



The East Carolinian

YOUR INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 82, ISSUE 55

{ www.theeastcarolinian.com }

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2007

New policy proposed for credit card purchases

Students' must show picture identification

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
SENIOR WRITER

The Screening and Appointments Committee of SGA proposed a resolution to make the presentation of valid identification mandatory, while making a purchase of any amount with debit or credit cards.

The congress voted in favor of the resolution at the congressional meeting on Feb. 12.

Timothy Darden, vice chair of the Screening and Appointments Committee, said he recognized the need for this resolution after noticing the lack of cashiers asking for identification during credit card purchases.

According to Darden, he wrote the resolution with the help of Jon Massachi, speaker of the congress for SGA.

Practices of verifying identity for credit cards started on Feb. 14 after passing through several people for review, according to Darden.

Signs have been posted in Wright Place announcing the new policy to students and faculty, said Darden.

M. Cole Jones, SGA president, had to review the resolution to decide if he wanted to pass or veto it.

The resolution was also reviewed by Corey King, vice chancellor of student experiences, who then sent it to the appropriate department areas.

"I always forward resolutions to the appropriate areas for responses, especially the vice chancellor of student life," said King.

The resolution was sent to Todd Johnson, vice chancellor of campus living and dining, for approval.

"Todd Johnson received the resolution on last Tuesday and fully supported it," said Darden.



Photo identification may soon be mandatory for all credit and debit card purchases made on campus, if SGA's proposed resolution passes.

The resolution still has to be passed by a few other areas before it completely takes effect on campus.

"It has not been officially approved nor has it gone through the appropriate approvals at the ECU administrative level or the corporate level of Aramark," said Johnson. "Policies and practices concerning the use of credit cards must also pass the test of being in compliance with federal banking laws as well as local better business practices."

"This resolution should affect all dining places that are owned by Aramark," Darden said.

Darden suggests that it is another measure that will provide safety for students and prevent crimes such as identity theft.

"This is a new public safety measure that will protect all students and everyone else who uses the dining facilities," Darden said.

According to Darden, the only places previously verifying identification were the Dowdy Student Stores and the Registrar's Office.

"We've always used this policy since I've been here and I've been here since 2000," said Bryan Tuten, associate director of the Dowdy Student Stores.

Tuten said that the stores policy is to check for identification for any purchase amount on credit card purchases.

"If I ring up someone for a 10 cent bubble sheet, and they pull out a credit card, I ask for I.D.," Tuten said.

Darden said that he believes that some students will be opposed

to the new policy because it may slow down lines.

"The minute lost by showing identification is nothing compared to the time and energy used if someone's identity or credit or debit cards are lost," Darden said.

To find out more about SGA, visit ecu.edu/sga or call 328-4724 to get in contact with a SGA representative.

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



Dr. Louise Toppin is a vocalist and pianist who offers students at ECU a unique opportunity to learn under her direction. Read more.....Page A4



ECU transit drivers offer an invaluable service to students and staff. Learn about their daily lives.....Page A4



Would you jump with the ECU Skydiving Club? Read about Sports Editor Greg Katski's recent experience.....Page A6



While the ECU men's basketball team has been in the doldrums all year, the women's basketball team has been making a statement in C-USA. Read why this past weekend might have been the biggest in the history of the program.....Page A6

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Guilford College has teach-in to discuss campus altercation

Quaker tradition utilized in overcoming incident

(AP)—Guilford College officials have again turned to Quaker tradition in the wake of a campus fight between football players and three Palestinian students.

Guilford College, a school founded by Quakers in 1888, held a teach-in Sunday during which faculty members, former athletes and retired administrators shared their views about issues related to the altercation.

College officials said the discussion was an important part of the Quaker tradition of "truth-seeking."

"It is one of our core testimonies—truth telling," said Max Carter, campus ministry coordinator. "We don't always live up to it, but it is kind of ingrained in our DNA."

Six football players face assault charges after the Palestinian students swore out magistrate's warrants following the Jan. 20 fight. Police have said

they won't pursue additional charges and have ended their investigation of the incident.

Guilford College officials have been discouraged about the altercation, but they said it can be a learning experience.

"We take these teachable moments and seek to educate ourselves better about the nuances of issues," Carter said.

Rather than talking about the alleged attack, participants in the teach-in discussed xenophobia and stereotyping, Quaker history and the culture of sports in college. More than 100 people, including about a dozen students, attended the gathering at New Garden Friends Meeting across from campus.

Some said a divide between athletes and the rest of the student body exists on many campuses.

"What is unfortunate is that it has taken an incident of this nature to get us to sit down and talk about it," said Bob Malekoff, an assistant professor of sport studies at Guilford.

Guilford's response in the

aftermath of the fight has been different than the approach other schools may have used, experts said.

"You wouldn't find very many other institutions dealing with a campus problem with this response," said Jon Fuller, senior fellow at the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. "The reason it has been so troubling to Guilford is that it seems so out of character with the institution."

While teach-ins are common at colleges and universities, they often focus on global issues such as Iraq policy, the environment or poverty, Fuller said.

"What Guilford is doing is taking a local issue that is important to both faculty and students and they are dealing with it as an academic issue," Fuller said. "They are trying to understand it."

Carter said there has been a positive response to Guilford's handling of the incident.

"It is kind of a knee-jerk response of a place like Guilford—you seek the truth," he said.



Signs that are the property of Beaufort County will only be in English.

Beaufort County rejects non-English signs

(AP)—Commissioners in Beaufort County in eastern North Carolina have voted to remove non-English signs and information materials from county property.

Commissioner Hood Richardson said he was concerned about the nation becoming bilingual when he proposed the idea.

The policy doesn't apply

to programs mandated by the state and federal government, including health and social services offices.

The law doesn't specify a language, but Hood said Spanish was a target of the policy.

Juencio Rocha Peralta of Greenville, president of the

see BEAUFORT page A2

Representative talks about establishing university creed

Building a tradition built on academic excellence

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
SENIOR WRITER

Lynn Roeder, associate vice chancellor of the dean of students, talked to congress members on Monday, about establishing an university creed that will build tradition.

Roeder said that past research indicates that historically students felt that ECU was a easy going, party school.

A handout that was given to congress members contained research from 1990 that expressed that alcohol abuse, the role of social groups, freedom of speech, crime and the enforcement of campus regulations were the main concerns of students at this time.

The handout also included new research from the Institutional, Planning and Research department that expressed the main reason why first year students come to ECU is because of the good academic reputation and a sense of belonging.

The data indicated a large percentage of students said that graduating was their most important goal, their experience at ECU increased their self confidence, and ECU was their first choice.

The research was based on responses given from first year students and sophomores.

Roeder suggested that establishing a creed that expresses the students drive for academic success will bring a sense of tradition to the university.

The proposed creed listed on the handout states, "In pursuit of educational excellence, responsible

see SGA page A2



SGA members listen to proposals regarding the creation of a University Creed at Monday night's meeting.

NEWS

{ Campus & Community }

CORRECTIONS

The *East Carolinian* is committed to reporting accurate news and will publish corrections regarding mistakes in articles.

To submit a correction, e-mail editor@theeastcarolinian.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2007 Graduation Expo

Feb. 20 - 22
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, and visit with reps from the Registrar's Office, Career Center, Alumni Association, Pirate Club, Rec Center and loan consolidation companies. May Grads have a chance to win a \$400 travel voucher from Jostens.

Urinetown

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 drought, 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.

McGinnis Auditorium
Sunday's showing at 2 p.m., all others at 8 p.m.

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, March 27 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. 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.

SGA continued from A1

stewardship, and intellectual freedom, the community of scholars at East Carolina University is committed to learning at the highest level. Founded in the tradition of service and leadership, members of our academic society exemplify high standards of professional and personal conduct at all times.

Roeder also mentioned that the Office of the Dean of Students has been reinstated by Marilyn Sheerer, interim vice chancellor of student life, on Nov. 1.

According to Roeder, the office hasn't been on campus since the late nineties.

The office will act as a place that students can visit when they need assistance with problems or issues immediately.

"The concept of the Dean of Students Office is to have a place where students can go right away to navigate through the system and receive help," Roeder said.

Other topics introduced to congress was the possibility of the student store delivering textbooks to local students.

Wanda Scarborough, director of the student store, said she talked to Sheerer last week about distance learning

20 Tue

Intramural Kickball Team Registration
Student Recreation Center, room 207
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Mendenhall Student Center
12 - 6 p.m.

Guess who is Coming to Dinner
Hendrix Theater
7 p.m.

The Black Church and Health in the Community
Sponsored by Student National Medical Association
Brody 2E100
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

21 Wed

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Mendenhall Student Center
12 - 6 p.m.

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

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

Soul Food: You Are What You Eat
12:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Brody 2W40

22 Thurs

A Young Woman's Secret
A program about gender violence against women geared toward college aged women. Susan Molhan, the ECU Victims Advocate, will be speaking about emotional and physical abuse in young relationships. Designed to help young women detect the warning signs of abuse and raise awareness of the secret that many young women keep.
Bate 1012
6:30 - 8 p.m.

23 Fri

ECU TECS hosts Engineering and Technology Day
Science & Technology Building
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Education Career Fair
200 Representatives from over 120 Organizations will be meeting with students in the College of Education and other majors
Minges Coliseum Second Floor Concourse
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Softball vs. Towson
10 p.m.
ECU Softball Field

Women's Tennis vs. Coastal Carolina
ECU Tennis Complex
1 p.m.

ECU hosts Asian Studies Lecture
Science and Technology Building, Room OC 209
3 p.m.

Softball vs. Appalachian State
ECU Softball Field
3 p.m.

Baseball vs. St. Johns
Clark-LeClair Stadium
5 p.m.

24 Sat

Cultural Arts Festival
ViQuest Center
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

Standing Together in Unity—Black History Month Symposium
Mendenhall Student Center
9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Softball vs. St. Johns
ECU Softball Field
11 a.m.

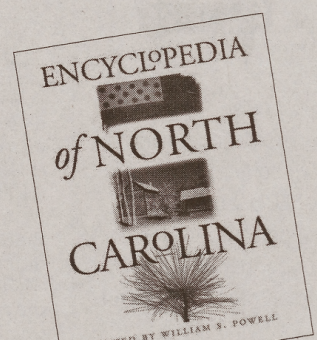
Baseball vs. Washington
Clark-LeClair Stadium
3 p.m.

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

25 Sun

Baseball vs. Duke
Clark-LeClair Stadium
2 p.m.

Pamper Party
Mendenhall Great Rooms
4:30 - 7 p.m.



***Featured Event:**
ECU hosts book signing for Encyclopedia of N.C.
Special guest and editor, William S. Powell, will visit ECU for a book signing of the first Encyclopedia of North Carolina (UNC Press). Free. J.Y. Joyner Library, North Carolina Collection
Friday, 1 - 3 p.m.

BRIEFS

Six anti-war protester arrested at congressman's office

CHAPEL HILL (AP)—Six college students were arrested Friday during an anti-war protest at the local office of a congressman. The students sat inside the Chapel Hill office of Democratic U.S. Rep. David Price, demanding to speak with Price over the phone. The protesters want Price to vote to cutoff funding for the war in Iraq. When they refused to leave, Chapel Hill police carried the students out of the office and charged each one with trespassing. Five are students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, while

the sixth student attends North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Price, a former Duke University professor, is serving his 10th term representing the 4th District, a largely suburban area encompassing Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill.

President Bush to talk about energy initiatives in North Carolina

FRANKLINTON (AP)—President Bush will visit North Carolina next week to discuss his energy initiatives to cut U.S. gas consumption, the White House said Friday. Bush will visit a biotech plant Thursday in Franklinton, about 25 miles north of Raleigh, said White House

spokeswoman Jeanie Mamo. The company, Novozymes, produces enzymes to help turn matter such as corn into ethanol fuel, among other things. Bush will speak about his energy initiatives to reduce gasoline use by 20 percent in the next ten years, Mamo said. He will also take part in a tour and a panel discussion.

Authorities don't plan policy changes after shooting death

WILMINGTON (AP)—The New Hanover County Sheriff's Office doesn't plan to make any revisions to training or operating policies after an accidental shooting killed an 18-year-

old college student in December. Maj. Arch Jones, a supervising officer for the Sheriff's Office Emergency Response Team, said officials "didn't see anything in training that could have changed or prevented this."

"It was a mistake, and I don't see how you could prevent a mistake," he said. Christopher Long, a former member of the Emergency Response Team, shot Peyton Strickland through his front door Dec. 1 as authorities attempted to serve search and arrest warrants. Long said he mistook the sound of a police battering ram for gunshots.

Police believe that Strickland, a Cape Fear Community College student, and two others had robbed

and assaulted a student at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Two PlayStation 3 consoles were taken from the UNC Wilmington student during the attack. Campus police had asked the sheriff's department for help in the investigation after viewing photos on the Internet of Strickland's friends posing with a shotgun, an assault rifle and handguns.

Long has since been fired from the sheriff's department. New Hanover County District Attorney Ben David failed to win a second-degree murder indictment against him, but state prosecutors are now reviewing the case.

BEAUFORT

continued from A1

Mexican Association of North Carolina, said the ban doesn't help people who can't speak English and that fluency in other languages helps America in the global economy.

"To be honest, it is one of the craziest things I've heard in Eastern North Carolina," he said.

Census figures show that about 3.8 percent of the county's 46,000 residents are of Hispanic origin.

Commissioner Ed Booth was the sole vote against the policy and said people coming from other countries should be given an opportunity to be successful.

"To me, it's shameful," Booth said of the policy. "It's embarrassing."

Spokesmen at state associations for city and county government said they didn't know of other jurisdictions that had banned signs or information materials in a foreign language.

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EHO

and online textbook ordering. "This past semester, we had a lot of local students who wanted to order textbooks online," Scarborough said.

Congress members were asked to spread the word about students giving feedback on whether or not the student store should extend their services.

According to Scarborough, the feedback from students will determine if they hire more workers to deliver textbooks and accommodate students.

Lastly, a new resolution was passed by congress to increase lighting throughout the university.

Regina Twine, congress representative said, "This resolution will affect all properties that ECU owns, and not just on campus."

To give feedback about establishing an university creed, contact Roeder at roederl@ecu.edu or call 328-9297.

To give feedback on the student store possibly delivering the student locally, contact Scarborough at scarboroughw@ecu.edu or call 328-6731.

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

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Opinion

{ "For your eyes, only." }

Abba demands respect

Take a chance on the Scandinavian super group

BRIDGET TODD
OPINION WRITER

When people make fun of Abba I get very tense. "Ha ha, yeah, boy do they suck," I laugh nervously. My eyes dart back and forth like that suspicious dog from *The Simpsons* and sometimes I sweat. I feel so ashamed. If all of my hip indie rocker friends in their retro sneakers knew about my secret life, they would all probably hate me.

The truth is, I love Abba. I love everything about them—their blonde flipped Scandinavian hair, their little synchronized dances and their hazily subdued music videos. And those outfits, those shining white billowing costumes they wear. They look like how a little kid might imagine angels would be dressed, if angels were European and were perpetually stuck in 1976.

My obsession started when I was a little girl. When my mother had to work, she would leave me with Ms. Biddy, a plump middle-aged woman who had four loves in her life: Virginia Slims, cats, mah-jong and Abba.

When her television was "on the fritz," she would invite her other middle-aged, plump cat-loving friends to her tiny apartment, put on some Abba and clap as I performed dance numbers. Sure it sounds strange, but some of my best childhood memories involve wearing an old woman's church hat and shaking my nonexistent hips to the speedy bass line of "Waterloo."

I wish I could say my love of Abba is a guilty pleasure, like flipping through a *Us Weekly* at the hair salon or watching a "Boy Meets World" rerun before falling asleep. It would be so much easier if it were just something I casually liked. But it isn't. I have every Abba record ever released.

I have all of the DVDs, including the often forgotten *Abba: The Movie*. A few years ago, my parents took me to see *Mamma Mia*, a musical based on Abba songs and watched in horror as I danced in the aisle. Even my own parents were ashamed of their little Abba addict.

And for a while it seemed like I wasn't alone. *Mamma Mia* was a smash and much to my amusement, *American Idol* had Abba Week. Madonna even gyrated her leotard-laden hips to a sample of their 1979 "Gimmie Gimmie Gimmie" for her 2005 "Hung Up."

A group of smiley fresh-faced preteens called the A Teens were even covering Abba songs for the teen population. It seemed like Abba was finally getting the respect it deserved. But alas, just watch one of those VH1 I Love the Decade shows and it seems the Abba-mocking is hip again. But I guess it makes sense. Today, a group as dorkily sincere as Abba can only be taken seriously for so long, especially when all of the men have chest hair and moustaches.

But next time you're thinking about making fun of Abba, Google one of their album covers. Look at them staring back at you, standing closely in blonde locks and silver caps, so earnest.

In a sea of ironic music for ironic consumption, Abba is genuine. So, in the words of the Scandinavian super group themselves, "Take a chance" on Abba.

Why is Britney national news?

Is this what we want to be like?

JASON PATTY
OPINION WRITER

Britney Spears shaved her head. Apparently, she also got a new tattoo. Somehow, this is national news. This girl, not much older than most of the students at ECU, is the epitome of an attention-hungry, self-centered diva.

The worst part is that she is only one of many that take up television airwaves in a dumbing-down of our country.

These celebrities are role models for millions of Americans. They are not good role models, mind you, but the public watches and discusses their every move, children and young adults all over the country see this type of behavior as what makes you famous.

They are setting horrible examples for relationships, parenting, social life, education, financial responsibility and life in general. We are constantly bombarded with stories and pictures of their horrible indiscretions and irresponsibility. They have the money and exposure to cause great change and have a huge impact on American society; yet, they constantly show us exactly what we should not want to be.

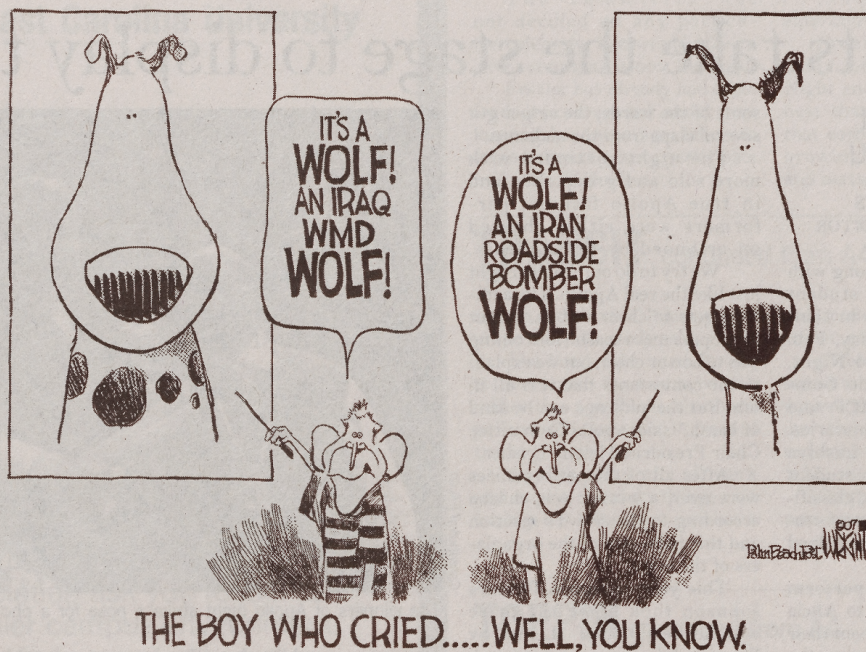
Granted, there must be difficulties associated with being a celebrity and certainly all celebrities are not bad influences on society. There are countless people who use their money and fame to be a positive influence.

Why then, are the bad apples all that we see? Why are Britney, Paris and Lindsay's latest night-out all over the news?

These girls obviously have some serious social, emotional and addiction issues that they need to deal with. We need to leave them alone and stop putting their behavior on a pedestal. It must be difficult to live life when every mistake you make is known to the free world within 12 hours. Let them go to rehab without cameras following their every move.

Let's spend our money applauding those that have their lives together, those celebrities that remain faithful to their spouses and take care of their children. Applaud those that donate their money and time to causes that benefit society, and those that are not in and out of rehab every week.

These are the celebrities that we should emulate and that we should reward with our time and attention.



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.

Being single on Valentine's Day turned out great. I got drunk and didn't have to spend a dime!

What's up with everybody trying to be discovered on TV as a singer? How many more do we really need that sound the same?

Where in the world is Carmen San Diego?

To the guy sitting next to me in my math class... you are so hot! Ask me for my number!

My spidey senses are tingling.

Ladies, y'all look so good working out at the gym, I can't help but look. I'm sorry, you should take it as a compliment.

My big toe hurts.

Having a smoking section in a restaurant is like having a peeing section in the swimming pool.

Figure out what you want! Either ask me out or it's over! Enough of this between crap!

My friends > your friends.

My boyfriend gave me a Jager shirt and a Led Zeppelin DVD for Valentine's Day... and I loved them both! Is there something wrong with me?

You're 21 years old; I should not have to clean up after you. We live in the same house, have some respect for others. It's not all about you.

My roommate is an art major, she draws all day and calls that an education. Try getting a real major.

When you called me and I said I was busy, I was on a date and I wasn't going to drop everything I was doing to talk to a jerk like you!

Can someone help me clean my room? I dunno where to start!

I'm so blazed and confused.

I want my mom to e-mail my professor and tell her I'm sick. Then she will believe me.

When your ex-boyfriend/friend-with-benefits/whatever you want to call it picks a 15-year-old high school sophomore over you, you know its time to move on.

Why does Silver get a nicer bus than Gold?

I wish my dorm room were infested by koala bears; it would be the cutest infestation ever!

Why do people not believe in the "courtesy flush"? Is it that difficult?

I hate how one nostril is stuffed up and then as soon as it gets better—the other one gets stuffed up.

If you try to touch my boyfriend again this weekend at a party you will regret it... don't try me.

It's not uncommon for a city in the United States to have a street, road, avenue, highway named after Martin Luther King Jr. Why can't people just be happy about that? Changing the rest of Fifth Street is just going to be confusing and aggravating!

I just spilled a bottle of rubbing alcohol in my dorm room and you can smell it from outside. Ugh!

Everyone knows about you by now, Beyonce. Can we find a different song to play constantly on the radio? Maybe something less repetitive and, I don't know, stupid?

How do you fail an open book test with notes, stupid?

If you speak to a pretty girl and she doesn't speak back then either you're kind of creepy or she is not pretty, after all.

I fall in "like" so easily.

Why does everybody assume being gay is a choice? It's really not, I mean seriously, who would choose to be gay?

All of the cute guys treat me like crap, so I have decided to settle for a guy with a good "personality."

I've been in back-to-back relationships since 2001 and now that I am single I don't know what to do with myself.

Dear Lover: Why did you start off so perfect only to turn out like the rest?

I love my roommate, who else will have dinner ready when I get off work?

Well, we had fun together, but like all good things we must come to an end.

So what if my roommate and I shower together, I swear we're not gay!

If it wasn't for the Pirate Rants I wouldn't have tripped over a step in front of the pretty girl at Austin.

To the person who asked about the model kid, he does go here, and he's so freaking cute.

Too bad your scheme didn't work. And now you try to give me attitude. I don't think so. Do you know how hard it is for me to not hit you in your face? Instead I keep my urges inside.

Just because you're anorexically skinny doesn't mean that you're better than everyone else. Just go sit in your room and eat ice cream and take some happy pills.

I want to date an art student. Any takers?

Accounting boy, you seem so nice. Why do you smell like moss?

If another girl that sits in front of me in class shakes or whips her hair on my desk I'm going to come back to class with scissors. It can also go for guys.

I want to know when Geico is going to be so easy a cave woman can do it.

I will miss my sketchy friends next year more than they will ever know.

You won't read this because you're overseas, but I love you.

When my camera dies, part of my soul goes with it. Good thing it's rechargeable.

My friends call me a grandma because I like to knit and wear old sweaters, but they all want one of my knitted scarves!

I think you've got me sprung. I can't sleep unless I talk to you first, and every time I get on AIM or Facebook I'm looking for you.

Thank you for cuddling. That's all I needed.

A homeless lady in Mendenhall asked me could she please have my seat, watch the TV I was watching, my lunch and my newspaper. I'm complaining, but why did I say OK then go stand outside to watch her through the glass?

If you get drunk and make out with the ugly guys then they probably get drunk to make out with you, too.

People are fighting over Anna Nicole's remains... how sick is that?

If you had to write "it feels good to be a gansta," then you are probably not, but my boyfriend is.

I'm still in love with my middle school boyfriend.

Time waits for no one and neither do the buses at ECU.

Ladies love country boys!

What would you do with your time if you didn't whine?

The Air Wick commercial bothers me too; I'll never understand the sex thing either.

I love it when she calls my phone. She's even got her very own ring tone. If that ain't love, I don't know what love is.

Years from now, I'll look back and laugh at myself for publishing random Rants and feeling like I had to get mine in.

Sonic the Hedgehog can beat Mario any day, and always in record time.

Who wants to help me look for Pee Dee's buried treasure?

If Chuck Norris had been in *Snakes on a Plane*, the movie would have only lasted five minutes, because Chuck would have eaten all of them.

I believe.

I've come to the conclusion that my roommate must be getting paid for her nightly services.

I was waiting for you.

Pirate Bucks deplete way too fast.

To the guy who flipped me off the other day because I didn't turn when it was way clear, I apologize, but I'll forgive you, too.

I am addicted to Tetris!

If you are too immature to flush the toilet in the dorm bathrooms, you should go outside, or be shot. I learned how to flush a toilet when I was like 2-years-old, and I thought that most Americans also were privileged to learn this simple task, especially before college...

I really love my cat and when I talk to my parents they put the phone up to his ear so I can say hi to him, too!

The good thing is, we no longer have to "wait and see."

War in Iran

The next fatal blunder of the Bush administration

JUSTIN SUMMERS
OPINION WRITER

With the failing occupation of Iraq and the armed forces running thin you would think that the last thing that the Bush administration would want to do is start another war. Unfortunately, this is exactly what some in the White House are preparing.

Dick Cheney, President Bush and the rest of the "Neo-Conservatives" in Washington are salivating over the chance to attack Iran and recently they have made it clear of their intentions.

The Bush administration has been prepping public opinion of Iran for almost a year now and many think this is the preface to an invasion as early as this spring.

In announcing his "surge" of American troops in Iraq, President Bush identified what I see as clear intent to attack Iran. President Bush declared, "We will interrupt the flow of support [to the insurgency in Iraq] from Iran and Syria," continuing with "...we will seek out and destroy the networks providing advanced weaponry and training to our enemies in Iraq."

By "networks," Bush is talking about Iran, and the Neoconservatives in Washington are doing everything they can to find "evidence" that Iran is fueling the war in Iraq.

A U.S. State Department official said at the end of January that "Iranian agents are involved in these networks and that they are working with individuals and groups in Iraq and are being sent there by the Iranian government."

Like the "irrefutable evidence" provided to us by Tony Blair and George Bush that got us into the war in Iraq in the first place, this information completely lacks credibility. Investigations by the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times* and British military officials conclude that the Iranian government is not involved in supplying weapons to the fighters in Iraq.

In fact, one day after the U.S. military charged Iran's government of shipping powerful explosives to Shiite Muslim fighters in Iraq to use against American troops, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Gen. Peter Pace, said that he hasn't seen any intelligence to support the claim.

Even as the American disaster in Iraq worsens and domestic and foreign opposition to the war grows, "neo-con" lunatics in the White House continue to dangerously promote another myth; Iran's nuclear threat to the United States.

Iran possesses no nuclear weapons, nor have they threatened to build one. Experts in the CIA estimate that, even if they wanted to, Iran is incapable of building a nuclear weapon before 2017.

Unlike Israel and the United States, Iran has abided by the rules of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and has permitted routine inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency. No report by the IAEA has ever cited Iran for diverting its civilian nuclear program to military use.

As many of you are foaming at the mouth with anger and disbelief at any of what I just said, just think about the sheer historical facts. Iran has never aggressively attacked another country, unlike the United States.

The last time Iran went to war, was in 1980 when the Saddam Hussein invaded their country with the financial and military backing of none other than the U.S. Why would they start now?

On the other hand, there are numerous U.S. naval ships deployed in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, within firing range of Iran and there are more on the way. War is on the horizon and it is clear who the real threat is.

OPINION WRITERS WANTED!

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

JUST ASK JANE

Need advice? Want answers? Just ask Jane.

Dear Jane,

I am a senior here and should know the answer to this question, but I don't. Well, there was this really handsome guy who had all that I wanted in a man except patience. I liked him from the first moment I saw him. He was tall, dark, and his smile should be the eighth sin. A nice car and body just added fuel to my fire. He just wanted sex. I wanted sex, but not until later on in our relationship. Yet, the time I yearned to be alone with him backfired. I wanted to get to know this one. Okay...he raped me and instead of being happy to have sex with him it was a nightmare. I remember thinking, "I can't believe he is actually taking it." What should I do now, because once I found out that he didn't take heed to my struggles, I just laid there. Is this still rape? By the way, he didn't use a condom...I hate him now.

Signed,
Hating Him Now

Dear Hating Him,

I think what you experienced was indeed rape. A rapist doesn't have to be someone you don't know who mysteriously jumps out of the bushes to attack you! What happened to you is what is referred to as acquaintance or date rape. If you clearly told him "no" and also struggled to go against his advances, he should have stopped. Whether or not you just laid there is not the issue at hand. Have you ever heard of the Victim Advocate for ECU? I think you should seek her out.

Maybe you just need to talk about what happened open and honestly to help you figure out how to handle your feelings and obvious pain right now. The Victim Advocate can help you do just that. Make sure to get pregnancy & some STI tests too! NO MEANS NO...how many times must we repeat this before it sinks in!?

Please seek some help,
Jane

Pulse

{ Campus Scene }

Horoscopes:

Aries

The clouds are lifting; the path to your goal is getting obvious. Don't be impulsive. Follow your plan. Timing is everything.

Taurus

Obligations interfere with the festivities. It's time to stop talking about what needs to be done, and actually do it.

Gemini

You're playing in the major leagues, so don't sit around like a doofus. Absolutely play by the rules, and do it quickly.

Cancer

You're learning about new places to go and your curiosity is piqued. Don't start out until tomorrow, however. You have other things to do first.

Leo

Many of your doubts have been relieved. Although conditions are unstable, you'll be able to get a lot more done now. The power is in the knowing.

Virgo

Looks like somebody wants you to help them decide how to spend their money. You might not get much cash for this job, but the fringe benefits are delightful.

Libra

It might be wise to talk over your plans with a sensible partner. You may be doing something that isn't going to work.

Scorpio

There's a rush job to focus on, at least one, today and tomorrow. The money's good and this opportunity will not last forever! Get on it!

Sagittarius

Continue to express your love, and absorb the love others give you. This will not tie you down. To the contrary, it will set you free.

Capricorn

The more you learn, the more your previous assumptions are challenged. The next phase puts your worries to rest, as you discover a new path.

Aquarius

You're doing well, but the income isn't really steady. You can minimize the fluctuations by doing more study. Work hard and the pay off will be worth it.

Pisces

Think carefully before proceeding and before saying anything. You can sign the contract then, on a lucrative-for-you deal.

Mendenhall Movies

Sponsored by Student Union

Saw III

Wed 01/17 at 7 p.m.
Thurs 01/18 at 9:30 p.m.
Fri 01/19 at 7 p.m. & midnight
Sat 01/20 at midnight
Sun 01/21 at 7 p.m.

The U.S. vs. John Lennon

Wed 01/17 at 9:30 p.m.
Thurs 01/18 at 7 p.m.
Fri 01/19 at 9:30 p.m.
Sat 01/20 no showing
Sun 01/21 at 9:30 p.m.

Drink Recipes:

Spiked Coffee

1 1/2 cups coffee liqueur
1 cup dark creme de cacao
1 1/2 cups vodka
1 cup espresso, cooled
1 orange wedge
Orange sugar crystals
12 ice cubes

Mix the coffee liqueur, creme de cacao, vodka, and espresso in a small pitcher. Cover the pitcher with plastic wrap and place it in the freezer until the mixture is very cold, about three hours.

Meanwhile, rub the rims of eight Martini glasses with the orange wedge. Dip the rims in the sugar crystals to coat lightly. Place the glasses in the freezer.

Add the ice cubes to the vodka mixture and briskly stir the mixture until the ice begins to melt. Strain the mixture into the prepared glasses, and serve.

Please drink responsibly

Students take the stage to display talent

Apollo Night comes to ECU

ELISE PHILLIPS
ASSISTANT PULSE EDITOR

Ten ECU students along with one local high school student showed off their talents in Hendrix Theatre on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at the annual Apollo Night, sponsored by the Apollo Committee within the NAACP, and the Ledonia Wright Emissaries.

Host for the night, Lashiva Washington, asked each student their name, hometown and classification before the nervous performers began. DJ Disco D also helped to host the event.

Students chose to perform anything from Beyonce to Alicia Keys and in some cases even their own work, in an effort to wow the audience of nearly 400 people.

The night started with a performance by the Black Student Union dance team before the contestants began their individual performances.

The first bold singer took the stage and sang "If I Ain't Got You" by Alicia Keys. Despite forgetting

some of the words, the singer got several claps from the audience.

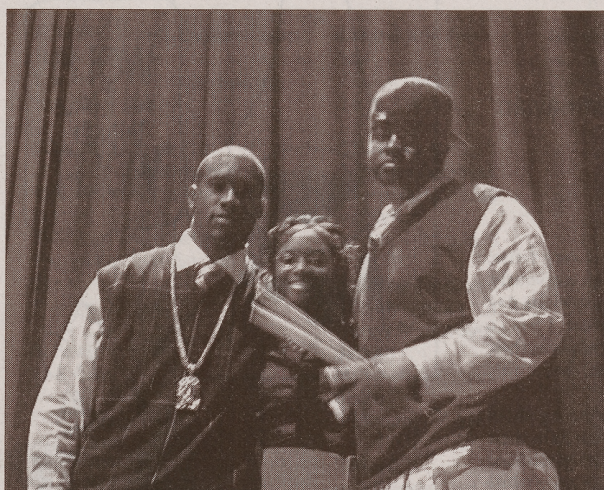
The night continued with more solo and group acts, and in true Apollo fashion, performers were either cheered on or booed by the audience.

"We try to do our Apollo Night just like the real Apollo. The audience gets to cheer or boo... a lot of people's main reason for coming was to boo or cheer, but we explain to the contestants that it is all in fun. But the audience can be kind of harsh," said Apollo Committee Chair President Melony Frazier.

After all of the performances were over, a winner was chosen according to the crowd's reaction and the discretion of the organizers of the event.

This year, freshman Phaedra Johnson took home the prize with her rendition of "Listen" by Beyonce. Johnson won a \$200 cash prize, funded by ticket sales from the event along with fundraisers that the Apollo Committee have been putting on since November. The remaining proceeds will go to the ECU Chapter of the NAACP.

"I don't think I really expected to win because there were so many talented acts that competed. Once



The winners of Apollo night strike a pose for a photo after performing.

it was announced that I won I was kind of in shock... but it all really hit me later on. It was a great experience and I enjoyed competing," said Johnson.

Although Hendrix Theatre was packed with students, Frazier would like to see a bigger turnout to the event in the future. Next year, Frazier and the Apollo Com-

mittee would like to unite with other campus organizations to bring a celebrity host to Apollo Night.

"Apollo Night speaks for itself, but bringing in a celebrity host might diversify the audience," Frazier said.

see APOLLO page A5

Students strive for diversity



NAACP Profile

ELISE PHILLIPS
ASSISTANT PULSE EDITOR

Most people have heard of the NAACP—the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, but many don't know that ECU has their own chapter.

The chapter works closely with the Pitt County Chapter of the NAACP, doing programs such as the Million Man March in 2005, an event commemorating the 10th anniversary of the 1995 Million-Man March.

The ECU Chapter's president, Erica Reid and the Pitt County Chapter's president, Calvin Henderson play vital roles in supporting the student chapter of the NAACP at ECU.

The overall goal of the NAACP is to strive for equality and promote diversity.

"The mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination," said Reid.

Reid and fellow students in the NAACP promote this goal by sponsoring events on campus. In the past, they have hosted programs like the NAACP Week, with events such as the "Racial Stereotypes and Stigmas" Forum and Professional Development Series, Adopt-A-School Program and volunteer programs. The organization has also supported events such as Hate Out Week, Black History Celebration Month and the V-Day Campaign.

During this Black History Month, the NAACP put on its most successful fundraiser, Apollo Night, which took place on Tuesday, Feb. 13.

"Both the NAACP and the Apollo are safe havens for minorities. They have molded and created the leaders of today and the past. In addition to that, they are both working organizations that strive to bring the communities, race and nation together as one," said freshman Kyndall Peele, a member of the NAACP who participated in Apollo Night.

A future event that the chapter will be sponsoring is the 2007 Image Awards, an event designed to give recognition to those students and faculty whose work goes unnoticed or under appreciated.

Reid feels that the NAACP along with other organizations at ECU do a good job of promoting diversity on campus.

"With facilities such as the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, Intercultural Student Affairs and the International House, and having positions such as SGA's Director of Diversity, I feel as though ECU is moving in the right direction. Hosting programs and events will continue to increase awareness and understanding. I believe that ECU has come a long way in a short time, but there is always room for improvement," said Reid.

Anyone can join the ECU chapter of the NAACP, regardless of race, religion, culture, creed or ethnicity.

Reid encourages prospective members by saying, "A membership in the NAACP is your opportunity to give back to the organization that has done more to change this country for the betterment of people of color, women and the disenfranchised than any other in the nation's history."

The organization meets every Tuesday at 5 p.m. in Bate 1019.

The national, local and ECU chapter of the NAACP certainly are seeking out their mission by ensuring equality and promoting diversity.

Year after year, month after month, the NAACP breaks ground in the advancement and success of minorities. This Black History Month is no different, as the ECU Chapter of the NAACP has put on many programs throughout the month.

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

Music professor hits a high note

Dr. Louise Toppin

ELISE PHILLIPS
ASSISTANT PULSE EDITOR

Professor, world traveler and renowned singer are all words to describe Dr. Toppin, professor of Applied Voice in the School of Music at ECU.

Toppin began as a pre-med major before deciding to pursue a Bachelor of Piano degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She then went on to the Peabody Conservatory of Music at John Hopkins University to receive a Master of Music in Piano and a Master of Music in Voice. Finally, she achieved her doctorate at the University of Michigan.

Before coming to ECU, Toppin also taught at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, East Michigan University and Mark of Excellence Academy in Baltimore, Md., where she taught music and math to students grades kindergarten through twelfth grade.

With four degrees and teaching experience under her belt, Toppin came to ECU in 1990.

"I came to ECU because the administrators, from Chancellor Eakin to my chair John O'Brien, made it possible for me to do the two things I loved, which are teaching students while maintaining a professional career," said Toppin.

Besides teaching, Toppin travels the world as a professional opera singer. She has been to every continent in the world, singing with opera companies, orchestras and in solo recitals. Toppin also has fifteen CDs on the market.

"It has been wonderful to work with musicians in other countries where you can't speak the language, but through music we can still communicate ideas. I can sing to an instrumentalist how I'm hoping to shape a phrase and the smile of recognition makes music a universal language," Toppin said.

Besides being well-educated and accomplished, Toppin also brings something else to the table—she is the only African-American woman faculty member in the School of Music.

"Being the only African American female in the School of Music has given me a unique vantage point. Because there are so few minority faculty in our school, I and my colleagues try to be available to the African American students who are in our program to provide support, and encourage their support of each other," Toppin said.

Toppin likes to challenge her students to become better musicians and better people. By bringing in guests for students to interact with and giving them challenging repertoire, Toppin hopes that students will make an effort to try something different and daring. Toppin believes that being a good musician and student takes practice and diligence.

see TOPPIN page A5

A day in transit at ECU



Transit driver Justin Boyd takes a quick break from his route. Drivers enjoy the flexibility that their job allows.

Day in the life: ECU Transit Driver

SHANNON DAVIS
SENIOR WRITER

ECU student transit authority provides transit service to students, faculty, staff and visitors. The buses maintain a reliable schedule while traveling around the campus, to off-campus housing area and several shopping destinations. There is no bus fare; the bus system is entirely free. The bus schedules operate during the academic year and during the summer sessions. There are six on campus routes and ten off campus routes, which travel all across Greenville relieving the responsibility of seeking transportation from many students.

"The transit system is student operated, which is amazing," said sophomore hospitality management major Farah Aghaei. Josh Renfrow, sophomore computer networking major, expressed

another positive opinion on the transit system.

"I think it's great. It's a free ride and you don't have to pay for a cab. At night it's convenient because there is no need for a designated driver," said Renfrow.

Jennifer Kennedy, a graduate student for middle school education is an ECU transit driver. She has been driving an ECU bus for four and a half years.

Kennedy shared her variety of experiences as a transit driver.

"I applied when I was getting my undergraduate degree. I applied because it is the best paying undergraduate job on campus. I've had people pole dance, projectile vomiting in the seats, one time I had someone fall asleep in the back and didn't notice for an entire round," said Kennedy.

Kennedy never feels that her safety is in jeopardy when driving the nighttime routes.

"I don't think it's scary driving at night because you're never alone. I feel safe doing my job. I sometimes get off at 4:45 a.m.

and I never think twice about my safety because our managers are just a phone call away. I actually prefer night driving because the pay is much better."

Driving a bus takes an immense amount of training. Each new driver must complete a training program that requires not only practice driving the busses, but also drive every route.

"The first thing that happens in the training program is new drivers are put in an open parking lot to practice. When you go through the training you start driving your car like the bus," Kennedy said.

Transit drivers have to face many obstacles on the road while trying to maneuver the bus. Oftentimes other drivers don't take into consideration the size of the bus and just how much time it takes to pull off simple maneuvers such as turning and braking.

"Other vehicles on the road pull out in front of the buses and then

see TRANSIT page A5

Vogue breaks boundaries with curvy Jennifer Hudson on cover

(MCT)—You might want to save that next issue of Vogue. *Dreamgirls* star Jennifer Hudson is on the cover.

Sure, it's noteworthy because she's only the third African-American woman on the cover in the magazine's 115-year-history.

But look again. This is Vogue, the fashion magazine with unprecedented power to sway fashion trends and where skinny girls size 0 or 2, have been considered the most beautiful.

Now it seems Vogue's editor, Anna Wintour, who has been so notoriously size-conscious that she even asked Oprah Winfrey to lose weight before appearing on the cover in October 1998, has new ideas about weight. With Hudson on the cover, Vogue's new full-size message, not only to the millions of people who live for the magazine's style insight but to the weight-obsessed fashion industry,

is that too-skinny might soon be so last season.

"It's history in the making," says Andre Leon Talley, Vogue's editor-at-large, who wrote the story on Hudson after helping style her for this season's awards shows.

The March issue, which publishes Tuesday, is timed beautifully. In recent months, Madrid and Milan have set weight guidelines for runway models in the wake of several deaths of models who suffered from anorexia. Then during New York's recent Fashion Week, several unhealthy and dangerously thin models were pulled from runway shows while the debate over too-thin models continued among designers, modeling agencies and show producers. However, New York's fashion



see VOGUE page A5

Dear Members of the East Carolina University Community,

The spring semester is in full swing and we hope that everyone is enjoying their classes. We urge all of you to challenge yourselves further and to continue to discover, design, and deliver.

Our university is one of the fastest growing universities in the nation. Enrolling over 24,500 students, ECU offers a great education, outstanding professors, and top-notch facilities. While education is important in the classroom, it is critical outside of the classroom as well.

This semester, in partnership with Healthy Pirates and with the support of our ECU leadership, Chancellor Steve and Ms. Nancy Ballard, the members of the Student Government Association ask you to join us in establishing a better, healthier campus environment. The purpose of this initiative is to eventually create designated smoking areas for those that wish to smoke. We ask that you extend open arms as strive to make this possible. Tomorrow starts here, today.

In fellowship and service,

The Student Government Association



APOLLO continued from A4

The committee has not decided on any particular celebrity, but would like to have a comedian to host the event. Frazier has already had some students contact her about performing, but encourages others to come out next year to participate in Apollo Night.

"It's all in good fun and very entertaining," Frazier said.

Frazier knows that students look forward to Apollo Night and wants to make it the best that it can be. She hopes that each year Apollo will keep growing and becoming bigger and better.

Overall, this year's Apollo Night brought out an eager crowd and gave the students participating in the event a chance to highlight their talent in a laid back atmosphere.

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

TRANSIT continued from A4

step on their brakes. It happens all the time," Kennedy said.

The buses take much longer to decelerate than cars, which makes this a problem when cars pull out and stop short in front of the large buses.

As with every job, all work and no play can make things a bit boring, but Kennedy never has a

dull moment when she's with her transit coworkers.

"We have about 70 to 80 drivers, but we are one big family. We hang out; everybody is friendly and socializes when we're off duty. If we see each other on the road we will wave to the other driver," Kennedy said.

Despite a handful of restless passengers and isolated incidents,

Kennedy enjoys her job driving the students and staff of ECU to their destinations.

"I love this job. I love the people. It can be tiring but it's such a good job. I wish I picked up this job earlier," said Kennedy.

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

TOPPIN continued from A4

"If you really have a passion for it, you won't find yourself not doing the work. Being a musician takes discipline, patience and steadiness. Disciplined people, focused on moving ahead, don't have time to waste on gossip," Toppin said.

Toppin's students feel that she pushes them to be more productive, active and successful people.

"I feel like her intuition is amazing. She doesn't even have to know you and once you sing for her, she can tell you what your problem is and how to fix it. Many teachers that can sing can't necessarily give you instruction about your singing. She's a great singer and a great teacher. She's amazing," said Allison Jones, one of

Toppin's students. Whether teaching students or traveling the world, Toppin loves what she does.

More information about Toppin's performances and albums can be found online at louisetoppin.com.

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

VOGUE continued from A4

industry has yet to set restrictions, instead offering an education plan to teach models, fashion designers and others about healthy eating and eating disorders.

But for Vogue, which sets fashion tones and influences style around the world, taking this step likely will have a broader impact. According to a 2002 study cited in the Journal of Counseling and Development, many girls rely on magazine and TV ads for information on weight loss and appearance.

Those who value those sources possess the most negative body

image, according to the study. An earlier study found that women who read fashion magazines reported a lower ideal body weight and had greater body dissatisfaction than women who read news magazines.

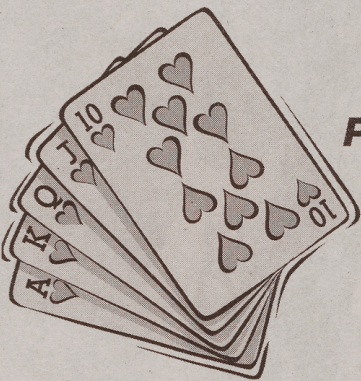
However, the magazine has for the most part steered clear of what the industry considers full-figured models or celebrities. On the cover, Golden Globe winner Hudson, who is up for an Oscar for her role in the movie, shows off her ample cleavage in a satin ruby red Carolina Herrera gown. She also posed in a Vera Wang gown during

a photo shoot with celebrity photographer Annie Leibovitz.

Normal indeed, Hudson, who said she put on 20 pounds to play the full-figured Effie White in the movie, is more typical of most American women than almost all of the women on many of today's fashion magazine covers.

The average woman is 5-foot-4 and wears a size 14. Most models and celebrities on fashion magazine covers are size zero, two, or four, while the average runway model is 5-foot-11, and wears a size zero or two, according to the National Institutes of Health.

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Tuesday, Feb. 20 & Wednesday, Feb. 21:

10 am - 3 pm & 5 pm - 7 pm

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Sports

{ECU's Inside Source}

BY THE NUMBERS

5

Wins in a row for the ECU women's basketball team against Conference USA opponents, which ties for the most in the program's history; The Pirates followed Thursday's win over UTEP with a 76-68 win over Tulane on Saturday; Tulane is first in C-USA and it's loss to ECU snapped a 10-game win streak; ECU now sits in a three-way tie for third place in the C-USA standings with Rice and UTEP; the Pirates hold the tiebreaker over those two teams at the moment as they have victories over both teams



David Wagner of the ECU Skydiving Club shows his Pirate pride while falling at speeds exceeding 120 mph.

Part 1 in a series on club sports at ECU

GREG KATSKI
SPORTS EDITOR

"As an unlimited idea of freedom your body, from wingtip to wingtip is nothing more than your thought itself." - Jonathon Livingston Seagull by Richard Bach

Picture yourself standing on the edge of existence. Your palms sweaty from perspiration, your mind blurred with nervous anticipation; knees shaking, eyes wide open but closed shut to the world.

In a second this is gone, giving way to the feeling of every emotion at once. Questions being answered run through your head: Am I flying? Yes. Is this freedom in the truest sense of the word? Yes. Will anything in life ever

compare? No.

After this long moment of reflection in which time, space and reality are blurred it's time to enjoy the rush of free falling for almost a minute.

Taking the plunge out of an airplane nestled above the clouds, above the world, above humanity transcends everything. Skydiving was the biggest and most meaningful experience of my eventful life to date.

This is what encompassed my "day in the life" with the ECU Skydiving Club. The club was founded by Colt Hinchman, a senior marketing major, in September of 2006. The club includes eight founding members, three of which are currently active. Hinchman serves as the captain of the team, and explains that the club was fairly simple to organize.

"I found an adviser, because you have to have some instructor to sign off for you; and she was willing to sign off and all we really needed was eight members," said Hinchman. "We got their names and e-mail addresses and 'boom'

done, that was it."

Hinchman added, "My adviser was really enthusiastic about it, but she has yet to come out and jump. I've been trying to get her."

Hinchman didn't need to be convinced about the joys of skydiving before his first jump, but admits that he was overwhelmed. His first jump was on June 29 of 2006 and says he remembers it "just like it was yesterday."

"I was nervous for about a week in advance; to the point where I was so worn out from being nervous that when it came down to it I was just tired and shaky," said Hinchman. "The plane ride up I kept thinking, oh my god, am I really doing this? Then when I tasted freefall for the first couple of seconds, I knew exactly why I did it."

Lauren Campbell, a senior management major, is Hinchman's longtime girlfriend. The two started dating well before Hinchman discovered his newfound passion. Hinchman might not get

see SKYDIVING page A7

The three intangibles that a person needs to be a successful skydiver:

1. common sense

"That's how most skydivers get hurt, killed; they don't use common sense and that is what's given some people a bad reputation about the sport; it's not dangerous. Common sense is so far above everything else, that nothing else really matters."-Colt Hinchman, captain of the ECU Skydiving Club

2. money

3. more common sense

Interesting Facts-

How high you jump from: Anywhere between 13,000 and 15,000 feet (almost three miles)

Distance in feet of freefall: Tandem jumps- parachute is pulled at 6,000 feet. Licensed skydivers (ECU skydiving club members)- parachute is pulled at 3,000 feet

Duration of freefall: Usually between 50 seconds to 60 seconds (depending on if you're doing formations in the air)

Speed of freefall: Tandems fall at a rate of 120-130 mph depending on the density of the student. Licensed skydivers usually stay around 140 mph. When having fun and free flying, the ECU skydiving team has been as high as 258 mph

"Drop Zone": Carolina Sky Sports Company has been open over 35 years. One of the safest "Drop Zone" records in the world (never had a student fatality). Company doesn't promote dangerous skydiving stunts (swooping ponds)

Skydiving culture: "Conversations around the campfires here are great; how people get to know each other. It's one huge family out here."-Colt Hinchman

"One of the best parts about skydiving is the culture that's here. You really have to be here to see it. It's all about helping other people and promoting safety."- Colt Hinchman

1965

The year Minges Coliseum opened on ECU's campus; last Wednesday's 80-42 loss by the ECU men's basketball team to Southern Miss was the most lopsided ECU loss in the buildings 42-year history; the Pirates were down by as much as 43 points at one point, as the Golden Eagles led 70-27 with 10:11 left to play in the game; ECU also managed only 21 total rebounds, which was the lowest ECU total ever in a home game; the Pirates followed their blowout loss to Southern Miss with a 65-42 loss at SMU on Saturday; the loss to SMU was its 12th loss in a row, tying the school record for consecutive losses in a season

9

Strikeouts for UCLA pitcher Tyson Brummett in it's 6-1 victory over the ECU baseball team Friday night; Brummett pitched his first complete game of the season against the Pirates, surrendering only one run on six hits and didn't walk any batters; the Bruins ace now holds a 1.09 ERA and has only allowed three total runs and struck out 23 batters in his three starts and 24.2 innings pitched this season

Pirates rally past Miners



Jasmine Young gave out nine assists to help the Pirates get easy looks.

Mills' clutch free throws lead ECU to C-USA victory

BY JOSEPH MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

The ECU women's basketball team came back from a 13 point deficit with 11 minutes to play to defeat the UTEP Miners 66-64. Senior center Cherie Mills made four free throws with nine seconds left that were the difference between victory, overtime, and defeat. The victory improved the Pirates record to 13-13 overall and 8-5 in Conference USA.

The Pirates were down 64-62 after Miners Forward Tasha Marisett scored on an up and under move with 30 seconds to play. On the next possession Mills snagged down the rebound of a missed shot by Pirates Forward Nicole Days. Mills was then fouled on a put back attempt by UTEP Guard Shalana Taylor. After the play, Taylor protested the foul and got called for a technical foul for unsportsman like conduct.

Mills, a 63 percent foul shooter on the year, made both resulting technical free throws and the two personal foul shots, to tie and then give the Pirates a two point lead.

"I was scared out of my mind, but they fell," said Mills. "I was just concentrating on following through."

Mills showed no outward signs that she was nervous, with confidence and composure she stepped to the line and swished all four foul shots.

"I was nervous on the inside," she said, "I'm just glad they went in." Miners Guard Jareica Mills missed a shot that would

have sent the game to overtime with three seconds left and Days grabbed the rebound to seal the win.

Mills led the Pirates with 25 points and made all eight of her foul shots. Sophomore Guard LaCoya Terry had a career-high 25 points and six rebounds.

"I don't even know, because in warm ups my shot wasn't going in," said Terry about her career-high 25 points. "I guess it was effort and hustle and they gave me a lot of open shots."

"I thought Coya [Terry] had a great game, she was able to hit shots, she was aggressive," said Pirates Head Coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener. "She took really good shots, she made a lot of things happen, and she hit a lot of short jumpers and got out in transition."

Sophomore point guard Jasmene Young had seven points and nine assists. She ran the offense effectively and efficiently and got the ball to Mills and Terry in good positions all night long, including a spectacular full court pass to Terry early in the second half. Junior Nicole Days contributed 10 rebounds to the Pirates effort. The Miners Jareica Hughes and Tasha Marisett had 18 and 12 points respectively in a losing cause.

Defense and an effective full court press were essential to the Pirates comeback.

"I thought defense keyed it," said Baldwin-Tener. "I think that was the big difference in the game and I think our press threw them off a little bit and we were able to get a couple turnovers."

The Pirates trailed 35-28 at halftime, and shot 34.4

see RALLY page A7

ECU beats Tulane in a record-setting win

Pirates end conference leader's 10-game winning streak

ELIZABETH LAUTEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The ECU women's basketball team out-hustled Tulane, who is first in Conference USA, giving them a 76-68 victory Saturday afternoon in their final home game of the season. Now with wins over UTEP and Tulane, the Pirates have moved into a tie for third place in the C-USA standings.

Sunday's matchup was the Pirates final home game of the season (14-13, 9-5 C-USA), and ECU made the most of it. The Pirates have now won five C-USA games in a row, which ties for the longest winning streak in the program's history. Tulane's defeat also contributes to the most C-USA wins in ECU history.

After a Tulane basket opened the game, a jumper by Cherie Mills tied the game, 2-2, with two minutes off the clock. The Pirates continued to press forward, controlling the boards before a trey by Nikki Luckhurst brought Tulane within three, 11-8, with 13:11 left in the half. The Green Wave went on a 5-0 run to tie the game at 13-13. ECU came back with a 9-0 run, taking back the lead, 22-13, with 7:23 to go in the first.

With two minutes left to play in the half, LaCoya Terry completed two free throws and a basket, giving the Pirates their biggest lead of the game, 33-22. Tulane closed the 11-point gap with a 5-0 run before the end of the half. ECU entered the break leading 35-29.

At the break, the Pirates controlled the rebounds 22-15. Both teams shot 39 percent, but the Pirates managed to make all of their free throws, while Tulane only shot 83 percent from the line. Mills led the half for ECU with nine points, while Terry and Gabriela Husarova each had six.

Tulane went on a 7-4 run as the second half began, continuing the momentum they built up at the end of the first half. The run brought them back within three, 39-36. At 16:24, a lay-up by Jami Montagnino tied the game 40-40. A jumper by Jasmene Young brought ECU back up 42-40, only for Tulane's Alendra Brown to re-tie the game 42-42 with 15:31 on the clock.

The game flipped back in ECU's favor when Young scored a trey at the 15:11 mark. ECU continued to gain points from the free throw line until Tulane sunk two baskets bringing them to 48-46. A pair of free throws by Mills and a three-pointer from Jessica Slack gave the Pirates a seven-point lead,



The Pirates rose to the challenge of playing the best team in C-USA.

53-46, with 11:22 left in the half. Mills' free throws also notched her fifth double-double of the season, and the 14th of her career.

The Green Wave managed to tie the game back up to 55-55, after a 9-2 run with just eight minutes left on the clock. With 7:35 to go, Young put up her third successful three-pointer and brought ECU back ahead, 58-55. Over the next several minutes, ECU continued their run down the stretch, when Luckhurst sank a three with 49 seconds to go, bringing the score 71-68.

The Green Wave never regained their lead they had at the game's opening, and the contest ended after Terry and Young made their final free throws with ECU on top, 76-68.

ECU's victory ensures them a first-round bye in the C-USA Women's Basketball Championships.

After their game Thursday night, the Pirates had less than 48 hours to prepare. "I thought their half-court press would give us trouble, but they didn't really use it," said Head Coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener after the game. "I was concerned by how aggressive their team is. I knew we needed to be the aggressor, and we were."

As part of senior day, Amanda Mills, senior exercise and sport

science major, started her first game of her career.

"The game was a lot of fun and was a huge win," said A. Mills. "It was good to finish out on a win at home."

Fellow senior C. Mills, who scored 18 points and made 11 rebounds, echoed these sentiments. "It was a big win. I didn't even know [I got another double-double]. When the ball was shot, I was just making sure I was there to get it," said C. Mills.

Sophomore point guard Jasmene Young led the game with 22 points. She made 5 of 6 three-point field goals, entering into ECU history books ranked sixth for all-time three-pointers made, with 88. Young also made the necessary four assists to move up the rankings in career assists. With 292, she is now in sixth place there as well.

ECU hits the road next week to finish their regular season. The Pirates will play Southern Miss on Thursday evening, before taking on UCF Saturday afternoon. The team's next stop is in Tulsa, Okla. March 1-4, where they will play in the C-USA Women's Basketball Championships.

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

46

Strikeouts for ECU softball pitcher Keli Harrell in 31.2 innings pitched this season; Harrell has allowed only 15 hits and three earned runs, while facing 106 batters in five starts this year; Harrell holds a measly 0.85 ERA and opponents are batting .142 against her; Harrell has now pushed her career strikeout total to 800, which is only 58 behind the C-USA career leader, and hasn't allowed an earned run in her last 22 innings pitched

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SKYDIVING continued from A6



ECU Skydiving Club captain Colt Hinchman (pictured far left) makes his first three-way jump. Similar formations are judged in competition.

anxiety before jumping anymore, but Campbell certainly does for him.

"I still tend to get nervous every once and a while, especially if I don't see him [Hinchman] land," said Campbell.

Hinchman has made 52 total jumps since taking his first dive less than a year ago. An individual's jumps are recorded in a "Student Sky Diver's Log Book," and signed off by a properly certified instructor.

Hinchman is now a professionally licensed skydiver, but the process to get certified is a long and labored one.

An individual's first five jumps must always be taken tandem (strapped up to a trained professional). If the individual has displayed that they are ready to jump solo, the next five can be taken with an instructor flying next to them to monitor the performance. An individual will be monitored for the every jump thereafter until their 25th jump. After the 25th jump, the person is "A" licensed and officially certified to jump without surveillance.

David Wagner, a sophomore computer science major, is a skydiving enthusiast and active member in the club.

Wagner has been certified for years and has made over 200 jumps. He wasn't even of the current legal age limit to skydive (16 years old) when he took his first plunge.

"I actually did my first skydive at the age of 14. Pretty much

all my family is big on skydiving and my dad knows people. He managed to convince people that me and my little sister, who did her first tandem at the age of 12, to take us up and go skydiving," said Wagner.

When Wagner says his dad knows people, he means the one and only U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team.

"My father was a member of the Golden Knights and he's won multiple gold medals and generally just everyone knows him and he managed to talk them into it. They knew that he had the experience to do it," said Wagner.

"He's been skydiving since the age of 18 and has pretty much turned it into his career, and he's 53 now."

Like the Golden Knights, Hinchman and Wagner look forward to competing in skydiving events at the collegiate level. The friends and teammates plan to do two-way events, in which two skydivers hold onto each other and do various formations and four-way events.

"There's all kinds of different things that you can do, from free-flying, sitting and doing head-down. There's two-way, relative work where you're on your bellies and making the different formations, like you've probably seen on TV," said Hinchman. "Then there's four way, what we want to do is four way because we've got three active members and we're still searching for that fourth

someone."

Skydiving jumps are scored with a meticulous attention to detail and emphasis on flawless execution. In addition, competitors have to make sure they form quickly with their teammates and deploy their parachutes in a timely manner.

"How this gets scored is you turn as many points as you can. They will give you a list of different formations you have to make not too long in advance before you actually jump and you have to get out of the plane quickly, organize, make the different formations in a timely manner and be done with it," said Hinchman.

Perfect teamwork and timely cooperation are key to pulling off the formations in competitions.

"Everybody has their own unique fall rate and it's all about compensating for the other person," said Hinchman. "Remembering to do that and turn the different points is really like a dance in the air, you've got to remember to do everything exactly how you practiced it on the ground."

If skydiving is a dance in the air, I'm not sure I qualify as the most graceful of performers. It's hard to concentrate on personal appearance when you are falling from almost 14,000 feet above civilization at about 120 mph.

If jumping tandem, the certified instructor you are strapped up to is required to pull

the parachute at about 6,000 feet above ground level. The time of duration in freefall from the initial plunge out of the plane to when the chute opens is usually between 50 and 60 seconds. The seconds of freefall vary depending on how heavy the student is.

While in freefall it does not feel like you are falling at a speed illegal to be driving at on almost every road in the world but the Autobahn. Instead, there is a very peaceful sense of bliss. The only thing that can be heard over your screams of expletives is the cool wind slapping your neck.

And if you are as lucky as me then you might fly through a cloud or two, with the spray of mist wrapping your face and melting in a moment's glance.

Then you will receive a quick tap on the shoulder from the instructor reminding you that the chute is about to open. In a split second, you are flung from freefall, and jerked back up into the sky.

For almost the next five minutes you get the chance to view the world from a different perspective. Gliding along the skyline, you should take a chance to view the length of the horizon. On a clear blue day you will be able to see for hundreds of miles. This is how it feels to fly.

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

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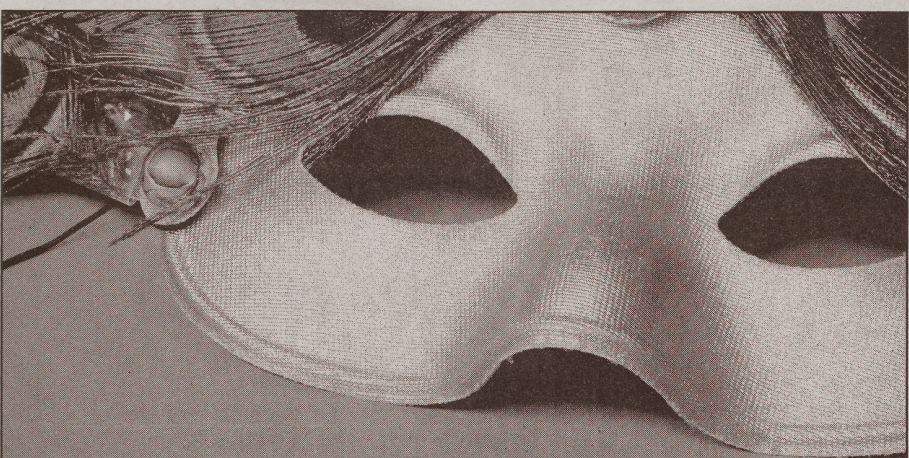
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RALLY continued from A6



Cherie Mills makes an easy layup.

percent to the Miners 43.8. But in the second half the Pirates shot 54 percent to the Miners 28. The Pirates went on a 15-3 run from the nine and a half minute mark to the two and half minute mark in the second half to tie the score at 60. The two teams traded baskets the rest of the way until Mills' victory clinching free throws. The Pirates offense was most effective when they got the ball to Mills in the post.

"That's what my team looks to me for," Mills said. "I'm glad that I came through for them, when they needed me this time, a couple of games my shots haven't been falling."

Baldwin-Tener was confident her team would have found a way to win regardless of Taylor's technical foul.

"I think it was key," she said regarding the technical, "but I think Cherie would have hit the free throws and we would have been tied. It would have come down a little different, but I felt pretty good about how we were playing."

The victory Thursday night was the Pirates fourth consecutive win, after defeating Memphis at home and winning on the road at SMU and at Tulsa.

"I think we're playing better as a team and I think we're having other people step up," said Baldwin-Tener. "When we have more weapons and everybody does their role I think we're a lot better basketball team."

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

The Mustangs trample an ailing Pirates squad

Darrell Jenkins scores 13 points in the loss

(AP)—Derrick Roberts scored 15 points to lead SMU to a 65-42 win over ECU at Moody Coliseum Saturday night.

SMU improved to 14-12 overall and 3-9 in Conference USA. The Pirates dropped a school record-tying 12th consecutive game and fell to 5-20 overall and 0-12 in conference play.

Dez Willingham added 14 points, including four three-pointers, for the Mustangs. Ike

Ofoegbu, Jon Killen and Donatas Rackauskas each had 11 points, and Ofoegbu grabbed a team-high 15 rebounds for his eighth double-double of the season.

Darrell Jenkins led ECU with 13 points. Justin Ramsey added a career-high eight points, while Gabe Blair led the team with 11 rebounds.

The Mustangs made six consecutive three-pointers to start the game and jumped out to an 18-7 lead. Four different players made the first four from downtown before Willingham drilled his second trey of the night. SMU

finished the game 11-of-24 from behind the arc, while the Pirates made just 3-of-19 three pointers.

ECU pulled within eight, 20-12, on a trey by Jeremy Ingram. SMU finished the first half on a 17-8 run and led 37-20 at the break.

The Mustangs built a 28-point lead with 13:17 remaining in the game. The Pirates struggled from the floor, hitting only 27 percent of their shots, while SMU fared much better shooting 52 percent.

ECU has had shooting woes all season in C-USA.

Cherie Mills named C-USA player of the week

(SID)—Senior center Cherie Mills has been named the Conference USA Player of the Week, as released by the conference office Monday afternoon. This is Mills' first C-USA Player of the Week honor, and the first honor for the Pirates since February, 2005.

Mills guided ECU to a pair of wins over two of C-USA top teams last week. The Pirates defeated UTEP, 66-64, Thursday and league leader Tulane, 76-68, Saturday to extend their winning streak to five games.

The 6-4 center averaged 22 points and eight rebounds per

game, while shooting an impressive .625 from the floor (15-of-24) and .933 from the free-throw line (13-of-14), including a perfect 8-of-8 against UTEP.

With 9.2 seconds to play, Mills sealed ECU's win over UTEP by hitting four free throws. She tallied a season-tying best 26 points against the Miners and moved into 10th place on the school's all time blocked shots list (59). Mills was also credited with five boards and a steal.

Against Tulane, she recorded 18 points and 11 rebounds for her fifth double-double of the season and 14th of her career. Mills

connected on 6-of-9 (.667) shots from the field and 6-of-7 (.857) attempted free throws.

Mills currently ranks fourth in the league in field goal percentage (.488), seventh in scoring (15.4 ppg) and eighth in rebounding (7.2 rpg), all averages top the ECU charts. She also leads the Pirates in blocked shots (27), which ranks ninth-best in C-USA.

ECU's win over Tulane Saturday gave the Lady Pirates their most C-USA victories in program history and elevated the team into a three-way tie for third-place in the league standings.

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16 Singer Young
17 The three things to hit
20 Soccer passes
21 Goller Gulbis
22 Dipl. address
24 Opera song
26 Italian seaport
27 Podium
29 Off-road 4-wheeler
30 Gaucho milieu
33 Fem. labor grp.
35 Giggie sound
37 Hit by Ronny & the Daytonas
38 Web places
39 Rock composer Brian
40 Japanese wrap
42 Japanese wrap
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45 Come to a point
46 Volume identifier
48 Some Ga. Tech grads
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51 British noble
52 Marquis de
54 Half of a fly?
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58 Dey TV series
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64 Diner offering
65 ...Carlo Menotti
66 Felt unwell
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68 In ___ (in actual being)
69 Tennis champ Monica

DOWN
1 Uris novel, with "The"
2 Gasteyer of "SNL"

3 The three things to hit
4 Heyerdahl's "Kon-"
5 Pet protection org.
6 Feline minder
7 Gray shade
8 Nasty
9 Due
10 Turkish capital
11 The three things to hit
12 Longish skirt
13 Other
18 Gumbo veggie
19 Most overused
22 Prolific U.S. inventor
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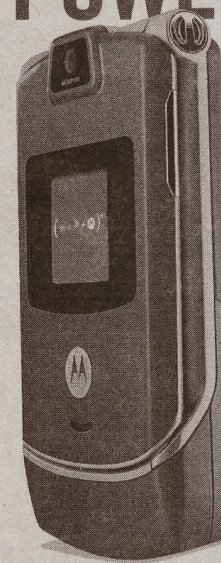
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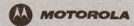
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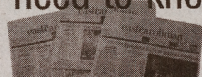
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