The EastCarolinian

YOUR INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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VDAY
UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS

The Vagina Monologues will be performed this weekend as part of the V-Day Campaign to raise money for domestic violence victims, read more about the campaign.....**Page A4**

WZMB 91.3

The votes have been tallied and 1990 is the year of music that most readers want to read about, John Bosco grants your wish.....**Page A4**

For complete coverage of the Pirates' 2007 recruiting class, and to find out what Head Football Coach Skip Holtz looks so happy about, turn to.....**Page A8**

After losing two close games on the road, the ECU men's basketball team was poised to get their first C-USA victory. For a recap of the Pirates' hard fought duel with the Black Knights of UCF, turn to.....**Page A8**

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ECU Chapter of KA addresses shortfalls

Kappa Alpha to undergo membership review

ZACK HILL
SENIOR WRITER

The Kappa Alpha Order National Administrative Office recently issued sanctions to the Gamma Rho Chapter at ECU. The sanctions resulted from members' unsatisfactory academic performance, mismanagement of chapter operations, violations of the Kappa Alpha Order risk management policy and failure of individual members to comply with university and local rules and regulations, according to a National KA Order press release.

Because the infractions do not represent the values of the Kappa Alpha Order, the ECU chapter of KA will have to undergo a membership review. The review will allow local alumni to determine the future involvement of all currently active members.

Keith Tingley, assistant director of Greek Life, said that incidents over the last several years have prompted the review.

"A membership review is basically the organization evaluating the members to see if anybody is not living up to standards," said Tingley.

At least some of the members are not expected to pass the review. Those who do not pass will be put on temporary alumni status, meaning they would not be allowed to participate in any fraternity activities.

Those on temporary alumni status for academic reasons would be allowed to return once their GPA returned to a level deemed appropriate by the review.

Tingley said membership reviews are not uncommon.

"I would say there are guys who are members of fraternities everywhere who get removed by the president or by the academic standards board," Tingley said, citing the last fraternity membership review at ECU in spring 2005.

"It could be the national organization saying, 'Hey, our chapter down there is not doing what we want, what we expect of them.' It could be the alumni saying that we've got a couple of guys we need to get rid of. In this situation we kind of came together as a group; their alumni, a lot of undergraduates and the university actually went to their national organization and said 'We would like for you guys to help,'" Tingley said.

Tingley and Kappa Alpha president Justin Edwards, sophomore history major, said that

see **KA** page A2

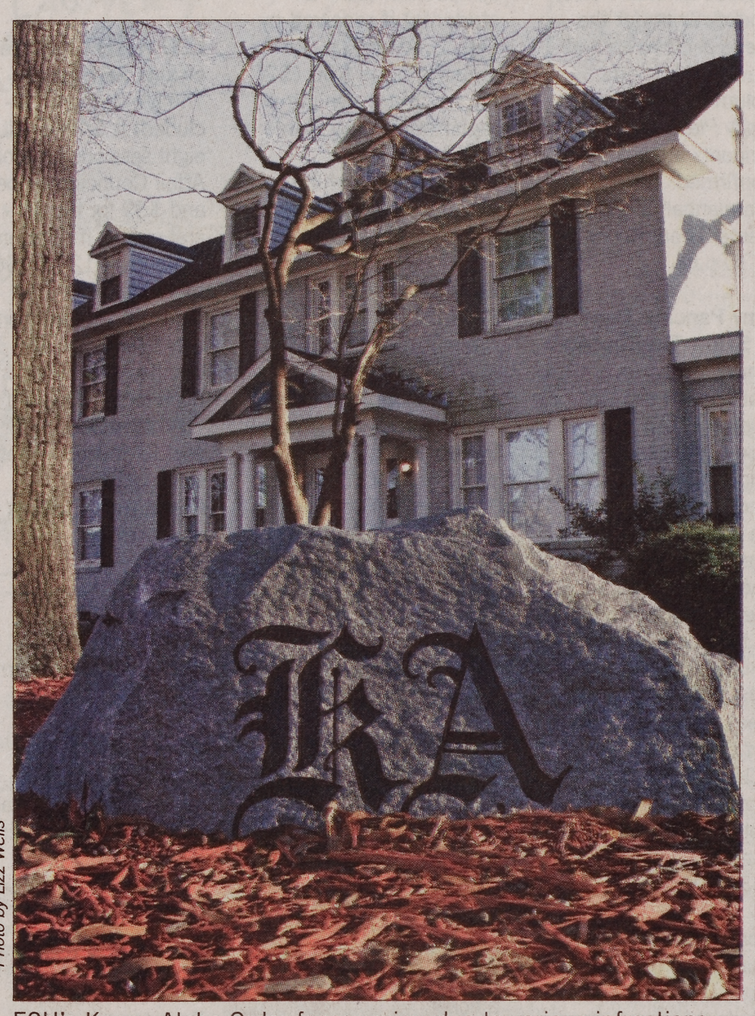

Photo by Lizz Wells

ECU's Kappa Alpha Order faces review due to various infractions.

Student Union semi-formal to benefit community

Money raised will go to support local charities

RACHAEL LOTTER
WEB EDITOR

Saturday from 8 – 11 p.m., the Student Union and the Volunteer and Service-Learning Center are hosting "From the Heart – A Night of Giving."

The event will take place at Harvey Hall in the Murphy Center beside Minges Coliseum and it is a semi-formal benefit raising money for the Humane Society of Eastern Carolina, the Pitt County AIDS Service Organization and the Little Willie Center.

Each organization is non-profit and serves a different area of the community. P.I.C.A.S.O educates the community about HIV transmission and provides assistance to people who are affected by HIV or AIDS, while the Little Willie Center provides role models, life lessons, educational programs and childcare services for children. The Humane Society of Eastern Carolina houses neglected and homeless animals, provides pet adoption and educates the public on animal related issues.

Not only geared toward students, the event welcomes ECU faculty, staff and Greenville residents as well. While the event doesn't cost anything to attend, guests are asked to make whatever donation they can. Upon entrance, attendees will be able to choose which charity they would like their donation to benefit, according to Lauren Estridge, Student Union president. The event will feature a silent auction which will take place for the duration of the event. Various items have been donated from Harris Teeter, Lowes Food, the U.B.E., Jefferson's florist, Viquest and Marathon restaurant. There is also a basketball autographed by L.A. Laker's Head Coach Phil Jackson. All of the proceeds from the auctions will go directly to the charities.

The Davis and Dow Jazz Duo will provide music for the event. Various restaurants around Greenville will serve desserts and the Lopaus Point Market will operate a cash bar, a feature enabling those of legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages.

"If you want to drink and are of age you will be given a ribbon... and you will be carded at the bar as well," said Estridge.

Because of the location of the event, alcohol can be present, said the Associate Dean of Students Laura Sweet. In addition to the event's location, other factors that determine whether alcohol will be allowed are the serving of food, availability of non-alcoholic beverages and the amount of people over 21 compared to those who are not.

"The benefit is a great way to get the entire university community together while contributing to organizations that often go unnoticed," said Casey Verburg, Student Union vice president.

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

Two guilty pleas heard in university cases

Financial aid scam, dorm fire both in court Wednesday

ZACK HILL
SENIOR WRITER

Two women plead guilty today in separate cases concerning events at ECU.

Latasha Ann Isler plead guilty to burning a public building in order to have lesser charges dropped. She started a fire in Clement Hall on March 29, 2006, after a fight with her roommate.

She received a 16-20 suspended sentence along with 48 months of probation and was ordered to pay restitutions to both the university and her roommate.

Assistant District Attorney Kimberly Robb, who was in charge of the case, said that Isler's good character prior to the event helped her get the charges reduced.

"She seemed genuinely remorseful and I think that the judge took that into consideration," Robb said.

Also on Wednesday, Debra Cherry Albritton plead guilty to 12 counts of obtaining property by false pretense. She and two other former ECU employees were indicted in October of 2006 for taking more than $100,000 from the university through a financial aid scam.

Her sentencing is set for April 12. The other two suspects have not plead or been found guilty of any charges yet.

District Attorney Clark Everett said that he could not comment on the case because sentencing has not yet been completed.

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

Student arrested on theft charges

Photo by Levinia Tyrrell

Authorities used a bait wallet containing the ID of "I Ben Cawt" to help solve SRC larceny cases.

Suspect in five different cases involving larceny at SRC

JENELLE CONNER
NEWS EDITOR

ECU police arrested 18-year-old ECU freshman Sterling Moore last Monday after an extensive undercover operation. Moore is being charged with five counts of breaking and entering, five counts of larceny and three counts of financial card use.

Eleven thefts have occurred in the Student Recreational Center since Jan. 1, resulting in over $2,500 in losses to personal items.

The items stolen include jeans, wallets, MP3 players and flash drives.

Detective C. Jones said that all of the items stolen were from the men's locker room in lockers that were not locked.

Jones and Detective Sgt. Justin Gurthrie spearheaded the project, which involved three undercover ECU police officers and a black wallet placed in an open locker as bait. The wallet included various credit cards, a few personal items and an ECU OneCard with the name, "I Ben Cawt."

Jones said SRC Associate Director of Facilities Pat Cox was very helpful in curbing the crime wave occurring at SRC. Cox gave the ECU police full cooperation and allowed them to use recording equipment to catch the thief. About a dozen cameras are continually recording SRC activity, according to Cox.

"ECU police officers have been viewing the monitor for the past two weeks," said facility manager Alexis Briley. "It is good that ... the customer service staff recognized the man."

Even though ECU police check the SRC three to four times every day, this case is not the first string of SRC thefts. There were seven or eight cases in November and December as well.

When asked about how to prevent theft Cox said, "bring a lock."

He said make sure not to leave items unsecured in the cubbies courtside or in the locker rooms because they are easy targets.

He also mentioned making sure not to use social security numbers, birth dates or any additional numbers that could be in your wallet as your debit card pin number. Thieves can withdraw money from a stolen debit card this way.

Cox said that Moore has been placed under a $65,000 combined bond.

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

Steps taken to make the Rivers building smoke-free

Resolution proposed by Student Welfare Committee

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
SENIOR WRITER

The SGA Student Welfare committee is making an effort to inform students that the Rivers building is completely smoke-free.

The Rivers building houses Interior Design and Merchandising, Hospitality Management, Nutrition and Dietetics, Social Work, Criminal Justice, and Child Development and Family Relations classes.

Some of the programs within CDFR involve a child daycare center for pre-school children.

The Rivers building is already a smoke-free building but people continue to smoke around the building according to Regina Twine, Student Welfare committee chair.

"I've seen people smoke out in front of the building by the ash trays and benches," said Brittany Hicks, nursing major.

Cynthia Johnson, CDFR chair said, although the smoking bins have been moved to the other side of the building, away from the children, people still smoke as they come up the ramps on the opposite side and throw their cigarette butts on the ground.

Nancy Lee, director of the Child Development Lab, said a few years ago the ground under the ramp caught on fire because someone threw a lit cigarette.

A resolution has been written that highlights why the Rivers building should become completely smoke-free. Some of the main issues that the resolution points out are the health hazards that smoking causes to children and the ashtrays that are positioned around the building.

According to Johnson, some of the children that come to the River's building to participate in programs have health issues.

"We don't want them to get sick from people smoking around the building," said Johnson.

The resolution states that one of the conflicts with the Rivers building allegedly being smoke-free is that the ashtrays around the building send smokers a message that smoking is permitted.

Many are questioning why the ashtrays are around the Rivers building if it is a smoke-free area. Twine said that she thinks it was a decision that was made years ago to solve the problem of the butts on the ground around the building.

"In numerous cases, ash trays are requested by people who inhabit the building after seeing butts on the ground," said John Gill, assistant director of Facility Services.

According to Lee, the department has been working with Facility Services to get the butts picked up everyday.

Parents of the children that are enrolled in the daycare center are in favor of the Rivers building becoming completely smoke-free.

"We have gotten a few comments from parents of the children at Rivers," said Twine.

Many of the faculty members that work in Rivers are also in support of the efforts to eliminate smoking around the building.

Twine said that support is needed not only from the SGA congress but the students and faculty.

"This would be a huge issue that would take lots of student and faculty input and I think that type of decision is bigger than the SGA congress," Twine said.

There is faculty support from those who teach within this field and see the effects of smoking near this building.

"I think the university buildings should be smoke-free, especially in

see **SMOKE** page A2

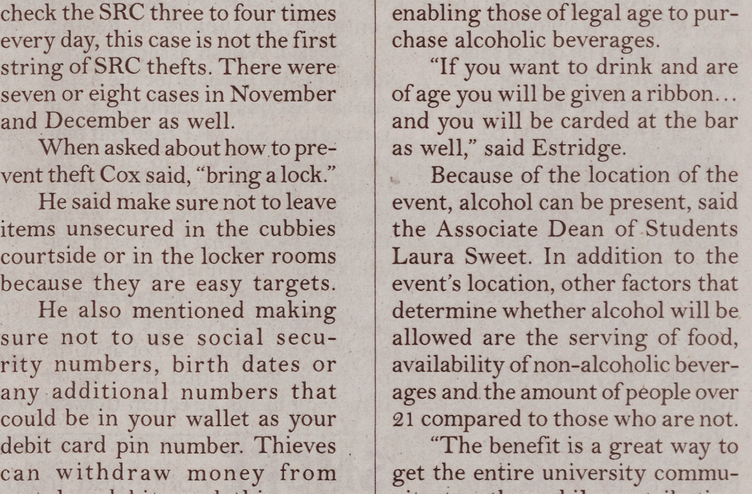

Photo by Lizz Wells

Students, faculty want a smoke-free environment for CDFR daycare.

NEWS

{ Campus & Community }

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vagina Monologues
Feb. 9 – 11
Wright Auditorium
7 – 9 p.m.
The Greenville Theater Project is hosting the 2007 production of The *Vagina Monologues*. Proceeds will benefit the Family Violence Program, Inc. of Pitt County.
Advanced tickets—$10 for students and $12 for non-students—are on sale at 1.800.ECU.ARTS. Tickets at the door are $13 and $15, respectively.
The performance is being presented in conjunction with V-DAY, an organized response to violence against women and children.

Student Actors Needed for *Confessions*
Four to six student actors needed to participate in *Confessions*, a theatrical production in which the lived experiences of people with HIV/AIDS are told. Students will be asked to portray the lives of those living with HIV through monologues. Auditions will be held on Feb. 20 from 3 – 5 p.m. at the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center.
If you are interested in participating, please contact Shawnte McMillan at mcmillans@ecu.edu or Tywanna Jeffries at jeffriest@ecu.edu to receive a copy of a script.

Urinetown
Feb. 22 – 27
8 p.m., except Sunday at 2 p.m.
McGinnis Auditorium
Book by Greg Kotis, lyrics by Greg Kotis and Mark Hollmann and music by Mark Hollmann.
One of the most uproariously funny musicals in recent years, *Urinetown* is a hilarious tale of greed, corruption, love, and revolution in a time when water is worth its weight in gold. In a Gotham-like city, a terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year draught, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. Amid the people, a hero decides he's had enough, and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom! Inspired by the works of Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill, *Urinetown* is an irreverently humorous satire in which no one is safe from scrutiny. Praised for reinvigorating the very notion of what a musical could be, *Urinetown* catapults the comedic romp into the new millennium with its outrageous perspective, wickedly modern wit, and sustained ability to produce gales of unbridled laughter.

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.

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.

8 Thu

***Sports Reporting Panel Discussion**
Confirmed panelists include Lorenzo Perez, hockey writer for the *News & Observer* and David Teel, sports columnist with the *Daily Press*. Other participants are still being confirmed.
Mendenhall Student Center Great Room
3:30 p.m.

Tiny Pancake Preview & Sale—The Tiny Art Show
Patrons will enjoy a supper of tiny pancakes, little sausage and miniature desserts. Those joining us will be given a sneak peek preview at the tiny art show! Advanced tickets are $10 for adults ($12 at the door) and $5 for children 12 and under (children 4 and under free). Emerge Gallery & Art Center,
404 S. Evans St.,
Uptown Greenville between 5th and 4th Streets
5:30 – 8 p.m.

Poetry Jam
Sponsored by *Expressions* Magazine & Student Union Cultural Awareness
Pirate Underground
8 p.m.

9 Fri

The Third Annual Jean Mills Health Symposium
The fee is $25 for the symposium ($15 for students) if received by Feb. 2. After Feb. 2, registration is $30 ($20 for students). Online registration is available at eahec.edu.edu.
The Greenville Hilton,
207 SW Greenville Blvd.
9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Baseball vs. Liberty
Clark-LeClair Stadium
3 p.m.

Vagina Monologues
The Greenville Theater Project is hosting the 2007 production of *The Vagina Monologues* Feb. 9 – 11 at 7 p.m. in ECU's Wright Auditorium. Proceeds will benefit the Family Violence Program, Inc. of Pitt County.
Wright Auditorium
7 – 9 p.m.

SDA presents... A Healthy Lunch
In honor of National Heart Month, ECU's Student Dietetic Association is preparing a "heart healthy" meal for faculty and students. Tickets are $7, please contact Nancy Harris at harrisn@ecu.edu to purchase a ticket.
160 Rivers
12 – 1 p.m.

10 Sat

TALGS Conference
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

ECU Hosts Great Decisions Seminars
The fee (textbook included) is $49 for all eight sessions for World Affair Council members and $59 for the general public, if registered by January 12 and $69 thereafter. Full-time students and teachers can attend 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.

Baseball
vs. Liberty
Clark-LeClair Stadium
1 p.m.

From the Heart, A Night of Giving
Harvey and Jones Halls in the Murphy Center
8 – 11 p.m.

Contra Dance and Potluck Dinner
Willis Building, First and Reade Street
Downtown
6 p.m. potluck dinner,
7:30 p.m. lesson,
8 – 10:30 p.m. dance
Smoke and alcohol-free

11 Sun

If you would like to see your even featured here, log on to theeastcarolinian.com/calendar to submit the details

12 Mon

Intramural Indoor Soccer Team Registration Meeting
Mendenhall Student Center Multi-Purpose Room
5 p.m.

Family Feud: Battle of the Sexes
Hendrix Theater
7 p.m.

Something the Lord Made
Sponsored by Student Union Cultural Awareness
Hendrix Theater
7:30 p.m.

13 Tue

Apollo
The NAACP and the LWCC Emissaries will host the annual talent show. Come out and watch as performers try to wow the audience with talents ranging from singing, dancing and poetry. If you are interested in performing stop by the Cultural Center for an application or contact Erica Reid for more information: 252-328-8690.
Hendrix Theater
7 p.m.

Love Shouldn't Cost a Thing
Bate 1032
7 p.m.

14 Wed

Smokefree for Your Sweetheart
Wright Plaza
9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

HIV Rapid Testing
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Mendenhall 242

Men's Basketball
vs. Southern Miss
Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum
7 p.m.

***Featured Event:**
Sports Reporting Panel Discussion
Confirmed panelists include Lorenzo Perez, hockey writer for the *News & Observer* and David Teel, sports columnist with the *Daily Press*. Other participants are still being confirmed.
Mendenhall Student Center Great Room
3:30 p.m.

BRIEFS

More U.S. troops died in Iraq combat over past four months than in any similar period of war
WASHINGTON (AP)—More American troops were killed in combat in Iraq over the past four months—at least 334 through Jan. 31—than in any comparable stretch since the war began, according to an Associated Press analysis of casualty records.
Not since the bloody battle for Fallujah in 2004 has the death toll spiked so high.
The reason is that U.S. soldiers and Marines are fighting more battles in the streets of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, and other cities. And while hostile forces are using a variety of weaponry, the top killer is the roadside bomb.
In some respects it is the urban warfare that U.S. commanders thought they had managed to largely avoid after U.S. troops entered Baghdad in early April 2003 and quickly toppled the Saddam Hussein regime.
And with President Bush now sending thousands more U.S. troops to Baghdad and western Anbar province, despite opposition in Congress and the American public's increasing war weariness, the prospect looms of even higher casualties.

Some see guitar, some see phallic imagery in Prince's Super Bowl halftime performance
NEW YORK (AP)—In the sensitive post-wardrobe malfunction world, some are questioning whether a guitar was just a guitar during Prince's Super Bowl halftime show.
Prince's acclaimed performance included a guitar solo during the "Purple Rain" segment of his medley in which his shadow was projected onto a large, flowing beige sheet. As the 48-year-old rock star let rip, the silhouette cast by his figure and his guitar (shaped like the singer's symbol) had phallic connotations for some.
A number of bloggers have decried "Malfunction!"—including Sam Anderson at New York magazine's Daily Intelligencer. Daily News television critic David Bianculli called it "a rude-looking shadow show" that "looked embarrassingly rude, crude and unfortunately placed."
CBS spokesman Dana McClintock said Tuesday that the network has received "very few" complaints on Prince's performance. CBS last aired the Super Bowl in 2004 when Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake's "wardrobe malfunction" sparked criticism and a subsequent crackdown on broadcast decency from the Federal Communications Commission. But this time, it was the NFL that produced the halftime show (MTV had in 2004). Spokesman Greg Aiello said the league has received no complaints.

Bush budget would halt some land conservation in favor of corn for ethanol
SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP)—President Bush's proposed budget would put a land conservation program that protects some 35 million acres on hold in favor of boosting corn production to meet the growing demand for ethanol.
While the proposal might help lessen the country's dependence on oil, a pheasant hunting and conservation group was quick to criticize the trade-off and a state biologist said the loss of the program could put some farmers in a financial bind.
Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said his agency would offer no new Conservation Reserve Program enrollments in 2007 and 2008.

KA continued from A1

most of the problems had to do with grades but declined to comment on rumors of hazing.

Michael Wilson, associate director of chapter services for the Kappa Alpha's national administration in Lexington, Va., said that the purpose of the review is to "leave the chapter in a better situation that it was prior to the review by removing those members that have poor academics and disciplinary infractions."

"It was the university's request that the review take place. What we did is form a group to conduct the review to insure that the chapter is moving in the direction that the national administrative office, the university and the alumni want it to move," said Wilson.

"It's not a bad thing. It gives you the opportunity to take the best members of a chapter and make the organization better," Tingley said.

Edwards and Tingley both said that fraternities should set the example for the rest of ECU.

"I'm looking for people that are willing to give the image that stands up from the rest of the university [through] grades, community involvement and leadership," said Edwards.

Kappa Alpha Order executive director Larry S. Wiese has no doubt KA will overcome their challenges.

"KA has a long and storied tradition on the campus of ECU," said Wiese in the press release. "I fully expect the chapter to rebound from their recent difficulties to carry on that proud tradition."

Changes in chapter practices will include higher academic standards for all members, more involvement in positive campus and community events, a reform of member education processes and more alumni involvement.

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

SMOKE continued from A1

our department because we have the Child Development Lab in the Rivers building," said Dr. Archana V. Hegde, assistant professor of the department of CDFR.

To approve the resolution to make Rivers completely smoke-free, it must pass through different individuals and departments.

If the resolution is approved, more smoke-free signs around the building will be displayed and the ashtrays removed.

Twine said that in order for the signs to be placed up, they must contact the university attorney about the wording that will appear on the signs.

No definite penalties have been decided for violators of the no smoking rules for the building.

Some penalties suggested in the resolution include things such as warnings and monetary fines, which will be enforced by campus police and administration.

"We are hoping that friendly suggestions works first and we will see how it turns out from there," Twine said.

This is the second time that this type of resolution has been proposed to make the Rivers building smoke-free.

Regina Ford, a former student welfare committee chair, passed a bill in relation to making Rivers smoke-free a few years ago.

Some of the faculty in the Rivers building haves been aware of this issue and have been working on getting this accomplished for much longer.

"This department has been working for years to try to make Rivers smoke-free. We've been working on this for at least 10 years," Johnson said.

Twine reintroduced the issue after hearing about ashtrays being put around the building because of cigarette butts and research on how second had smoke effects children.

The first stages of establishing a completely smoke-free area around the Rivers building should be completed within the next month, according to Twine.

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

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lifeasier.com

For Singles
Why get stuck in a long line at a Resturant

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Don't you deserve as much private time as possible

"Be in LOVE, not in Line."
Lunch Mon.-Fri. 11-2; Sat. & Sun. 12-5 • *Dinner Sun.-Thurs. 5-10; Fri. & Sat. 5-11
Order From These Fabulous Restaurants!

Ham's Brewhouse *
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City Bistro *
Basils
Schlotzky's
Boli's 5th Street
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Heart Broken...
Here Here
Who Needs Love
When You Have Beer
Come Celebrate The
ANTI-VALENTINES Cheer!
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758-2774 Take out
Christy's EURO PUB
LUNCH·DINNER·LATE-NIGHT
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EVERY DAY 11am-10pm
2 blocks from campus
NEWLY REMODELED OUTDOOR PATIO

Opinion

{ Here's to the weekend }

RANT OF THE DAY

I'm an engineering major and the most useful thing I have engineered to this date is a beer pong table.

The next generation of journalism

How citizen journalism is shaping the future of media

KRYSTLE STRICKLIN
OPINION WRITER

If you wanted to watch a video of a man solving a Rubiks cube with his feet, where would be the first place you would look? A couple of years ago simply "the Internet" would be the most typical response, but today the answer for most of us would be the popular site YouTube. It was named *Time* magazine's "Invention of the Year" in 2006 and is now speculated to be the most popular site on the Web, with millions of new downloads everyday.

This Web site has given an incredible boost to the rapidly growing popularity of citizen journalism, where people actively contribute to the reporting of news through blogs, independent news Web sites or other means. While magazine and newspaper circulations are rapidly declining, online media is seeing a drastic increase in readers. Online news sources and independent Web sites are redefining the relationship between the public and media corporations.

This means that large media companies don't own the news anymore. In today's Internet savvy generation, the public is capable of shifting from the role of "audience" to full participators in the news. The increasing popularity of blogs and YouTube proves that people are becoming increasingly eager to branch away from mainstream media sources.

Force-feeding the public with information is simply not going to work anymore. People are no longer tied down to what the mainstream media decides is news. When unsatisfied with the media, people will simply look elsewhere to find the news that is important to them. With so many options available today, some of the public is inevitably going to stop relying on mainstream media sources.

I am not ready to put journalists on the endangered species list quite yet, but no one can ignore their rapid decline. So what must journalists do to adapt to the changes in media? First, they must abandon any notion that they decide what should be considered newsworthy. Today, it is all about what the public wants to hear. Journalists must become figureheads who can provide insights beyond that of an average person. By providing well-informed pieces, journalists can build loyalty with their audience.

The future of journalism may look grim to some, but for the average Joe, things have never looked better. A Web site like YouTube gives individuals the ability to broadcast their stories to the entire world. Citizen journalism is the next generation of journalism.

The blasphemy what?

Youtube as an outlet for Atheism

YAZID FINN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I'll begin this editorial by apologizing in advance if I may state something untrue towards the theme of this opinion, as I am not a Christian.

I have to say I'm glad I chose to attend ECU as it really gave me the chance to finally sit down and take a critical view as to why people believe in what they do. I'm sure at one time or another you've noticed our "campus visitors" who stand outside the library's pillars for hours at a time.

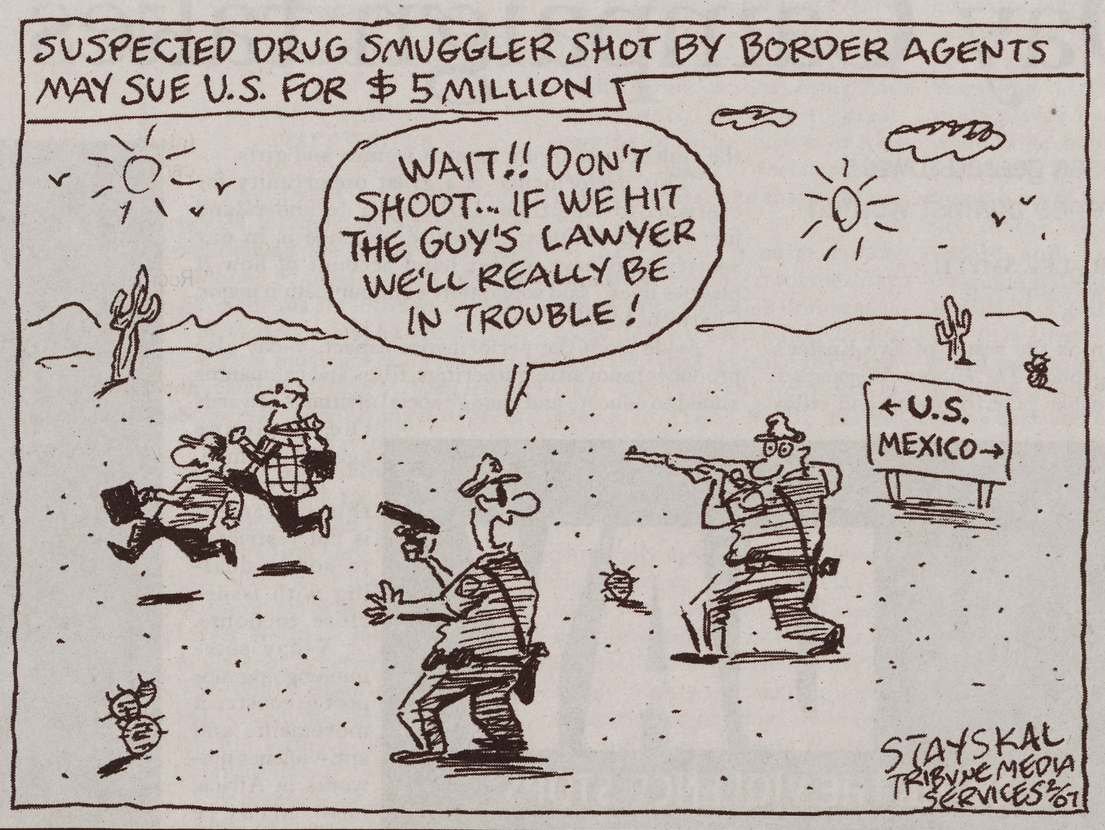
I often stand in the crowds around them just to listen to what they have to say. It was meeting these individuals that sparked an interest into taking a look at religions, which ultimately led to discovering the alternative movement of the Atheist world.

Where was this movement taking place? At none other than the video uploading world of Youtube. While Youtube may come to mind as the best place for finding videos of people partaking in activities of the dangerously stupid variety, it can also be a place of serious discussion where members take turns posing questions and answers to some of the most difficult religious issues to date. But one set of videos in particular has recently caught my attention and is widely known as, "The Blasphemy Challenge."

The challenge calls for those on Youtube to, in a sense, join hands to commit the most unforgivable sin mentioned in the Bible: Deny the Holy Spirit. The videos have attracted waves of attention from other users around the Web site, as well as various News Media outlets including Fox and NBC. After just over a month, well over 700 video responses were posted in reply to the challenge, either joining hands with the challenge's creator or dismissing the video as a publicity stunt of Atheists and otherwise seeing the video as missing the mark of its intentions.

I fall in with the latter. Sure, the creator of the video notes chapter and verse of the Bible (Mark 3:29), and continues to say that denying the Holy Spirit is the most unforgivable sin mentioned in the Bible. For his efforts, he is correct. However, the entire intention behind the videos continues, in which every person repeats a few lines following the lead of the first, stating that he or she "denies the existence of the Holy Spirit." And they think they've committed the unforgivable sin for this?

Like most problems that form from religious fights, it is in my belief that this entire challenge stemmed from the good old-fashioned "out of context" clause. Sure, the videos look cool when various celebrities like Penn Jillette (the talking half of the Penn and Teller duo), among others, uploads their videos in praise of the challenge... but just about everyone has missed the mark. When the average post on Youtube lacks vowels and proper punctuation, I begin to long for the good old days of coffee house intellectual discussions. Anyone with me?



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.

To the people who stop in the middle of the road to let people out, just pull of the road or park for two seconds. There are people trying to get past you.

You're fiancé is cheating on you. How do I know? He calls me all the time for more than a friendly conversation.

I love the fact that I can read the Pirate Rants online. It's the one thing that makes my lecture classes enjoyable.

I'd take a "banjo, back woods, out of the cornfield accent" over a whiny, New York accent from my hometown any day.

They say if you don't look for a relationship one will just come to you, but how do you not look when you are really attracted to this person?

I say I like being single, but really I want a boyfriend really bad.

I eat way too much for a girl.

I like your red bra and underwear you bought for Valentine's Day. Good luck.

I hope the new girl you picked is really cool, because she's not that cute.

I'm pretty sure all boys are jerks.

My Frisbee captain is totally cute.

Why do you have to have a girlfriend?

I think hot guys are allergic to me.

Just because my roommate and I got really drunk and kissed one night does not make us lesbians!

I love Thursdays, because my sketchy friends and I go to IHOP. We have the best time, every time.

Oh, I'm sorry. I thought we were too old to be giving prank phone calls.

Dear roommate, No! I don't have any more condoms.

So I just finished reading the Rants. Now I'm going to get back to my second favorite hobby: Facebook stalking.

Those trucks should not be driving on the sidewalks on campus. It is dangerous for those trucks to drive through the Wright Plaza area.

Sometimes I wish I could find one good girl, so all the others will leave me alone...

Let's all go get parfaits and discuss the candidates for the U.S. presidency in 2008.

I bet I love Carolina and hate Duke more than you.

I am trying to forget about your horrible past.

That is wrong and you should stop doing it.

Don't come crying to me about your sorority drama. Don't you have other things to worry about... like college? Maybe if you quit being a slave to your sorority you could have a normal social life.

Parking at ECU is stupid! Leave my car alone, meter maids!

Please put up some signs in the Whichard Building. Ragsdale has signs that tell you what each office is, so why can't you, Whichard?

Think about the things that really irritate you and ask yourself which ones really matter at all.

If you're unhappy at your job on campus, please quit because you make the student body miserable.

If you're going to work out in the gym, please wear deodorant. My nostrils started burning today.

Hey everyone, look around you, find something good in your day! Let's try to have a happy Pirate Rant section for once!

The evil me is back... and badder than ever.

To my dear friends that searched for my lost keys in the cold, dark night: I love you!

I've been sprayed in the eye with a produce hose!

I think the guy living above me brushes his teeth more than 50 times a day. I hear his every move.

What is up with all of the long black witch jackets?

I'm a professional lush!

Send your mom my way. I want to meet her.

I thought I was the only one who loved George Bush, too! I have a stand up poster of him in my room!

Why are all the hot girls moody?

I learned all the lessons about what not to do when drinking the night before a test and lab practical...

The date we went on was a waste of my time and money. That's why I never called you back. Sorry!

I've given up on the entire male population. After I graduate, I am becoming a nun in a convent.

I want a wedding cake with polka dots on it!

Is it bad that I've been sitting here writing Pirate Rants for the last three hours of the day? OK, maybe!

It's amazing how much life can change just by switching roomies... I love my life!

My mom keeps asking me if I was the person who wrote "I love my mom" last week in the Rants. No it wasn't me but, please print this so she knows that I do love her—very much!

Yeah, you might think you're all that and a bag of chips but, remember, at the end of day I'm the one holding his hand.

My roommate hits my cat when he bites her. He bites her because he doesn't like how she rubs him. The next time she hits my cat, I'm going to knock her block off.

The best thing in the world is hugging my horse when he's warm and smells like fresh hay and sunshine.

Being an only child is lonely.

Is there any way we can get tanning beds at the Rec. Center?

Why do we not have a pirate ship on campus?

My closet is full of clothes and yet I have nothing to wear.

I understand that you're busy, but why won't you date me?

How am I already out of Pirate Bucks?

Did anyone else have a paper due the day after the Super Bowl? I didn't get to watch any of it!

The circus is coming to Raleigh next weekend and I'm organizing a protest. Wild animals are called "wild" for a reason.

Is anyone ever going to love and adore me?

I hate it when people take my cubicle in the library!

People that say health care should be affordable for everyone aren't the ones spending a ton of time and money to go to medical school.

Vodka will be the death of me.

It really sucks when you go to class, sit down, look around and realize everyone has those blue bubble sheets, which means there is a test and you're screwed...

Indie music is simply amazing.

I'm so glad that stupid groundhog didn't see its shadow... I wanna wear my rainbows again soon!

Just because it is raining, you and your umbrella don't own the sidewalk.

Officials screw up, blame everyone

What else is new?

JONATHAN GARDNER
OPINION WRITER

It was a typical, cold morning in Boston on Jan. 31. However, that morning started out different than most. By noon, the city was gripped in fear due to multiple bomb threats all around the city. Streets were closed, police were everywhere and the citizens of Boston were left out in the dark. According to city officials, possible bombs had been placed strategically around the city, including in a subway station and under a bridge. The officials couldn't have been more wrong if they tried.

These "bombs" were actually advertising pieces for the Adult Swim show, "Aqua Teen Hunger Force." These pieces, which depicted pixilated characters of the show giving the middle finger, were black boxes with batteries and wires in the back. According to Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley,

"It [the piece] had a very sinister appearance." Officials were worked up over these devices, but if you showed them to any pedestrian on the street, they would call the devices for what they were: Lite-Brite boards. The advertising pieces depicted the characters using a circuit board and tiny light bulbs.

Now, it is understandable that the city would shut down after multiple bomb threats. After all, it's important to protect your citizens.

However, there is a major flaw in that thinking. These advertising pieces were around the city for a couple weeks. Yes, the supposed "bombs" were around the city long before the officials took notice of them. So, had these devices actually been explosives, half the city of Boston would be gone by now. Not only that, this same advertising campaign was set up in multiple cities around the country, including New York and San Francisco. Boston was the only city that mistook these pieces for explosives.

But rather than admit that they were wrong and that they overreacted, Boston officials decided to take this in another direction.

They are charging the two men who set up the devices around the city with "inciting a bomb scare." The two men are taking the charges as seriously as they should be. During their press conference, they refused to answer any questions about the case and would only answer questions related to haircuts of the 1970s. Boston officials are also asking Turner Broadcasting Company, the parent company of Adult Swim, to reimburse the city for the time and manpower wasted on this "hoax." Turner Broadcasting has issued an apology, but no reimbursement has gone out yet.

This is just another example of the egotistical "powers that be." They were duped and now the whole country knows it. They take a shot to their ego and decide that it's not their fault they were duped. The blame rests on everyone else.

Once the two accused men go free, which is likely to happen, maybe the officials of Boston will let it go and put this whole mess behind them. On the other hand, there's a silver lining around this event. Aqua Teen Hunger Force got the publicity it wanted to achieve, and more.

ECU lacrosse plays season opener Saturday

Can you smell it?

JUSTIN SUMMERS
OPINION WRITER

At the *East Carolinian*, we spend quite a bit of time writing about the various athletic programs here at ECU. Basketball, hockey, baseball and of course, football are the big ones, but there are a few other sports that deserve some recognition too.

One of these lesser known sports is a little game called lacrosse. For those of you who do not know what lacrosse is, I will try to break it down for you.

Lacrosse is a game that was invented by Native Americans in the 1600s and adopted by the French in the 18th century. Since then, lacrosse has become the fastest growing sport in North America and has even received some international coverage thanks to the scandal at Duke University.

Lacrosse is a game of physical endurance and team unity. Each team consists of 10 players; three midfield players, three attack players, three defensive players and a goalie, much like soccer. The objective for each team is to pass, catch and shoot the ball into the opponents goal on opposite ends of a 110-yard field by the end of four 15-minute quarters.

A lacrosse ball is small and rubber and it is thrown and shot with netted sticks that can be swung, poked and slapped at opponents on defense.

Lacrosse is a very fast and physical game that is unlike any other team sport today. Now that you have an abstract idea of what lacrosse is, I can tell you about the lacrosse program here at ECU. At one point in time, I am told, ECU had a Division I lacrosse program that was under funded and cut out. Nowadays, we are in the Southeastern Lacrosse Conference-A league and compete with teams like FSU, Georgia Tech and N.C. State, to name a few.

Four years ago we won the Conference-B championships in Atlanta, Ga. and since then made the switch into the A league for better competition. Since the switch into the A division, we have faced some pretty serious competition but have managed to continually improve each season.

This season looks to be our best yet and it kicks off at noon this Saturday at the Blount fields' complex where we will take on the Clemson Tigers. I had the pleasure of hosting a party with the girls of the ECU women's lacrosse team over the weekend where I was assured I would be killed if I did not mention them in this article.

The women's contingent of ECU lacrosse has their season opener this weekend where they will take on Wake Forest. Women's lacrosse isn't quite as physical as guy's lacrosse but still beats field hockey any day.

The girls team has a big season ahead of them and with some luck, they will win a few. The ECU lacrosse program has been very successful and, with the help of a few fans, we could be the best in the South. So this weekend get your pregame on. Break out your chairs and blankets and make it out to Blount fields to watch the ECU lacrosse teams as we defend the Pirate Nation. Arghh.

OPINION WRITERS WANTED!

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Pulse

{ Arts & Entertainment }

Horoscopes:

Aries
Start counting the money but don't spend it yet. Figure out how much you need and where you're going to get it.

Taurus
As you busily bustle about, you'll encounter people who want to help. This is good, but don't let them take control. Keep that job for yourself.

Gemini
Although you seem to be more efficient now, do pay attention. Listen to your partner, the critics and the competition. Don't race off in the wrong direction.

Cancer
There's plenty of work, but the money is not great. It seems to come in dribbles. The good news is that it's steady, so keep on plugging away. The boredom will make you creative.

Leo
Hide out for a while and let yourself heal. You have a few scrapes and bruises. Don't even think or talk things over. Listen and watch, at the most.

Virgo
Gather up all the goodies you can, and stash them in a safe place. You're just about to get interested in doing something else.

Libra
You're starting to see results, and that's enormously gratifying. Don't go shouting to the hilltops yet; it's still too early. There is still time for things to go the other way.

Scorpio
As you wrap up this latest chore, give yourself a break. Go out and spend some of what you've just earned on somebody you love.

Sagittarius
Another source of funds is becoming available. This may be old debts you can collect, or an old project you can finish. It's like finding a treasure, but you still have to do the work.

Capricorn
Your friends all want to celebrate your newly acquired wealth. You're running into friends you haven't seen in years. Some, you may suspect, you've never seen before. Take care.

Aquarius
The more you understand, the more curious you become. Don't worry about running out of questions. There's a whole universe to explore.

Pisces
Stash away your surplus, and everything else you might need. It never hurts to be prepared. Get new flashlight batteries, too. In the end you'll be glad you packed everything.

Local Concerts:

24th Machine Gun Band and Medusa
Feb. 10
City Hotel and Bistro
9:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

The Embers
Feb. 14
City Hotel and Bistro
9:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Drink Recipes:

Cranberry Fizzle

1 part cranberry juice
1 part seltzer water
1 part white wine
2 limes, sliced, reserve 4 slices for garnish
Mint sprigs, for garnish

In a large pitcher, combine cranberry juice, seltzer, white wine, and lime slices. Serve over ice and garnish with reserved lime slices and mint sprigs.

Espresso Martini

1 1/2 shots vodka
1 shot coffee liqueur
1 shot coffee, cooled to room temperature
1 teaspoon instant espresso coffee granules
Ice cubes

In a martini shaker, combine vodka, coffee liqueur, coffee, and instant espresso. Shake. Add ice cubes. Shake again. Strain into martini glass.

Please drink responsibly.

V-Day Campaign takes over ECU

Performances geared toward stopping violence against women

KORRI-LEE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

V-day first began as the result of Eve Ensler's Obie-Award winning play, *The Vagina Monologues.* As Ensler performed her play in towns and cities across the world, she saw first-hand the violence occurring against women. Hundreds of women shared with her their stories of rape, incest, domestic battery and genital mutilation.

Wanting to put an end to such violence, Ensler and a group of women in New York joined together and founded V-day. The 'V' in V-Day stands for victory, valentine and vagina.

For nine years the global movement referred to as V-day has aimed at stopping violence against women and girls. V-day brings attention to heavy issues such as rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation and sexual slavery.

Each year V-day campaigns, local volunteers and college students produce benefit performances of *The Vagina Monologues.* The purpose of the event is to raise awareness and funds for local anti-violence groups. Last year alone over 2,700 V-day benefit events took place to educate millions of people about the violence occurring against women and girls.

"This performance is a great opportunity for everyone to take time out in order to understand just how prominent domestic violence is in our society, and have a first hand account of how it plagues lives," said sophomore communication major, Charlotte Moye.

Aside from the performance aspect, V-day also produces innovative gatherings, films and campaigns aimed to educate and change social attitudes towards the violence against women.

The work of this movement is not restricted to solely dealing with issues close to home.

V-day commits ongoing support to construct movements and anti-violence networks in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

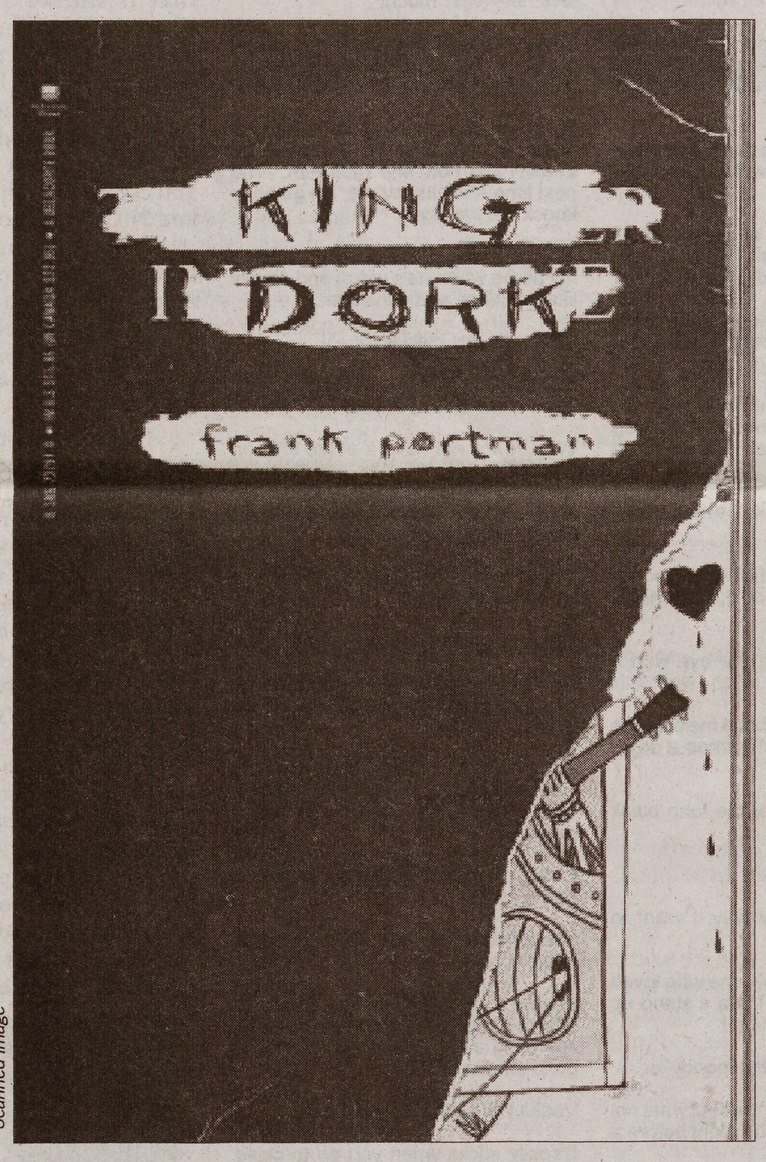
The group has successfully provided hard-won funding that helped open the first shelters for women in Egypt and Iraq, sponsored annual workshops and three national campaigns in Afghanistan, convened the "Confronting Violence" conference of South Asian women leaders and donated satellite-phones to Afghan women to keep lines of communication open and action plans moving forward.

V-day has also established the Karama program based out of Cairo to build networks to end violence against women and girls in Egypt,

see **VDAY** page A7

Images Courtesy of the V-Day Campaign Web site

Eve Ensler gives a powerful performance of *The Vagina Monologues.*



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Novel depicts glory days

Frank Portman's *King Dork*

BRIDGET TODD
STAFF WRITER

It seems like so long ago since I was that girl in the backseat of a Honda Civic trying to impress the black haired senior who drove me to high school, by smoking a clove cigarette. It being my first cigarette, I inhaled, and of course, erupted into a fit of deep hollow coughs. Later at lunch, all of the fake wood tables were clamoring with the story of the girl who made a fool of herself trying to look cool. I've since moved on from this and the many other social humiliations that I fell victim to in high school.

Still, I've always wished I could go back to those horrible years and have every painstaking event narrated with a sarcastic voice over, a kind of sympathetic gag reel. Frank Portman achieves just that by thoroughly recreating those "glory days" with his hilarious and tender debut novel *King Dork.*

The novel's narrator Tom could be the white male version of myself in high school—hopelessly dorky, awkward and tortured by his blonder, more attractive classmates.

This book amusingly illustrates those frightening days of high school, a Darwinian nightmare in which "the normals" (think jock types and cruel school administrators) rule with an iron fist. Tom and his friend Sam spend their days trying to avoid the evil tortures of their popular classmates, not the least of which is "Make out/Fake out," wherein a cheerleader pretends she will sexually pleasure an unsuspecting dork.

The boys take refuge in music, spending a lot of time making new names for their (sort-of) fictional band like "Baby Batter," "Tennis With Guitars" and my personal favorite "I Love You But You're Standing on My Foot."

The novel is an anomaly, at once serving as biting social satire while also being exceedingly earnest. A clever bit of irony unfolds at Tom's mocking of the much-loved novel about an alienated teen *The Catcher in the Rye,* which he is assigned to read each school year. He refers to the book's hordes of followers who claim reading it changed their lives as the "*Catcher* Cult," vowing to never enjoy the book the way his teacher wants him to.

This proves to be ironic as the novel is itself a tale of teen angst and disaffection and because Tom will soon stumble across his dead father's copy of *Catcher,* which reading indeed does change his life.

If your high school experiences sound anything like Tom's (or mine for that matter) you should read this book because you will love it. Better yet, read it then lend it to your teenage sister, brother, friend, child, cousin, niece or nephew. They will love it too, but more importantly, it will serve as an echoing reminder that yes, high school is miserable, but it eventually ends, your face clears up and by then with a little luck you'll have some really great stories.

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

The votes are in: The music of 1990

A year that missed more than it hit

JOHN BOSCO
SENIOR WRITER

A few weeks ago, I asked readers to weigh in on what music year they wanted me to tackle next. The votes were tallied, and 1990 won.

Sometimes, when you look at music in terms of what was released in a given year, every now and then you get a year that stands out and defines an entire decade.

Unfortunately, 1990 didn't quite pan out to be the summary of the great decade ahead.

In many ways, it was a tragic year for music fans.

Among the better music of the decade, Depeche Mode release *Violator,* the album containing the hit "Personal Jesus."

Canadian act The Cowboy Junkies release *The Caution Horses,* and though it is commercially more accessible than their previous album, critics overall say that the band has lost their distinct country blues sound.

Nineteen-ninety did see the breakthrough of Uncle Tupelo, as they released their first full album, *No Depression,* and essentially mark the beginning of alt-country music. Band members Jay Farrar and Jeff Tweedy would later go on to continue to push alt-country in other bands, including the highly successful group Wilco.

Sonic Youth begin their grungier sound with the release of *Goo,* which is somewhat of a step back from their previous experimentation, though still a highlight of one of the year's best albums.

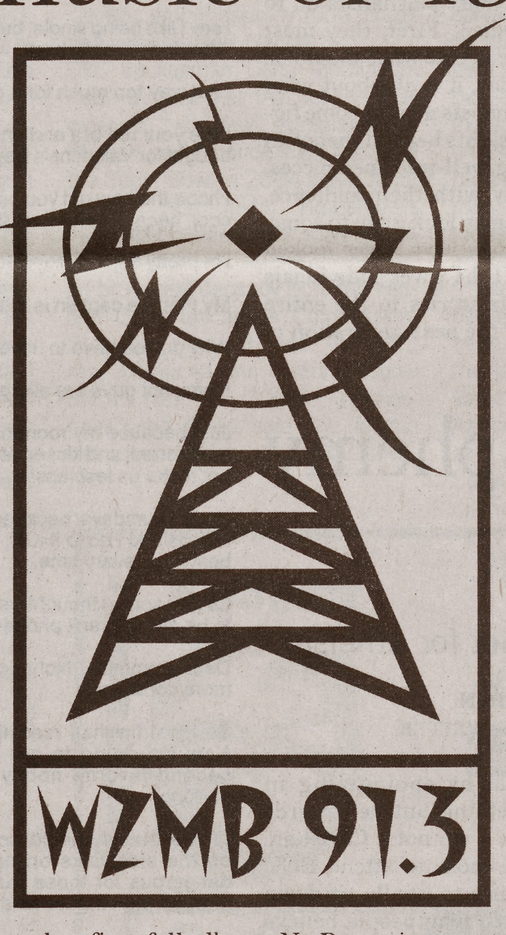
But that's where the successes of 1990 end, for the most part.

Glam metal act (aka "Hair Band") Poison release *Flesh and Blood,* which surprisingly had two top 10 hits.

Not to be confused with the brilliant folk singer, heavy metal act Johnny Crash, release their one and only album, *Neighbourhood Threat.* If you are unsure who they are, don't worry—you are not alone.

The 1990 album on everyone's mind, undoubtedly, would have to be MC Hammer's *Please Hammer Don't Hurt Em.* Featuring the infamous "U Can't Touch This," Hammer received commercial success, but was ultimately considered too pop oriented to be taken seriously. Nineteen-ninety ones's "Too Legit 2 Quit" didn't help any.

Madonna couldn't stay out of the media in 1990, as her Blond Ambition tour placed her on stage performing controversial acts never before seen on stage. Between that and her music video for "Justify My Love," she had her hands full with attention.



see **1990** page A7

Nevertheless' debut album barely has a pulse

Predictable tracks leave something to be desired

JENNY AYERS
STAFF WRITER

On the band's official We site, Neverthelessmusic.com, Relient K's Matthew Thiessan is quoted as saying "Nevertheless' new record makes me a happy camper," and it is easy to see why. The upbeat, catchy mingling of guitar and drums, paired with the smooth vocals of Joshua Pearson, result in a sound almost identical to that of Relient K.

We saw the same phenomena with Panic! at the Disco's striking vocal similarity to Fall Out Boy, but the big difference there was that Panic! set themselves apart by the strength of their music and a style all their own. Nevertheless, however, seems to fall into a rut with this album that leaves them hidden amongst countless other up-and-coming indie bands.

One thing that does set Nevertheless apart from some of their counterparts is that they aim to sing songs about hope and perseverance, while many bands on the indie scene focus on heartbreak and the constant battle that is life.

Nevertheless is a Christian band that actually incorporates their spirituality into their lyrics. Many bands identify themselves as Christian but do not always make it apparent in their words. On their title track, they sing, "We're here only for a second. And then we're gone when we least expect it. So do more than sur-

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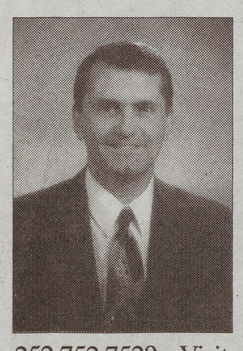
see **NEVERTHELESS** page A7

Mark A. Ward
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Board Certified Specialist in State Criminal Law



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Snuggle up with a classic

Taxi Driver remains remarkable

BEN HARRIS
STAFF WRITER

The 1970s was a golden period for movies. Sly Stallone introduced the world to Rocky Balboa; Francis Ford Coppola gave cinema its ultimate icon in Vito Corleone; and Martin Scorsese gave moviegoers a reason to tip cabbies in 1976's *Taxi Driver.* Scorsese was no stranger to great filmmaking, having previously directed *Mean Streets,* but *Taxi Driver* set the bar for both the urban drama and the entire concept of a film hero.

Taxi Driver marked the true beginning of Scorsese's legendary career. Not since John Huston had Hollywood experienced a director who could combine storytelling, cinematography, originality and acting in such a way as Scorsese does.

Scorsese is able to make the viewer examine each and every part of a particular frame. When one sees a Scorsese film, their eyes are drawn to everything in the frame as everything has significance. He goes to great lengths to make sure even the smallest object correlates with everything else and that continuity is upheld.

Taxi Driver is no exception because everything from the dirty cab to Travis Bickle's drab apartment interconnects. *Taxi Driver* from the onset is unlike any other film. The viewer is immediately drawn to Travis Bickle, played with indescribable brilliance by Robert De Niro. Bickle is everything a hero shouldn't be. He is mentally unstable, dirty and not physically appealing in any way. He perceives New York City as filled with decadence and sleaze and because of this he feels it is his duty to cleanse it. He spends his lonely nights frequenting adult theaters and his days driving a cab and attempting to romance Betsy. Betsy is a campaign worker who is attracted to Travis at first because of his boldness, but is quickly appalled by his questionable lifestyle.

Travis then meets Iris Steensma, a 12-year-old prostitute played by Jodie Foster in what is perhaps the best performance by a child in cinematic history. He starts to love her in the way a big brother would and Travis becomes obsessed with freeing Iris from her life of degradation.

Taxi Driver has some of the finest acting ever seen in a film. Scorsese demands perfection out of his cast and can achieve it by even the most static of actors. De Niro gives one of the best performances in film history, eclipsed only by Brando in *Godfather* and De Niro's work in *Raging Bull.* De Niro has an ability to totally transform himself into a character that so many actors lack.

The viewer forgets an actor is playing the part and starts to believe that there is actually a person named Travis Bickle and that the viewer is just a fly on the wall watching everything that goes on in his sad life. This is also in part due to Scorsese's filmmaking.

As mentioned, Jodie Foster gives a great performance as Iris. In a showing of wonderful talent that has not diminished, Foster does a great job of coming across as a troubled child held hostage in a life she feels she cannot get out of by a demonic pimp played in a surprisingly refreshing performance by veteran actor Harvey Keitel. Cybil Shepard also gives a good performance as Betsy.

Taxi Driver is a film that must be seen by everyone at least once. With each viewing, there is something new and exciting to be noticed. Watching *Taxi Driver* is enough to get any moviegoer obsessed with Scorsese's work. Anyone who has seen *The Departed* knows that Scorsese still does not disappoint. *Taxi Driver* is a film that will span generations and is going to be revered as a classic for as long as there is cinema.

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

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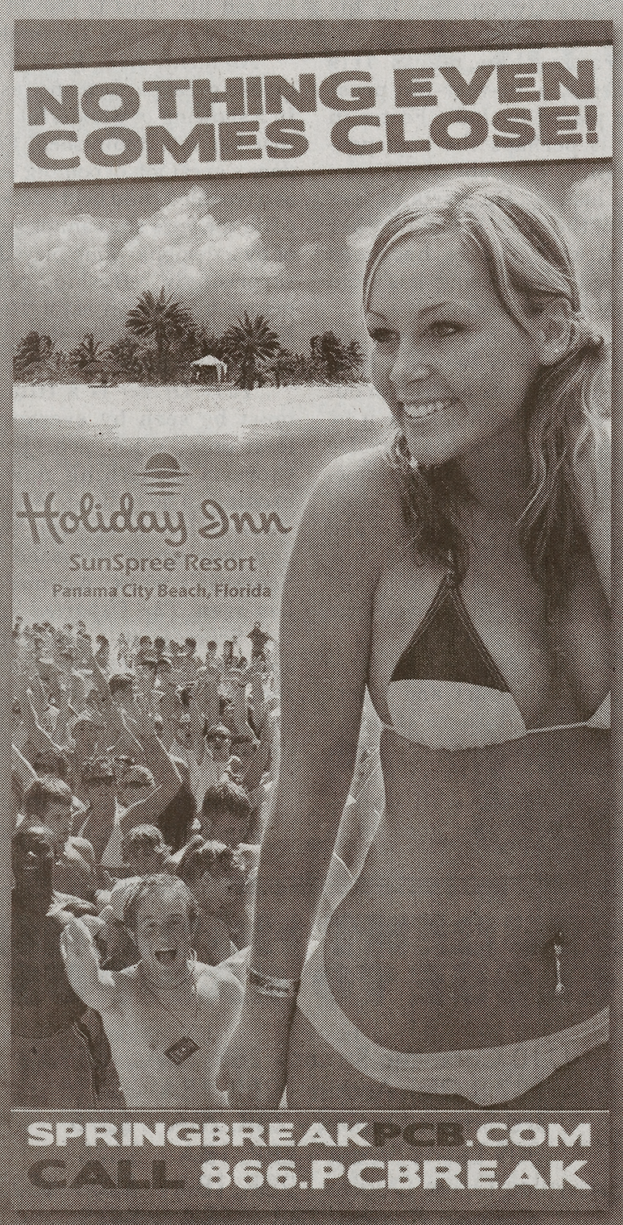

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VDAY continued from A4

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V-day has reached 81 countries and is still growing at a rapid pace. This non-profit organization has distributed funds to grassroots, national and international organizations and programs that work to stop violence against women and girls. Over the last eight years, V-day has helped raise over $30 million for the cause.

When women live in safety and no longer fear violence or the threat of violence, V-day will have accomplished what they've set out to do. If that day were ever to come, V-day will then be known as Victory Over Violence Day.

The Office of Victim Services at ECU and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority will be sponsoring *The Vagina Monologues* as part of the V-Day College Campaign.

The event will help to raise money for The Family Violence Programs of Pitt County. The production will take place at Wright Auditorium Feb. 9 – 11 at 7 p.m.

For those interested in attending, tickets are being sold in advance at a rate of $10 for students and $12 for the public. Tickets bought at the door are $12 for students and $15 for the public. Tickets can also be purchased by calling 328-2787 or visiting ecuarts.com. Come be a part of this year's event to raise awareness and stop the violence against women and girls.

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

1990 continued from A4

Milli Vanilli, that corny duo you may recall, get busted for lip-syncing and later have their Grammy award revoked due to the controversy.

The music community also took a big hit when legendary blues guitarist Stevie Ray Vaughan died in a fatal helicopter crash.

But everything wasn't all horrible—though the music wasn't up to par, the gears were turning, and no one could have guessed what was coming up later in the decade.

The Smashing Pumpkins begin recording *Gish*, their hugely popular debut album that will be released in 1991.

But, sadly, 1990 marked the end of Starship, the band behind the infamous, *Blender* magazine Most Awesomely Bad song ever, "We Built This City."

When it's all said and done, 1990 just doesn't compete with some of the better years in music. Though there were a few successful albums that managed to push forward, the majority seemed to be music targeted at commercial, not artistic, success.

In some senses, 1990 might be considered the beginning of the end for "good" popular music; the decade would round out with great alternative music, but by the later half, boy bands and divas would rule the charts.

Be sure to tune in to the WZMB to hear music from the past and present.

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

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NEVERTHELESS continued from A4

vive. Let's live like we're alive!"

As uplifting and encouraging as their lyrics may be, it is the delivery that seems to be lacking. The entire album can practically be played through in the time it takes to drive from one side of Greenville to the other.

At the end of the final track, you may be confused as to whether or not the album was entirely made up of one song, as all the tracks sound very similar and have few factors that set them apart from all the rest.

There are a couple of exceptions to this seemingly monotonous mix. While the instrumental aspect still lacks much variation, the track entitled "Lover" does incorporate some vocal diversity that may warrant repeat play.

The final track, "O'Child" is an uplifting, mellow number choc-full of acoustic guitars and soul-piercing vocals that will make any girl swoon, or quite possibly gag.

Of course, the guys in the band are striving for diversity and success in their attempts and might not think too highly of its dismal reception.

The members all dropped out of college to pursue their dreams as living life as role-model-rockstars. The songs are indeed positive, catchy and uplifting, but it's what they aren't (original, diverse, experimental) that leaves the listener wanting more.

Singer Joshua Pearson is quoted on their Web Site as saying "We have never worked so hard on anything in our whole lives. I feel like the process reaffirmed our reasons for doing this, because we had to give our all or go home."

It appears their hard work could use a little tweaking. If they add a couple of tracks and diversify the mix, Nevertheless just might establish their own sound and identity on their next album attempt.

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

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Sports

{ECU's Inside Source}

BY THE NUMBERS

3,029

Rushing yards by Northeastern High School's DaRonte McNeil in his senior season; McNeil signed a letter-of-intent yesterday to play for the Pirates in 2007; McNeil led the state of N.C. in rushing yards with 3,029 and also scored 34 touchdowns his senior year; McNeil, a 6'2, 217-pound running back, finished his high school career as the Northeastern Coastal Conference's all-time leading rusher with 8,229 career yards and 98 touchdowns

2

Years in a row that the MVP of the annual high school Shrine Bowl, which is a game that matches the best prep football players of North Carolina and South Carolina, has singed with ECU; the 2005 MVP, Norman Whitley, rushed for 132 yards to lead the North Carolina team to victory; Whitley is now a redshirt freshman for the Pirates; the 2006 Shrine Bowl MVP, Greenville native and J.H. Rose running back Jonathan Williams, signed a letter-of-intent with the Pirates yesterday; Williams rushed for 106 yards to also lead N.C. to victory; Williams was also recently named to the 2006 EA Sports All-American third-team

8

Combined state championships for Charlotte Independence quarterback D.J. McFadden and J.H. Rose running back Jonathan Williams, who both signed with ECU yesterday; McFadden guided Independence to back-to-back state titles during his junior and senior seasons, compiling a record of 32-0 as a starting quarterback; McFadden completed 143-of-278 passes for 2,271 yards and 15 touchdowns during senior season which included a No. 1 state rank and a No. 9 national rank according to *USA Today*; J.H. Rose product Williams completed his high school career as a four-time Class 4A State champion, with a combined 60-4 record; Williams rushed for 2,807 yards and 39 touchdowns on 242 carries his senior season; he also recorded a school record 391 rushing yards and six touchdowns in a contest against rival Rocky Mount last fall

21

Out of the 26 football players who signed letters-of-intent for ECU played high school football in North Carolina; of the five that are not from North Carolina, two are from Virginia, 1 is from Florida and one is from South Carolina; 6'6, 308-pound defensive lineman Linval Joseph signed with the Pirates yesterday despite verbally committing to the Florida Gators in July of 2006, according to recruiting Web Site Rivals.com; Joseph played at Sante Fe High School in Alachua, Fla.; Joseph is rated as the 44th best defensive tackle in the nation and the 76th overall recruit in the state of Florida by Rivals.com; Joseph also Captured the Florida State Weightlifting Championship as a junior with a 415-pound bench press and a 320-pound clean jerk

They said it

"Many of these players had a chance to come to a home game this season and the role that the student body and the fan base has made in recruiting has been huge."

- Skip Holtz, ECU football head coach, at yesterday's signing day press conference.

Pirates get some home-grown help

ECU inks 21 recruits from North Carolina

GREG KATSKI
SPORTS EDITOR

RONNIE WOODWARD
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

ECU Head Football Coach Skip Holtz announced the third recruiting class in his tenure with the program yesterday, and made his excitement evident.

"This is the strongest class we've put together since I've been here," said Holtz. "This recruiting class has the chance to do some special things, and I could not be more excited about where we are right now and the 26 players that joined the Pirate family today."

Out of the 26 players to sign national letters-of-intent, 21 played at the prep level in North Carolina. Two recruits are from Greenville, while more than a half-dozen are from eastern North Carolina.

Since taking over the helm as the head coach of the Pirates, Holtz has made it a point to recruit in-state players with a strong work ethic and true desire to play for ECU.

"We have East Carolina written across our jerseys, and we want to make it home for players across the state," said Holtz. "There's a sense of pride, enthusiasm and excitement for these players about having the opportunity to play close to home and in front of family and friends."

This is especially the case for running backs Jonathan Williams, from nearby J.H. Rose, and Tyrell Worthington of South Central.

"It's nice to keep Jonathan Williams and Tyrell Worthington right here at home," said Holtz.

The halfbacks will be vying for playing time in a crowded backfield, but feature two very distinct and different styles.

"Williams is a very strong running back and I'm anxious to get him on the field," said Holtz. "Worthington is more of a speed type of running back. He is very explosive and really excels at making people miss in the open field."

The newly signed class also boasts a plethora of skill position players, including six versatile defensive backs and three quick, playmaking wide receivers.

Nick Adams	WR	6-1	184	Fr.	Walterboro, S.C. (Colleton County)
Antonio Allison	DL	6-4	300	Fr.	Statesville, N.C. (West Iredell)
Steven Baker	DL	6-8	315	Fr.	Rocky Mount, N.C. (Northern Nash)
Derek Blacknall	DB	5-11	168	Fr.	Greensboro, N.C. (Dudley)
Michael Byrd	TE	6-4	226	Fr.	Thomasville, N.C. (Thomasville)
Julian Carter	DB	6-2	180	Fr.	New Bern, N.C. (New Bern)
Rodney Cox	ATH	6-6	230	Fr.	Angier, N.C. (Harnett Central)
Emanuel Davis	DB	5-11	190	Fr.	Manteo, N.C. (Manteo)
Darryl Freeney	WR	5-11	185	Fr.	Suffolk, Va. (Nansemond River)
Austin Haynes	LB	6-2	210	Fr.	Jacksonville, N.C. (Southwest Onslow)
Ben Herlocker	FB	6-0	206	Fr.	Charlotte, N.C. (Charlotte Catholic)
Antwan Jones	DL	6-6	320	Fr.	Pinnacle, N.C. (West Strokes)
DeAndre' Jones	DB	6-1	180	Fr.	New Bern, N.C. (West Craven)
Linval Joseph	DL	6-6	308	Fr.	Alachua, Fla. (Sante Fe)
T.J. Lee	WR	6-0	200	Jr.	Raleigh, N.C. (Bakersfield Junior College)
D.J. McFadden	QB	6-2	210	Fr.	Charlotte, N.C. (Independence)
DaRonte McNeil	RB	6-2	217	Fr.	Elizabeth City, N.C. (Northeastern)
Maurice Mercer	DL	6-5	245	Fr.	Nashville, N.C. (Nash Central)
Cliff Perryman	LB	6-1	218	Fr.	Richmond, Va. (Hermitage)
J.R. Rogers	RB	5-11	190	Jr.	Raleigh, N.C. (Bakersfield Junior College)
Steve Spence	LB	6-2	221	Fr.	Norfolk, Va. (Norfolk-Maury)
Matt Thompson	DB	6-2	195	Fr.	Mebane, N.C. (Eastern Alamance)
Will Towery	TE	6-5	255	Fr.	Asheville, N.C. (A.C. Reynolds)
Devon Wallace	DB	6-2	195	Fr.	Burlington, N.C. (Southern Alamance)
Jonathan Williams	RB	6-1	190	Fr.	Greenville, N.C. (J.H. Rose)
Tyrell Worthington	RB	6-0	180	Fr.	Greenville, N.C. (South Central)

"We have East Carolina written across our jerseys, and we want to make it home for players across the state. There's a sense of pride, enthusiasm and excitement for these players about having the opportunity to play close to home and in front of family and friends."

SKIP HOLTZ
HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

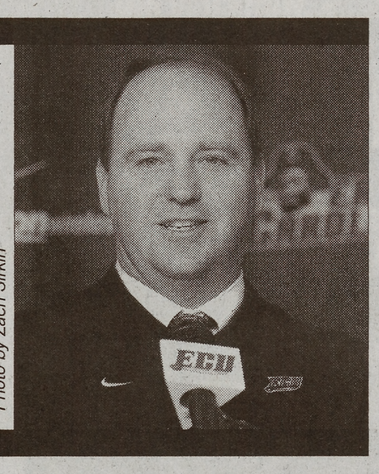


Photo by Zach Sirkin

"All of the defensive backs we signed also played offense in high school," said Holtz. "Some of these skill players have a chance to come in and make a difference immediately, especially with the holes that were created by the seniors that just graduated."

The most intriguing athlete to sign with ECU was Angier, N.C. product Rodney Cox. Cox, a 6-6, 230 pound talent, could play multiple positions for the Pirates. As a quarterback for Harnett Central High School, Cox rushed for nearly 5,200 yards and passed for nearly

see **SIGNING** page A9

ECU football recruits revealed to public

JARED JACKSON
STAFF WRITER

The Pirates received the last of 26 letters-of-intent from young men with a desire to carry on the ECU tradition at about 1:30 Wednesday afternoon. However, the festivities that come along with National Signing Day didn't conclude until the phenomenal class was revealed to the public at 5 p.m. "2007 Signing Day Fan Fest" was held at Harvey Hall in the Murphy Center to commemorate the day.

Approximately 400 students, fans and alumni packed Harvey Hall to witness one of the best ECU recruiting classes in years. Food and refreshments were offered before and during the event for the public.

Head Football Coach Skip Holtz entered Harvey Hall a few minutes after five to a rousing reception. Holtz spent little time with small talk before diving into information on the 26 players. Holtz then gave a thank you to what he called "the best staff in the nation" before passing the microphone onto offensive coordinator Steve Shankweiler. Shankweiler then broke down the offensive side of the recruiting class and passed the duties onto defensive coordinator Greg Hudson.

The program ended with an electrifying video montage of the recruiting class, which featured around three plays on each of the 26 incoming players.

Afterwards, fans seemed very pleased with the job done by Skip Holtz and staff.

"I think it's pretty nice," exclaimed Garrett Yates. "It is [the recruiting class] better than last year and looks like we've been building on it a lot the last couple of years. I know, depending on which Web site you look at Rodney Cox is supposed to be a pretty good athlete, whether as a receiver or a quarterback."

Alex Dosser thought recruiting the state of North Carolina was huge for the incoming class.

"[The class features] so many guys from the state of North Carolina," said Dosser. "It's good to see that they are concentrating on the area."

Hardcore fan Matt Brooks said, "Stellar, great class, one of the best classes in the nation. Definitely number one in Conference USA."

Club hockey falters on the big stage

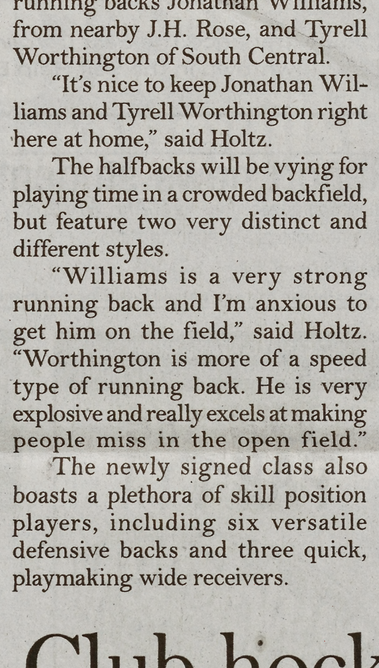


Photo by Zach Sirkin

ECU is stuck in a scoring drought.

Pirates can't pull out a win in South Regional Tournament

JARED JACKSON
STAFF WRITER

Two weekends ago, the ECU men's club hockey team (13-6) traveled to Georgia to play Kennesaw State (22-5). The Pirates squandered a third period lead to the No. 2 team in the South Region, and ended up losing the game 10-6.

ECU returned to Georgia this past weekend for the South Regional Tournament, and made evident they have still not recovered.

The Pirates first game happened to be a rematch with Kennesaw State. The game was close for the majority of the first period, but was blown open by the Owls during the second. ECU went on to lose the match against Kennesaw State 8-0.

Pirate Head Coach Wayne Cox thought the rankings for the South Regional Tournament put his team at a disadvantage.

"We had some issues with the rankings before we went in there," said Cox. "Kennesaw should have never been ranked third, they should have been ranked one or two and we meet Kennesaw in the first round."

Cox added, "Quite frankly, Kennesaw has one of the best teams in the country. We played them even for the first 20 minutes; we had a bad break going into the second period. Things just turned on us. The kids worked their tales off against Kennesaw."

Junior forward Corey Fleitz thought the team played a sloppy game in the loss to Kennesaw State.

"We were undisciplined against a very disciplined team," said Fleitz. "They took advantage of every opportunity that we gave them penalty wise. We played better our second game but the first night was real bad."

After losing Friday night, ECU returned to the ice Saturday to take on familiar foe Loyola College. The two teams played earlier in the season and Loyola won 5-4. The loss happened to be the Pirates only loss in the first half of the season. On Saturday, the game came down to an overtime shootout, which the Pirates lost 6-5. ECU led 5-3 over Loyola going into the third period.

"Against Loyola, they were ranked second going into the tournament," Cox said. "We thought Loyola was really over-hyped. We had a two goal lead on them and lost in an overtime shootout. Basically, the kids played as well as they could have played."

ECU goalie Connor Brearley thought the team underachieved in the tournament.

"We definitely went in there expecting to get at least one win," said Brearley. "We knew Kennesaw was going to be tough going into it. No one person on the team was more to blame than anyone else. I certainly feel bad for letting in the number of goals that I did and certainly the last shot of the weekend, the shootout

see **HOCKEY** page A10

ECU succumbs to Black Knights

ECU loses to UCF

BENJAMIN LLOYD
SENIOR WRITER

ECU had three players score in double figures, but couldn't pull out a win.

The Pirates lost their ninth game in a row to the Golden Knights 67-49. UCF, who is second in Conference USA standings and the top ranked shooting team, boosted their record to 17-6 overall and 6-3 in C-USA games. ECU will remain at the bottom of the conference with an overall record of 5-17 and 0-9 in C-USA.

ECU senior Courtney Captain led all scorers in the first half with 14 points on 5-8 shooting from the floor and 4-7 from behind the arc.

"I feel like I can make the team some points. I try to get as many points as I can. Being the lone senior I try to help out as much as I can," says Captain on his performance during the first half.

UCF's Josh Peppers was also hot during the first half, hitting two three-pointers on 80 percent shooting. The Pirates fought hard during the first half, pulling down 17 rebounds and hitting 75 percent from the free throw line.

In the play of the game, ECU guard Darrell Jenkins pushed the ball up court for a two on one with 1:34 left to feed sprinting big man John Fields with an alley-oop slam-dunk. The Golden Knights weren't going to be shown up. While the Pirates were celebrating, forward Kenrick Zondervan scooted in for an easy lay-up.

With 10 seconds left in the first half UCF wanted to make a statement. When ECU guard Brandon Evans came down with a rebound, he was immediately stripped by Jermaine Taylor. Taylor could have been called for a foul but put it back in for an easy dunk as time expired.

The Golden Knights led at half 29-26. Only down by three Coach Stokes had a game plan to get back into the game.

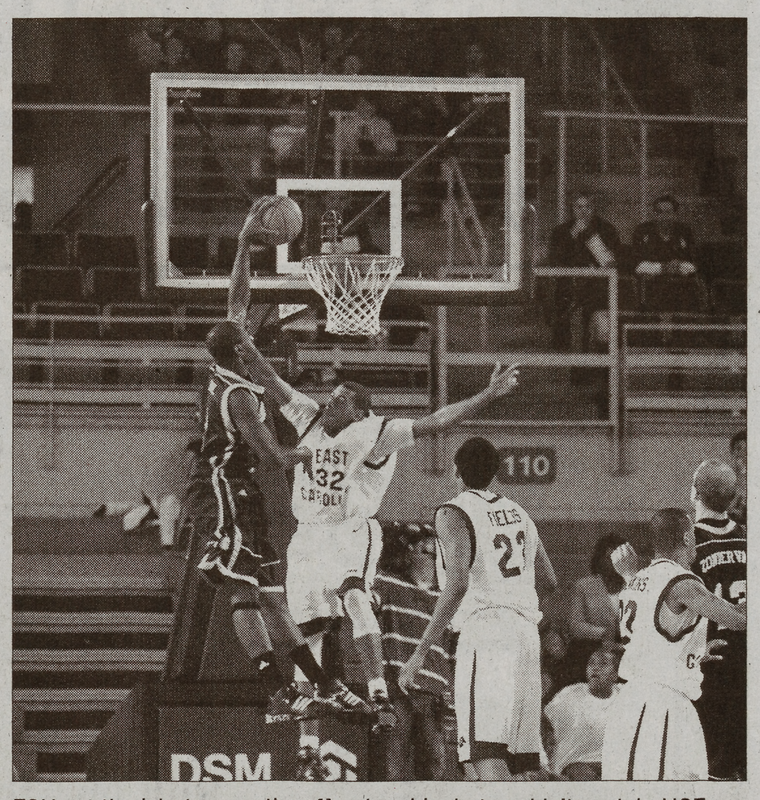
"We wanted to try and get the ball inside, we wanted to get something going inside. We knew that they would probably try to go inside and we tried to come out with the same type of intensity defensively."

The second half belonged to UCF forcing ECU to 16 turnovers, while shooting 10-17 from three-point land. UCF finished off the Pirates 67-49 after shooting 50 percent from the floor and hitting 13 of their 13 attempts from the charity strip in the second half.

UCF senior Josh Peppers finished the night with 24 points on 9-10 shooting from the floor. He also hit 4-5 from downtown, while shooting 90 percent on the night. Guard Jermaine Taylor also had a good night putting up 17 points.

For the Pirates, John Fields put up his second double double of his career with 11 points and 14 rebounds. Cory Farmer, who found his skill of driving down the lane, scored 10 and had two steals. Captain put up 15 points after

see **UCF** page A10



ECU got the job done on the offensive side, but couldn't contain UCF.

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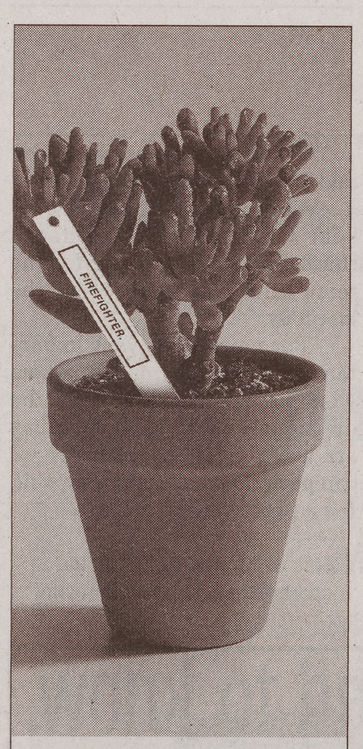

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SIGNING continued from A8

4,700 yards.

"Rodney Cox has the best combination of size, athleticism and speed in this class," said Holtz. "I think he is going to be a great player here one day, and has a chance to make a real difference on the field."

According to Scouts Inc., Cox is ideal for running the option offense, similar to Florida quarterback Tim Tebow.

Of the 26 players to sign with ECU yesterday, junior college wide receiver, and Raleigh native T.J. Lee could make the most immediate impact. With the vacancy left by star receiver Aundrae Allison, Lee is likely to see significant playing time next season.

Lee was selected as a Junior College Second-Team All-American by the 47th Annual J.C. Grid-Wire. Lee led the Bakersfield Renegades with 736 yards receiving, and an average of 21.6 yards per reception.

"T.J. Lee is a very explosive, big play receiver," said Holtz. "I certainly don't want to compare him too much to Aundrae Allison, but we're hoping he can make that kind of immediate impact; coming in as a junior college player like Allison did."

Holtz stated repeatedly that his staff doesn't like to get caught up with how scouts and internet experts evaluate and rank players out of high school.

"We don't recruit by the number of stars or chase after the internet recruits. We sit down and do our evaluating on our own," said Holtz.

According to Scouts Inc.'s Automated Rankings the Pirates' signing class ranked 42nd in the nation. The only two C-USA programs ranked above ECU were Memphis (25th) and Southern Miss (38th). More notably, ECU ranked ahead of in-state foe Wake Forest (84th) and rival N.C. State (66th).

"We were able to compete a little more with those schools this year than in years past," Holtz said of the nearby ACC foes. "We have to continue to build up our program and be one of the [teams] in the state that is winning so we can be a viable option for these players."

These writers can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

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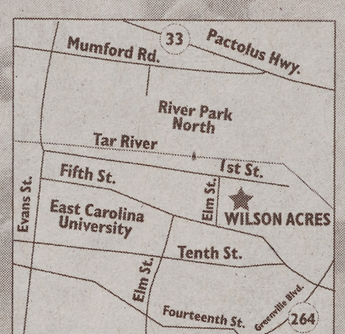

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Feb. 12 Family Feud: Battle of the Sexes
7:00 pm, Hendrix Theater

Feb. 14 Wellness Wednesday Fit Stop – Rapid HIV Testing
11:00 am-2:00 pm, 242 Mendenhall Student Center

Feb. 15 HPV Update: Every Woman Needs to Know
5:30 pm, Student Health Service Multipurpose Room

Feb. 15 Smoke-free for your Sweetheart
9:30 am-12:00 pm, Wright Plaza

Feb. 15 Wheelchair Rugby
8:00-9:00 pm, SRC Sports Forum

Feb. 17 Climbing Day Trip to Pilot Mountain
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Register by February 14

Feb. 19 Softball Team Registration Meeting
5:00 pm, MSC Multi-Purpose Room

Feb. 20 Kickball Team Registration
10:00 am-6:00 pm, SRC 207

Feb. 20 Adapted Recreation Climbing Wall Workshop
7:00-8:00 pm, Climbing Wall

Feb. 21 Winter Blast Power Jam Workout
5:00 pm, SRC Forum

Feb. 22 FREE Body Fat
4:00-6:00 pm, SRC 211, FREE for members

Feb. 24 Tower Play Day
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Register by February 22

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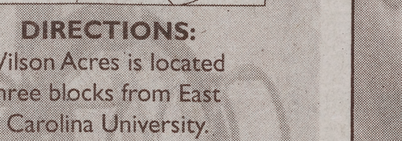

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UCF

continued from A10

having a lackluster second half.

ECU finished the game with 33 rebounds, 10 of which came on offense giving the Pirates more second chances than usual.

UCF goes home to face Marshall on Saturday, while ECU travels to Houston to try to break their losing streak of nine. The Pirates return home to Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum on Valentine's Day to face off against Southern Miss at 6 p.m.

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

HOCKEY

continued from A10

shot that went in. I wish I could get that one back. You just got to recover from that and focus on the games that are coming up."

The Pirates return to action this weekend at Bladez on Ice in Greenville to take on division nemesis Clemson. While finishing eighth in the final South Region rankings, ECU is turning it's focus to keeping a perfect conference record in tact. More importantly, the Pirates look to seal up a first round bye in the Blue Ridge Hockey Conference Tournament since nationals are out of play.

"Clemson's got some talent," Cox said. "It's going to be a tough game."

While not saying they should beat Clemson, Fleitz thinks this weekend is very big for the team after losing three of the last four.

"For morality is very important to sweep them, but otherwise we pretty much have the division won," Fleitz said. "They are a big rival so hopefully we can pack the house and play well. It's a pretty big weekend."

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

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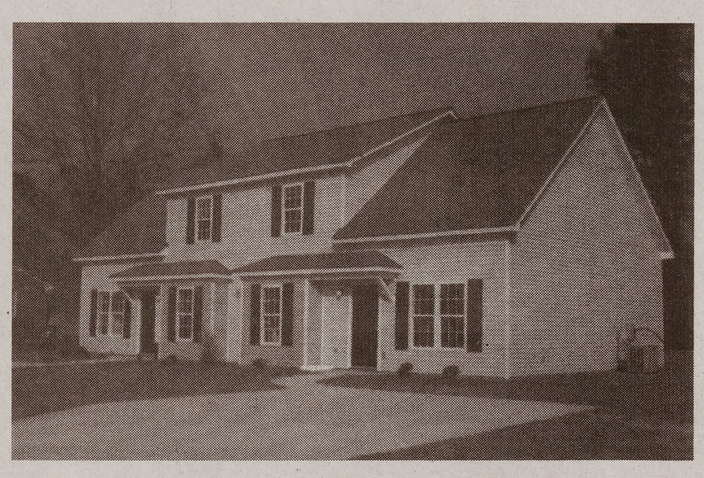

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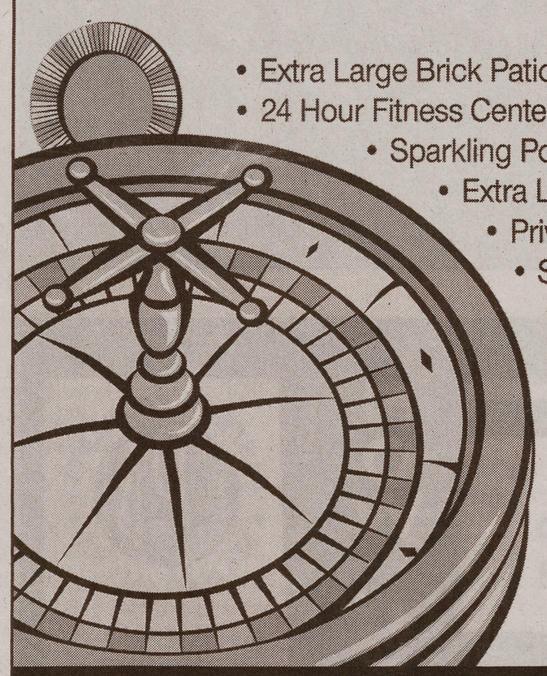

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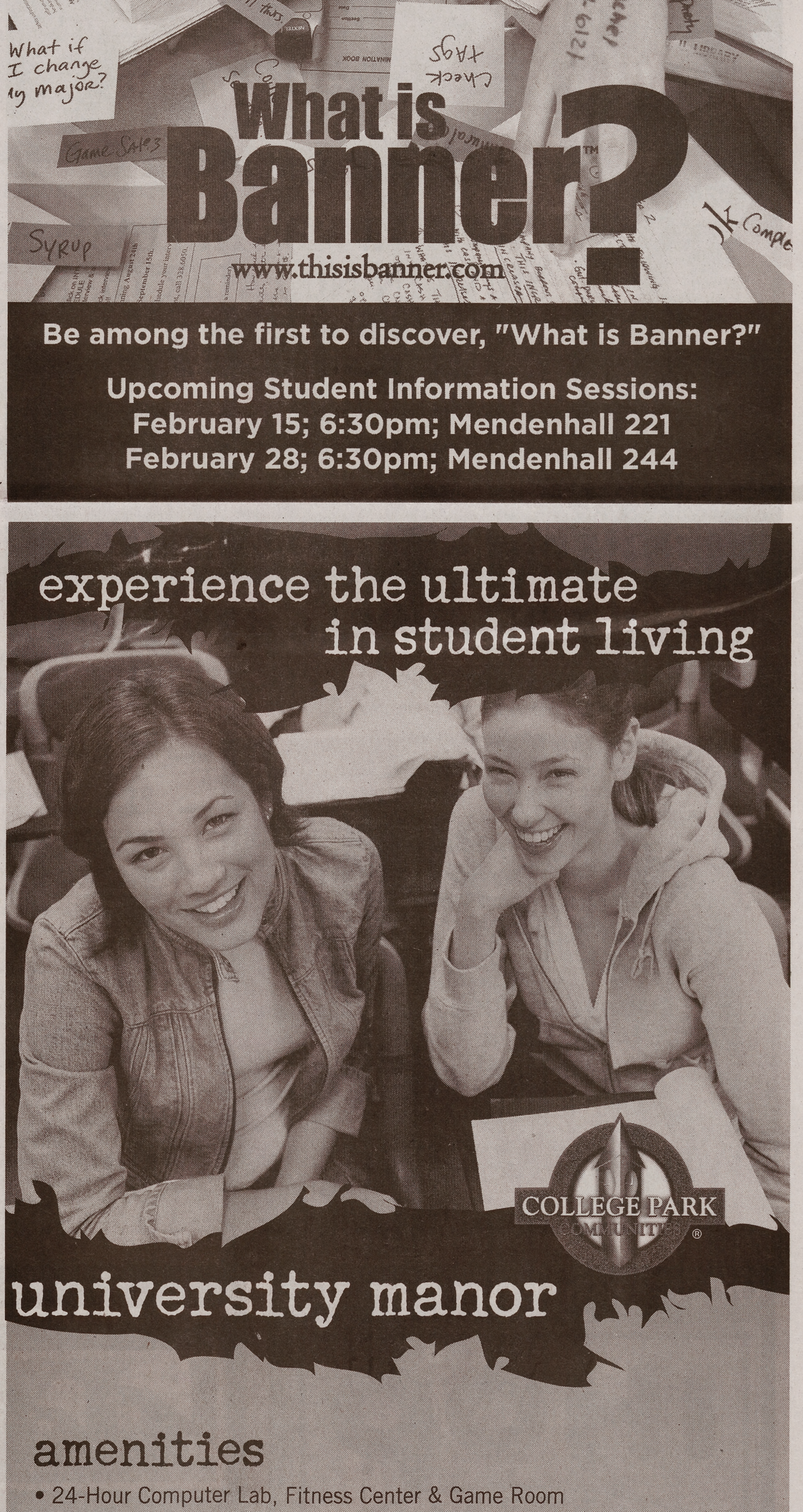

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