The EastCarolinian

YOUR INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 82, ISSUE 47

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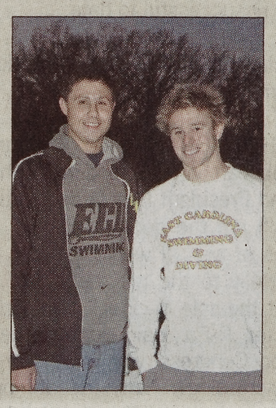
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31, 2007

Traveling just got a whole lot easier thanks to Travelocity.com, read a review of the Web site.....**Page A4**

The While At War art show will feature student works in Mendenhall. Find out when it will take place and how to submit entries.....**Page A4**



Freshmen standouts Blake Briese and Jeff Miller have given the ECU men's swimming and diving team a boost all season, en route to a 7-5 record. Find out how the Pirates will get help from their youngsters at the C-USA championships in Houston.....**Page A5**

Most students at ECU wouldn't expect a university right by the coast and five hours away from the Appalachian Mountains to have a club ski and snowboarding team, but in fact we do. Read more.....**Page A5**

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New off-campus housing database will be available to students online

Contributed Photo

Members of SGA witness the signing of a contract between ECU's Dr. Marilyn Sheerer, and Off-Campus Partners' J.W. "Duke" Jones.

Service contracted through Off-Campus Partners

SARAH BELL
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Starting this spring, students who want to live off campus will have a new resource available to them—an online search database.

The Center for Off-Campus and Community Living at ECU currently offers off-campus housing searches offline, but to better serve students, the Center for Off-Campus and Community Living thought service would best be utilized online.

To create such a service, the Center for Off-Campus and Community Living contracted with Off-Campus Partners to offer an online search database for off-campus housing.

The contract, which has been in development for over a year, was signed by Dr. Marilyn Sheerer, vice chancellor for Student Life, and J. W. "Duke" Jones, chief executive officer of Off-Campus Partners, and witnessed by students and members of SGA.

Off-Campus Partners is, as their Web site states, "a partner with universities to make the off-campus housing market more efficient. Our products and services bring students, property managers, and universities together to improve the process for everyone involved."

Justin Gross, assistant director at the Center for Off-Campus and Community Living, said the database service was acquired to make the process of finding off campus housing easier and more educational for both in-state and out-of-state students.

"On a regular basis [students] do not or cannot find adequate means to get a well-rounded perspective on all the off-campus housing available to them. They get word of mouth... go and compare... but with over 100 different apartment complexes in Greenville, we think this is a great resource for students to take advantage of," said Gross.

"Especially students from out of state," he added.

Gross said that although searching for houses for rent, rather than apartments, was not the primary purpose of the database, he hoped property owners would utilize the service as well.

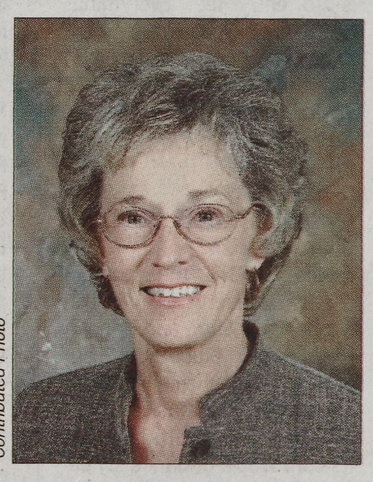
"The more property owners we can get on there the better it is going to be, especially since so many students take advantage of living in the neighborhoods near campus," Gross said.

In addition to searching for housing, the online service will provide educational information on off-campus living, such as Greenville City Ordinances.

"One of the conditions we're working on with the vendors is that

see **HOUSING** page A2

Sheerer to remain as vice chancellor for Student Life



Contributed Photo

SHEERER
Interim position filled

ECU NEWS BUREAU

Dr. Marilyn Sheerer, a former dean of the College of Education who has also held campus-wide leadership roles at ECU, has been named vice chancellor for Student Life.

Chancellor Steve Ballard, announcing the appointment, said, "Marilyn Sheerer is one of the best leaders I have known in my higher education career. She has a long history of sterling achievements, and she is admired and respected across the campus and across the state. She has boundless energy and enthusiasm, and she knows how to get things done. She will do a great job."

Ballard added that Sheerer received a strong endorsement from student leaders and enjoys close working relationships with student organizations.

"Chancellor Ballard is real big on hearing from the students," said M. Cole Jones, SGA president. "He contacted me to round up student leaders to meet and discuss with him about... pursuing a national search or keeping the current interim [Sheerer]."

Cole went on to call Sheerer "impressive," outlining her dedication to students.

"[Sheerer] has been extreme visible and accessible, so we were excited to say she was the person for the job. She's here for the students," said Cole. "Our congress passed a resolution saying that as the student body we support the appointment of Dr. Sheerer."

Sheerer will oversee many non-academic areas of the university, including housing and dining, recreation services, the Student Health Service, the student bus system, sororities and fraternities, the student center, and the campus police department. In addition, Ballard said, she will play an important role in re-energizing ECU's leadership programs and expanding service and engagement opportunities.

Sheerer said, "I am honored to be selected for this position. This is an exciting time to be part of East Carolina and the staff members in this division are outstanding. I look forward to helping enhance students' experiences on our campus."

Ballard said, "I've worked with Marilyn for two and a half years on a variety of problem- solving and capacity-building opportunities. ECU is lucky to have her, and I am delighted that she will continue to be a member of the university's leadership team. Student Life will be an innovative organization under her leadership and she will be a model for how great leaders work together."

Sheerer joined ECU as a faculty member in 1996 and was named dean of education in 1998. She has been serving as interim vice chancellor for Student Life since last summer.

Sheerer holds a bachelor's degree from Bloomsburg State College in Pennsylvania, a master's in student personnel in higher education from Syracuse University, and a Ph.D. in curriculum and supervision from Ohio University.

Churches welcome community-rebuilding efforts

Photos.com

Campus Ministries is planning to collect items for Memorial Baptist Church's food pantry.

Campus Ministries work together to help

CARMIN BLACK
STAFF WRITER

Suspected arson fires that broke out almost two weeks ago left one church demolished and the other scrambling to make repairs. Now both churches are working to rebuild what they have lost.

For the past two weeks the Greenville police department has been working tirelessly to piece together the why's and how's of the Memorial Baptist Church and the Unity Free Will Baptist Church Fires.

Both fires occurred late at night on Jan. 13. Each church has suffered tremendous loss from severe fire and water damage. In fact, Memorial Baptist has calculated at least $1 million in damages. Unity Free Will Baptist Church suffered $50 thousand in fire damage.

However, church financing is not the only area that has been heavily impacted by this tragedy. Monetary losses aside, this incident seems to have made an even deeper impact on the congregation members and attendees who are just now becoming able to deal with the reality that anyone would want to harm their place of worship.

"The thing for me was I have only been actively involved there for six months or so, so when it happened it took a place of my heart away, and I can't imagine someone who has been at that church their whole life. It has to be hard for them to know what to do next," said Gwen Morris, president of Baptist Campus Ministries and regular attendee of Memorial Baptist Church.

Figuring out what to do next is now the biggest concern of each church. Unity Free Will Baptist Minister Jeff Manning has made a point to let the community know that his thoughts and prayers are with his congregation, but especially with the leaders and members of Memorial Baptist, as he feels they have suffered a much greater loss than his church.

"They have more need than we have. If people want to help us out we won't deny them the blessing of giving, but if there is more effort, then go to Memorial," said Manning.

Selfless acts of kindness have been displayed all over the Greenville community in response to the fires.

"I've appreciated churches and organizations in our community who have called and told us they were praying for us. This has brought the community together. What was meant for bad, God has used for good," said Randy McKinney, pastor at Memorial Baptist Church.

Many members feel it is this type of positive attitude that is needed to make a speedy recovery from the fire incidents.

And in response to both churches' willingness to receive help, organizations here at ECU are on the forefront of finding opportunities to lend a helping hand. Many groups are meeting weekly to try to come up with fundraising ideas to help the churches, especially Memorial Baptist. Various campus groups are willing to get involved to raise whatever funds the churches need to get back on their feet.

"We are certainly open to campus ministries and different groups putting fundraisers together to help raise money... the ECU athletic department has offered physical labor," said McKinney.

"We have talked about fundraising through a dinner by cooking and using proceeds from tickets to fund the churches. Also, in addition, whoever attends would bring preschool appropriate supplies," said Kerri Hefner, president of the Campus Ministries Association.

Hefner also said that as of now nothing is totally set in stone, as the members of the Campus Ministries Association are currently working to better educate themselves on the scope of need.

Currently, Campus Ministries Association is planning to collect funds and items for the Memorial Baptist Church's preschool program and food pantry.

Most groups are waiting patiently for church insurance adjusters to finish calculating all costs for repairs. Once each church has their figures tallied up, community volunteers can hit the ground running and do their part to overcome this tragedy.

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

ECU Board of Trustees approves tuition as well as fee increase

Final decision to be made this spring

ELISA BIZZOTTO
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Last month, the ECU Board of Trustees approved a 5.6 percent increase in tuition and fees at their Dec. 15 meeting, following a decision made last October by the UNC Board of Governors capping tuition and fee increases for the individual UNC system campuses at 6.5 percent.

"The 6.5 percent cap allowed for a maximum tuition and fee increase for ECU of $236 for the 2007-08 school year," said John Durham, assistant secretary to the Board of Trustees.

"The Chancellor's Executive Council agreed to split the increase 40 percent tuition and 60 percent fees, or $96 for tuition and $140 for fees."

Because of a $21 shift in fees however, students will only see a $119 increase in their fee costs, Durham said.

The proposal was brought before the ECU Student Government Association after its approval by the Chancellor's Executive Council. Following was the approval by SGA Congress at their Nov. 13 meeting when representatives from different organizations in need of the increase in funds introduced their proposals.

According to Durham, while the fee increase required a student vote, the tuition increase did not.

The increase in fees will be applied towards student government and life, health and recreational services, athletics and technology.

According to ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard, the increase in tuition will be applied towards financial aid and generate close to $1.12 million for ECU students.

"Last year, ECU led, hands down, in the percentage of campus-based tuition that went to financial aid assistance," said Ballard. "All of us should be proud of that."

If the decision is finalized this March when brought before the UNC Board of Governors, it will go into effect in August and will be applied to costs for the upcoming academic year.

Michael Marshall, a graduate student of the Counselor and Adult Education Program, supports the decision and said that if the increase goes into effect, it will not affect him because he will have graduated before next fall.

"As colleges get better, you would expect there to be an increase in costs to make it better," said Marshall.

However, for students who will be here next year to see the increase, not all will favor the idea of continuing to pay more money.

"I'm a little annoyed, let's put it that way," said Jeff Ogonowski, a graduate student of the Music Education Program, about the recent approval.

"I am a Distance Education student and an on-campus student so I get hit with both fees. It's been a headache."

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

News

{ Campus & Community }

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tiny Art Show Submissions
Emerge Gallery & Art Center
11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Emerge Gallery & Art Center announces the sixth annual Tiny Art Show!
Everything in the show is 5x7 or smaller. Works of all mediums are featured. All artwork is priced $5, $10 or $25. Anyone can enter and there is no entry fee. Everything has to be 5x7 or smaller. For more information or for an entry form e-mail heather@emergegallery.com or call 551-6947.

Dance 2007
McGinnis Theatre
Starts at 8 p.m.
Dance 2007, the annual dance concert by ECU's School of Theatre and Dance, is the only place you can find both Spanish Flamenco dance and the Russian ballet, *The Firebird*. Known for its cornucopia of dance styles from ballet and jazz to modern and tap, this event has become a perennial favorite among dance novices as well as devotees. Dance 2007 will be presented Feb. 1 – 6 in McGinnis Theatre.

Friends of Sheppard Memorial Library Book Sale
Feb. 1 – 4
Greenville Convention Center
303 SW Greenville Blvd.
Books, CDs and videos of all kind will be available for sale.

ECU-READS tutoring and mentoring program
Wahl-Coates Elementary School
ECU-READS is a tutoring/mentoring program that recruits, prepares and places volunteer tutors with appropriate community partner agencies. As a campus-based literacy program, ECU-READS also aims to enrich the educational and personal experiences of ECU students who volunteer by providing them with meaningful ways to apply what they learn in the classroom and by encouraging an on-going commitment to community service. To become a volunteer and make a difference, contact Mandy Dough ard0303@ecu.edu or Courtney Campbell cbc0506@ecu.edu.

Summer study abroad in India
Austin 235
Applications are currently being accepted for the 2007 Summer Study Abroad program in India. The 25-day program will visit a broad array of religious sites, including the Taj Mahal, the Ganges River and Dharamsala, the home of the Dalai Lama. Participants will go on a trek in the Himalayan Mountains. The program provides six credits that satisfy general education Humanities requirements.
For more information about the program, including a photo gallery, blog and media coverage of the 2006 trip, please see visit ecu.edu/religionprogram/india/
To apply, contact Dr. Maher, maherd@ecu.edu.

Laptops available for check-out

Joyner Library has 10 laptops available for checkout and use anywhere in the building. All laptops have wireless access and Microsoft software. Simply ask for one in the Digital Learning Center, which is the computer lab in the back of the building. Perfect for working on papers and other assignments in a quiet, cozy corner of the Library.

Yearbook Portraits
Location: Wright Auditorium.
Calling all Spring 2006 and Fall 2007 graduates, grad students and underclassmen! Mark your calendar to take portraits for the Buccaneer yearbook. The Buccaneer will capture ECU centennial year. Go to ouryear.com; enter ECU code 453 and reserve a day and time that works best for you. Walk-ins Welcome

31 Wed

Blood Pressure and Cholesterol Screenings
Campus Wellness Center
10 a.m.

Chocolate on the Outside
A play sponsored by Student Union Cultural Awareness & Popular Entertainment
Mendenhall Student Center, room 244 7 p.m.

***North Carolina Symphony Orchestra**
Part of the S. Rudolph Performing Arts Series. Under the baton of Music Director Grant Llewellyn, this sixty-five member professional orchestra's primary objective is to bring music to the people of North Carolina.
Wright Auditorium
8 p.m.

1 Thu

Folkfriends Concert
Folk Arts Society of Greenville
Tipsy Teapot/Parker-Kennybrook Books, Evans Street
7 p.m.

Women's Basketball
vs. UAB
Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum
7 p.m.

Japan League
For more information, please visit us at ecujapan.org.
Bate 1015
5 – 9 p.m.

2 Fri

Best Dressed in Red Contest
Open to all students, faculty and staff.
Send your digital picture to warrenk@ecu.edu.
Winner will be on Campus Wellness Web site.

Go Red Day
American Heart Association Go Red for Women
Awareness Event To Fight Heart Disease
Wright Plaza
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

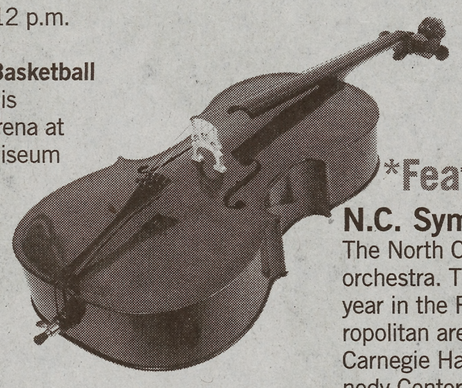
3 Sat

ECU Hosts Great Decisions Seminars
Full-time students and teachers can attend for free and purchase the program book for $20, $15 if WAC members.
The cost for individual sessions is $10.
Rivers West Building auditorium
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Women's Basketball
vs. Memphis
Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum
1 p.m.

4 Sun

Want to see your event here? Visit our Web site at www.theeastcarolinian.com/calendar to submit dates, times and locations.



5 Mon

City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers, third floor of City Hall, 200 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr.
6 p.m.

6 Tue

Lackawanna Blues
Sponsored by Ledonia Wright Emissaries
Hendrix Theater
6 p.m.

Wheelchair Basketball Drop-in game
Individuals with or without a disability are welcome and encouraged to participate in this exciting sport.
Campus Recreation & Wellness Center Sports Forum
8 – 9 p.m.

*Featured Event:

N.C. Symphony Orchestra
The North Carolina Symphony is a full-time, professional orchestra. The symphony performs about 60 concerts a year in the Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill and Cary metropolitan area. The orchestra has also appeared twice at Carnegie Hall in New York City and once each at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and Orchestra Hall in Chicago.
8 p.m.

BRIEFS

Gardner-Webb adopts tobacco-free campus policy

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. (AP) — Gardner-Webb University will no longer allow tobacco use on campus, a major change for a school in the nation's largest tobacco-producing state.
Gardner-Webb President Dr. Frank Bonner said the school banned tobacco because of studies showing that reducing tobacco use can decrease the likelihood of cancer, stroke, and heart and lung disease.
"By implementing this tobacco-free policy, Gardner-Webb University is seeking to make our students, faculty, staff and visitors healthier," Bonner said.
"We hope to set an example for other universities nationwide that are considering implementing a similar initiative."
The policy, which takes effect Aug. 7, will make Gardner-Webb the first private co-educational university in North Carolina to ban tobacco products
Nearly 4,000 students are enrolled at Gardner-Webb.

NC Supreme Court to look at restaurant liability in drunk driving

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — The state Supreme Court has agreed to review a case in which a woman contends that bars and restaurants in the state should be held legally accountable if they allow intoxicated customers to get behind the wheel.
State law says restaurants, bars and others who hold permits to sell alcohol must not sell the drinks to an obviously intoxicated person. But it says nothing about holding the businesses liable if the person drives drunk, except in the case of underage drinkers.
Theresa Hall of Durham sued Torero's II after she was seriously injured and her husband was killed in a 1997 car accident caused by a man who had been drinking for hours at the Mexican restaurant.
William S. Terry IV had a blood-alcohol content of 0.20, more than twice the legal limit of 0.08 for drivers in North Carolina. He pleaded guilty to manslaughter and other offenses, and was fined $1,000 and given a six-month jail sentence.
A jury who heard Hall's lawsuit three years ago agreed that Torero's II should pay her $1.2 million for negligently allowing Terry to continue drinking after he became noticeably drunk, and for failing to prevent him from driving away.
But the verdict was overturned by Superior Court Judge Abraham Jones, who ruled that there was "no legal duty by a commercial provider of alcohol in North Carolina after service of the final drink."
The decision was upheld in March by the state Court of Appeals, in a decision that said the judges sympathized with Hall's case but had to rule according to existing law.
"However poised and eager we may be at times to launch our agenda, judges have not been entrusted by the people of this state to be legislators," the ruling said.
The Supreme Court, which agreed Monday to review the case, could take a year or more to complete its work. Hall's lawyer, Jay Ferguson, said he is optimistic that the decision will come down in his client's favor.
"This is a great day for the Hall family and for every citizen who operates a motor vehicle on our highways," he said.

Ex-NC Supreme Court Justice Orr to run for governor

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Bob Orr, a former Supreme Court justice who now heads a conservative legal foundation, said Tuesday he's leaving the courtroom behind to make a run for governor.
Orr said he'll create a campaign committee in the next week or so he can start raising money for his 2008 Republican gubernatorial bid and then spend the next several months meeting voters, getting their takes on the issues and talking up what he calls a reform agenda.
"I do think there's a real disenchantment with the way state government is operating," Orr said in an interview with The Associated Press. "As a candidate you need to go out and talk about positive, constructive changes that you think can and should be made."
Orr isn't the first major-party hopeful to consider a gubernatorial bid _ Democrats Richard Moore and Beverly Perdue are already raising money like they are in the race. But Orr is the first to announce plans to create a campaign committee with the sole purpose of seeking his party's nomination for governor. Gov. Mike Easley is barred by state law from seeking a third consecutive term.
Orr, 60, served on the state Court of Appeals for eight years and the Supreme Court for 10 years before stepping down in 2004 to become executive director of the North Carolina Institute for Constitutional Law.
Legal challenges by the conservative-leaning group on taxpayer-financed incentives for business and passage of the new lottery have been unsuccessful to date.

Specter: Bush Not Sole 'Decision-Maker'

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Senate Republican on Tuesday directly challenged President Bush's declaration that "I am the decision-maker" on issues of war. "I would suggest respectfully to the president that he is not the sole decider," Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said during a hearing on Congress' war powers amid an increasingly harsh debate over Iraq war policy. "The decider is a shared and joint responsibility," Specter said.

HOUSING

continued from A1

prior to viewing all the listings, students, faculty and staff have to go through a quick tutorial regarding education about city ordinances, this way we can kind of make sure that everyone has been informed," Gross said.

Students will be able to search listings many different ways, such as: Number of bedrooms, total monthly rent, management companies and move-in date, etc.

Gross said the special programming regarding education about off-campus living contributed to most of the database's cost, around $900 and was funded partially by student fees but also by revenue generated by the off-campus housing fair.

This tool will hopefully be available for student use in mid-March, around the same time as the off-campus housing fair, which is scheduled to take place March 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Mendenhall brickyard.

M. Cole Jones, SGA president, was pleased by the implications of the university's involvement in creating a resource for students who want to live off campus.

"Anytime a university can get involved in the welfare of the students, whether on campus or off campus, I see it as an asset as well as a collaborative effort—showing our institution is student-focused," said Jones.

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

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*Bag Day—$5 per paper grocery bag of books
LOCATION
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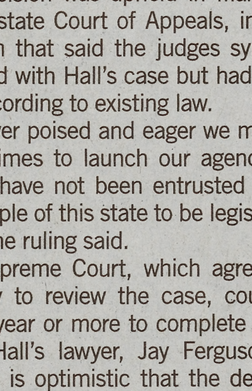
MY BRYAN MBA
BECAUSE YOU'RE WHAT MATTERS

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Opinion

{ Release your inner Ranter }

RANT OF THE DAY

Pirate Rants or pirate grudges?

Duke vs. people of color

Racial implications of the Duke lacrosse rape scandal

BRIDGET TODD
OPINION WRITER

When I first heard about the Duke lacrosse rape scandal, there was a faint twang of something that must have been vindication. "Finally," I had thought, "that old white privilege is going to be taken down a peg."

I saw that the accused had been suspended from school, and I thought, "Finally, America will see the grim reality of white privilege for what it is." All I knew was that I wanted to see those rich white kids be punished.

I wasn't thinking about the facts of the case, or even really whether the accused were guilty or not. All I could see was race and class. I wanted them to be guilty. Because really, what could be a better story than that? Rich white boys rape poor black girl who is forced to strip to pay for college. You could slap Harper Lee's name on a story like that and call it *To Kill A Mockingbird: The College Years*. That would have been a story we could have held under America's proverbial nose and said, "See what happens when the rich think they can do whatever they want?"

The problem is that this isn't a trial about the politics of race and class. Or at least, it shouldn't be. It should be about whether or not someone was raped. And right now, it's starting to look like maybe someone wasn't raped. But because the public, myself included, clouded the issue, it has become knotted in an entanglement of race, class and gender issues.

Sure, these larger issues are certainly at play here, but that shouldn't be the focus of the case. The focus of the case should be (surprise!) the facts. The race and class divide in Durham are appalling. The fact that you can drive through the lavish manicured rolling lawns of the Duke campus and drive just a short distance further into the crumbling chaos of utter poverty is completely inexcusable. But that isn't what's on trial here. Turning this case into a symbol for the city's racial tensions is a huge mistake.

Once I realized that Al Sharpton and I were on the same page, I knew I had to think long and hard about my position on the whole scandal. Is this really a matter to be publicly protesting about?

This isn't a 15-year-old black kid being gunned down by cops in the street. That kind of thing has obvious racial implications that should make people angry. But rape is different, especially when the allegations are so unconvincing. No one really knows what happened except the accuser and the accused. Sure, CNN revealed that the boys shouted racial epithets at the girls as they danced and later joked about killing women. So maybe they're sexist, racist jerks, but it doesn't make them rapists.

It is unfair to rally an entire community against the Duke students before it even goes to trial. I'm advising everyone that has already decided that the students are guilty to do what I did—ask yourself, are you really OK with four students being punished for racial injustices that go much deeper than whatever took place at their party that night?

Old time Rock 'n Roll

A response to the Switchfoot CD review commentary

JESSICA DUNLOW
OPINION WRITER

There was a lot of feedback about the latest Switchfoot CD review, published in the Jan. 25 edition of the *East Carolinian*. Therefore, in order to straighten a few things out, it is time to explain what drove these ideas into my head.

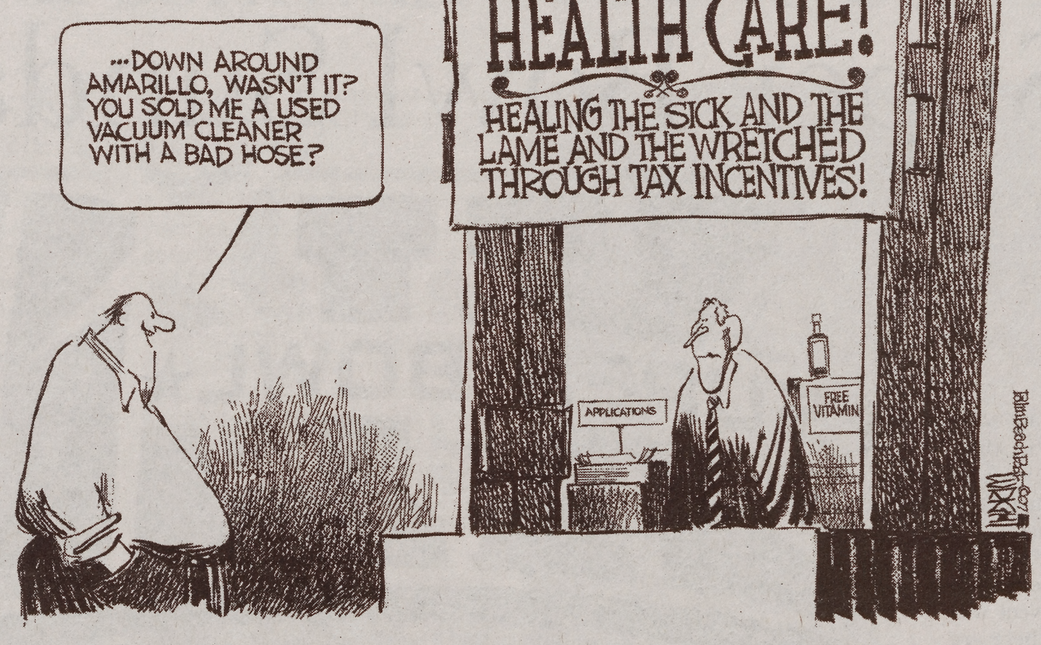
Our generation was pounded with boy bands, the Spice Girls and poppy girl solo artists that could not play their own music or even arrange it. I would prefer our music to not be remembered by "Baby, One More Time" by Britney Spears or "Bye, Bye, Bye" by 'N Sync. It was nice to have something to bounce and bop to when we were in middle school, but we did not grow up with the great bands of the early 1990s, because we were too young to know whom they were.

However, here we are in the early 21st century and finally musically talented artists who play and write their own music and lyrics are flooding the airwaves. Granted, many of these bands are labeled "emo" with their lovelorn lyrics and whiney voices. There are some great ones. Panic! At the Disco and The Used made male makeup attractive, and even The Donnas released some relatively catchy singles. But think of it this way, will this music still be around 40 years after it was released? Or rather, will these artists still be selling out concerts and performing 40 years after they began their careers?

Our parents' generation of the 1960s and 1970s produced the greatest music ever released. These LPs turned into top selling cassettes and now are most desired CDs. The Rolling Stones, The Beatles, Pink Floyd, The Allman Brothers Band, Styx, Queen, The Grateful Dead and so many others created the music that hundreds of generations after us will still listen to. They will all wonder why no one can produce the same perfect sounds of these two generations of music.

It is impossible to impersonate one of these bands, and it seems that some bands today are running out of things to write about. Shinedown, one of these newer groups, covered Lynyrd Skynyrd's classic "Simple Man," and it just was not close to the original. So, this is where I get the notion that if their generation of music was so spectacular, ours seems quite lackluster. Perhaps it is not fair to hold the efforts of today's artists to the standards set by their obviously superior influences, but it is hard not to.

Maybe I will be surprised by a band coming up soon, and I'll try not to hold it against the recent groups that they are not on the same level as the greats of Led Zeppelin, Billy Joel and the Who. In the words of the incomparable Bob Seger, "Today's music ain't got the same soul/I like that old time rock 'n roll."



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.

I learned today that Socrates was sentenced the death penalty in Athens because he just freaking talked too much... much sadder than I originally thought.

To my roommate who has a high school girlfriend. Tell her to stop calling every five minutes and grow up. I can't get anything done and it's getting on my nerves.

I am a... procrastinator.

After all of this work and I still end up on welfare! Someone's got to die.

I cannot wait till Valentine's Day! It's like waiting for Skittles to fall from the sky!

I took Jane's advice and actually graduated from ECU in December. She was wrong, life after college blows! Not a day goes by that I don't wish I had procrastinated the whole "real world" thing. I miss you G-Vegas!

To the girl that lost her boyfriend to World of Warcraft: It's a miracle that he even has a girlfriend in the first place!

When you wake up in the morning and you decide to put on a sweater, a coat and a scarf, maybe you should rethink the flip flops. Just a suggestion.

Dining halls are for binge eaters.

OK, if we let gays get married then how many prison marriages would there be?

I'd write for the paper if I didn't like to drink and sleep so much.

Wow I never thought not seeing someone on campus would be such a big deal! You know I need glasses so apologize for blowing up at me already.

I used to have a best friend, and then we lived together. Now I can't stand him.

"Sex and the City" is more educational than any health class I've been in!

To the two music majors that got one a Ranter's case; just because your major is music doesn't mean you will be any good at it nor have any sort of future like those that are accomplished.

Just because your boyfriend and I say hi when we see each other is no reason for you to get so possessive. Get over yourself. Not everyone is out to steal your boyfriend!

I had a dream I won a million dollars and woke up thinking that it had really happened. Imagine my sorrow when I realized I was still poor.

I have an addiction that causes me to pluck all the stray feathers out of my comforter.

Hearing the same lecture in both my health and exercise classes is really making me think that I'll become obese within the next few years then die prematurely from cardiovascular disease.

The hearts at the end of my notes are my thing. Now that I know they bug you... I will make sure to put them at the end of all my notes.

I'm secretly afraid to give blood in case I find out I have some rare and deadly blood disease that I didn't know about.

To the police officers who think that they are big and bad because they can stand in front of a parking meter for the last two minutes so you can rob 10 bucks off the already broke students, go find some real crime.

OK. Today, I'm definitely prettier than I was yesterday.

Is it wrong to use a guy for his money if he doesn't want to make you happy any other way?

To my French "lover," I like you more than you think. Oh yeah. I'm single now.

I haven't heard from my boyfriend since he hung up on me four days ago. Are we still together?

To the frat brothers that tried to run game on me: Don't play games with a girl who knows how to play them better.

I'm in a long distance relationship, so you know what that means... I'm single!

Keep your feet on the floor where they belong! Jeez. Some people have no manners. What makes people think others want to sit in a seat on the bus that they've put their nasty, crusty feet in?

To the girl who lost her boyfriend to WOW, I just showed my bf the "South Park" episode about it and other shows about it and he saw how pathetic his life was becoming.

The construction conundrum—the amount of construction on campus is equal to the size and growth of the campus. Construction time continuum—the amount of time it takes to complete a project is four years, divided by the number of years you have left to graduate. Count on seeing orange fencing for a while.

Why does the McDonald's across from campus advertise N.C. State women's basketball on its tray liners? Does that make sense to anyone?

To the person who complained about smokers while walking around campus—the next time you walk past me and say something about smoking I'm going to blow my smoke right in your face.

To the late night Pirate Ride driver—learn how to dive!

Wii bowling is where it's at.

Chuck Norris lost his virginity before his dad did.

Playboy didn't rank us. We gotta step it up.

To the Rants directors: Come Valentine's Day, please keep the mushy s to a minimum. The single people won't want to read it.

To my girl, I know you're going through hell right now. I wish I could change it all for you. Somehow I'll find a way to brighten your day, and hopefully soon we can get together.

Why is it that you might not meet someone for two or three or five or 10 months—but when you do, it's like three or four of them come at once? Someone help me choose one!

If *TEC* doesn't have enough room for Rants then expand the room for them! I sent in like 12 yesterday way greater than the ones that got in, and where are they?!

What do guys have to do to show that they are good? Do we need a giant billboard or something? You have to look past looks and talk to us first instead of living in your own world

I'm not pregnant!

Dear friend, I hate the way you laugh when you talk to you boyfriend. You sound like a dork!

I saw this girl fall flat on her but off of the rock climbing wall! I almost died laughing!

I got kicked off the drunk bus on the way to my apartment... who does that to an intoxicated person?

In most cases "think before you speak" is sound advice. But you shouldn't even bother. You're just wasting energy. Here's my advice to you: Don't speak or think.

Chuck Norris is so bad, he can speak braille.

Did you honestly think that screaming at me from across the room was the best way to ask me out? Seriously?

I have not been to a full week of classes in months, is that bad?

To the person complaining about the headline in the newspaper about the "all black" crowd for basketball games, they were talking about T-shirts.

I think Mohawks are sexy!

How do you tell a really sweet girl, who loves her boyfriend more than anything that her boyfriend is a lying, cheating, big-nosed idiot?

To the guy I passed on the sidewalk by the stream, your air guitar made me smile. Thank you.

Dear roommate, I'm sure there is an AA meeting soon. Please go.

Even if things aren't ever the same between us, I heart you now and always will.

I wonder if anyone has ever written a Pirate Rant about me...

I am a size nine, I don't own a North Face jacket and I'm not in a sorority. To you that may be ugly, but why is your boy looking at me?

As if I didn't prove it yesterday when I spent two hours at the Health Center with you, you are my best friend. Don't over-stress yourself. But I do thank you for sticking up for me.

I think the best breakfast is Fruit Loops and Dr. Pepper.

After reading Tuesday's *TEC*, Is the staff of Mendenhall Student Center honestly suggesting that it's OK for homeless people to lounge around our campus?! So much for safety being important to them.

Answer to why the speed limit is 25 in front of elementary schools but 15 on College Hill: Because elementary school students know to look both ways before stepping out into the street.

To the person who complained about people singing out loud to their music: Come on. When it's the right person singing, it can be hilarious. I myself have no talent, but if I'm walking and see no one around, nothing can stop me from singing along and doing a ridiculous little dance. So what? Bring it.

When I've spent 25+ dollars a week at your cafe for the past four months, you really have no right to tell me I'm wasteful for not finishing my last two bites of food some days. You just lost a customer.

December isn't the only month for cynics. I'm not looking forward to February at all.

Why did I ever leave North Carolina? There's no place like home. There's no place like home. There's no place like home.

I am so in lust!

Dear Longhorn waiter—I will come there every weekend until I get you to wait on me. You are too sexy.

That's Jerry Springer material right there.

My life is a Pirate Rant.

I wish my life was a musical. That way it would be socially acceptable to bust out into random song.

I want to marry a guy with lots of money and low self-esteem. That way I can sit around, get fat and not worry about doing anything.

All I have been doing lately is lying around all day and drinking at night. I don't even care about school anymore, is that bad?

If you want to get to class on time, don't take the Minges bus! We are always packed in there like sardines in the morning, and there have been so many times where the bus is too full to even get on. Transit what are you thinking?

To the girl who showed up to work drunk... you should be studied.

Tarragon is by far the most sexual of the spices.

I have a friend who dropped $250 on a pair of designer shades but makes a big deal about having to pay $1.19 for a bottle of water on campus. Seriously, if the world ended, which would you rather have?

Jelly beans piss me off... you shouldn't even have to pay for them!

To the girl that crunches Cheetos in class, wipes them on the desk, asks me for a pen, and generally just grosses me out— don't sit next to me, please.

Miami Subs... period.

Tell your mom to stop calling me... I'm over her.

To the person talking bad about Pee Dee, around here those are fighting words. Pee Dee the Pirate is the greatest Pirate of all time. You mess with him you mess with all of ECU.

I think I'm the only person in the world that actually likes George Bush.

I saw Optimus Prime on Greenville Blvd... I peed my pants a little.

My roommate always has sweat stains!

I can't wait for baseball season to start. Yay for guys in tight pants!

I can't wait for Valentine's Day, it's my favorite!

My fish has the oddest talent for feigning death.

To the girl on the third floor of Cotten who hit my truck, I know who you are.

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor of the *East Carolinian*:

Your reporter Shannon Davis missed the point of the *Flock of Dodos* film ("Documentary and Discussion on Evolution Comes to ECU", the *East Carolinian* Jan, 18). The report states, "Through the documentary, Dr. Olson explains the new theory of Intelligent Design that replaces the Charles Darwin's theory of evolution." Dr. Randy Olson does not support Intelligent Design, and it has not replaced Darwin's theory of evolution by means of natural selection. The report goes on to misrepresent the theory of evolution and natural selection, as the "...random mutation of cells." While mutation is part of the theory of evolution, this is an over-simplification. Random mutation of DNA in germline cells produces the raw material of evolution, upon which natural selection acts (removing those mutations that do not confer an advantage, and favoring those that do). This well-documented process produces the adaptations we can observe in the behavior and structure of organisms.

The film *Flock of Dodos* was an attempt to give the proponents of Intelligent Design an opportunity to explain their views, and Dr. Olson explicitly states in the film that the arguments were unconvincing. In addition, the panel members pointed out numerous problems with the creationist arguments in the question and answer session. Furthermore, most of the people that we talked with after the film agreed that the Intelligent Design proponents had no evidence in support of their theory, and were being manipulated by the Discovery Institute, which refused to be interviewed in the film (Why? What does this group have to hide?). As Randy Olson says in the film, "The Intelligent Design theory has stalled at the intuition stage." It is an interesting idea, but there is no evidence in support of it. The supporters of Intelligent Design have located some complex things in nature that they think cannot be explained in terms of Darwinian theory (like the bacterial flagellum and its molecular structure), and have resorted to guessing that "an intelligent designer created them." But, when their chief spokesperson, Dr. Michael Behe (of Lehigh University), was questioned on who this Intelligent Designer was, he said it was "God." He has no evidence of that. The evolutionists have evidence for the evolution of complexity and the intelligent designers do not. Thus, Intelligent Design should not be taught as a theory supported by evidence in any science class, because it ultimately is based on religion.

We met with Randy Olson while he was here at ECU, and he would disagree with your reporting—he is a firmly committed evolutionist. We have written to him about this article. The Biology Department has a copy of the *Flock of Dodos* film, so if Davis or any student at ECU would like to see the movie again, we can arrange that.

We were much happier with the Opinion piece "More than a Flock of Dodos" by Elizabeth Lauten. We agree with her that it was wonderful for the faculty and students to see such an overwhelming positive response to this film and the panel discussion. It was fun and we enjoyed the discussion and excellent questions. Randy Olson said that it was one of the "top five" best screenings of his film ever and he was happy to have visited ECU. Our students showed at the panel discussion showed that they were among the best in the U.S., and the questions they asked were as good as those at Harvard and Yale, according to Randy.

We are grateful that the *East Carolinian* covered the *Flock of Dodos* screening and the seminar by Dr. Olson. However, we are sorry that Dr. Olson's views were mis-reported in your paper.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Luczkovich
Associate Professor of Biology

Kyle Summers
Associate Professor of Biology

Linda Wolfe
Chair and of Anthropology
Professor of Anthropology

Jason Bond
Associate Professor of Biology

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Pulse

{Pirate Buzz}

Horoscopes:

Aries
Allow events to transpire naturally, while watching. You're in for a pleasant surprise. Believe in miracles.

Taurus
The more you study, the more you see the great value in having good friends. Now is a good time to have them help you carry a heavy burden.

Gemini
Gather up as much as you can, graciously of course. More money and status for doing less manual labor is your objective.

Cancer
Move quickly, and use your imagination. You can solve an old problem simply by trying something you've never done before.

Leo
Follow through on the project instigated yesterday. Once that's done, it'll be easy to see what you need to do next. Your next project will be much easier.

Virgo
Continue to encourage your teammates to advance toward the goal. They can accomplish amazing things with your direction and support.

Libra
Concentrate on understanding exactly what's requested. Then, provide something the client will like even better.

Scorpio
Follow through with confidence and intense concentration. Land your catch carefully; don't let it get away. Keep your eye on the prize and you will always succeed.

Sagittarius
A private family celebration is in order. Do something nice for others, even if you don't like it yourself. They'll think you're wonderful, and you'll gain points.

Capricorn
If you get nothing else done today, let people know how much you appreciate what they've done for you and are doing for you now. Without them, you're nowhere near as effective.

Aquarius
Nobody's going to tell you what to do in this situation. You get to figure it out and hold yourself to your own schedule. You get to take all the risks, and you'll get all the credit.

Pisces
The people who know you best believe you can do just about anything. Don't argue, that would be disrespectful. Give it your best shot. You hardly ever disappoint anyone!

Drink Recipes:

Frozen Mojito Slushes

For every four slushes, you will need:
1 pint lime sorbet or 1 can limeade from frozen juice section
8 shots light rum
1/2 cup mint leaves
1 tray ice cubes
In a blender, combine 1/2 pint sorbet or 1/2 can of limeade with four shots of rum, 1/4 cup mint leaves and 1/2 tray of ice. Pulse, then blend on high until lime-mint slush is smooth. Pour drinks into two large cocktail glasses using a long handled spoon and repeat with remaining ingredients.

Frosty Cocktail

1 shot vodka
1 shot blue fruit- and cognac-liqueur
1/2 shot orange-flavored liqueur
1 cup ice cubes

Add all ingredients to blender and blend on high until smooth. Pour into glasses and serve with straw.

Tequila Refresca

Ice cubes
1 ounce tequila, white or gold
Dash Campari
6 ounces grapefruit soda
Small wedge fresh pineapple, grapefruit, and lime

Fill a goblet or rocks glass with ice cubes. Add the tequila and a dash of Campari to give the drink a slight blush and balance the sweetness of the soda. Top off with the grapefruit soda. Skewer the fruit and stir into the cocktail. Drink.
Serve with a plate of wedged pineapple, a small bowl of your favorite chili powder, and coarse salt, for dipping.

Please drink responsibly.

Local venues gear up for Super Bowl Sunday

Places around town with great deals and tons of game exposure

JENNY AYERS
STAFF WRITER

It just wouldn't feel like 2007 was really underway if football fans across the nation weren't writhing in anticipation of the football game of the season, the Super Bowl. Diehard football fans or those just enjoying the festivities associated with the event will be pleased to find that there are many places around Greenville that are offering great eats, cheap drinks and most importantly, optimum Super Bowl reception.

There are a few downtown stops right by campus that will be hot spots this Super Bowl Sunday. Buffalo Wild Wings is always a great place to catch any game, and this Sunday, they have some great food options for the football fanatic.

For around $25 patrons can feast on the MVP platter that allows for a choice of combinations of wings, ribs, shrimp and chicken tenders, and comes with enough food to feed five or six people. For those who would rather enjoy the game from the comfort of their own home, the tailgate special that consists of 75 wings can be purchased for about $40.

Jenna Gray, senior elementary education major, said she loves going to BW3's because "It is so much fun! I love the atmosphere and the great service."

A couple of other downtown locales that have good deals this Sunday include Boli's and Scores. Boli's, known for their amazing pizza, will be featuring half-price appetizers on Sunday.

However, perhaps the best bargain for the buck is at Scores where they will have great drink specials and will be serving free food. If you're looking for post-game entertainment, the band Acid Park will also be playing at Scores later that night.

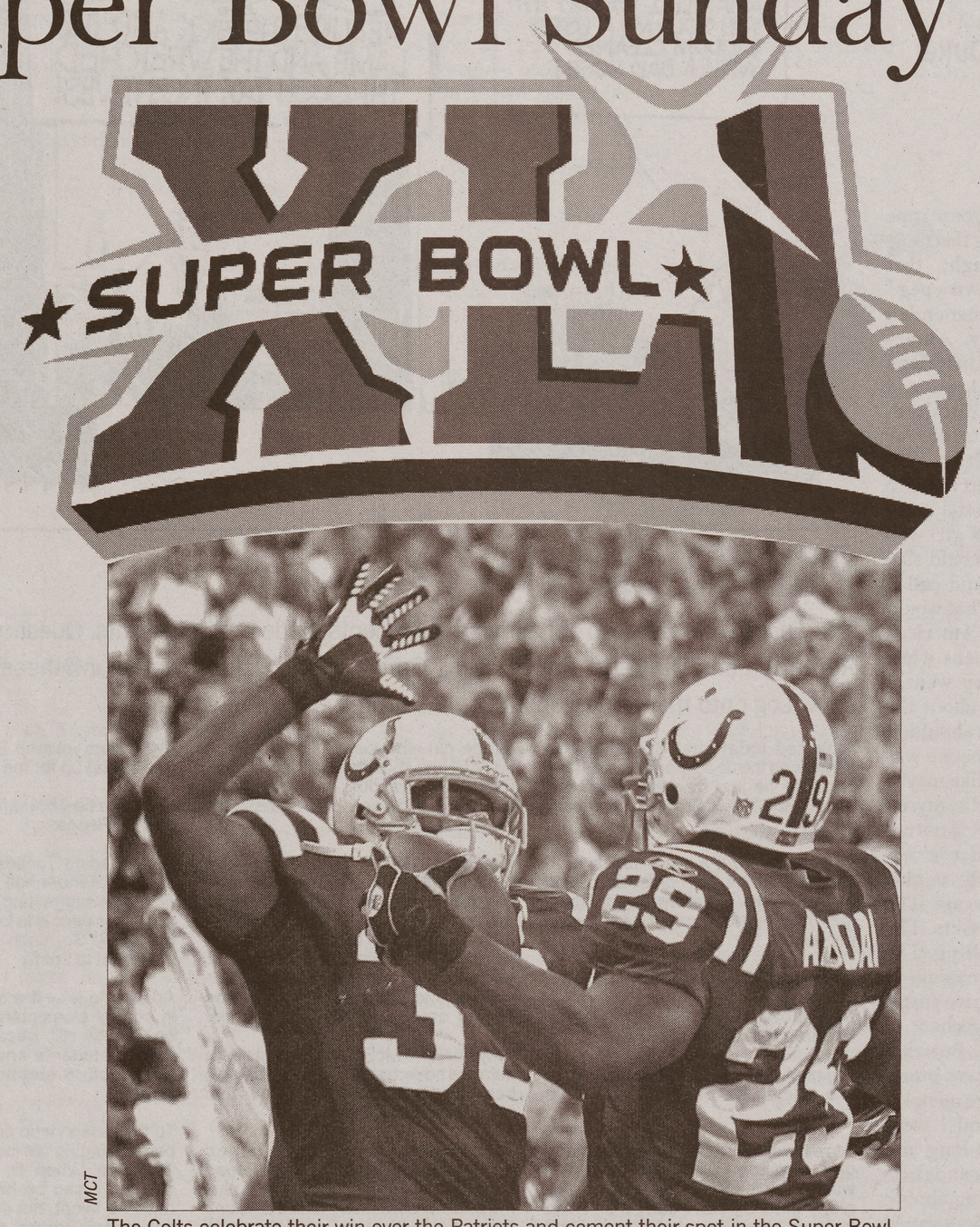
With over 20 televisions in all shapes and sizes, O'Cool's, located behind Logan's Roadhouse on Greenville Boulevard, is definitely a great place to catch the game. While they won't have any deals on food, they will be featuring a few drink specials and it is safe to say that seeing the game won't be a problem.

Tiebreakers Sportsbar is a fun, smoke-free hangout that will offer half-price appetizers this Sunday and optimum game viewing. Tiebreakers is located near Firetower Road by Bojangles.

"They have great food and the fun atmosphere of a sportsbar without all the smoke. No matter where you're sitting, you can see the game," said Jessica Allen, senior English education major.

This weekend, those looking for a fun way to party should have no problem finding somewhere in Greenville to watch the big game or catch a good deal on food and drinks. Those who choose to stay in to enjoy the game can take advantage of BW3's meal deals or simply can run to Bojangles for some of their famous chicken and biscuits. I will probably take that route, since I only tune-in for the half-time show anyway.

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



MCT
The Colts celebrate their win over the Patriots and cement their spot in the Super Bowl.

Unwrap the new Bailey's

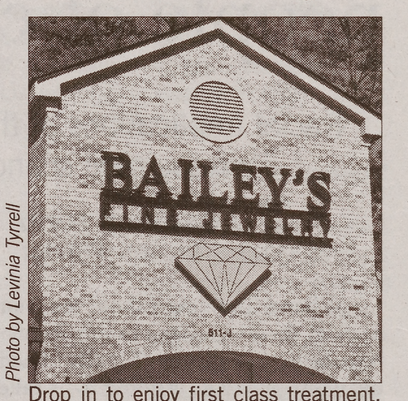


Photo by Levinia Tyrrell
Drop in to enjoy first class treatment.

Come see why every woman wants a Bailey box

LIZ FULTON
SENIOR WRITER

For the past ten years, Bailey's Fine Jewelry has been serving every fashion need of Greenville and eastern North Carolina. Originating in Rocky Mount and also boasting a store in Raleigh's Cameron Village, Bailey's is a jewelry store offering the best in designer lines and engagement rings.

While some fine jewelry stores are automatically pigeonholed as snooty, uptight places with unfriendly workers, nothing is farther from the truth at Bailey's. Everyone that walks through the door is greeted with a smile and a friendly shout of greeting. Drinks and homemade chocolate chip cookies are offered along with the invitation to have your jewelry cleaned and inspected.

Upon setting foot into Bailey's, shoppers will be rewarded with entering a store recently renovated and expanded. Gutting the entire interior, owners Jane and Clyde Bailey designed a store that seems almost out of place in Greenville.

The walls and ceilings were all hand-painted by local artist Sandra Lett, who created a regal yet inviting ambience with green and gold walls accompanied by an ebony carpet. Everything is tied together with the magnificent chandelier in the center of the store, the only remnant preserved throughout the renovations.

Besides having three times as much showcase space, the newly designed store has a playroom for children and a lounge with a full-service bar. Patrons can congregate in the lounge while they wait for gifts to be wrapped or men can watch ESPN while waiting for their ladies to fill out a wish list.

Bailey's features full collections by designers David Yurman, John Hardy and Slane and Slane. They are also authorized retailers for Hearts of Fire diamonds, Tag Heuer and Baume & Mercier watches.

"We are the best of the best, from merchandise to customer service, everything is at the top of its game," said Office Manager Stella Pierce.

Bailey's Fine is the premiere place to buy an engagement ring as decided by the 2006 Raleigh Metro Bravo awards where they won the top honor. Not only do they have a unique selection of engagement rings, but they also give you the option of selecting your own diamond and mounting. With only one of 500 certified American Gem Society labs in the United States, Bailey's can locate any stone, be it a diamond or alexandrite.

"When I wrap a gift, it's not just about the beauty of the Bailey's box, paper and bow," said gift wrapper Rachel Phillips. "It's also about the particular amount of care and heart that we put in; because we know where that box is going—to someone else's loved one. It's really amazing to be a part of that."

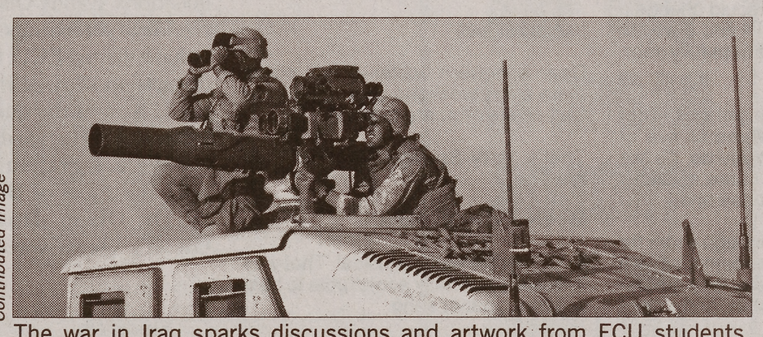
As part of a commitment to excellence and the great state of North Carolina, Bailey's has recently become the official jeweler of the Carolina Hurricanes.

"As official jewelers, we are allowed to carry official merchandise of the Hurricanes." We are the official source for charm bracelets, key chains and money clips," Pierce said.

In addition to these items, Bailey's is also the exclusive carrier of the limited edition Carolina Hurricanes watch by Tag. "This is the first time that Tag has ever done a watch like this," said Manager John McHugh. "They are only making a select amount of these, making them a real collector's item."

Whether you need some links taken out of a watch or you are looking for that next pair of earrings you can't live without, visit Bailey's Jewelry in the Lynndale Shops on Red Banks Road to find what you need. Stop by in your sweats or a wedding dress; all they ask is that you are wearing a smile.

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


Contributed image
The war in Iraq sparks discussions and artwork from ECU students.

Students display and discuss artwork about the Iraq war

While at War Art Show

SHANNON DAVIS
SENIOR WRITER

On Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. in Mendenhall room 244 there will be a showcase of student art related to the war in Iraq. All students are invited to submit art or just to join in on the discussion. Students do not have to submit artwork in order to attend and participate in the discussion.

The discussion is meant to find out the concerns of ECU students in regards to the war on terror. Many college students, faced with the war in Iraq and the ongoing threat of terrorists, find they now feel uncertain about a future they had just begun to plan. Some may be concerned about parents, relatives or friends in the military.

Whether a student is directly or indirectly impacted, it is important to know that each person reacts differently to a crisis, and it is common and expected to experience a range of responses. Emotional responses can appear immediately or sometimes develop months later. Students who live away from home may have a more difficult time coping without the reassurance of having family nearby.

Taking positive steps to address feelings of anxiousness due to the war is the best coping mechanism for students.

"The forth anniversary of the war is coming up. We wanted to see what college student's thought of the war by sharing their thoughts and submitting their artwork.

"Any type of art can be submitted; short stories, pictures, paintings, songs, anything representing the war. We want to spark political discussion among ECU students. This is the first time we're doing this kind of dialogue for the war. We've had other discussions on topics such as religion in the past though," said service advocate for the ECU Volunteer and Service Learning Center, April Tharrington.

ECU received a grant from MTV called, "For the people: Student Dialogue Series." The money pays for refreshments and other expenses necessary to run the event. The first place winner of the showcase will receive $75; the two runner-ups each receive $25.

"I had been working as an advocate for the volunteer and service learning center. One of my other projects was ending do this became my new project to plan at the center," Tharrington said of her involvement in the project.

Jessica Gagne, who also works in the Volunteer and Service Learning Center, is equally responsible for planning this event.

"It's important for ECU students to express themselves. There's no other way to release your thoughts quite like art. It's a good idea to use art for students who do not know any other way to communicate clearly," said Hunter Sills, junior graphic design major,

All students are encouraged to participate in the discussion. Students can speak about anything they want such as results of the war, the roots of terrorism, suicide bombings and related legal, religious, or social issues.

The deadline to submit artwork is Tuesday, Feb. 6. Students can submit their artwork by e-mailing April Tharrington at alt0612@ecu.edu or Jessica Gagne at gagnej@ecu.edu.

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

Start planning for Spring Break now

Taking a vacation should be easy

KORRI-LEE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

MCT
Exotic destinations are a click away.

As we all anxiously await the arrival of spring break, it is imperative that we begin our search for vacation destinations. For those of you new to the world of travel, Web sites such as Travelocity.com are a great place to plan your next trip. If you're like me and want to get everything done at once, this Web site is just the place for you.

Sometimes deciding where to vacation can turn into an overwhelming and time-consuming task. If you are limited on ideas concerning where to go, Travelocity.com provides a list of the most popular destinations.

In addition, they also list a number of vacation packages that you may choose from in order to suit your needs. According to the site, the most popular vacation spots include Las Vegas, Mexico, California and Europe.

Visitors to the site can also locate the cheapest hotel deals as well as book flights and make reservations to entertainment venues. By simply choosing a destination, Travelocity will locate featured activities and specials applicable for that location.

The site also offers a search engine that locates the best-priced trips dependent on your specifications. You can choose to search for flights, hotels or escorted vacations that match your exact requests. If your trip involves the use of a rental car, you may also search for and reserve cars directly from the site.

If you're in the mood for an ocean getaway, you may access a search engine that will locate your best choice in cruises. The site allows you to search based on destinations, length of cruise, time allotment and other various statistics. Since Travelocity acts as a direct line from producer to consumer, they are frequently able to offer savings to the customer.

As college students, we all know the reality of being "burned out" and in need of a break. If you decide you need a quick escape from the college life, but aren't sure where to go, you may search last minute packages on the site. You can choose where you'd like to go and they'll do all the dirty work for you. Weekend deals are available and may provide you the relaxation you desire, just as the doctor ordered.

I don't know about you, but I like to know I'm getting the best deal available. Travelocity.com's claim to fame is that they offer lowest prices in vacation planning. If you happen to see a lower price for the trip you're preparing, Travelocity.com will match the rate or refund you the difference.

After looking over the numerous offers available at Travelocity.com, I definitely recommend using it for all your travel needs. Nothing beats finding the perfect vacation spot while managing to avoid all of the hassle. As you proceed to plan your next vacation, remember to at least check out this site. After all, they guarantee the lowest prices around and I can't think of anything better than a great deal.

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

BY THE NUMBERS

3

First place finishes for Pirate swimmer Rebecca Perry in Saturday's meet against Duke; Perry won the 50, 100 and 200-yard freestyle events with times of 24.37 seconds, 53.45 seconds and 1:53.39 minutes; Freshman Katlin Potts followed up Perry with a second place finish in the 50-yard freestyle, posting a time of 25.22 seconds

2.38

Seconds between ECU freshman Kristian Ramkvist and Duke senior Kevin Arthofer, who finished first and second respectively in Saturday's Men's 200-yard Breaststroke event between ECU and Duke; Ramkvist also won the 200-yard Individual Medley event with a time of 1:54.27 minutes

18.92

Distance, in meters, that senior Eric Frasure of the ECU Track and Field team recorded in Saturday's weight throw event; Frasure placed first in the event and gave the Pirates their first individual win of the season; Frasure also finished fifth in the shot put with a distance of 15.62 meters

90.9

Percentage of sets won by the ECU women's tennis team in its match against George Mason Sunday afternoon. The Pirates (5-2 overall) dominated the match, winning 10 of 11 sets en route to a 5-0 victory

103

Additional number of strikeouts ECU softball's senior pitcher, and J.H. Rose alumni, Keli Harrell needs to break C-USA's record for career strikeouts; Lindsay Choinard of Depaul University currently holds the record with 858 strikeouts, while Harrell opens the season with 756; Harrell has had a stellar career at ECU, recording 71 career wins (fourth all-time at ECU) and a nine inning no-hitter gem of a performance against Kent State on March 26, 2006

ECU freshmen set the bar high

Youthful swimming tandem excels

BENJAMIN LLOYD
SENIOR WRITER

ECU's swimming and diving team got 110 percent from their youngsters this season. Freshmen swimmers Blake Briese and Jeff Miller showed what its like to be eighteen and at the top of their game.

The pair combined on the year for thirty finishes in the top three of their respective races. Jeff Miller won two first place finishes and Blake Briese had an astonishing six first place victories. Miller received Top Swimmer awards in the 400 IM and 1000-yard freestyle. Briese won Top Swimmer awards in four categories; 200 free, 500 free, 50 butterfly and 800 free relay.

Blake Briese is a freshman transfer from Georgia Perimeter College. Coming from a smaller school, he talked about the difference in competition between the two.

"It's not so much about the time that you go, because you're expected to go faster every week, but what's crucial is winning the race. You're winning for your team; you're winning to score points. There's a five point spread between first and second place," said Briese.

The good news for the swimming Pirates this year is that Briese and Miller were dominating off the blocks. Briese finished with a time of 1:43.96, at the Nike Cup in the freestyle event, the fastest on the team. Miller had the fastest time in the 1000 freestyle with a time of 9:56.64 and the 400 IM with a time of 4:09.07.

Jeff Miller, a true freshman at ECU, attributes his success in the water to great coaching and loads of carbohydrates. Blake on the other hand likes to pass his success on to his teammates who have pushed him all semester to be the best he can.

"When you have practice at 5:30 in the morning, you've got your teammates banging on your door telling you to get out of bed," Briese said.

Miller and Briese like to train together and often hit the gym or the pool to keep on top of their game. The ECU swimming and diving team requires that every athlete attend practice. On Tuesdays and Thursdays they have two-a-days. In the afternoon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday they hit the weight room for an hour before they go to the pool. In addition, if there is no meet on Saturdays they have practice in the morning for two hours.

The Pirates are not done with their season just yet; the Conference USA tournament is coming up on Feb. 14 in Houston, TX. The pair of freshman swimmers will push to crack into the top 10 all-time varsity swims. They hope to have some records under their belts this year or next year.

The next couple of weeks the ECU swimming and diving team will be preparing for C-USA by tapering their practice distances and working for the most part on getting their techniques right and resting up. Most teams will rest their swimmers to give back some energy lost throughout the semester, so that during the tournament the fastest times will be recorded.

With this season almost to a close Jeff Miller was already thinking about the off-season and how he will prepare for next year.

"I'm gonna keep working hard and stay focused," said Miller.

Briese is also looking to his own future and that of the team.

"We would really like to bring in some more fast kids. If we can improve the team as a whole everybody will improve individually. As for myself, I really want to work on technique and lift more in the weight room."

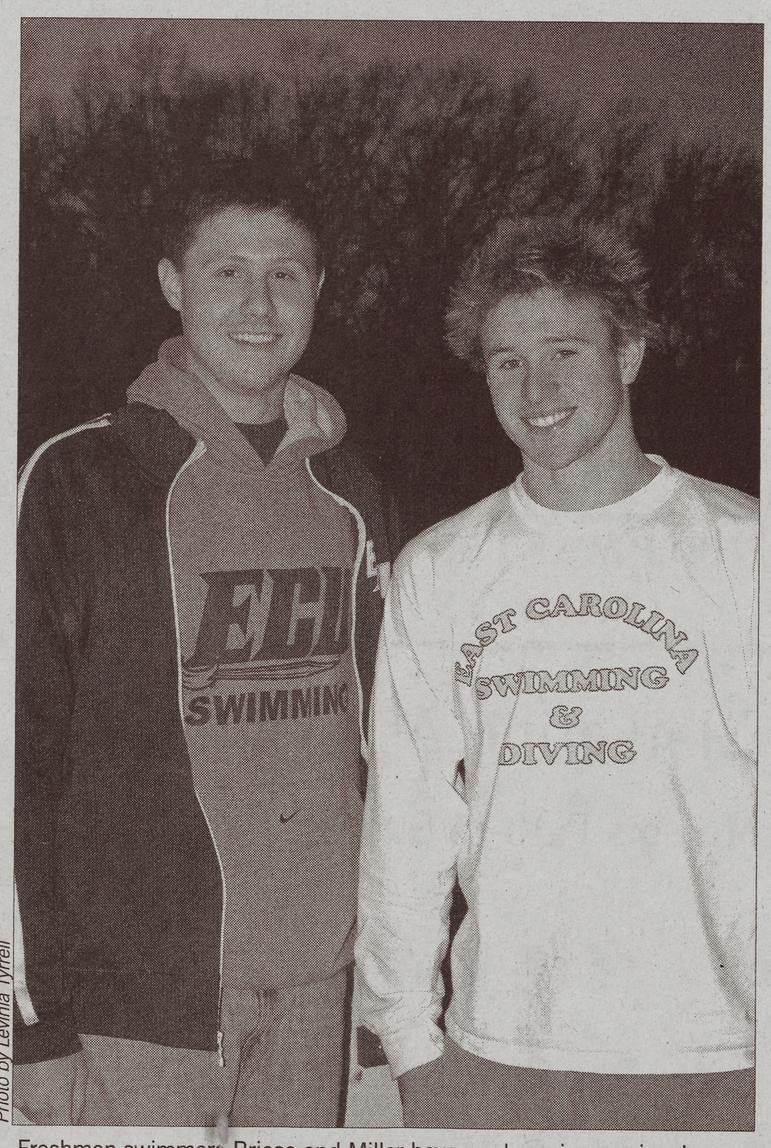


Photo by Levinia Tyrrell

Freshmen swimmers Briese and Miller have made an impressive duo.

Large portions of NCAA athletes do not become professionals in their sports. Briese says after college he wants to get his MBA and probably won't swim in competitions, although Miller would like to continue his career.

"Swimming was a way into college and I hope that after my four years I can still do this competitively," Miller said.

Both Miller and Briese would like to thank the seniors and upperclassmen for making them feel like part of the team.

"They made it fun, they helped us get away from the intense training. Because when you're a freshman all you know is the coaches telling you to go to class, train, hit study hall and sleep. They showed us the ropes," Briese said.

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

Swimming and diving teams lose to Duke

Perry and Ramkvist multiple event winners again

(SID) — The ECU swimming and diving teams closed out the regular season with losses to Duke Saturday afternoon. The women fell 161-137, while the men were narrowly defeated 155-145.

The women dropped to 9-4 overall and the men fell to 7-5.

Junior Rebecca Perry led the women with three first place finishes. She touched first in the 50 (24.37), 100 (53.45) and 200-yard (1:53.39) freestyle events. Perry was followed by a pair of teammates in the 50 and 100 to give ECU a sweep of the top three places in the freestyle sprint races.

Freshman Katlin Potts earned a second place finish in the 50 (25.22) and a third place finish in the 100-yard (54.54) freestyle. Fellow freshman Rachel Blue placed second in the 100 (54.31), while sophomore Amanda Duncan earned a third place finish in the 50 (25.27).

Members of the women's swim team also recorded first place finishes in the 1,000-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly. Junior Megan Pulaski captured first place honors in the 1,000 free (10:28.27) by more than three seconds over her closest competitor. Senior Kate Gordon touched five-tenths of a second ahead of Duke freshman Shannon Beall to win the 100 fly (57.24).

On the men's side, five Pirate swimmers claimed first place finishes in six events led by freshman Kristian Ramkvist's two first place finishes. Ramkvist took top honors in the 200-yard breaststroke (2:04.85) and the 200-yard IM (1:54.27).

Junior Geoff Hansfield helped ECU earn a sweep of the men's and women's 200-yard free with a time of 1:44.67, nine-tenths ahead of second place finisher and teammate Blake Briese.

Briese then earned his own narrow victory in the 500-yard freestyle (4:46.19), beating Duke's Sean Smith by 0.11.

Freshman Jeff Miller and senior Matt Donohue finished one and two in the 200-yard freestyle. Miller completed the race in a time of 1:55.40, while Donohue was right behind him with a mark of 1:56.67.

Junior Greg Neville claimed victory in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 52.13.

Both the ECU men and women claimed first place finishes in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

ECU resumes competition at the Conference USA Championships in Houston beginning Feb. 14.

Track and field successful in two meets

Eric Frasure wins weight throw at UNC Fast Times

(SID) — Highlighted by senior Eric Frasure's title in the UNC Fast Times weight throw, the ECU track and field squad posted 23 top 15 finishes at the Diet Pepsi Invitational in Gainesville, Fla. and the UNC Fast Times Meet in Chapel Hill this weekend.

For the women in Gainesville, Chante Sessoms took 15th in the finals of the 55 meter dash with time of 7.25. Kharya Brown also turned in a 15th place finish in the finals of the 200 meter dash (25.49). In the 55 meter hurdles, Lindsay Dolan posted a time of 8.30, good for 12th place. Dolan also turned in a 13th place finish in the finals of the high jump. The Pirates' 4x400 meter relay team of Shalice Anderson, Sessoms, Aisha Bilal-Mack and Camelia Morman took sixth place in the finals (3:58.32).. In the long jump competition, ECU had two top 15 finishers as Sessoms took 12th place (5.58m) and Morman took 14th (5.51m). Morman continued her success in the triple jump as she recorded a fifth place finish with a jump of 11.65m.

As for the men at the Diet Pepsi Invitational, Adian Sanderson posted two top 15 results, a seventh place finish in the 55 meter dash (6.41) and a 12th place time of 22.24 in the 200 meter dash. The Pirates saw two runners place in the top 15 of the 400 meter dash as Brandon Small took ninth place (48.62) and Christopher Richardson finished 14th (49.56). Matt Dennish also contributed a 10th place finish in the 300 meter run (8:42.93). In the 4x400 meter relay, the team of Ron Wright, Richardson, Travis Covington and Small recorded a seventh place result with a time of 3:20.96. Long jumpers Akintunde Abisogun and Covington took home seventh and ninth place respectively with marks of 6.94m and 6.77m.

Back in Chapel Hill, Samantha Lichtner finished 14th in the one mile run with a time of 5:18.47. In the 3000 meter run, Hayley Flynn recorded a time of 11:03.25 to take home 12th place. ECU's Valeria Moore and Megan Horne tied for 8th place in the high jump with both jumpers posting a mark of 1.58m. In the pole vault competition, Lindsey Rosales finished seventh in the pole vault, clearing a height of 3.50m. Amy Mueller took third in the shot put with a throw of 13.28m. Eric Frasure recorded the Pirates' first individual title of the season in weight throw with a mark of 18.92m. Frasure also finished fifth in the shot put (15.64m).

ECU returns to action next weekend when the squad travels to Lincoln, Neb. for the Frank Sevigne Husker Invitational (Feb. 2-3).

Club ski and snowboard teams aim for nationals

Contributed photo

A snowboarder from the ECU men's and women's club ski and snowboard team hits a kink rail at Hawk's Nest.

Teams not only exist they compete

JOSEPH MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

In this week's edition of "Did you know we had this at ECU" we feature the Skiing and Snowboarding Team. Given the location of ECU it would surprise most people that there is a Snowboarding and Ski team. In fact last season the Women's Snowboard team finished third in the nation, and three members of the team were All-Americans, meaning that they placed in the top 15 individually. Sophomore's Allison Evans and Whitney Sullivan as well as Neil Matthews who has since graduated were designated All-Americans last season.

The ECU Club Skiing and Snowboarding team competes in the Southeastern Conference of the United States Collegiate Ski Association and they are in competition with other regional schools such as UNC, Duke, UVA, Appalachian State, William and Mary, Virginia Tech and James Madison. The Snowboard team competes in Giant Slalom and Boarder Cross, and the Ski Team competes in Giant Slalom and Skier Cross. There are 27 members of the team as a whole, 20 snowboarders, 10 men and 10 women, and seven skiers. Each of the teams competes for nationals on their own.

The Skiing and Snowboarding teams are at the midpoint of their season. The teams compete in four events each season. Team members pay a meager $250 annually to compete. For members of this year's team $250 covers transportation, lift tickets and hotel rooms to such exotic locales as Bryce Resort in Virginia, Hawk's Nest and Sugar Mountain in Boone, N.C., and Snowshoe Resort in West Virginia.

So far this season the team has competed in two events, at Bryce Resort and Hawk's Nest. At Bryce both the men's and women's teams finished second and at Hawk's Nest this past weekend the women finished second and the men finished third. The two remaining events are this upcoming weekend at Sugar Mountain and then the next weekend at Snowshoe. The top three teams in the region qualify for nationals, so if the teams keep up this pace they will qualify for nationals in Winter Park, Colorado from March 5 to 11.

It is too late to join the team this year, but with many seniors graduating, the team will have plenty of openings next year for those who are interested.

"Nobody knew that we even existed, and we have a lot of people on the team who are about to graduate. We need more people who are interested so that we can keep this thing going," says senior Snowboarder Justin Kemp.

The teams are looking for participants for next year, especially skiers; "Other schools are way more competitive with skiing than we are," says sophomore women's snowboarder Haley Hawkins. "The only people on the ski team are people who snowboard and wanted to race." ECU skiers' the club team wants you. "I'm sure there are some [good skiers] at ECU," says Hawkins "but they just don't know that the ski team exists."

Racing experience is by no means necessary to join the team. Hawkins had never raced competitively before she joined the team, "I was so nervous my first race but it wasn't as awful as I thought it would be."

The price for one season is only a fraction of what it would cost to ski or snowboard these courses recreationally.

"Without the team I wouldn't be able to snowboard at all, but because of the team I get to go four weekends in a row," says senior snowboarder Travis Fowler. "The amount you pay to be on the team could easily be spent in one weekend going to any of these places by yourself."

"Along with being a competitive team we're all also full time students," says Fowler. "For this one month the whole team is going non-stop, but we enjoy it."

Even though it is competitive, according to Kemp the best part of being on the team is the adrenaline rush that comes from flying down a mountain on a board.

"It's an absolute blast, the feeling of getting on your board every weekend and just getting away from school and the stresses of school, it's fantastic."

Students interested in the team for next season can visit the team's Web site on the Club Sports page at ecu.edu or find more information at the Recreation Center.

Even though, it seems as unlikely as a yeti walking through campus, there is a Ski and Snowboard Team at ECU, and there pretty good too.

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

SPORTS BRIEFS

ECU's Allison catches TD pass at senior bowl

(AP) — Aundrae Allison might have improved his NFL draft status if reaching the end zone counts significantly.

The former ECU wide receiver scored one of the three touchdowns for the North squad during a 27-0 victory over the South at the Senior Bowl on Saturday. The event gathers the best seniors in the nation for an all-star game for NFL coaches and executives to evaluate.

Allison was part of a 10-point second quarter that helped the North go ahead 20-0 by halftime. The North recovered a fumble at the South 26. The turnover set up a seven yard TD pass from Michigan State's Drew Stanton to Allison.

Allison finished the game with a pair of receptions for 22 yards, the second most of any North receiver.

The Kannapolis native led the Pirates in catches and receiving yards for the second consecutive season in 2006. Allison concluded his senior season, which included a bowl appearance for the Pirates for the first time since 2001, with 62 receptions for 708 yards and four touchdowns. He also missed a pair of games because of an injuried ankle.

As a junior in 2005, Allison caught 83 passes for 1,024 yards and seven touchdowns, becoming the first ECU player to post more than 1,000 receiving yards.

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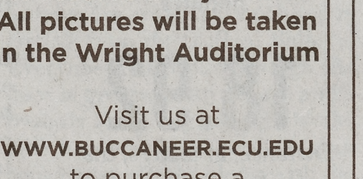

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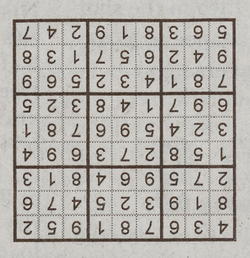

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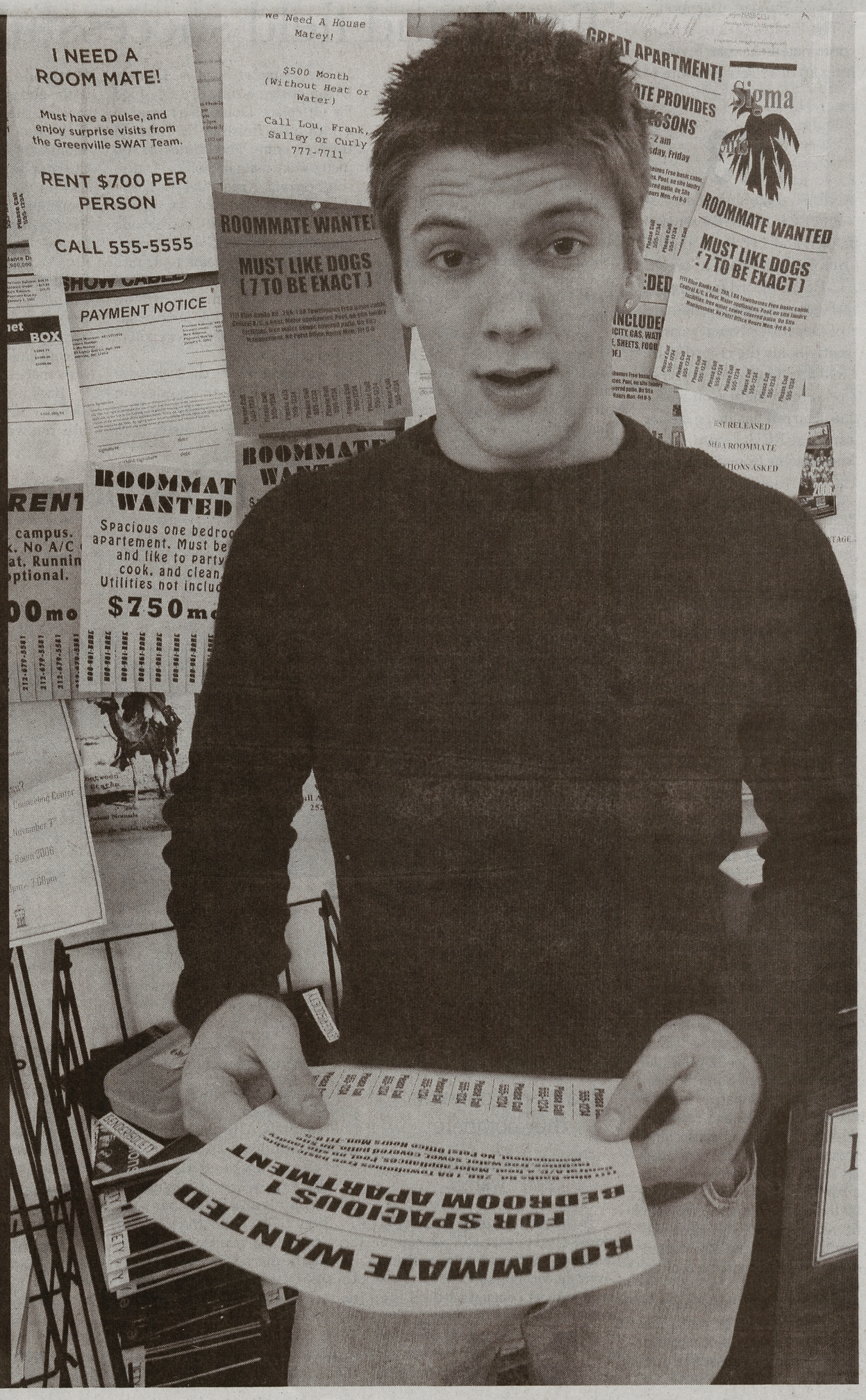
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