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YOUR INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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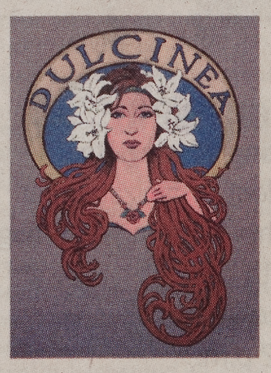
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2007

If your sweetie loves treats add a twist to an old original by stopping by Your Perfect Cake, find out more.....**Page A4**



Uptown Greenville is hosting a variety of events this Valentine's Day, find out where to go with your loved ones.....**Page A4**

The ECU baseball team took some time to get the bats warmed up in the cold Carolina weather this weekend. See if the Pirates' offense got rolling in time to take home the opening series win.....**Page A6**

ECU Head Softball Coach Tracey Kee has been traveling west for years to find recruits. Read why Kee is California dreamin'.....**Page A6**

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Staff, students' personal data possibly exposed

ITCS programming error made information available on the web

CARMIN BLACK
STAFF WRITER

Approximately 65,000 ECU faculty, staff and students could have had their personal data exposed last month through OneStop during reconstruction to ECU's Web site.

Personal data that may have been available for unauthorized viewing includes names, addresses, social security numbers and credit card information.

The data is believed to have first been accessible Jan. 22, when modifications were made to the ECU OneStop system in an effort to banish the use of social security numbers as a means of accessing student and faculty personal data. Unauthorized access to the data was disabled by 9 p.m. on Jan. 29.

"The University is trying to move away from using social security numbers, we've been working on the implementation of the banner system that is supposed to be in place at the end of this summer," said Kevin Seitz, vice chancellor for administration and finance.

Once implemented, Banner will assign randomly selected identification numbers to all students and staff for use in place of social security numbers, to prevent this exact type of incident.

According to the press release given at last week's press conference, "ECU officials first found out about this problem Jan. 29 when an ECU student, who had been using the OneStop portal, unintentionally viewed a screen that contained names and other information. He reported the situation to university police and the Web site was secured within 15 minutes of the initial report."

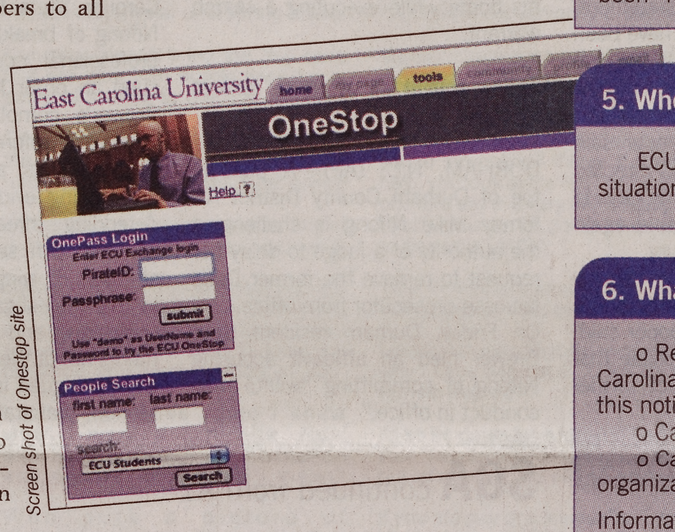
According to one university official, from Jan. 22 – 29 anyone who logged onto the One Stop system was able to click on the "Tools" tab at the top of the screen and be redirected to an administration page, instead of being taken to the usual student information page.

The administration page contained content which ordinarily would never be provided to the general public for viewing.

The redirect to the administration page, instead of the normal student information page, allowed any viewer the opportunity to review data such as parking and insurance information, job applications for faculty or administrative positions, student judicial incident reports, student housing records as well as graduate school applications.

Officials were most concerned about personal credit card information being accessible to the public, and said the program used showed that only 21 credit cards had been seen during week-long security breach. As soon as the credit card information was collected, each

see **DATA** page A2



Screen shot of Onestop site

1. Is personal data about me still viewable by unauthorized persons?

No! Unauthorized access to the sensitive data was disabled by 9 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 29. This data is believed to have been first accessible on Monday, Jan. 22.

2. What data could have been exposed?

o Names
o Social Security Numbers
o Credit Card Numbers if used to pay for a parking permit for 2004 – 2005 academic year. Credit card information for 21 individuals is believed to have been viewed. (ECU will attempt to call each of these 21 people by Friday, Feb. 16)
o Auto Insurance Carrier and Policy Number (if provided to ECU for a parking permit in academic year 2004 – 2005)
o Automobile owner name, car make and model (if provided to ECU for a parking permit in academic year 2004 – 2005)
o Student Information (including student judicial records, graduate admissions and student housing records; at this time there is no indication that grades were accessed)
o Applicant Data for faculty and administrator jobs posted from 2004 until 2006

3. How many people were affected?

ECU is mailing approximately 65,000 notifications to current and former faculty, staff and students who may have been impacted. Credit card information for 21 individuals is believed to have been viewed. ECU will attempt to call each of these 21 people by Friday, Feb. 16.

4. Why was data about me exposed and what has ECU done to secure this data?

The problem is believed to have been caused by a programming error associated with a computer program designed to reduce the internal use of social security numbers on the OneStop system; ECU is not believed to have been "hacked." Unauthorized access to this data was disabled by University IT services within 15 minutes of the problem being reported. ECU remains committed to protecting its data about you and has taken all available measures to secure its network and data about you.

5. Where can I get more information?

ECU continues to monitor and review this situation and will provide updates online at ecu.edu/incident. You may also call 1-877-328-6660 if you have remaining questions.

6. What should I do if I think my personal information has been compromised?

o Review the documents from the North Carolina Attorney General's Office included with this notice and visit noscamnc.gov/yourself.html.
o Call your credit card company
o Call the following national credit reporting organizations to place a fraud alert on your account: Equifax: 1-877-576-5734 or equifax.com, Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742 or experian.com, Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289 or transunion.com
AnnualCreditReport.com: 1-877-322-8228 or annualcreditreport.com.

Information courtesy of ECU Incident Report, available at www.ecu.edu/incident.

Panel discusses sports writing

Trio offers opinions on the trade

ZACK HILL
SENIOR WRITER

Budding young journalists interested in sports writing gathered in Mendenhall on Thursday as three experienced writers came to speak about the field.

David Teel, senior sports columnist for *The Daily Press* in Newport News, VA, was joined by Lorenzo Perez who covers the Carolina Hurricanes for the *Raleigh News and Observer* as well as by Darryl Slater, who is a UVA beat writer and works with Teel at *The Daily Press.*

The panel fielded questions from a mostly male and largely communications major-based audience on a variety of topics about sports writing.

While Teel and Slater had both decided to become sports writers at a young age, Perez's path was less direct.

"After college I had no idea I wanted to work at a newspaper," said Perez. "I was just kind of floating around in academia but a love of sports kept pulling me."

Several of the questions fielded had to do with the writing process itself.

"A story really has to be compelling to get a person to invest the time to sit down and read it," said Slater.

Teel shared similar sentiments.

"When you surprise a reader with something that they don't expect, that's what brings them back," said Teel.

The state of the newspaper business in general was discussed, along with ways to work up the ladder.

"A lot of what happens to you in this business is who you know or stumbling into a fortunate situation," Slater said.

All three encouraged prospective sports writers to broaden their skills beyond just writing articles.

Photo by Lizz Wells

Teel, Perez and Slater talk with students about their opinions and experiences as sports writers.

"It's not a print world anymore. It's a multimedia world," Teel said.

"Papers are looking to cut. They want to do just as much, if not more, with less," Slater said.

The trio agreed that those wanting to be successful should start in college. Slater said he mailed out between fifty and sixty intern applications as a senior.

"There are so many more internships available to get your name out there and develop a reputation," Teel said. "You have to be patient and you probably have to be poor for a while."

Cindy Elmore, assistant professor of communication, said that Teel had often come to speak to her classes here at ECU because they went to college together. This year she wanted to get a slightly broader perspective.

"The thing I like about having them is that they emphasize so many of the skills that we talk about in class," said Elmore. "They are the same skills that anybody needs covering the White House or anything else."

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

Myspace and Facebook Web sites addressed during SGA meeting

Preventative measures presented to congress

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
SENIOR WRITER

Preventive measures and privacy controls for Facebook and Myspace Web sites were major topics of discussion at the SGA congress meeting on Monday.

Peter Romary, Student Legal Services representative, gave congress members tips on how not to become a victim of stalking and identity theft.

"With Facebook and Myspace, do be careful. There was a student at Virginia Commonwealth that was stalked and murdered," said Romary.

According to Romary, students should frequently check their credit reports because a large majority of identity theft victims are under the age of 30.

Romary also gave information on how you can protect yourself from getting a bad reputation from pictures, comments and other information given on these Web sites.

According to Romary, employers may also use the information listed on these sites to determine hiring you for employment at their company.

To prevent this type of instance from happening, Romary suggested that students visit Reputationdefender.com, which will provide you with monthly reports on any information available on the Internet about you.

You may then ask the reputation advocates on the Web site to remove any information that you feel may be incriminating when applying to schools or jobs.

Nick Genty, SGA attorney general, also addressed the issue of being cautious about what information you disclose on these Web sites.

Drexel University commissioned a safety campaign that included a video, which talked about the dangers of listing personal information on Web sites such as Facebook and Myspace, according to Genty.

The video was shown to the

see **SGA** page A2

UNC tuition rate increases up to nearly 10 percent approved

(AP)—The University of North Carolina approved tuition and fee increases of as much as nearly 10 percent Friday for in-state students on its 16 campuses.

Leaders of the state system agreed in October to limit in-state undergraduate tuition increases to 6.5 percent annually for the next four years, though certain debt fees are exempt. As a result, the total cost to students can exceed the cap.

The yearly tuition and fees cost at North Carolina A&T State University increased 2.4 percent—the least of any school—to $3,429. Those costs rose 9.5 percent at ECU to $4,181 and 9 percent at Western Carolina University to $3,950, the highest percentage increases of any schools in the system.

The UNC Board of Governors approved hikes of 6.9 percent at North Carolina State University to $5,002 and 6.2 percent, to $5,176, at UNC Chapel Hill.

Other increases included: Elizabeth City State, 5.2 percent to $4,184; Appalachian State, 5.2 percent to $4,184; and UNC Charlotte, 5.7 percent to $3,978.

The amounts don't include costs for room and board, books and other expenses.

The board also approved an increase of $1,250 for out-of-state students at UNC-Chapel Hill, where non-state residents will pay $20,824 in the 2007-08 school year, the most in the system for nonresidents.

The tuition cap doesn't apply to debt service fees, which cover costs such as new building construction financed by the campus.

Debt service fees ranged from $81 at North Carolina Central University to $452 at UNC-Wilmington, where the total tuition and fee bill rose 5.7 percent to $4,312.

The board, which usually meets in Chapel Hill, met Friday on the campus of N.C. A&T State University in Greensboro.

Also on Friday, the board elected a new chancellor for Winston-Salem State University. Donald J. Reaves, vice president for administration and chief financial officer at the University of Chicago since 2002, replaces Harold Martin, who left Winston-Salem last year to become senior vice president for academic affairs for the UNC system.

NEWS

{ Campus & Community }

CORRECTIONS

The *East Carolinian* would like to correct the following inaccuracies published in Thursday's paper.

In the News section, "ECU Chapter of KA addresses shortfalls," Michael Wilson is the director of chapter services, not the associate. His quote should have read, "What we did is form a group to conduct the review to ensure that the chapter is moving in the direction that the national administrative office, the university and alumni want it to move," said Wilson, not insure. In "Student arrested on theft charges," the last four paragraphs were improperly attributed, they should have been attributed to Jones.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pitt County Citizens Academy
The Pitt County Legal Department is accepting applications for the next session of its Citizens Academy, which will be held every Tuesday evening beginning March 27 and will run through May 15.
The Academy is designed to form a stronger partnership between citizens and Pitt County Government through education. Participants will learn about county services, programs and responsibilities. Applicants must live in Pitt County.
The deadline to submit an application is Friday, March 2.
Applications are available at the Pitt County Legal Department, and on the County Web site at pittcountync.gov
For information, contact Nancy Wilson at 252-902-3106 or e-mail njwilson@pittcountync.gov

February 20 – 22, 2007 2007 Graduation Exp
Location: Wright Place rear dining area, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Everything the May graduate needs in a one-stop shopping Expo!
* Pick up cap & gown
* Find out about senior pictures
* Order graduation announcements
* Visit with reps from the Registrar's Office, Career Center, Alumni Association, Pirate Club, SRC and loan consolidation companies
May Grads have a chance to win a $400 travel voucher from Jostens.

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! 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.

13 Tue

***Puppy Petting/Kissing Booth**
SOAR Student Organization for Animal Rights is having a petting/kissing booth
Wright Place
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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

Last day for undergraduate students to drop term-length courses or withdraw from school without grades by 5 p.m. Block courses may be dropped only during the first 40 percent of their regularly scheduled class meetings.

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.

15 Thurs

HPV: What Every Woman Needs to Know
Student Health Service
5:30 p.m.

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

H.E.P.T.A Meeting
Health Educators Preparing for Tomorrow's Advancement second meeting of the year. Refreshments will be served. We will be discussing upcoming events.
Bate 1009
5:30 p.m.

Open Mic
Open Mic is an open forum to any ECU student to show their talent. From acoustic guitar solos to poetry, any type of talent you have can be put on show. Free refreshments will be served.
Pirate Underground
9 – 11 p.m.

16 Fri

Ice Hockey
vs. Radford
Bladez on Ice
12 p.m.

"American Blackout"
Mendenhall Great Rooms
7:30 p.m.

17 Sat

Second Annual Krimson and Creme Ball.
Hosted by the Kappa Sigma Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and the Eta Psi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Open to the general public, donations accepted.
City Hotel and Bistro Ballroom

Ice Hockey
vs. Radford
Bladez on Ice
3:45 – 8 p.m.

ECU Hosts Great Decisions Seminars
Rivers West Building auditorium
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Women's Basketball
vs. Tulane
Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum
2 p.m.

Black History Month Gospel Concert
Wright Auditorium
5 p.m.

18 Sun

Want to see your event featured here? Log on to theeastcarolinian.com/calendar to submit event listings.

19 Mon

Intramural Softball Team registration meeting
MSC Multi-Purpose Room
5 p.m.

***Featured Event:**
Puppy Petting/Kissing Booth
SOAR Student Organization for Animal Rights is having a petting/kissing booth
Wright Place
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

BRIEFS

DA handing PlayStation shooting case over to state prosecutors

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP)—Authorities investigating the fatal police shooting of an 18-year-old college student suspected of stealing PlayStation 3 video game consoles said Monday they're turning the case over to state prosecutors.
New Hanover County District Attorney Ben David, who failed in December to win a second-degree murder indictment against the sheriff's deputy accused of shooting Peyton Strickland, said it wasn't appropriate for his office to again present the case to a grand jury.
"It is vital that everyone understand that my action today is neither an exoneration, nor is it a prelude to an imminent indictment or other charges," David said in a statement. "Since this case began, I have been very mindful of the need to bring in outside review of the facts and law to ensure integrity in this process."
Attorney General Roy Cooper said in a statement that he has directed state attorneys to review the case to determine whether it should again be presented to a grand jury.
"This incident resulted in tragedy and the matter will receive a careful and impartial review," Cooper said. "During this time, it's possible that we would need to conduct further investigation."
Strickland, a student at Cape Fear Community College from Durham, was killed Dec. 1 when police raided his home while executing a search warrant.

Action sought on effort to remove Nifong

DURHAM, N.C. (AP)—A political foe of Durham County District Attorney Mike Nifong is challenging the authority of a judge to delay her request to remove the former Duke lacrosse prosecutor from office.
On Friday, Durham resident Beth Brewer filed an affidavit accusing Nifong of committing "willful misconduct in office."
But Durham Superior Court Judge Orlando Hudson said that complaint largely mirrors one filed by the North Carolina State Bar, which accuses Nifong of breaking several rules of professional conduct. Hudson issued an order Monday that defers Brewer's complaint until Nifong's ethics trial before the bar is resolved.
The bar has accused Nifong of withholding evidence from lawyers defending three lacrosse players charged with sexually assaulting a stripper, of lying to the court and to bar investigators, and making misleading and inflammatory comments about the players.
Brewer argued in court papers filed Monday that state law requires Hudson to act within 30 days on her complaint. Hudson said acting on the charges could include his decision to delay hearing them.
Last year, Brewer ran the Committee to Recall Nifong, an effort to keep the veteran prosecutor from winning his first full term as district attorney.
In an interview with the AP, Nifong called Brewer's affidavit politically motivated.
"Obviously the person who filed this affidavit is someone who tried unsuccessfully to defeat me in the political process," Nifong said Friday. "Now that the voters have chosen someone other than who she wanted, she's trying to remove me from office in this manner."

DATA continued from A1

cardholder was personally contacted to prevent any illegal misuse of their account information.

ECU officials are working to inform everyone about this event.

Since Friday, 65,000 letters have been mailed out informing the public of this occurrence.

John Durham, chief public affairs officer for ECU, said that although an e-mail alert was sent to faculty members, students did not receive notification of the security breach via their PirateMail accounts at the same time because students have disregarded alert e-mails in the past.

So far, ECU officials say they have spent in the tens of thousands of dollars making all necessary arrangements to turn this mistake around.

Many students seem to share the opinion that they would have liked to have known about this event sooner to ensure their personal safety was not at risk.

"I didn't realize there had been an info breech, and I didn't know it was that easy to get into one stop and bypass signing in. It's kind of scary that information all the way back to high school was made available," said Amy Thomas, 19-year-old communication major who attended the press conference with her freshman communication class.

"I haven't found any problems with anything so far but I will be on the look out for mail I shouldn't be getting or things like that," said Thomas.

ECU officials are working with the Office of the State Controller, the Attorney General's office and the University of North Carolina General Administration to ensure that all appropriate steps are being taken to respond to this incident.

"It's disappointing that they didn't tell us sooner, but it may be for the best because if they did tell us more people might have gotten online to check other peoples identities or their private information," said Alex Smith, freshman communication major.

"The key thing for me is that once we found we had a problem we worked hard to identify what caused the problem and we acted immediately to secure the information, and to start the investigation into why it happened and what info may have been made available. As a result we made sure we erred on the side of caution to give notification to anyone who had information that may have been seen. We may have sent out more notification than we needed to, but I think we're handling the incident in the popper way," said Seitz.

A telephone hotline number and Web site has been created for anyone to call or visit if they have questions or concerns.

To find out if your information may have been tampered with log on to ecu.edu/incident or call 877-328-6660, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday.

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

SGA continued from A1

congress members, which included personal testimonies about stalking from these sites and information on identity theft.

Other major topics at the congress meeting were resolutions that would help increase safety on campus.

Timothy Darden, congress representative, outlined resolutions to install speed bumps on Founders Drive and to mandate a state identification being shown when making a purchase on campus using a credit card.

According to Darden, the speed bumps are greatly needed because it is a major crossway for drivers who are driving from 10th Street to Fifth Street and many pedestrians walk through this area.

Regulation of the speed cars are traveling on this street is something that Darden said needs to added.

According to Darden, the speed limit on Founders Drive is 15 mph but the lack of things such as speed bumps allows drivers to drive at their own rate.

No final decision was made by congress concerning the addition of speed bumps. The resolution was moved to the Parking and Transportation committee of SGA.

Congress voted in support of the resolution to mandate state identification being shown for all purchases made on campus.

Some congress members were concerned where the resolution will go to next after further review, because some of the companies on campus such as Aramark are independently owned.

"If it is approved, it will probably go to Todd Johnson, associate vice chancellor of Housing and Dining, and he will talk to Aramark," said Jon Massachi, Speaker of the Congress.

The remainder of the meeting covered SGA events that occurred recently and upcoming events.

Michaelina Antahades, SGA Treasurer said, talked about the Board of Governors meeting that occurred this past weekend.

The Board of Governors made the final vote on the student fees for the 2007-2008 academic year.

"The board of governors passed everything that was passed in congress and everything stayed with the 6.5 percent increase," Antahades said.

Michael Caple, Student Union Cultural Awareness Chair, spoke to congress about upcoming events that are in correlation with Black History Month.

The major event Caple spoke about was the Black History month symposium on Feb. 24 in Mendenhall Student Center from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

"Topics range from feminine and masculine issues facing minorities to issues regarding financial management," Caple said.

Other events for Black History month this week include Apollo Night, "Renaissance: The Coming," American Blackout and "A Night of Celebration," a free gospel concert.

Keri Brockett, SGA secretary reminded the congress members of Talk-It-Tuesday event on Feb. 13 in West End Dining Hall from 5 – 8 p.m.

The event will have a mock wedding theme, an Elvis impersonator, a three-tier wedding cake and giveaways ranging from $100 in Pirate Bucks to T-Shirts and pens.

The main purpose of this event is to allow students to find out more about SGA and voice their concerns.

"This is a way for students to get to know us and voice their concerns, so we will have SGA representatives there," Brockett said.

To learn more about the Black History Month events, visit the Web site atecu.edu/student_union.com.

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

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ASK FOR
MORE.

For more information about the importance of arts education, please contact www.AmericansForTheArts.org.

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• Pets OK with deposit
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LIVE HERE PLAY HERE!
Enter Listing ID #7307020 at RentalGuideGreenvilleNC.com for photos, floorplans & more!

OPEN SATURDAYS
We also manage the properties of River Walk
Dock Side and The Gables at Brownlea

Opinion

{ Your source for sarcasm }

RANT OF THE DAY

I got hit on the head with an acorn by a squirrel. I swear he laughed too!

Are pills really the cure?

An opinion on our pill-popping nation

ALEX LAROCCA
OPINION WRITER

At least half of my friends take medication either for depression or ADD/ADHD. Another half abuses those same pills in order to achieve a high. A large part of my family is on medication and if genetics and hereditary disorders play any role, one day I will be on medication as well.

How can any of this be right? When I talk to these people about when they were "diagnosed," I don't seem to understand what their parents and/or their doctors realized. I have made it a point of my life to avoid ever taking medication for mental health because I know that I can solve all of my problems just as all of humanity did before the invention of drugs like Paxil, Adderall and Zantrex.

I have noticed the heavy increase over the past decade of prescription medicine. I was lucky enough to never have been taken to a psychiatrist and been "diagnosed" with ADD as a child and so I have never been put on any medications for possible mental health problems.

Yet, for some reason, everyone around me managed to develop attention disorders or depression before they were even 18 years old. How did people manage for the past 6,000 years of humanity then? Were they just mentally defected and nowadays, we are able to have the cure for such illness? No! Depression, Bipolar disorder, ADD/ADHD are all disorders that, somehow, over the past two decades have been completely taken out of context. How could there be such an increase without anything actually happening to change our mental status?

The truth of the matter is not that we have changed, our society has. When I say our society, I mean America. My girlfriend's best friend was recently diagnosed with bipolar disorder... over the phone. Not only that, she was even prescribed the medication over the phone. What?!

Another friend has Agoraphobia, but she lives in Switzerland. Agoraphobia is a fear of going outside and those who are agoraphobic only feel comfortable in familiar settings with familiar people. Anything beyond staying home can cause them overwhelming anxiety. My friend was taken to a doctor who decided to monitor her for an entire year, after which he decided to prescribe her medication for her disorder. Today she is planning to go to school again and has even come out of the closet. The difference between this and our country is that her medication is being used as a crutch not as the solution. This is the problem with how medication is being prescribed today. She has stated she does not plan to stay on the medication; it is merely being used as a reminder of what a stable mind is. Medication for depression and ADD/ADHD is supposed to be treated as a crutch and not as a solution for the rest of a person's life.

An even bigger problem beyond how these pills are being used is why they are being prescribed. There is a big difference between someone who is sad and someone who is depressed, just as there is a big difference between the way a 12-year-old acts and the way a person with ADD/ADHD acts. Yet these distinctions have basically been abolished and anyone who is feeling "down" or "distracted" can be given these medications.

Lest we forget, depression has been a factor in the creativity of artists like Van Gogh and if Edgar Allan Poe had been put on Zantrex, as he might have been today, I somehow doubt that we would have the same poetry.

If current doctors were diagnosing children of the past, then I am sure that Albert Einstein would have been put on Adderall and Voltaire or Paxil.

Sadness is a part of life just as much as happiness is. Concentration is a discipline that one is taught. We have begun to take away human problems and human emotion with magical pills that increase one's abilities but take away one's experiences.

Problems with pacifism

A world without war isn't necessarily a better one

KRYSTLE STRICKLIN
OPINION WRITER

There is no argument against the fact that war is a tremendous evil. No reasonably just person would ever look at war as a good thing for humanity. Therefore, for pacifists it seems quite logical. If war represents such terrible atrocities, it should be avoided completely and without exception. Unfortunately, this concept has about the same amount of reality as time traveling or man being able to fly without wings. I will be the first to admit that nothing is impossible, but only a fool would deny the fact that certain things are highly improbable. Peace is undoubtedly desirable, but sadly, it is not always feasible.

The entire concept of world peace assumes that there is a "cure" for the wretchedness of this world, the "cure" being the absolute aversion of all violent actions. The problem with this is the impracticality of the idea. It is naive to assume that there is anything we can do to eliminate suffering completely.

If history has shown us anything, it is that evil will always exist. Eliminating all options except for peace would leave a country severely handicapped to deal with world affairs. Pacifist actions are ineffective against an enemy who has no desire for peace. One of the requirements for justice is having the power to enforce justice when necessary. To not be able or willing to commit to the defense of justice will only enable its defeat.

War is a terrible thing, but it is not the worst. A country with a diminished state of moral and patriotic feeling is a greater tragedy than any war. Someone who believes that there is nothing in life worth fighting for is surely faced with a miserable existence. A person so decayed in moral consciousness that he would ignore the need for action against evil has little future in life and will simply be pushed aside by better men, willing to fight for justice. The idea of merely wishing for peace is not honorable for an individual or for a nation.

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.

It's bad when your mom is hotter than you are.

I suffer Rant withdrawal on the weekends.

To the person who said in a Rant a while ago, "This message is in Spanish when you are not looking," let me tell you that is not true. I got one of my friends to look at the message and he told me that while I was not looking at it, the message did not change to Spanish.

I'm starving myself until spring break.

Can they please bring the Pop-tarts that are blue with purple lines back, that's all I used to eat! I'm starving!

Can we please have a pirate boat where the fountain in front of Wright Building used to be? That would be great!

You're wrong. Creamy peanut butter is so much better than crunchy.

Smile Guy, sometime during the year you graduate I will throw you up against a wall, kiss you and then run away, but until then I'll keep my distance and keep smiling at you.

I miss the times when I knew what I wanted from life. Now all I have is confusion, frustration and doubt... know what I mean?

Who puts a picture of themselves when they were five or six as their Facebook picture?

You shagged with me a few weeks ago at a party and now I can't stop listening to that music! Can we shag again please?

To the person who ran over my foot on your skateboard, next time will you stop and kiss me?

I love being a country girl who can just sit and watch football with all the boys, and play beer pong and flip cup like a champ!

I will always be there for you; you were always there for me.

Please don't drink and drive ever again!

My advisor saved my college career! Thank you, ma'am!

Seeing is believing!

Bowling for Soup was right—high school never ends.

I can't believe how materialistic and money-obsessed people are. Everyone goes around flashing the best of what they have, hoping it's better than the person next to them. Pathetic? Yes!

I'm sorry if you think I'm stalking you. I'm really not.

You're a guy and you don't drink beer. That's bizarre.

I'm really sad about Anna Nicole Smith. I want to make some smart-alecky remark about how now I have no living role models or how she probably did it on purpose to mimic Marilyn Monroe... but I can't seem to think of any.

I don't care what anyone says. V-Day is the best holiday ever. It is so great to have a day that my wonderful boyfriend can give me stuff. He is so perfect and has lots of money to spend on me. It's so exciting!

I don't think I could be any more confused. I want you to propose and I'm beginning to think you never will. On the other hand, I think I would say no. I know that doesn't make any sense, but it's true. Did I mention? I think I'm pregnant.

This is my first Pirate Rant and it feels great!

I think all of the Java City's on campus have it out for me, every time I really need a pick me up; the espresso machine is conveniently broken!

My roommate goes out with a different guy every night. Ew.

To the girl who is struggling in my Political Science class... I wonder why you're struggling? When I offered to help, you look at me like I'm the inferior one and say in a very demeaning tone, "No!" Naturally, I'm going to respond by calling you a b****!

Your lesbian drama on your away messages is really getting old.

I believe in miracles! So explain to me why I have been at ECU for six years with no degree?

I'd so be down for a tanning bed in the Rec. I know they aren't good for you, but let's face it, we still go anyway.

If you are gay or a lesbian and you are single come to White Hall... there is more pride here than you can handle!

I need a painter for cheap. I tore all the paint off my walls with duct tape!

I have a teacher who calls MySpace, MyFace, and I think it is funny!

I like you. You like me. If only your relationship with my roommate wasn't hindering my progress in seducing you.

Sometimes, late at night, I get the strong urge to sneak into my roommate's room and smother her with her pillow.

To the person who decorated the tree at Christmas... I would really like you to get festive for Valentine's Day as well!

I will work for socks!

Why isn't African American History month in January with MLK day?

Why can't there be tanning beds in the Rec. Center? Hmm... maybe because they're not into promoting skin cancer! You're probably orange enough already.

Just exactly what was Randy Jackson famous for before American Idol?

Be on the lookout, there is a stomach virus going around.

To the man with the beard I saw running... you look so good with a little scruff!

I cried over Anna Nicole Smith today.

I missed the bus. I missed the bus. How lucky!

Are gays really gay or do they suffer from gender role confusion?

I am a maneater.

What about Penis Monologues?

There should be personals in *TEC*.

I love my vagina.

Honestly, why lock a student out of class for being late? We are paying a billion dollars a year to go here; lateness shouldn't really be a big deal.

Talk back to your Rice Krispies. All of a sudden, act offended, throw the bowl on the floor and kick it. Refuse to clean it up, explaining, "No, I want to watch them suffer!"

Why do you think I should tolerate vulgar drunken phone calls? Get over yourself; we are never going to be together.

Don't point fingers unless your hands are clean.

To the nice man and his wife who changed my flat tire in the Food Lion parking lot: Thank You! There needs to be more people like you in Greenville.

Umm, why does your mom read the Pirate Rants?

Guys: Please respond to the Rant last Wednesday about what you would like as a Valentine's Day gift. By the time this is printed, I will have less than 24 hours to get something!

Don't ever date your roommate's brother.

I hate it when people kiss on the elevators in the dorms, it's really annoying. My boyfriend and I only do that if no one else is on it!

I would quit my job, but I need the money. I will try to be nicer to people, but please stop asking so many stupid questions.

Alcohol is killing my brain cells. I drink myself stupid and I feel stupid for days! It is starting to affect my schoolwork.

How come the squirrels get free housing and we don't?

Maybe I'm a dork but I would love if *TEC* would put crypto quotes in the paper!

I wish chocolate bars made you skinny.

People had access to our social security number and credit card information through Onestop and we don't even get an e-mail? What gives?

If you ever hope to be a credible adult and want a job that pays better than minimum wage, then for God's sake don't pierce or tattoo every available piece of flesh. If so, then plan your future around saying, "Do you want fries with that?"

Is there life after death? I don't know, but if I learn that you're the one who keyed my vehicle, you'll find out!

Everything has a price.

I can't stand people that have conversations loud enough for the whole Wright Place to hear them.

Downtown is so overrated.

I stalk Facebook stalkers.

I almost burned my room down by trying to heat Oreos up in the microwave.

You're stupid.

JUST ASK JANE

Need advice? Want answers? Just ask Jane.

Dear Jane,

I have a very close friend—and don't get me wrong; I love her to death. But, she wants to do everything I am involved in. If I like a movie, she automatically loves it. If I eat a different brand of Pop Tarts, she starts to eat them, also. Many would think this is a flattering situation but it is really becoming a problem. I don't want to hurt her feelings, but I am just becoming tired of her trying to do and like everything I do.

Please help,
Tired of Being Doubled

Dear Tired,

I'd be tired of that too. It's one thing to have a close friendship and quite another to do your best to emulate your friend. To make it easier to deal with, keep reminding yourself that you've already hit the nail on the head. It is a great compliment to have someone want to be like you. In fact, someone once told me that "imitation is the highest form of flattery." But what should you do about it to regain your individuality? I asked around the newsroom and the best answer we came up with is: You're going to have to grit your teeth and live with it. It's going to be annoying (and obviously already is), but what can you do? Sit this person down and say, "Hey! Stop stealing my mojo!" And for all those times that this person wears your style, remind yourself that it was yours first. Eventually, she'll tire of being someone's carbon copy or decide you aren't so cool after all (kidding). When that day comes, you'll be one happy person, I'm sure. I hope that day comes soon for you.

Don't worry, be happy,
Jane

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

This letter is being written in regards to a front page article which was printed in your newspaper on Thursday, Feb. 8. The article was regarding the status of the Gamma Rho chapter of Kappa Alpha Order. The article was mainly focused on the chapters grades, a membership review, and hazing allegations. I would love to address several of these points.

The chapter grades have been an issue for the past couple of years in our chapter. Last semester we were addressed by our national office and put on a strict probation. The National Administrative Office had a plan for us to come off of probation if we met certain criteria which was laid out for us. Under direction of the president at the time of this probation, the chapter not only met all of the criteria, but we improved our overall chapter GPA by great strides. The Gamma Rho Chapter of Kappa Alpha Order did everything asked of us and went above and beyond the minimum GPA requirements presented us.

The second issue I'd like to address is the membership review the article speaks of. Membership review is basically where an outside committee of alumni sit down with each individual in KA and decides whether or not the member should be allowed to be active in the organization based on their performance in the classroom, in the chapter and in the community. This is by no means a bad thing. The article seems to attempt to depict our chapter as being on in deep trouble. This is not the case. Our sanctions are simply an attempt to improve the chapter community relations and the overall grades of the chapter.

The last issue I'd like to address in this article is the brief mention of hazing allegations. At no time was the Gamma Rho chapter of KA found guilty of hazing charges. Kappa Alpha Order does not support hazing, and neither does the Gamma Rho chapter at ECU. The fact that the article hints at hazing allegations shows that the purpose of this article was to show negative aspects of fraternity life. This is irresponsible on the part of the *East Carolinian* considering that these are simply allegations. There have been several of these allegations in the past, and each time, upon investigation, the chapter was found not guilty. As far as I'm concerned, these allegations could simply be another fraternity on campus that needs a house.

The article also failed to mention many of the positive aspects that our chapter has done recently in the community. Last semester the chapter donated over $1,000 to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The chapter takes part in many community service projects, such as throwing parties for underprivileged children from the Little Willy Center. Your article did not mention a single positive aspect of Greek Life. This is something your paper fails to do on a regular basis.

Finally, I want to show my disappointment in the way this article was handled. Why was this article placed on the front page of the paper? The *East Carolinian* has done a poor job of finding relevant issues on campus to write about. ECU has major issues regarding crime and parking, just to name a few. On Wednesday, Feb. 7, Skip Holtz and our ECU football team signed what was arguably the best recruiting class in ECU history. Why not make this the headlining story in the paper. This is great news which will help us compete on a regular basis with our hated rivals to the west.

Instead, The *East Carolinian* prints an article attempting to slander the name of a well respected fraternity not only on our campus, but across our country. Why would the *East Carolinian* publish a story without doing the proper research and mention false allegations in order to slander the name of a fraternity and even Greek life. It is well known throughout Greek life that the *East Carolinian* has made several attempts to get fraternities in trouble, whether it be through rush violations or articles like this. I encourage our campus newspaper to focus on the issues on our campus that actually matter and would make ECU a better place.

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

Pulse

Horoscopes:

Aries
Tales of glory and adventure are your inspiration. Get a good crew on board and you'll exceed your own expectations.

Taurus
A startling discovery seems to change everything, but it doesn't. Maintain your course and you'll achieve your original objective.

Gemini
Somebody else finds the passageway first. Hopefully, you're on good terms. A concept you thought was ridiculous actually has merit. Abandon pride and forge ahead.

Cancer
You're finding things you thought you'd lost forever. You're building things you never had before. Hide all of it away in safe places, clearly marked, so you can find them again.

Leo
The more you focus attention on others, the better you're going to feel. This is going to be easy, too, and a lot of fun.

Virgo
The tension will dissipate as everyone finds their new position. You'll see, this recent development will work out to your advantage.

Libra
The truth is revealed, and that could cause a disruption to your routine. You weren't really doing anything wrong, you were just going down the wrong path.

Scorpio
You're still doing well, financially, but you'll be better off if you don't talk about money very much.

Sagittarius
Your persistence is beginning to show results. Your profits are coming in. Resist the temptation to splurge, this may have to last a while.

Capricorn
The trick is to look at previously expendable items a different way. Instead of being icky, see them as potentially valuable.

Aquarius
You'll soon be past the idea phase and into the heavy lifting. In other words, the fun part's over. It is time to get back to work.

Pisces
The assignment you've taken on is certainly not easy. Although you're not making much money, you're definitely paying dues.

Drink Recipe:

Sparkling Sangria

1/4 cup orange flavored liqueur
1/4 cup almond liqueur
12 strawberries, sliced
1 pint raspberries
1 bottle Spanish sparkling wine
4 seedless grapes

Combine liqueurs and fruit in the bottom of a medium pitcher and lightly muddle. Fill pitcher with sparkling wine. Place a single grape in the bottom of each glass. The yeast on the grape skin will help retain some fizz in your drink. Spoon a bit of muddled berry from the pitcher into each Champagne glass then pour in the liquid. Serve immediately.

Red Passion
1/2 cup strawberries, hulled and quartered
2 tablespoons Cilantro Syrup, recipe follows
2 teaspoons rose water
1 1/2 teaspoons grenadine
Ice
1/2 cup pink grapefruit juice
2 tablespoons lime juice
1 ounce triple sec
2 ounces silver tequila
Fresh cilantro sprig, for garnish

In a blender, combine the strawberries, Cilantro Syrup, rose water, and grenadine and process until well blended and smooth, 15 to 20 seconds. Pour the strawberry puree into a large martini glass.

Put 3/4 cup ice into a cocktail shaker and add the grapefruit juice, lime juice, Triple Sec, and tequila. Shake well for 10 seconds to chill the ingredients. Strain into the martini glass over the strawberry puree. Garnish with cilantro sprig.

Please drink responsibly.

{ Campus Scene }

Say it with a perfect cake

Your Perfect Cakes offers mouth-watering treats

LEIGH CARTER
STAFF WRITER

Photo by Erica Chan

Owner Amber Rudder adds the finishing touches to "The Jungle Cake." Rudder enjoys crafting unique creations that are truly one-of-a-kind originals.

Your Perfect Cake, Greenville's own delicious dessert hot spot, brings more to the world of sweets this Valentine's Day as loved ones receive homemade fudge hearts delivered right to their door by a grooving gorilla in silk boxer shorts.

"We have been overwhelmed by the amount of response we have had with our Valentine gorilla delivery," said owner Amber Rudder. "Each fudge heart is personalized with anything the customer wants to say and comes in 1/3 and one full pound sizes."

While the hearts range in prices depending on size, they are only some of the tasty treats available for this holiday and all year around. From individual slices of cake to gourmet cupcakes and brownies, this business has people coming from all around to sample their latest creations.

"There are endless combinations we can create with both cake and cupcake flavors," Rudder said. "While the strawberry with cream cheese icing is of the best sellers, the butter cream cupcake is by far the most popular."

With seven different kinds of cake, seven different fillings, six different toppings and countless icing flavors to choose from, one might find themselves stumped over what sounds the most appealing.

"I was not really a sweets person until I started working at Your Perfect Cake," said Abbie Gray. "Learning to make wedding cakes and being able to create everyone's ideas has been an amazing experience for me."

With business in Greenville growing constantly and new people always stopping in, Your Perfect Cake has had to expand from a home-run business to a retail spot in only a short period of time.

"It is what I have always dreamed it would be but it still feels incredibly surreal to be happening," Rudder said. "I love being able to work at something that I love doing."

Rudder is originally from New Bern and credits her talent in cake decorating and creating to her mother.

"My mom has been making cakes since before I was born and still comes to help me on the weekends," Rudder said. "She has been a great inspiration to me in creating and running the business."

While Saturday is the busiest day for the store, Fridays see the most work as extra baking and preparation must be done in order to prepare for the crowds. With business booming, Rudder must balance her work and home life carefully.

"I often find myself molding icing animals in front of the television at night," Rudder said.

Upcoming delights for spring include the always popular milk chocolate Easter eggs, each containing peanut butter, caramel pecan or coconut filling. These treats can be personalized with the recipients name and are priced at $6.95 for one or three for $20.

"People come in with an idea of what they want but are not always sure of how they want it to look,"

see **CAKE** page A5

Feel the love in Uptown

Dulcinea co-owner Katherine Wetherington shows off some tasty treats.

Photos by Levenia Tyrrell

Options for this Valentine's Day

LIZ FULTON
SENIOR WRITER

Whether you are a couple celebrating the first of many romantic holidays together or the two of you have taken several trips around the sun, Feb. 14 is a significant day for anyone in love.

Instead of risking the traffic on the busier side of town, venture a few blocks from campus to the businesses of Uptown Greenville. As early as 4 p.m., these eclectic establishments will offer quaint and charming events for couples wanting to bask in the sentimental glow of Valentine's Day.

Start the holiday with the meaningful gesture of sending flowers. When words cannot describe your feelings, there is no better way to say, "I love you" than with flowers. What better place to purchase an arrangement than Jefferson's, located on the corner of Evans and Fourth Street.

"Jefferson's has everything from fresh flowers and Godiva chocolates, to stuffed animals and balloons," said Michael Glenn. "We have every budget covered."

Cox Floral Service on Fourth Street can also take care of your botanic needs. Serving Greenville for 70 years, the cozy shop can create a beautiful display for you to pick up or have delivered.

After presenting your love with a bouquet, treat her to an intimate dinner at one of Uptown Greenville's restaurants. If you are lucky enough to secure a reservation at Café Europa on 301 S. Evans St., a delectable dinner for two will be served for $45. Select dishes include stuffed grape leaves as an appetizer, roast leg of lamb with au jus for dinner and a cheesecake with a walnut crust for dessert.

For a more exotic meal, make a reservation at Dale's Indian Cuisine. Along with their dinner, couples will receive a rose at their table and can take advantage of their wide selection of wine and champagne.

If you are craving a slightly more festive and rollicking dinner, then Chico's on Cotanche Street has just what you need. For $18.99, couples can dine on shrimp and fish tacos accompanied by rice and beans with fried ice cream for dessert. They are also featuring $1.99 Mexican imports and tequila shots, as well as $2.99 Mexican martinis.

Don't plan on going home after dinner. Acasia's Tipsy Teapot, located at 409 S. Evans St., is moving all of their tables and couches to the side for two hours of slow dancing and light snacks beginning at 9 p.m.

"It's the type of dancing you normally only get to do at weddings," said owner Delia Liuzza.

The Charmed Peacock, also on South Evans Street, is running a coupon for anyone shopping on Valentine's Day. Throughout the day, shoppers can take advantage of saving 10 percent on a purchase of $50 – $100, 15 percent on sales of $100 – $200 dollars and 20 percent on anything over $200.

"We have really cute heart-shaped necklaces and earrings perfect for Valentine's Day," said sales associate Katie Sill. "We also have plenty of pirate and skull accessories for anyone that's a pirate fan."

Most unique of all is the magic taking place at Dulcinea Boutique on Washington Street. Beginning at 5:30 p.m., live music will encompass the store with the soulful playing of guitarist Sam Gwaltney. Carriage rides will be available for $5 a person and will take its travelers around Uptown Greenville. Inside the store, artist Roger Kammerer will be on hand to do pen and ink sketches of couples or individuals. Kammerer, who has written many of the books for sale in Dulcinea, will be available for book signings, too.

"Roger is an amazing artist and has the kindest way of drawing people," said co-owner Katherine Wetherington. "These sketches capture all of the good qualities of people and none of the bad."

If you desire "sweets for your sweet" then make sure to check out Dulcinea's gourmet caramel apples.

"They are the crispest Granny Smith green apples coated in caramel," said Wetherington. "They are then dipped in white chocolate and decorated with lattice work complimented by pink rosebuds."

Dulcinea will also have Chantico, a warm Italian sipping chocolate on sale for $2.95. Present this to your valentine with a coupon book full of your "favorite personal services" and Chantico will not be the only thing getting warm.

Even if there is not a special someone in your life, grab a group of friends and experience the charms of Uptown Greenville. Enjoy the sunset and music, while savoring the simple pleasure of being alone.

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

Photo by Lizz Wells

ECU graduate Marquice Jones recites his "Single State of Mind."

Poetry Jam draws students from all social backgrounds

Students gather to celebrate diversity

CARMIN BLACK
STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday's Poetry Jam in the Pirate Underground did not fit the typical tight black turtleneck, finger snapping stereotype of most traditional poetry readings. Over the course of the night the word poetry was barely used—rather, poets who spoke seemed to refer to their rhymes as spoken word.

The event gave area poets the chance to show off their work and honor February as Black History Month.

The goal of the Cultural Awareness Committee is to create and maintain programs that support a campus environment where cultural awareness facilitates understanding as well as diversity.

The speakers at the Poetry Jam represented as wide a demographic as their lyrics and both student and working adults attended. Some of the lyricists were former graduates who had heard about the event through mutual friends, while others came from Pitt County Community College.

Former ECU student, Marquice Jones, wrote and recited two original pieces; one entitled *Single State of Mind*.

Jones' poem was a spiritual balled that expressed his belief in God and the fact that regardless if he is married or not, at this stage in his life he is trying to live his life according to his faith.

"I am a city set on a hill, I speak life, I now live by faith, walk in victory and labor in love... His commission is undeniable my mission unreliable... I step over the line into this single state of mind," recited Jones.

"I want my poetry to be revolutionary... I want to edify people's minds, to challenge what we think by what we speak through our mouths," said Jones.

Moreover, after each poet got the chance to recite their words, everyone in the audience was given the opportunity to stand up and tell what Black History Month meant to them.

"It is celebrating that people have come so far, it's not about getting praise but recognizing where people have come from," said Giahanna Parker, junior criminal justice major and co-chair for Black History Month.

Besides bringing many different people together, many students in attendance felt coming out to this event was a great way to switch up the normal Thursday night routine.

"I am glad that so many different people could get together and celebrate other people expressing themselves," Parker said.

In general, everyone present seemed to agree that although the Poetry Jam was held in honor of celebrating Black History and reciting free verse, another invaluable reason for gathering was to remind everyone present how important it is to focus on bringing people together regardless of race or other defining orientations.

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

CAKE continued from A4

Gray said. "The best part of the job is seeing how far we can take an idea and make it into a cake."

Creating custom work and one of a kind desserts are all in a days work for this team as they are continuously developing new selections for guests that are both completely original and delectably edible.

"With the college and the hospital here, we are always seeing new faces and creating new things," Rudder said. "While sometimes we do get tired, we are never tired of it."

Your Perfect Cake is located across from Wal-Mart at 205 SW Greenville Blvd. and can be contacted by calling 355-3113 and through yourperfectcake.com. Hours of operation are Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

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

Don't raid your piggy bank

Date plans with all of the romance and none of the stress

TRICIA COUNCILOR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Photos.com

Valentines spend a night at home rather than braving the crowds.

This Valentine's Day, don't break the bank to impress your sweetie. Make this day (or any other) about each other, for little or no money. Whether you are spending the day with someone special or simply indulging in some alone time, staying in is the perfect remedy for the craziness that accompanies Valentine's Day.

Staying in for a romantic dinner can be very affordable and even more special than going out. With the cold weather, having an indoor date night is a warm and inviting way to entertain your date.

"We like to cook together, and play chess because it gives us time to talk to each other," said junior art major Cora Cummings.

Don't worry about what to cook for dinner, prepare something simple and stress free such as spaghetti or even sandwiches. Make it special by lighting candles and using a tablecloth, with rose petals sprinkled on top for an added touch. Put on your favorite CD in the background, and don't rush through dinner. Take this time to get to know each other; even if you have been together for days or years, there are surely things you can discover about your significant other.

Alternatively, instead of eating at the table, spice things up by having an indoor picnic by putting a blanket with pillows on the floor.

"Since it's so cold outside, sometimes we'll put a quilt on the floor in the living room and have an indoor picnic," Cummings said.

Finger foods are better in this situation, so go for pizza, fresh fruit or chicken wraps. You can put the plates, napkins and dinner in a basket to really make it feel like a picnic, and be sure to bring your date's favorite beer, wine or soda to complete the meal.

Even if you don't have a special Valentine's date, an evening with friends can be a fun way to spend time with the people you love. Hosting dinner and a movie night at your place is a great way to bring all your friends together, no matter what day it is.

"My boyfriend and I usually play board games with a big group of friends on the weekends, or have dinner and watch a movie," said junior sociology major Courtney Wall.

The most important thing to remember is to keep your date night stress free. A great way to do this is to cook your meal together. This avoids the stress involved with finishing everything before your date arrives, and is also a lot of fun. Keep the recipe affordable and something that you are comfortable with making. If you are not one to cook, don't shy away from your easy favorites such as scrambled eggs and toast. This is one case where it is the thought that really counts.

A simple dinner can lead the way to a decadent dessert that will steal the spotlight. Chocolate covered strawberries or other fruit is a dessert that everyone will love. Melt your favorite chocolate bar in a microwaveable bowl on medium heat, stopping to stir the chocolate once a minute until it is melted. You can dip strawberries, banana slices or even chunks of angel food cake from the store. Make this dessert ahead of time so that it is in the fridge ready to go.

If the date night at home still leaves you wanting more, you can get the best of both worlds by going out after your dinner for dessert or coffee. By splitting a nice dessert and or going out for coffee, you can save money but still have the special experience of going out.

Even with PB&J's, your Valentine is sure to be impressed by your thoughtful and romantic gestures.

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

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Sports

{ECU's Inside Source}

BY THE NUMBERS

0.00

Time left on the game clock as Jasmine Young's jumper went through the basket on Sunday, giving the ECU women's basketball team a thrilling 62-61 victory over Tulsa on ESPN2; ECU center Charie Mills grabbed a rebound with ten seconds left in the game and the Pirates down 61-60, and passed the ball to LaCoya Terry, who tried to drive into the lane but found a wide open Young at the free throw line; Young nailed a running 10-foot jump shot as time expired and the rest of the team swarmed Young in joy as the Pirates recorded their third straight conference victory

2.5

Percent of ECU's baseball team hits this past weekend were accounted for by one player, Harrison Eldridge; Eldridge had seven of the 28 hits recorded in a 3-game series against Liberty; Eldridge, who is the Pirates leadoff hitter, batted .583 and finished the weekend with a .667 on-base percentage

3

Home runs by ECU softball player Paige Baggett this past weekend, which was half of the Pirates total home runs; Baggett, a junior outfielder, also tallied eight RBIs this past weekend and now leads the team in batting average (.500) and slugging percentage (1.286); ECU holds a 3-1 record after a successful weekend in the Carolina Classic

691

Days in-between pitching appearances for ECU senior baseball player Jeff Ostrander; Ostrander returned from Tommy John surgery this past Saturday, pitching six innings while striking out four batters and only allowing two earned runs; Ostrander had to be medically redshirted last season and his last apperance prior to Saturday's performance was on March 20, 2005

31

Points scored by ECU point guard Darell Jenkins against Houston on Saturday; 24 of Jenkins' career-high 31 points came from behind the 3-point line as he nailed 8-10 3-pointers; Jenkins shot 76.9 percent from the field and tallied six assists in 36 minutes played; Jenkins accounted for 52.5 percent of the Pirates total points as they managed only 59 in the game

They said it

"We take away a series win and if we win every series we'll have a good year. We just have to build on it; our guys bounced back [after Friday's loss] and played well so I'm very pleased with that."
- ECU Head Baseball Coach Billy Godwin

"California softball is the best in the nation. We go out to Colorado and recruit and we go out to California and recruit. They are loaded with teams and every one of those kids off of those teams are going into big time schools. Anywhere on the West Coast."
- ECU Associate Head Softball Coach Natalie Kozlowski

ECU relies on fresh arms

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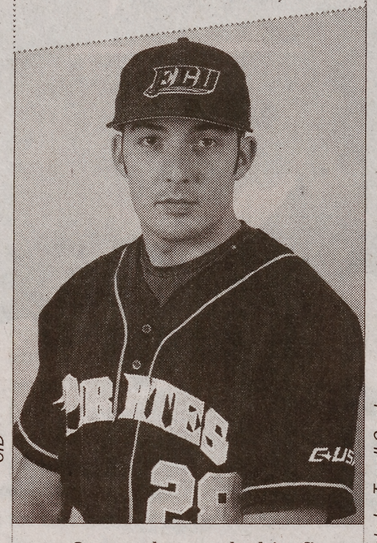

SID

Ostrander made his first start since March of 2005 and was the winning pitcher in ECU's 7-4 victory over Liberty on Saturday. Ostrander made his return from Tommy John surgery a memorable one as he only allowed two earned runs and eight hits in six innings pitched, and also struck out four batters.

"I know exactly what it feels like to go through what he had to go through. That's just a great feeling to come back after such a long recovery time and do what he did, so hats off to him."—Ostrander's roommate and Pirates closer Shane Mathews, on watching his teammate return from Tommy John surgery. Mathews had the same surgery in 2005.

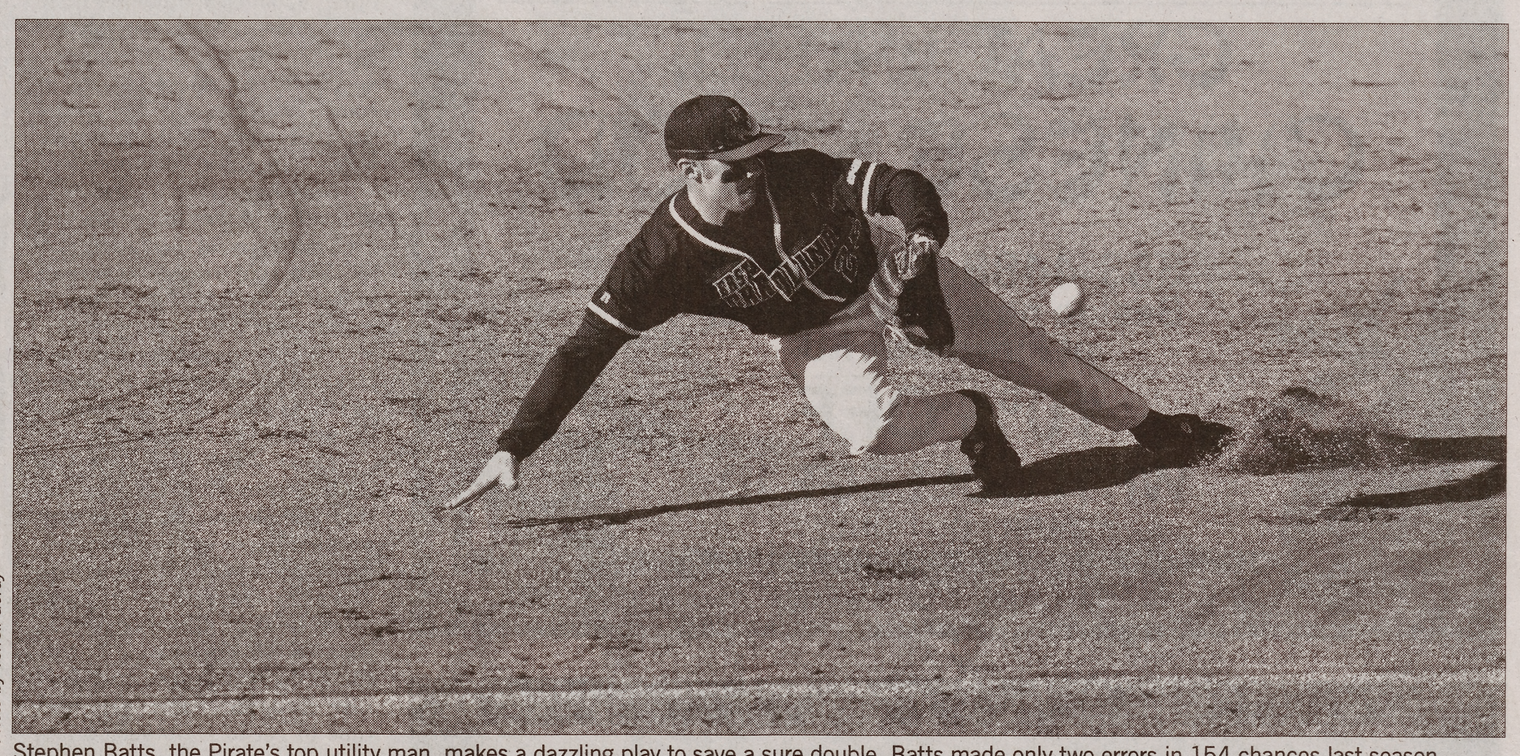

Photo by Terrell Gordy

Stephen Batts, the Pirate's top utility man, makes a dazzling play to save a sure double. Batts made only two errors in 154 chances last season.

Pitching leads Pirates to two victories

RONNIE WOODWARD
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

Pitching led the way as the Pirates won their opening series of the 2007 baseball season. ECU recorded victories over Liberty on Saturday and Sunday after a disappointing season-opening loss to the Flames on Friday.

"We take away a series win and if we win every series we'll have a good year," said Head Coach Billy Godwin after Sunday's 11-2 victory. "We just have to build on it; our guys bounced back [after Friday's loss] and played well so I'm very pleased with that."

The performance of the weekend came from ECU senior Jeff Ostrander, who was the starting pitcher for Saturday's game. Ostrander made his first start since March of 2005, when he injured his elbow and was forced to have Tommy John surgery. Ostrander, who took a medical redshirt last year, picked up the win after allowing only two earned runs in six innings pitched.

"Ostrander's performance was outstanding," Godwin said, who also coached Ostrander during his freshman and sophomore seasons at Louisburg College. "I have some history with Jeff so it was really special for me to sit here and watch that."

Ostrander got help from his roommate Shane Mathews, who excelled in his new role as the Pirates closer. Mathews entered Saturday's game with two outs in the eighth inning and runners on first and second, with the Pirates clinging to a 6-4 lead. Liberty second baseman Tommy Bussey took Mathew's first pitch of the season into right field for a single that loaded the bases. Mathews then ended the Flames comeback as he struck out Liberty's leadoff batter Patrick Gaillard.

"It was in my mindset that I couldn't let them score, no matter what. I just had to get him out one way or another," said Mathews, who recorded his first save of the season on Saturday. "There's been a lot of anticipation from myself to come in with this role and really challenge it and take it on."

Mathews, who also had to have Tommy John surgery in 2005, said he and Ostrander talked a lot about the surgery and pitching leading up to this season.

"I know exactly what it feels like to go through what he had to go through," Mathews said after Saturday's 7-4 win. "That's just a great feeling to come back after such a long recovery time and do what he did, so hats off to him."

see **SERIES** page A7

Pacific Power

Photo by Terrell Gordy

Half of the ECU softball team hails from either Hawaii or California.

ECU looks west for softball talent

ROBERT MATTHEW PARKS
STAFF WRITER

Distance from Greenville, N.C. to Sacramento, Calif.: 2,419 miles.
Distance from Greenville, N.C. to Honolulu, Hawaii: 4,864 miles.

And you hate driving all the way down Greenville Boulevard to Taco Bell.

A cross-country trek is nothing new to many players of the ECU softball team. According to Assistant Head Coach Natalie Kozlowski, nine of the 18 players on the roster are either from the Golden or Aloha state.

"California softball is the best in the nation," said Kozlowski. "We go out to Colorado and recruit and we go out to California and recruit. They are loaded with teams and every one of those kids off of those teams are going into big time schools."

"Anywhere on the West Coast," Kozlowski said. "Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, they are loaded."

The team currently has five Californians in outfielders Christina Merrida and Beth Nolan, pitcher Toni Paisley, infielder Jessica Johnson and utility player Vanessa Moreno.

The three from Hawaii are Christen Aona, Kaui Tom and Charina Sumner.

In the case of Aona, Tom and Sumner, they all had familiarity with one another before arriving in Greenville.

Tom and Sumner played together at Kamehameha High School on a team that went 68-5 in their time there. Tom was named an all-state selection at shortstop her senior year. Sumner has also garnered praise within the state, as she was named second-team all state in the outfield as well as at second base.

"I started playing softball with Kaui [Tom] in fourth grade," Sumner said. "We went to different schools then, and then in seventh grade we went to the same school. Pretty much since then we have been playing together."

"We have grown to become pretty much like sisters," she said.

As for Aona, she attended Punahou High School where she captained the softball team and earned varsity letters in both softball and basketball.

Aona has lots of experience with Tom and Sumner, but from the opposite dugout.

"Before I knew them, when we played against each other I really didn't like them because they were good," Aona said, to laughs from Tom and Sumner.

"They were always people in the lineup I would kind of... play extra hard to get them out and stuff. But that rarely happened because their team was way better than ours," said Aona.

Luckily for Pirate fans, however, Aona seems to have forgiven Tom and Sumner for their past transgressions.

"Playing with them during the summer and here... it was one of the reasons I came here," she said. "We work so well together and we are so close. We never get sick of each other."

So what is it like adjusting from the hectic pace of a large city like Sacramento or Los Angeles? How about the breezy beaches of Hawaii?

"It is a lot slower pace out here," said Paisle. "But it is a huge school when you get here."

According to Merrida, Californians don't have much on the charm of people here in the eastern part of the Tar Heel state.

"The people here are a lot nicer, a lot more polite," said Merrida.

While she likes it in Greenville, Aona finds her thoughts still pull her home from time to time.

"It is a lot different being away from home. The weather obviously is a huge factor. There's no beach," she said.

Tom misses the Hawaiian beaches as well.

"There is no beach in Greenville, so I am losing my tan," she said.

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

ECU gains momentum heading toward conference tournament

Pirates snag two wins in cross-country road trip

(SID)—The ECU women's basketball team made the most of a road trip that took the Pirates from Greenville to Dallas to Tulsa and back again in a three-day span.

The trip got off to a good start as ECU pummeled SMU (14-10, 6-6 C-USA) on the Mustangs' home court in Moody Coliseum Friday night, 70-58.

Senior starting center Cherie Mills provided a spark for the Pirates en route to the win.

Mills pulled down a career-high 16 rebounds and added 18 points for her fourth double-double of the season to lead ECU.

For the first 10 minutes of the opening half the teams traded blows in a seemingly even match-up. But after three lead changes the Pirates put together the first run of the game, 8-0, to go up 17-11.

Photo by Terrell Gordy

Jasmine Young drives the court.

"I am very proud of our team and the way they played this weekend," We are coming home with two road wins over a pair of great teams."

said Head Coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener.

A trey by SMU's Katy Cobb ended the run and cut the ECU lead to three, 17-14. After a lay up by Pirate point guard Jasmine Young, the Mustang's went on a 6-0 run, taking the lead at 20-19.

The lead would be short-lived and the last of the game for SMU. Impris Manning's jumper with just under five minutes left in the half put ECU back on top for good, 21-20. Manning's basket sparked an 18-2 Pirate run, increasing their lead to 15, 37-22 at the break.

The Pirates shot 53.1 percent for the game, while holding the Mustangs to a lowly 23.7 percent.

ECU carried this newfound momentum from Dallas north to Tulsa for a Sunday night match-up with the Golden Hurricane (9-15, 4-8 C-USA) at the Reynolds Center. The game was televised nationally on ESPN2, perhaps a sign that the game was destined to come down to the wire.

Cherie Mills got the Pirates on the board first, scoring the first basket of the contest.

The lead switched hands three times before Jillian Robbins' free throw with just under 12 minutes on the clock gave Tulsa the 12-11 edge. Five straight points by Robbins sparked a 7-0 run by the Hurricane, giving them a 19-13 lead.

Jasmine Young's jumper ended the Tulsa run, cutting the lead down to four, 19-15. The Golden Hurricane held the lead before the Pirates put together a 7-0 run to end the half with a 26-23 lead.

The Pirates shot 30.6 percent in the opening half while holding Tulsa to an impressive 24.3 percent.

Siemems hit a three-pointer to open the second half, tying the game at 26-26. Just as the first half started, the second stanza saw three lead changes in the first three minutes with the Pirates taking the 32-30 edge on a Mills lay-up with just under 17 minutes to play. ECU held a double-digit advantage until Robbins' jumper with under 11 minutes on the clock sparked an 8-0 run by the Hurricane to pull within two, 53-51, with eight minutes to play.

A Mills free throw briefly stopped the Tulsa run, but Robbins hit back-to-back jumpers to tie the game at 54 with just under five minutes remaining. Robbins' third-straight basket on the next possession gave Tulsa its first lead since midway through the first half. The Pirates and Golden Hurricane traded baskets, with a Terry jumper with 38.2 seconds showing to cut the lead to one, 61-60.

Tulsa's Dreiling had a shot to put the Hurricane up by three with less than ten seconds to play, but it hit the rim and Mills grabbed the

see **PIRATES** page A7

Jenkins' effort not enough as Pirates lose at Houston

(SID)—Despite a career-high 31 points from junior guard Darrell Jenkins, ECU couldn't overtake an emerging Houston club at Hofheinz Pavilion Saturday night and suffered an 83-59 loss.

Junior Robert McKiver led a trio of Cougars in double figures with 23 points. Senior Jahmar Thorpe netted 15 points, while junior Dion Dowell contributed 11 points.

Senior Oliver Lafayette grabbed a game-high 10 rebounds, but was held to just four points.

Houston (13-10, 7-3 C-USA), who has won six of its last seven games and is tied for second place, scored the game's first 10 points and never looked back creating four ECU turnovers in the first five minutes.

Freshman John Fields pulled the Pirates (5-18, 0-10 C-USA) within nine, 21-12, on dunk with 11:25 remaining in the first half. The Cougars answered with a 12-0 spurt to push its lead to 21 and led by 24 at halftime, 44-20.

Jenkins, the only Pirate in double figures, tied an ECU record by netting eight 3-pointers and finished the game 10-of-13 from the field.

Freshman Gabe Blair led the Pirates with seven rebounds, but did not score.

ECU finished the game shooting 37.3 percent from the field, while Houston converted 44.1 percent of its field goal attempts.

The Pirates were outrebounded 42-32.

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SERIES continued from A6

ECU's bullpen shined throughout the weekend as it only gave up two earned runs in 11.1 innings pitched. This is a definite bright spot as the Pirates went 7-9 in games last year that were decided in the ninth inning or later.

"We're mature in the bullpen; the guys we're bringing in are juniors and seniors," Godwin said. "Shane [Mathews] came out in a big situation and got a strike out and that's what we prepped him for and he prepped himself for, so that was good to see."

The season started slowly for ECU as it lost its first season-opening home game since 1991, when it lost to Godwin's alma mater, Barton College. Liberty won Friday's game 6-2, due in large part to a grand slam by catcher Errol Hollinger in the second inning.

The Pirates managed only 13 hits in the two games leading up to Sunday's rubber match. But ECU responded on Sunday with 11 runs and 15 hits, highlighted by a seven run seventh inning which featured a grand slam by shortstop Dale Mollenhauer and RBIs by Jake Dean, Jamie Ray and Harrison Eldridge.

"It definitely felt good, that kind of cushion helps out our pitchers and gives them the confidence they need to get their job done," said Eldridge about the Pirates seven-run inning. "It takes a lot of pressure off us and puts it on the other team."

The Pirates will now head to Los Angeles to play No. 15 UCLA in a 3-game series starting Friday. The Bruins will have something to prove after being swept by No. 5 Miami in Corel Gables, Fla. this past weekend.

"We know that UCLA has a good ball club but we showed improved over the weekend," Eldridge said. "I think we can go out there and give them a run for their money, we'll give it a good shot and see what we can do."

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

PIRATES continued from A6

rebound. She passed the ball to Terry who drove to the baseline where she was triple-covered but shook free to deliver a pass to Young at the top of the key. Young caught the ball and shot a last-second jumper as time expired to give the Pirates the dramatic 62-61 win.

Young finished the game with 12 points, five assists and three steals. The last two points tallied by the sophomore point guard were probably the biggest of the season.

Before the two-game swing, ECU had won one true road game all season. This victory didn't come until Jan. 20th, when the Pirates defeated Memphis, 69-57. This was hardly an impressive win as the Tigers are 3-23 overall, and 0-12 in C-USA.

Unlike the expected thrashing of Memphis, the back-to-back road wins over the weekend came against two worthy opponents. SMU sits right behind ECU in the C-USA standings with a .500 conference mark.

"I am very proud of our team and the way they played this weekend," said head coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener. We are coming home with two road wins over a pair of great teams."

ECU picked a good time to catch fire and win three in a row. The Pirates are currently tied for fifth in the conference with a 7-5 mark. The last four games of the regular season will be huge for ECU as the top four teams in the league receive a first-round bye in the C-USA postseason tournament.

ECU will need to exert this newfound confidence as two of the final four opponents the Pirates play are among the top three teams in the conference.

East Carolina returns to Minges Coliseum Thursday evening to host third-place UTEP (19-5, 8-4 C-USA) in a 7:00 p.m. matchup. The Pirates will then welcome league-leading Tulane (21-4, 10-2 C-USA) Saturday afternoon for ECU's Senior Day. Tip-off is set for 2:00 p.m.

Additional information contributed by Greg Katski, sports editor.

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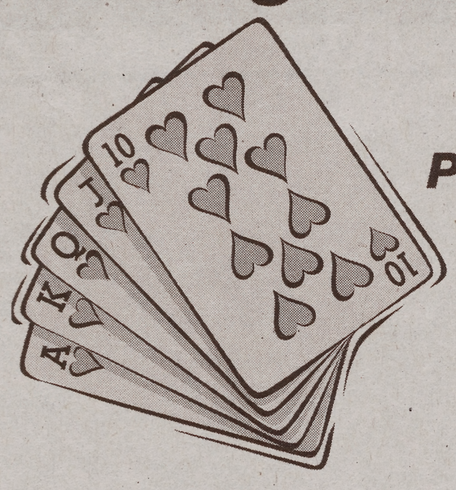

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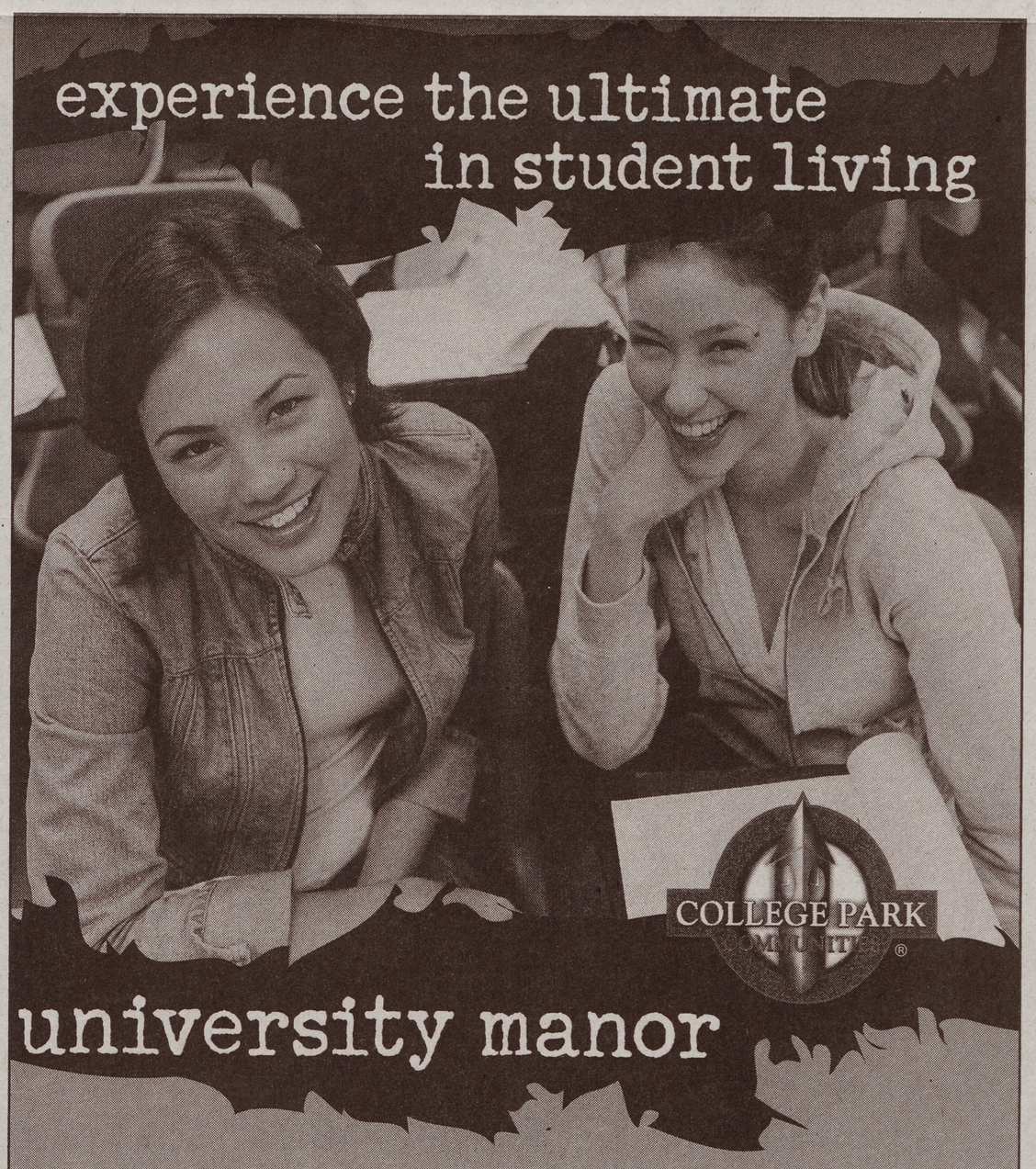

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GREEK PERSONALS

The sisters of Alpha Xi Delta would like to say congratulations to Megan Hannon for being our sister of the week! Love your Alpha Xi's

The sisters of Kappa Delata would like to recognize sister Briana Yates as February's sister of the month!

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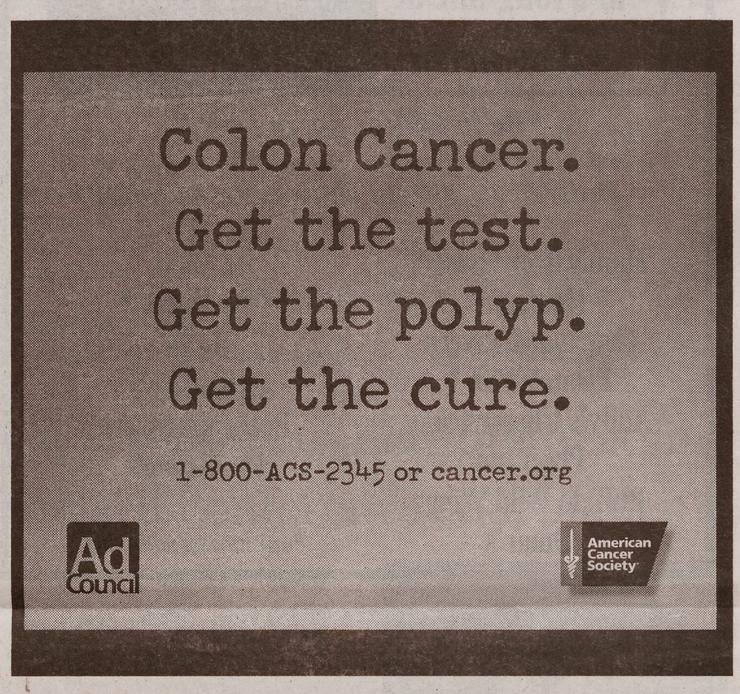

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