 28 first-half shots from behind the 3-point line.

Tulsa finished 11-of-29 on 3-pointers for 37.9 percent, slightly better than its overall field-goal percentage of 37 percent. The Golden Hurricane also forced 20 turnovers and outrebounded the Pirates 34-30.

After threatening to become the first team to shoot over 50 percent against Tulsa since Doug Wojcik became the Golden Hurricane's head coach last season, the Pirates finished at 46.9 percent, making just 5-of-17 in the second half (29 percent).

Earls, a junior guard who sat out last season with a broken foot, leads Tulsa with a scoring average of just over 12 points per game, but has scored 47 points in the past two games.

FINAL SCOREBOARD

	1	2	T
ECU (5-9)	32	17	49
Tulsa (11-3)	33	34	67

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HOCKEY continued from A10

main goalie, totaled 222 saves to go along with only 28 goals allowed on 250 shot attempts.

Assistant coach Todd Carter didn't think the team needed to change a thing in the second half of season. He thought they should continue playing in the exact same fashion.

"You certainly don't have to reinvent the wheel said Carter. If we were 3-7, we would certainly have to change something, but right now, like Coach Cox said, we just keep building on our successes and grow from there."

Coach Cox agreed with Carter, but he would like to see the freshmen play to their own level.

"If there is one thing that I would like to see changed, and it's very minor, is that we have a lot of freshman that contribute significantly to the team," Cox said. "I'd like to see the freshmen play to their own level and not necessarily to the level of competition we are playing against. If this team plays at the level they are capable of playing, we shouldn't lose hockey games. If we play at 85 percent of our

capacity, we would beat teams in the top two or three in the south easily. We have that kind of talent."

Even with all the success the Pirates have had in only their first two years, team president and goalie Brent Falcon admitted that he did not envision success this fast.

"Going into our first season we were excited just to have a team, and by our estimation a much more talented team than we have ever anticipated for the first year said Falcon. We were absolutely blown away when we had between 300-400 fans at every home game that year. We knew we would win games, but we had no idea that anyone would care about ice hockey in eastern North Carolina. The response the media, university and community showed was unimaginable. It feels great to know that we have created something that will be a part of ECU for years to come. It's clear to us that an ice hockey team is something ECU and the Greenville community wanted and has embraced and we will

continue to do everything we can to put the highest caliber hockey team on the ice year in and year out," said Falcon.

In a sign of just how big the hockey craze as become over the last two years here at ECU, Pirate Radio 1250 is doing a promotion in conjunction with the men's basketball team calling for a "blackout." UBE will be selling special black "Arrrrrrgh!" T-shirts sponsored by Pirate Radio 1250 in hopes that those in attendance at both events will wear the shirts creating the "blackout." Pirate Radio will also be broadcasting the six home hockey games this semester.

The Pirates return to action this weekend as they compete in the Canes Cup in Raleigh. They will be facing stiff competition in Duke, N.C. State and Virginia Tech in three straight days of action. The team returns to Bladex on Ice on Jan. 19 to play a huge two game divisional series with Appalachian State.

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

BASEBALL continued from A10

the momentum and confidence he gained in the summer into the 2007 season.

"I'm the closer now and I'm real happy with that," Matthews said of his new role. "I also think we have more depth with our pitching staff this year and that will play out better for us."

Both Godwin and Matthews said that even though the pitching staff will be strong this year, they are confident in the team's ability to hit the ball and the offense could surprise some people.

ECU lost two important hitters in departed seniors Jake Smith and Adam Witter. Smith and Witter combined for 27

home runs and 107 RBIs for the Pirates last year. Smith won the 2006 Johnny Bench Award, which goes to the nation's top collegiate catcher. He will likely be replaced by David Forbes, a transfer from Campbell University, or Corey Kemp, a transfer from Young Harris Junior College. Godwin admitted that it's hard to replace a player like Smith but he is confident in both players' ability.

"Forbes and Kemp have done a great job and to be honest it's not really one of my biggest concerns right now," Godwin said. "I feel confident that they will step in and do the things we need them to do." The team will practice and

scrimmage against each other for almost four more weeks, and Godwin is emphasizing fundamentals as his team prepares for the upcoming season.

"I always try to emphasize the little things and that's usually what makes the difference in the successful programs," said Godwin. "We just have to do the little things correctly and do them better than anybody else we play."

The Pirates first game is scheduled for Feb. 2 when it hosts Liberty for a weekend series.

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

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*not donated in over 6 months.
Come and get your share of the money.

WIN \$5,000 in TRAVEL FOR A SPRING BREAK TRIP OF A LIFETIME



How Do I Win?

- ✔ Use your ECU Debit Card now through Feb. 28th. Every purchase earns an automatic entry to win.
- ✔ Purchase a ticket through StudentUniverse.com with promo code **HIGHERONE2** to double your entries.
- ✔ Sign up for the StudentUniverse newsletter for an instant entry.

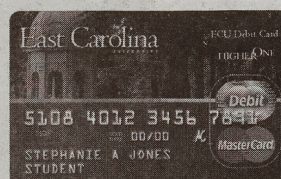
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GO! Let us know you saw this ad. Go to www.higherone.com/springbreak and use this special promo code to receive another chance to win!

PROMO CODE:
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*NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. Sweepstakes runs January 2, 2007, 12:00:01 a.m. Eastern Time (ET) through February 28, 2007, 11:59:59 p.m. ET ("Sweepstakes Period"). For official rules and alternate method of entry visit www.higherone.com/studentuniverse

Do you have what it takes to represent ECU?

It's time to show your skill in 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

Spades

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

Table Tennis

Sunday, January 21, 2007
4:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
MSC Social Room

Chess

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

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>

Mendenhall Student Center Recreations 23 Mendenhall Student Center (252) 328-4738