The EastCarolinian

YOUR INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 82, ISSUE 58

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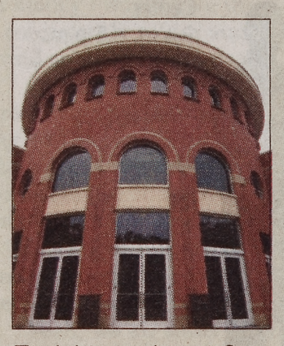
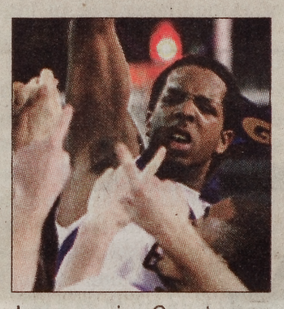
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2007

SafeRide is an essential tool that students can access, read more about what they offer.....**Page A4**



Tonight starting at 6 p.m. students can battle it out at the Student Recreation Center by participating in the Pirate Gladiator event, find out more.....**Page A4**



Lone senior Courtney Captain had the game of his life in a Senior Day match-up with UTEP to close out the ECU men's basketball team's home season. See if his heroics were enough to snap a 13-game losing streak for the Pirates.....**Page A5**

Following last week's disappointing loss to Campbell, the ECU baseball team held a private team meeting. Read more.....**Page A5**

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Test your skills at SuDoKu.....**Page A6**

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Black History Month Symposium raises awareness

An event to discuss issues and concerns

ADELINE TRENTO
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, Feb. 24, Student Union Cultural Awareness hosted a conference on campus in honor of Black History Month.

The Black History Month Symposium held in the Mendenhall Student Center brought the community together to address issues that affect minority students. "We wanted to have an event that would really serve and bring awareness to the entire campus community," said Levy Brown, associate director of the Student Activities Center. "We wanted to do something that would not only bring students together, but the city of Greenville as well."

The symposium gave students a chance to interact with each other and attend workshops on a variety of topics.

The workshops informed students about the importance of higher education, financial management and involvement in the community.

Attendants also had the opportunity to talk about personal issues that affect men and women differently.

During the first session of the conference, students were separated into same sex groups and each group discussed issues concerning masculinity, relationships, feminism and self-esteem.

"We tried to take a broad spectrum of issues facing minorities and address those issues," said Michael Caple, Cultural Awareness chair. "We wanted to give people the knowledge to overcome challenges they may face in the future."

At the symposium, students were able to listen to many informative speakers as well.

Omar Tyree, a best-selling author and the 2001 NAACP image award recipient, delivered the keynote speech at the event.

Tyree spoke to students about achieving their dreams and the importance of education. He urged students to make the most of their time at ECU and become successful, well-educated people.

"It is time for dreams to stop being dreams and start becoming reality," said Tyree.

Many students attended the symposium and most felt that they learned something from the different activities.

"I thought the speech by Omar Tyree was very uplifting and encouraging," said Krystina Belle, sophomore clinical laboratory science major. "I learned a lot from the speaker and other aspects of this conference."

Caple believes that this was a very important event for students to attend as part of Black History Month. He said that this symposium will help empower minority students and encourage them to become leaders.

"As students, we can't just look at things the way they are presented to us, we have to dig deep and find the real meanings," Caple said. "With this conference we tried to address serious issues and get students to really think about these things. We hope that this conference will educate people and encourage them to make a positive change in themselves and in the community."

Throughout Black History Month, Student Union Cultural Awareness has sponsored many other events on campus including movies, plays and concerts.

Caple said that there has been a big turnout at many of the events and most students have had positive reactions to the different activities.

The Black History Month Symposium was not an exception as more than 70 people came out to attend the workshops and listen to the speakers.

"I believe it is really important to have very strong programs to focus on empowerment and leadership for students of color, as well as all students who want to hear our message," Brown said. "We wanted to have programs for Black History Month that would reach the whole student body and I think we achieved that goal."

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

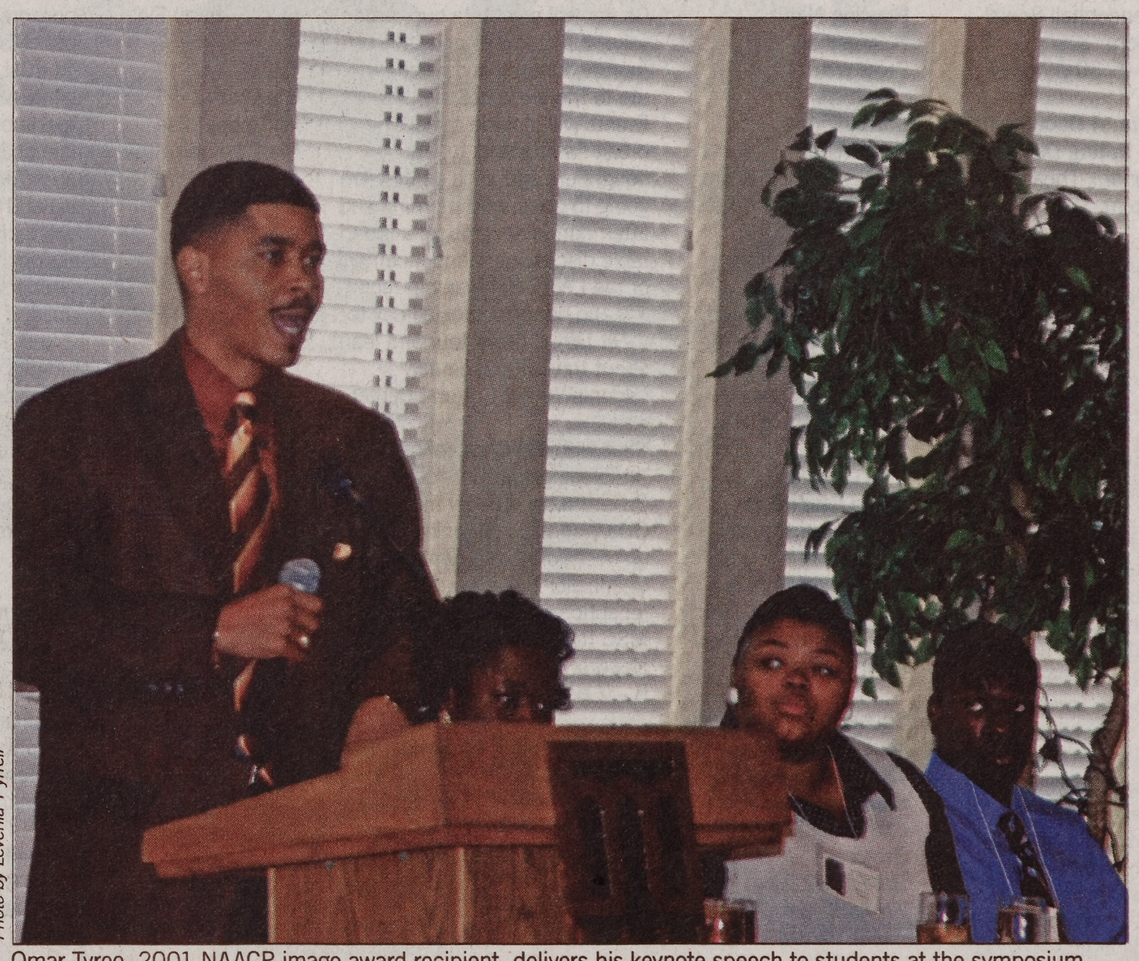


Photo by Levenia Tyrrell

Omar Tyree, 2001 NAACP image award recipient, delivers his keynote speech to students at the symposium.

Free health screenings are available on campus

Wellness Wednesdays attract the ECU community

ALYCIA WENDT
STAFF WRITER

A testing center for multiple health issues is more local then the ECU community may think. Wellness Wednesdays offers different free health screenings to students and faculty.

Wellness Wednesdays was created in 2005 by the Campus Wellness team, which is part of the Department of Campus Recreation and Wellness. Their intent for this program was to let students, staff and faculty get involved with the wellness services and educational initiatives programs.

"Wellness Wednesdays have been very successful in reaching people who are on different locations on campus. We have helped people recognize their risk factors for heart disease, cancer and other health issues," said Director of Campus Wellness, Karen Warren.

Monthly screenings for different health issues are scheduled at various locations across campus.

Some of the past screenings have included folic acid awareness, rapid HIV testing and blood pressure and cholesterol screenings.

The next free screening will be held on March 21 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Student Recreation Center, for diabetes.

"Our main goal is to go out and reach the ECU community, especially those who may not utilize the Recreation Center on a regular basis. This initiative shows them the services we can offer, and will hopefully encourage them to utilize our services," said Assistant Director of Campus Wellness Tywanna Jeffries.

The Campus Wellness Center offers many other services besides Wellness Wednesdays. Health educators and nutritionists are available to answer questions about health related matters, plans to improve one's health, alcohol and drugs, stress and much more.

The Campus Wellness Center wants to support and encourage a balanced and healthy lifestyle for the community of ECU.

"ECU has gotten a bad reputation for its populations of students that have STDS and AIDS. By offering free tests, it shows that they are trying to switch the reputation and that they really care about the health and safety of everyone that attends ECU," said freshmen Megan Roome.

The center is operated by the Campus Wellness Education Leaders. This is a group of students who are trained to give accurate health information to students, faculty and staff.

For more information about Wellness Wednesdays, visit the Campus Wellness Web site at ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/crw/programs/campuswellness, or stop by the office on the second floor of the Student Recreation Center.

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

University proposes plus/minus grading scale

SGA seeks further information about the scale

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
SENIOR WRITER

Representatives from one of the faculty-senate committees came to get feedback from congress members about implementing a plus/minus grading scale.

Martin Taggart, associate professor, and Wendy Sharer, assistant professor, were the two representatives who serve on the committee, that came to give congress further information about the possible changes.

The committee has been working on getting the new grading policy approved since fall 2005, according to Sharer.

The proposal has been sent to various areas for approval but it still has to be signed by the chancellor before it goes into effect.

If approved by the chancellor, the plus/minus scale would go into effect as early as summer 2008.

Under the new system, students would now receive an A plus or A minus instead of an A regardless of the number grade they earned.

Sharer and Taggart made efforts to explain to congress that the new grading scale would not be implemented to harm anyone's GPA but it would ultimately have a positive or a negative effect on it.

"What I've learned is there is quite a difference from an 80 and an 89 on a final project," Taggart said when explaining the quality of work that was turned in to receive a certain grade.

A congress representative expressed that it would appear that a student's performance is getting worse when they start to receive grades with minuses when they haven't in the past.

The committee representatives attempted to clarify that the grading scale wouldn't change the grades as a whole that significantly.

"It's still the same low and high points. We're not changing the way we assess students," Sharer said.

The new grading policy would also establish new rules for the qualifications to apply for a grade replacement.

The new grade replacement policy would apply to grades received that are a F, D minus, D plus or C minus according to Sharer.

Sharer said that part of the decision to switch to this type of system was based on the university inspiring to be like the peer schools within the UNC system who have this scale and from studies to that show which grading scale is most widely used.

Congress representatives also expressed opposition to the reason why the university moved towards this scale.

"It's hard enough as is when we're going up against others from one of our peer institutions such as UNC Chapel Hill, when we're going for a job after we graduate," said Ashley Yopp, congress representative.

While the committee representatives were trying to outline the positive points of going to a plus/minus grading scale, the Student Welfare Committee of congress had already typed up a resolution against the change to be voted on that night.

The congress voted to withhold from voting on the scale until they got more of their questions answered about the possible changes in grading.

The chancellor agreed that he wouldn't sign off on the proposal until he heard a response from the congress, according to Jon Massachi, speaker of the congress.

Further discussion about the plus/minus scale will be talked about at the Chat with the Chancellor event, according to Massachi.

Another change that was discussed in the congress meeting on Monday was the term length of the executive officers of SGA.

M. Cole Jones, SGA president, and Keri Brockett, SGA secretary, addressed this during their executive reports in the meeting.

The term length of executive officers can no longer exceed two years, according to Brockett.

This will apply to the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and the speaker of the congress.

see **SGA** page A2

First Engineering and Technology Day held at ECU

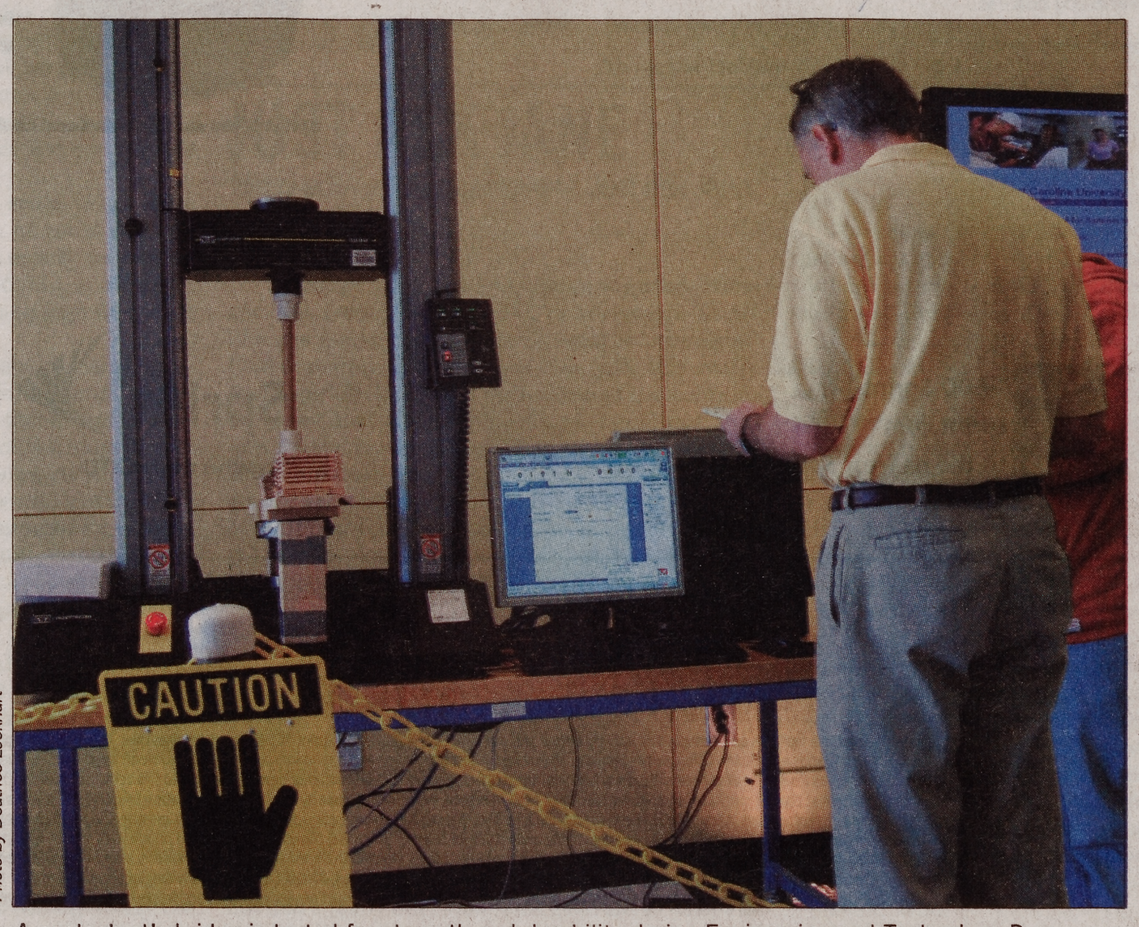


Photo by Deatrice Lockhart

A contestant's bridge is tested for strength and durability during Engineering and Technology Day.

Egg toss and bridge competition for local schools

GENERRA CORNWELL
STAFF WRITER

The Engineering and Technology department came together to inform high school students about the engineering and technology programs at ECU with the first Engineering and Technology Day held Feb. 23. The educational festival featured an egg toss and bridge building competition for the students from the local schools.

Both the engineering department and the technology department came together, along with the help of members of ECU's chapter of Society of Automotive Engineers, to host a fun filled day of hands-on learning.

The first Engineering and Technology Day welcomed about 250 students from 13 local high schools.

The event began with an introduction in which the Dean of the Technology Department and others spoke, followed by a tour of the laboratories. Next came the student competitions, which consisted of the egg toss and the bridge contest. Finally, they gave away free t-shirts and went to Todd Dining Hall to have a free meal ECU style.

"For the egg toss [competition] they had to drop the egg onto a target about 30 feet above. The egg had to hit the center of a target. Some eggs survived and some didn't. The students really enjoyed it. They were cheering and getting really excited about our program," said Gerald Micklow, systems engineering director.

"For the bridge building competition the students had to build a bridge made of only Popsicle sticks and glue. The best [bridge] could support about 110 pounds," Micklow said.

The Engineering program is relatively new to ECU.

"We started this program two years ago. In 2008 we will graduate our first students," Micklow said.

Both the Engineering and Technology departments plan to host this program annually from now on.

"We'll get bigger and better. We will have it every year. Next

see **EGG** page A2

News

{ Campus & Community }

CORRECTIONS

In the News section, "'Confederate States of America' sparks interest," the movie *Confederate States of America*, was not previously banned in American movie theaters. The error resulted from a misunderstanding, and the *East Carolinian* apologizes for any confusion it may have caused.

The *East Carolinian* is dedicated to accurate reporting and will correct errors published in the paper.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Feb. 26 – March 2
Yearbook Portraits
Wright Auditorium
9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Portraits for the 2007 yearbook, the Buccaneer, will begin on Monday, February 26 through Friday, March 2 in Wright Auditorium.
You can schedule your appointment now by logging onto ouryear.com, entering school code 453.
You can also call 1-800-OUR-YEAR (687-9327), during normal business hours, to schedule an appointment. When you schedule your appointment, you will receive complete information on how to prepare for your portrait sitting and other pertinent information.

Feb. 27 & 28
Spring Graduates
March 1 & 2 under classmen, faculty and staff
Walk-ins are welcome.
Bring you cap and gown if you would like to purchase a cap and gown picture.
All yearbook photos should be in business casual attire.

Cap and gown pickup
Seniors who were unable to attend the Graduation Expo last week can pick up their caps and gowns this week at Dowdy Student Store.

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 draught, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. Amid the people, a hero decides he's had enough, and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom. Inspired by the works of Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill, *Urinetown* is an irreverently humorous satire in which no one is safe from scrutiny. Praised for reinvigorating the very notion of what a musical could be, *Urinetown* catapults the comedic romp into the new millennium with its outrageous perspective, wickedly modern wit, and sustained ability to produce gales of unbridled laughter.
McGinnis Auditorium
Sunday's showing at 2 p.m., all others at 8 p.m.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Little Willie Center needs volunteers to help mentor/tutor children and teens. Volunteers are needed Monday-Friday from 2:30-6:30 p.m. Contact Melissa Alston if you are interested. (919) 495-3732.

27 Tues

Introductory Japanese Calligraphy Workshop
Mendenhall Social Room
2 – 6:30 p.m.

***Thin*: A Documentary on Eating Disorders**
Hendrix Theater
4 p.m.

28 Wed

Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. Bowling Night
Mendenhall
9:30 p.m.

Softball
vs. UNC
ECU Softball Field
3 p.m.

Building a Healthier Body Image
Registration required, call 328-6387 to register
Student Recreation Center, room 238
5 p.m.

Pirate Gladiators
SRC Sports Forum
6 p.m.
Pirate Gladiators is a competition of a variety of events that test agility and strength.

Success for Life Workshop: From Fatigue to Tan—Re-energizing the inner you so you can make it to Spring Break
Bate 1032
7 – 8:30 p.m.

1 Thu

LWCC Day
The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center will celebrate our namesake, the students and the community during this day long tribute to the efforts of the LWCC. Events will include a morning break for students to grab doughnuts and juice as they are going to class, mid morning and afternoon focus groups, a roundtable discussion, announcement of the LWCC Scholarship recipient and opportunities all day to meet LWCC Staff, tour and learn about the cultural center.
Ledonia Wright Cultural Center

Chat with the Chancellor
An Evening with Chancellor Ballard presented by the SGA, ODK and Student Union. This is an occasion for students to ask Chancellor Ballard questions. A reception will follow at 6:30 in MSC Room 244.
Hendrix Theater
5 – 7 p.m.

ECU Hispanic Film Series: *The Basque Ball*
The Basque Ball: Skin against Stone.
Free. Spanish with English subtitles.
5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

2 Fri

Softball
vs. Delaware
ECU Softball Field
4 p.m.

Baseball
vs. Pepperdine
Clark-LeClair Stadium
5 p.m.

Softball
vs. Vermont
ECU Softball Field
12 p.m.

3 Sat

ECU Hosts Great Decisions Seminars
Sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Eastern North Carolina and ECU, the lecture series will feature academic and professional experts on the Middle East, climate change, Mexico, migration, South Africa, war crimes, Central Asia and children. The fee (textbook included) is $49 for all eight sessions for World Affair Council members and $59 for the general public, if registered by January 12 and $69 thereafter. Full-time students and teachers can attend for free and purchase the program book for $20 ($15 if WAC members). The cost for individual sessions is $10.
worldaffairsnc.org
Rivers West Building auditorium
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Butt-Numb-A-Thon 2
Hendrix Theater
12 p.m.

Women's Tennis
vs. Wofford
ECU Tennis Complex
10 a.m.

Baseball
vs. NC State
Clark-LeClair Stadium
3 p.m.

Softball
vs. Binghamton
ECU Softball Field
12 p.m.

Softball
vs. James Madison
ECU Softball Field
4 p.m.

4 Sun

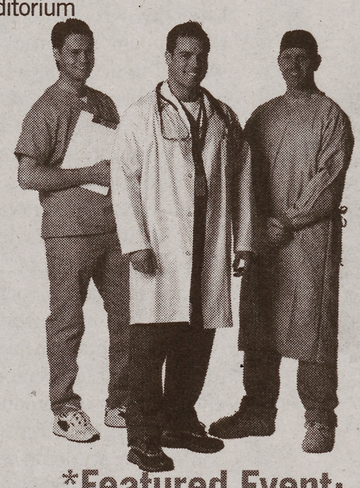
Baseball
vs. Western Carolina
Clark-LeClair Stadium
3 p.m.

Men's Tennis
vs. Charleston Southern
ECU Tennis Complex
12 p.m.

5 Mon

Advising for Summer session and Fall semester 2007 begins.

SGA Elections
Filing for Congress and Executive office begins.
All interested in filing for office must file between these times. If you have any questions regarding filing, please contact the elections chair at electionschair@ecu.edu or go by the SGA office located in Mendenhall Student Center.
SGA suite in Mendenhall Student Center
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.



*Featured Event:

Allied Health & Nursing Career Fair
150 Representatives from over 60 Organizations will be meeting with students in the Schools of Allied Health Sciences, nursing and other majors. They will be accepting resumes for a variety of full-time, part-time and internship positions. With which company will you find the career of your choice?
Allied Health & Nursing Building W. 5th Street
Thursday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

SGA

continued from A1

The executive order to do this was signed by Jones and will be effective immediately for the current administration.

The Chat with the Chancellor event will occur on Thursday, March 1, in Hendrix Theater from 5 – 7 p.m. and is open to all students.

To give feedback on the plus/minus grading scale change, students can e-mail Taggart at taggartm@ecu.edu or e-mail Sharer at sharerw@ecu.edu.

To find out more about SGA, visit the Web site at ecu.edu/sga or call the office at 328-4742.

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

EGG

continued from A1

year the program will be a two-day program with more competitions," Micklow said.

"I had a class in the Science and Technology building Friday and I saw a lot of students taking a tour. They looked so excited about the campus. I wanted to know why so many people were here and now I know. I could tell it was a major turnout for this event," said Oddysseus Chavis, freshman construction management major.

All of these programs wanted to get their names out there for college-bound students. The Technology Department has various undergraduate and graduate programs with the primary goal of producing graduates who can use technology in a way in which they can improve the quality of life.

The Engineering Department helps students to develop fundamental engineering skills with three main concentrations: Bioengineering, engineering management and systems engineering.

The SAE is a chapter that provides the opportunity to build and compete in a Baja car competition. The SAE Mini Baja Competition is a collegiate design competition. The students have to conceive, fabricate and compete with a prototype Baja style race car for a hypothetical production run of 4,000 vehicles.

Teams compete against each other to have their design accepted for manufacture by a fictional firm.

ECU's student chapter of SAE seeks to introduce undergraduate students to these topics through a series of intellectual and social events held throughout the semester.

"Essentially we wanted all the local high schools, within a hour drive, to know about our program so we invited them," said Micklow.

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

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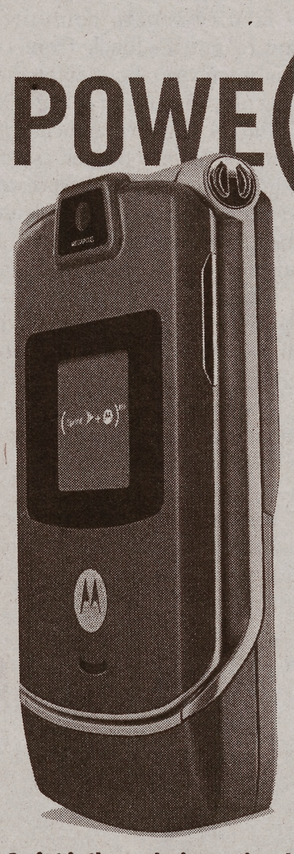

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FOCUS on driving

Opinion

{ Please recycle me! }

RANT OF THE DAY

Where is *Urinetown*? I believe it's in my dorm room.

Killing the homeless for sport

Why kick someone when he or she's already down?

JESSICA DUNLOW
OPINION WRITER

Almost everyone has had an encounter with a homeless person. I have been walking back from the parking lot and a ragged, beaten-down-by-life man asks me if I have any change to spare. I admit it, I always assume they are going to spend the little bit of money I might give them on alcohol or drugs, so I consistently refuse and attempt to walk faster to avoid another confrontation.

Get this—in the United States, the homeless are being attacked by college-aged people. According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, it has logged 122 brutal beatings and 20 murders of homeless in 2006. All right, it does not seem like a lot, but the stories are wretched. Some include surprising a homeless man sleeping on a bench in a park and maiming the victim beyond recognition. These perpetrators are facing life in prison.

Yeah, we all suffer from the mentality that all homeless people are drunks or former drug addicts that are too lazy to get jobs. Granted, that is what our culture teaches us, however, it is still not an excuse to think that our lives are more important than theirs are. Regardless of the fact that they are homeless, they are still people and the Constitution protects them.

You should not kick someone who is already down. This takes it to a completely new level. What on Earth could be gratifying about beating up someone who has no possessions other than the clothes on their backs or the random stuff they have in a shopping cart? They are people, too. People deserve to live. Pro-lifers argue that a baby has the right to live upon conception, and so do the souls that life forgot.

OK, the phrase "that life forgot" is somewhat dramatic, but in reality, we cannot assume that the homeless are lazy, no-good bums that have no motivation or intelligence to raise themselves above their current economic status. College kids are beating up and murdering homeless people. It is beneath whatever morals we are supposed to be raised with here in America, since we were founded on the principles of justice and equality.

So way to go, kids with no heart, and thank you for showing the world how much we truly care about our citizens… that if they have no home, they are worthless. To the people that beat up and kill these homeless, you deserve to serve your sentence in jail, and maybe you should have been the one living on the streets. Then you would understand.

MCT

Al Gore: President of Hollywood

Do we have a new candidate for 2008?

KRYSTLE STRICKLIN
OPINION WRITER

If Hollywood was its own nation, we certainly know who the president would be. Sorry Arnold, but it looks like Al Gore has swept the showbiz community off its feet.

This past Sunday they welcomed him in with a standing ovation, crowned him king and presented him with a golden scepter—an Oscar. His international blockbuster film, *An Inconvenient Truth*, won for best documentary film and as he took the stage, the stars rose to their feet to congratulate their king.

So, has our former Vice President abandoned politics for a place in the spotlights of Hollywood? Maybe he just got tired of being ignored. Apparently, Al Gore has spent the better part of his career fighting for environmental causes, but not many people knew this. Then, in one year, with one film, he turns the global warming crisis into a worldwide phenomenon.

I guess he realized that he could reach more people through Hollywood than he could through Washington. As a politician, he mostly represents the great voting debacle of 2000, but as an actor, he has become the face of the campaign to reduce global warming.

He was also recently named one of many nominees for the Nobel Peace Prize, for his work on the environment. Many people think that he has a excellent chance at winning because of the huge impact his film has had on the global community.

Just to recap, since his presidential loss in 2000, Gore has won an Oscar, been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize and now has half of Hollywood begging him to run for president. How do you say no when celebrities like Leonardo DiCaprio and Cameron Diaz ask you to run?

While he has repeatedly proclaimed that he has no interest in entering the 2008 presidential race, some people are just not taking "no" for an answer. Numerous Web sites, like draftgore.com, have been created to try to draft Gore into the race.

Perhaps even the Democrats will get behind Gore if they think he has a better chance to win than their current nominees do. Maybe Hilary and Obama should start hugging some trees.

One thing is for sure, Al Gore was definitely the biggest winner Sunday night. No recount needed.

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.

My feet are cold!

I think you already know but, I think I like girls, too.

To the new lady in Subway on West End who microwaved my sub because the toaster wasn't working, you made my day!

I need a guy with a flashlight to come over to my apartment.

Is it just me or is the construction site getting bigger? Yikes!

I'm in Todd Dining Hall celebrating the fact that I lost five pounds, four pounds, three pounds... now what did I say?

I hate guys who talk more than I do.

Obi-won Kenobi says, "These are the Rants you are looking for… (hand motion)… you will publish them."

I got a letter from my boyfriend written in blood. Did I mention he's in prison?

It's amazing how something as simple as an e-mail can change a person's life.

If you're supposed to be in love with her, why do you look at me like that?

Thank you, Vh1, for teaching white people how to be black.

I'm glad you told me you were getting back with your ex-girlfriend before I bought you a birthday present.

The bathrooms in *Urinetown* make the bathrooms in my dorm look like heaven.

I am a "Family Guy" fanatic.

To the person who always wakes up with multiple bruises and cuts from unknown objects—I could have sworn I wrote that myself,

Why won't the university give you an excused absence for a job interview? Aren't most people going to school to get a job! I mean, come on!

Oh Captain, my Captain, you have led us to victory!

My cat has no tail.

Why do waitresses that suck still expect a tip?

I try to wait for you to IM me first so you don't think I'm the crazy needy type... but I really, really like you!

Next year, I'm making a T-shirt that says, "My boyfriend is in marching band!" Yay!

My boyfriend lives at home with his parents and I really can't stand it anymore.

Is anyone else glad that the basketball team finally won a game? Go Pirates!

Remain true to yourself and stand up for what you believe in, even if it leaves you with one less "friend."

Never been a booty call girl, never have, never will!

Who leaves the safety seal on an open jar of peanut butter?

Why can't the drunk bus go through the McDonald's drive-thru?

Why does everyone always have to be playing Ultimate Frisbee? It is the most overrated game ever.

I hate being Puerto Rican and having everyone think I'm Mexican. We are a lot different!

To the girls jumping rope outside of Aycock Thursday, thanks for making my day!

To my (now) ex-girlfriend: I should have cheated on you!

I'm giving up frat boys for Lent! See you boys in 40 days! Hello non-Greek boys!

I think my roommate has gone into hibernation.

We are so glad to have Xbox Live now because we don't have to invite you over to play Madden anymore.

Could anyone tell me the best come on lines that have been confirmed to work here in Greenville?

Thanks for everyone that talks to me while driving and makes busing that much better. You guys are the reason we choose not to run over everything. Keep it up.

Is it just me, but if you have known a girl a really long time, and tell her how you really feel, you ruin your chances of being with her for the rest of your life?

I can't be just your friend anymore.

Never miss a good chance to shut up.

I don't lie to my parents… anymore… that much.

I'm sick and tired of you picking on me, just because everyone laughs at your jokes doesn't mean it doesn't hurt my feelings.

Has anyone seen the women's soccer team lately? I never knew sweat pants could be so sexy!

To the guy with the two-wheeled skateboard that weaves in and out through crowds of people… you got skills.

I wish there was a class called Pirate Rants 3231... so then I could say I made an A in college.

Stop trying to steal my sexuality!

There's an asteroid coming to Earth. Our plan of attack—send Chuck Norris in a rocket to round house kick it into Uranus...

You are my favorite.

It's one thing to have a boyfriend but it is another to abandon your friends. We miss the real you.

I want to love you always.

You know that you are missing my bodacious booty.

I wish it was Spring Break right now. I need a week to get to know myself.

To the girl who switched seats with me in Biology class just so I could sit with my friends, thank you.

It feels so good outside and people are already hanging out on the mall. I'm so excited!

I guess I shouldn't, but I hate my job. I'm getting paid $12 to sit and stare at a computer! Talk about feeling unchallenged!

Please cover your mouth, or quit coughing on the back of my neck!

Time to start tanning again!

Fourth semester at ECU, and I still get lost on campus!

I'm still hungry, but I'm tired of chewing...

I only submit Rants on Thursday. That gives you till Tuesday to think of something better than me.

You think you are so slick thinking that just because someone offers to tutor you or one of your friends, you have a chance to get in her pants. How about you explain that to my fiancé while you're at it? I'm sure he'd love to meet each and every one of you.

To the boy who was dancing through Gold bus and who basically gave me a lap dance last night, thank you for absolutely making my night!

ECU baseball players are the sexiest guys on the planet!

I don't understand how you can be so smart and so stupid at the same time...

I don't get like that when I'm drunk, right? Right?

I have been making the time, how about returning the effort?

I have this thing for guys in the military, and sometimes it gets me into trouble.

I got a bear hug from a rockstar last night.

My ex thinks I want him back. I'm gonna play with his head a little...

I'm a scene girl... Where are you boy?

I would die without my iPod.

You've got the curse of curves.

What made you think that he couldn't find a door in the morning, when he found that bed so easily in the night?

In every circle of friends there is a whore.

There's a monster in my room. We discussed movies over coffee.

Me and you and my medication...

I don't break hearts, I just dent them.

JUST ASK JANE

Need advice? Want answers? Just ask Jane.

Dear Jane,

I have a friend who I've known for a long time and he is a really good guy. He treats every girlfriend like she could be that "one special relationship." Unfortunately, now he goes out with this really annoying chick. I hate every ounce of her being to the point that when she's around, I will just stop talking and leave mid-sentence. Not to mention he always invites her to things that our group of friends does, and nobody with us can stand her. Anyway, he's a good looking guy and he is really good to the women that go out with him, so how can I get him to drop [her] and find a girl that's worthy?

Signed,

A Concerned Friend

Dear Concerned,

Well, the fact that neither you nor your mutual friends can stand this girl says quite a lot about the situation right away. She may not be good for him, but that's really only somewhat relevant to what I'm able to suggest.

It's a shame that he treats women so well… I daresay that a great number of people (of both genders, mind you) are not the best boy/girlfriend material in the world and it takes a lot of heartbreak to figure that out.

I also find it hard to believe, though, that your friend has no idea how any of you feel. Does he honestly not know that you guys all hate this girl? Since you leave mid-sentence because she's around, he must have at least some idea. You should tell him how you all feel about her and why, but I don't suggest you say things like, "Yeah, she flirts with so-and-so all the time when you aren't around," because you can't back that up. Only mention what you can substantiate.

Furthermore, everyone needs to realize that if he just doesn't want to leave her for whatever reason, you all have to come to a happy medium. I suggest that you initiate "friends-only" outings, but on the same hand, no one else's significant others should come, either. Be fair.

Even if it means getting burned, he'll have to deal with this himself. Be honest and fair, but don't shatter his feelings because you don't like her. You'll compromise your relationship with him, and then she wins. If she's as bad as you say she is, that wouldn't be cool.

Good luck,
Jane

John Edwards, champion of the poor...

I think not

JASON PATTY
OPINION WRITER

With the Presidential elections still 21 months away, it is apparently not too early for contenders to begin throwing their hats into the ring. Politicians across the spectrum have already begun to neglect their duties as governors and "congresspersons" (how absurd) in order to tell us how much they can do for our country.

The nearest, but certainly not dearest to us is former North Carolina Democratic Senator John Edwards. He constantly reminds us of the class division in North Carolina and the United States as a whole, yet with an estimated net worth of 60 million dollars, he seems to be part of the problem. According to Wikipedia.com, Edwards took advantage of a tax-law loophole, paying himself through subchapter S corporate dividends, rather than a salary. This helped him avoid paying $591,000 in Medicare taxes. This is awfully hypocritical considering that one of Edwards' main campaign fronts is a universal health care system. Apparently, everyone in America should have health care paid for by everyone but him.

John Edwards' money came from personal injury mass tort litigation. He sued a pool drain cover manufacturer because someone didn't install their product carefully and nobody watched the children taking apart the drain in the pool. His lawsuits against the medical community have done nothing but raise malpractice insurance and increase the cost of health care for Americans. No wonder millions of Americans cannot afford decent health care; lawyers like him chase ambulances just trying to swindle another dollar.

His support for the President and for the war in Iraq has been terrible. He is strongly in favor of cutting off funding to our military for operations in Iraq. I know liberals everywhere will jump at the chance for our country to give up in the Middle East, but cutting our troops off from needed supplies is not the way to do it.

Edwards' new house in Orange County sits on 102 acres, just west of Chapel Hill. It is 28,200 square feet of overindulgence. After completion, its tax value is estimated to be around six million dollars. This will make it the second most expensive private residence in North Carolina, behind the Biltmore Estate. Champion of the poor… I think not.

John Edwards wants to help the poor in this country with health insurance; maybe he should do his part with his taxes. If he wants to be known as a champion of the poor, maybe he should stop being a part of the elitist upper class. If he wants to redistribute my hard earnings (sounds a lot like communism to me) by taxing my hard earned paycheck more and more, maybe he should start with the redistribution of some of his shadily obtained wealth. I bet the homeless folks in Chapel Hill would love to come spend the night at his new estate.

MCT

"I was using my iPod and iPhone around some poor people today, when I was suddenly stricken with iGuilt."

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Pulse

{ Campus Scene }

Horoscopes:

Aries
You're doing the preparation now. Try not to attract attention. You'll get enough of that tomorrow and the next day.

Taurus
You have the objective want to accomplish. You can get the financing. You can put together the team to do it. Begin.

Gemini
You do have to be careful. Don't let it all hand out. There's big money involved here, so show you have some class. Put on a really good show.

Cancer
Make it a habit to check all your work before you send it out. It's also a good idea to always think before you speak. Apologize immediately whenever necessary, and you won't be slowed down for long.

Leo
It doesn't seem like you're getting much done, but actually, you are. It's all the behind-the-scenes kind of necessities that you will build upon.

Virgo
Confine your conversations to work-related topics. Take your suggestion to someone who can do something about it.

Libra
You're gaining a lot of appreciation, while not getting any richer. Be gracious in accepting awards, however. They're good advertising.

Scorpio
Follow through with the project you started yesterday. Don't talk it up yet. That'll come later. Get your structure built first.

Sagittarius
This assignment is more of a mystery to be solved. Start out by following the money trail, without telling anybody.

Capricorn
Hard work is necessary sometimes, but that's not all there is. To be truly successful, you also need management skills. Now is a good time to practice.

Aquarius
A lot of the problems you've been working on are almost solving themselves. Actually, the seeds of thought you've planted are finally getting ripe.

Pisces
You're just about to come up with a magnificent idea. You're getting support from a person you love, but the credit for this is all yours.

Drink Recipes:

French Kiss Cocktail
1 part apricot juice
2 parts Champagne
1 apricot slice, for garnish
Pour apricot juice into a champagne flute. Add champagne and stir. Place apricot slice on the rim as a garnish.

Honey-Vanilla Lemonade
2 cups sugar
1/2 cup honey
2 cups water, plus more as needed
1 vanilla bean
2 1/2 cups freshly squeezed lemon juice (from about 24 lemons)
Lemon wheels or wedges, for garnish
In a large saucepan, combine the sugar, honey and two cups water and place over medium-high heat. Cut the vanilla bean in 1/2 lengthwise, then, using the back of the knife, scrape the vanilla seeds from the pod and add to the saucepan, along with the pod. Bring the mixture to a boil and cook for four or five minutes, until the sugar is dissolved and the mixture thickens. Remove from the heat and allow to cool. Put the lemon juice into a gallon jug or pitcher. Pour the sugar syrup through a strainer into the pitcher and discard the pod. Add water to equal one gallon and stir well.
Serve over ice with lemon wheels or wedges.

Pink Sunrise Cocktails
2 shots Campari liqueur
1 quart red grapefruit juice
1 bottle dry Champagne
Add half a shot of Campari to a champagne flute. Add a few ounces red grapefruit juice to the glass then fill the glass with Champagne to the rim and serve.
Please drink responsibly.

Debunking the myths of SafeRide

Clearing fact from fiction

YAZID FINN
STAFF WRITER

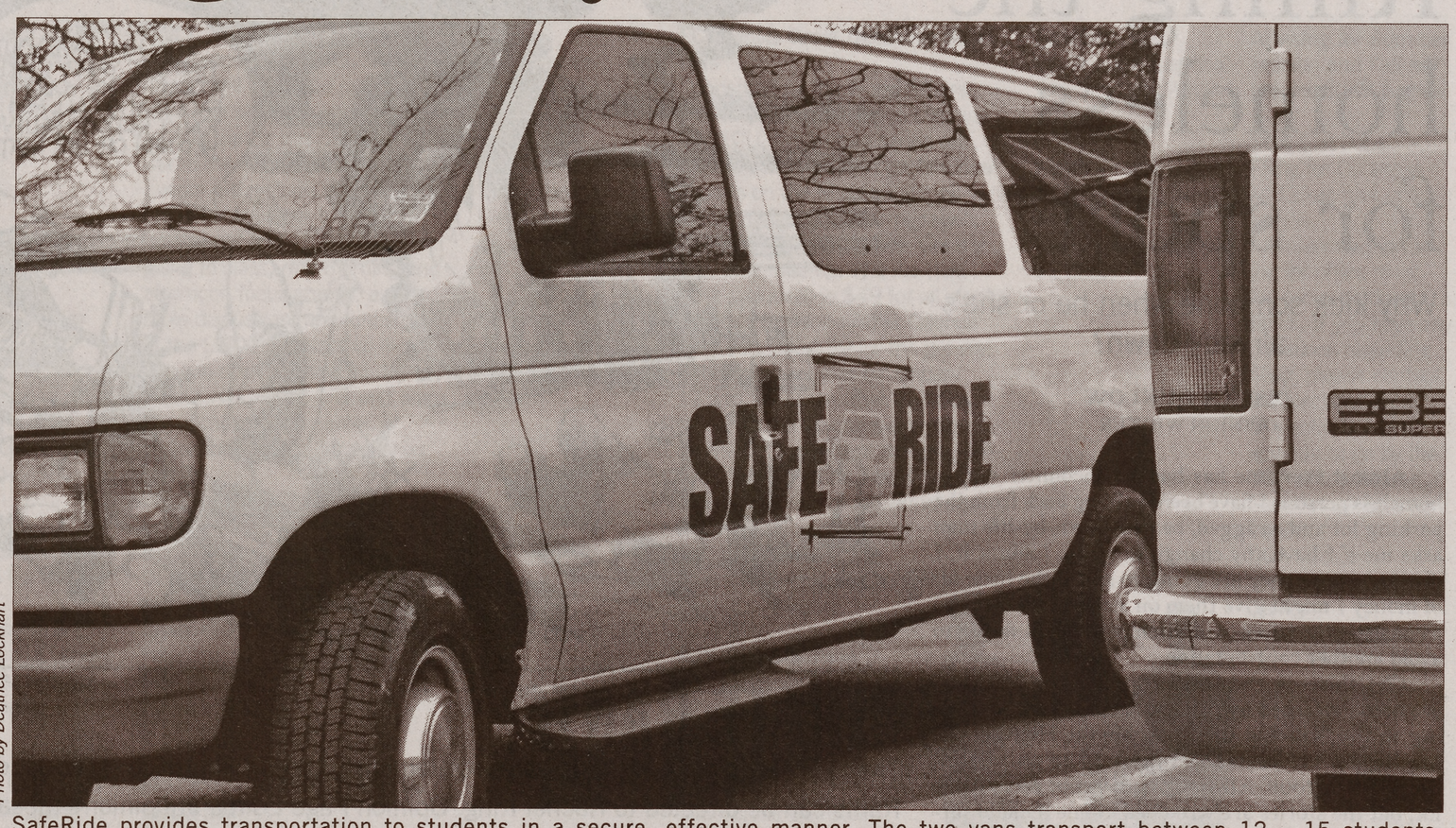


Photo by Deatrice Lockhart
SafeRide provides transportation to students in a secure, effective manner. The two vans transport between 12 – 15 students.

When adventuring around Greenville, whether it may be for a standard night of clubbing and parties, or simply to visit friends, safety is often a factor in getting to and from a destination.

Even walking across-campus may sometimes feel like a burden in the wee hours of the morning when students are often spammed with ECU Alerts on a daily basis of armed robberies and assaults. Luckily, an alternative means of getting from point A to B is offered not only on campus, but throughout the city of Greenville as well. One such program offered is none other than SafeRide.

SafeRide is a system offered by the university as an alternative means of transportation for everyone attending ECU with a valid OneCard. SafeRide vans are deployed every day of the week, from 7 – 10 p.m. on Mondays through Wednesdays. They then service Thursdays through Saturdays from 9 p.m. – 3 a.m. and Sundays from 9 p.m. – 1 a.m.

The drivers of the SafeRide vans are paid students, who must apply for the position like any job. They are each trained in dispatching and answering calls, as well as driving. There are two vans, one supporting twelve people; the other vehicle has capacity for fifteen. The drivers will bring students just about anywhere in Greenville, within reason.

Views are mixed on the service SafeRide provides, as it seems to come down to a love-hate relationship, either enjoying their SafeRide experience or cursing it.

Sara Parham, sophomore elementary education major, used to frequent SafeRide, but was turned off by some of the nights SafeRide experienced heavy traffic.

"I've found they're really bad about coming. If you're in an uncomfortable spot off campus, you might have to be there a lot longer than you'd hope to be," said Parham.

Another view of the SafeRide system students reported was that gender and group size have occasionally played a large role when contacting SafeRide. Several believe females have a higher chance for faster response times over males. Others note the obvious priority of smaller groups over larger mixed gender groups.

"I've used SafeRide twice so far. They always asked who I was with and they always check our OneCards," said Marley Poston, freshman hospitality major.

"They took forever when I was with a group of guys the first time I called. The second time I was in a group of female friends from my dorm. They arrived much faster [that occasion]."

Sitting down with Campus Safety's Annette Parker and Sergeant A. M. Perry cleared up some questions that plague the minds of many students.

Everything about SafeRide is documented, from the incoming calls to the students being transported, to the times students are dropped off. The documentation helps create an outline to measure the traffic from night to night, and keep records in case of any incidents SafeRide may experience.

The incoming calls for SafeRide are answered on a first come, first served basis and the closest van to the caller's location is directed to pick the students up. The callers are given an estimated wait time, but waiting occurs on both ends, as sometimes the SafeRide vans are forced to wait on the students not arriving to their pick up point.

"The only way a van goes out of service is if there is vomit in the vehicle... our drivers are going constantly, with sometimes back to back calls. It's not like they can take personal breaks," said Perry. "As long as we have gas in the tank and tires on those vans, they'll be out there to transport you. The drivers are like you, just not out there partying, but making sure your quality of life is a little better from night to night."

To contact SafeRide for more information on their services, please call ECU-RIDE (328-7433). OneCards must be on hand in order to use the SafeRide system and students are allowed to bring a single guest, but the guest must have a valid form of ID.

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

Let the ancient gladiator games begin

Students show their strength as pirate gladiators

LAURA HUHN
STAFF WRITER

Photo by Zach Sirkin
Students will battle it out tonight at the Student Recreation Center during the Pirate Gladiators event at 6 p.m.

Who doesn't like the idea of embodying the figures renowned for their strength and power? That is exactly the idea behind the upcoming Pirate Gladiators event, which is being hosted by Campus Recreation and Wellness. Now seemingly ordinary ECU students have a chance of showing off their brute strength to their fellow, captivated students.

The first annual Pirate Gladiators will be held today beginning at 6 p.m. at the Student Recreation Center. The teams of gladiators will compete in four events, including Pirate Ball, Joust, Touchdown and Tug-O-War. The highest scoring teams will then move on to the final event, Gauntlet, to determine who really is the greatest competitor.

Rachel Moser, a junior recreation management major and student employee of the SRC, spoke of the excitement surrounding this event.

"This is a really interesting and new event. We're really excited because we now have over 30 teams, and even more late registration is coming in," said Moser.

The student participants are not the only ones getting into the gladiator spirit. The SRC student employees, who will be doubling as true gladiators on Wednesday night, are ready to take on their important roles.

"All of the student employee gladiators are really excited. They've been really getting into putting all of their costumes together," Moser said.

Campus Recreation and Wellness is always trying to find new and imaginative ways of getting the student body involved in healthy, fitness-related activities. The goal is to plan events that will grab the attention of the students who are not already SRC regulars, and to show them what all it has to offer.

Kathryn Hunt, associate director for Wellness Education Promotion, spoke about CRW's goal in putting on this event.

"We were trying to find an event that could combine fitness and intramurals, and something that could be fun but still physical. We are always looking for a way to get students involved in a new way," Hunt said.

Entering college can often have dire results on a student's healthy lifestyle. Schedules are busy, bank accounts are limited, the cheap food is questionable and time is often spent doing anything other than focusing on healthy and active means of enjoyment. CRW knows this, and hopes that by planning events such as Pirate Gladiators, an active way of life will be even easier to come by.

"Our interest is in getting students, faculty and staff involved in healthy lifestyle, and to give them the knowledge to live healthier lifestyles," said Hunt.

The students and staff involved with CRW have an even bigger goal in mind besides reaching ECU's students. They hope to bring the fun and excitement of the campus activities to the community. Every year, they plan events that are focused on Pitt County residents, especially families.

"On March 21, we will be holding the Youth and Family Fun Day. The event will be free for youth, and will be an exciting event for families to participate in," Moser said. "We are always trying to reach the community, which is what I love so much about it."

Other upcoming events include a softball hitting challenge on March 21, an open house for the grand opening of the new Wellness Center on March 28 and a bench-press competition on April 11.

Registration for Pirate Gladiators will be held again at 5:30 this afternoon, so it's not too late to get a spot in this exciting new challenge. The event will then be held at 6 p.m. in the SRC.

"We love to have spectators as well as participants," Hunt said. "It'll be exciting, and a really fun time!"

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

Merchandising students gain experience

Contributed image
AIMO Executive Committee pose during the Third Annual Fashion Show.

AIMO organization profile

JENNY AYERS
STAFF WRITER

Apparel and Interiors Merchandising Organization is a student organization geared toward apparel and interior merchandising majors at ECU. The organization provides the opportunity for its members to gain experience in their field of interest outside of the school setting.

Members of AIMO have the chance to learn even more about their future careers in merchandising through conferences with merchandising professionals, service activities and trips that focus on experience in the field. Not only do they hold fundraising events to benefit their trips, but they also volunteer their time and money to other organizations as well.

"Our basic concept is to get students together to learn more about careers in merchandising. There are so many different avenues involved that students of any major can appreciate and enjoy AIMO," said AIMO president Rebecca Andrews.

AIMO sponsored a Dinner Date Auction in which all proceeds went to the Family Violence Program. Every spring the members donate their evening gowns for a Cinderella Store that is hosted at a local high school where students can purchase dresses for next to nothing. The school redeems any and all proceeds made from the dress sales. The members of AIMO also volunteer their services for organizations such as the humane society by participating in events like Doggy Days on ECU's campus.

To sponsor their own trips and outings, they hold events such as this past January's fashion show, Battle of the Boutiques. Dulcinea, Icon, Moxie and Pink all donated clothes for the show, enabling the organization to raise over a thousand dollars for their activities.

One way the organization allows its members to achieve first-hand experience in their field is with the opportunity to work at America's Mart, a trade show in Atlanta. Here they help get clothing organized for display and do whatever other behind the scenes work that is needed. This provides an excellent and rare opportunity for AIMO members to get a hands-on look at apparel merchandising.

"AIMO offers good experience for those students who intend to enter into the merchandising industry. Students gain useful contacts that will be invaluable in their future careers," Andrews said.

This Thursday, the organization is heading to New York City, where they will tour the offices of Shapes magazine, Nicole Miller's fashion line and Macy's where they will shadow a personal shopper.

Volunteer chair, Jenna Jordan, says that, on these trips, they "try to get something in each different field of fashion to really see what it's like."

If you're interested in fashion, interiors and merchandising, then you should look into joining the organization. Jordan reiterates their goal of providing beneficial experience to all the members.

"We mainly focus on the apparel aspect, but we try to do what the members desire. Right now we're talking about going to the furniture market in High Point," said Jordan.

Apparel merchandising and interior merchandising major's alike benefit from the experiences offered by the organization.

AIMO meets at 5 p.m. in Rivers 208 to discuss future trips, events and other beneficial opportunities for their members. For more information about AIMO, please contact the Department of Interior Design and Merchandising at 328-6929.

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

Sports

{ECU's Inside Source}

BY THE NUMBERS

7

Wins in a row for the ECU women's basketball team to end the regular season; ECU earned the No. 3 seed and a first-round bye in the upcoming C-USA tournament; the Pirates went 11-5 in conference play, the best C-USA mark in the program's history; This is also the first time in ECU history that a basketball team (men or women) has received a first-round bye in the C-USA tournament; Sharon Baldwin-Tener's squad will play the winner of the SMU-UCF game Friday at 8:30 p.m. in a quarterfinal match up; Sunday's C-USA championship game will be televised by ESPN2 at 4:30 p.m.; the winner of the C-USA championship game will receive an automatic berth in the NCAA tournament; The Pirates haven't been to the NCAA tournament since the 1981-1982 season and have also never received a bid to the NIT Invitational

6

Three-pointers for senior Courtney Captain in Saturday's 79-78 win over UTEP, giving the men's basketball team its first C-USA victory of the season; Captain started hot and ended strong as he hit four of his three-pointers in the first five minutes of the game, and nailed a game-winning trey with 8.3 seconds to give ECU the victory; Captain scored a total of 29 points in his senior night, going 6-11 from the three-point line and 5-5 from the free throw line in 34 minutes; Captain set a school record for career three-pointers made by a two-year player with 104

5

Games for the ECU football team in the month of September; The Pirates will kickoff the 2007 season in Blacksburg, Va. on Sep. 1 as they play the Virginia Tech Hokies, and will finish the month on Sep. 29 as they play at defending C-USA champion Houston; ECU will also host Butch Davis' North Carolina squad on Sep. 8 and conference-rival Southern Miss on Sep. 15; ECU will play backyard rival West Virginia on Sep. 22

4

Knee surgeries for men's basketball player Jeremy Ingram in the past four years; Ingram informed the media after Saturday's emotional win that he will not return for his senior season because he doesn't think his knees will allow him to go through another full college basketball season; Ingram was a standout at Kingston High School and spent his freshman season at Wake Forest before transferring to ECU in Nov. of 2004; Ingram scored two points in eight minutes in his final game in Minges Coliseum

3

Wins for the ECU baseball team in the inaugural ECU Invitational this past weekend; The Pirates defeated St. Johns, Washington and Duke, outscoring their three opponents 22-8; ECU was led offensively by Sophomores Drew Schieber, Stephen Batts and Brandon Henderson; the trio of sophomores accounted for 56 percent of the Pirates RBIs over the weekend

2

Wins for the N.C. State football team in the last seven games against ECU; The Wolfpack has an overall advantage of 14-10 in the rivalry that dates back to 1970, but the Pirates have gone 5-2 against the Wolfpack since 1987; N.C. State will make only its second trip to Greenville on Oct. 20; the only other time the game has been played in Greenville was in 1999, the Pirates won that game 23-6 in front of a Dowdy-Ficklen record of 50,092 fans; ECU also won last year's meeting 21-16 in Carter-Finley Stadium

A fitting farewell for the Captain

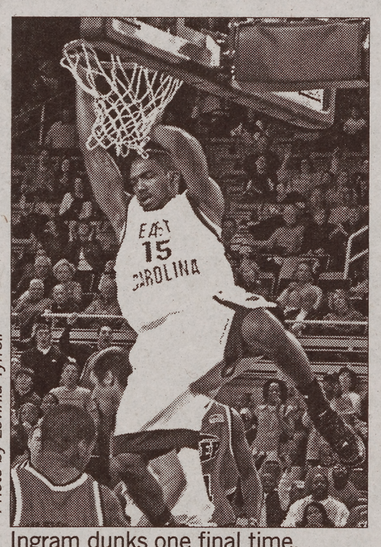


Photo by Levinia Tyrrell

Ingram dunks one final time.

And the sad loss of local favorite Ingram

BENJAMIN LLOYD
SENIOR WRITER

An emotional night for lone senior Courtney Captain was capped off with a win against UTEP. Captain, with just 8.3 seconds left, rolled off a pick from guard Brandon Evans and sunk a three-pointer to put the Pirates up by one point, 79-78 to win the game.

The victory broke a 13-game losing streak for the Pirates, and improved their record to 6-21 overall and 1-13 in Conference USA. The UTEP Miners are now 14-14 overall, and 6-8 in C-USA play.

In his last home game ever, Captain set a milestone Saturday night at Minges Coliseum by hitting six treys and achieving the most three-pointers in school history for a two-year player (104). Junior guard Darrell Jenkins also made his mark, setting the single-season assist record (152) after posting nine against UTEP.

Captain was pleased with his final performance in front of an ECU home crowd.

"I want to thank the crowd. The crowd has been helping us the whole year and tonight we had good attendance," said Captain. "We knew that we had to come out and play real hard and emotions were big. I saw it on coach Stokes' face at the beginning but I didn't want to cry. I wanted to cry at the end and it was a good cry. I'm just happy we won. I went out on a good note."

"I want to say that my first basket was a dunk, and the last one here at Minges being a dunk has it's own special significance."

JEREMY INGRAM
JUNIOR GUARD

ECU started the game off hot by hitting five three-pointers in the first five minutes of play, four of which came at the hands of Courtney Captain. Captain went 6-11 from behind the arc and 9-16 from the floor on the night, knocking down all of his free throws.

The Pirates held the lead for most of the first half on 56.3 percent shooting from the floor. ECU got a big lift from beyond the arc (50 percent) and from the charity strip (85.7 percent). UTEP battled hard as guard Stefon Jackson put up 11 points in the first half. The miners also had 11 assists, but could not match ECU who had 13 assists and Captain's amazing 24 points in the first half.

"I think it was a great effort. They battled out there. They got up, they got down and still took the opportunity to battle back. It speaks volumes of their character. They stick together, have faith in each other and believe in one another," said ECU Head Coach Ricky Stokes.

Jenkins got the first points for ECU in the second half on a long range three-pointer to put the team up by 12. On the ensuing drive UTEP guard Marvin Kilgore, a former ECU player, drove the lane and was fouled by Jenkins. Kilgore was quiet on the night, scoring only point from the free throw line.

Pirates forward John Fields was also having a quiet night until making a stand out play with 18:08 left in the second half. Fields received an inbound alley-oop from Jenkins for an authoritative slam. Fields finished the night with 15 points, six rebounds and two big time blocks.

The Miners started a massive comeback as they outscored the Pirates 20-3 over a nine-minute stretch to pull within two, 63-61 with 8:39 left to play. Eventually UTEP took the lead by two with 29 seconds left in the game. But Captain's last second heroics gave ECU their first C-USA win of the season.

The Miners finished Saturday's game hitting 23-55 from the floor, and had four players in double figures. Forward Dale Vanwright had 17 points, but only managed three rebounds. Stefon Jackson finished with 24 points and eight rebounds, leading all players for the game. Malik Alvin had 12 points and Maurice Thomas had 13 in the Miners loss. In his final home game Captain scored a career high 29 points. Darrell Jenkins added 16 points and nine assists while Brandon Evans had six points on a perfect night from the floor. At the end of the night what really mattered was that the Pirates could finally celebrate a win.

"We executed better tonight. We made free throws and rebounded better than in previous games. This group of guys will continue to get better," Stokes said.

On a night filled with so much joy, there was one sad note. Beloved junior guard Jeremy Ingram will not return for his senior year as a Pirate.

"I just want to personally thank everyone that has been here for me since I transferred, but the biggest issue is my knee. Everyone knows I've been under the knife a few times and right now there's no doubt in my mind that I cannot go another full college basketball season," said Ingram about his career at ECU.

Ingram's biggest and only showing of the night came during the first half when freshman Justin Ramsey missed a jumper and Ingram went soaring in from the foul line for a put back slam dunk.

"I want to say that my first basket was a dunk, and the last one here at Minges being a dunk has it's own special significance," Ingram said.

The Pirates have only two games left before the C-USA tournament, and hope to go on a winning streak to enter the tournament in Memphis starting March 7.

"First of all let me congratulate our fans. It was so special to have 5,500 fans tonight. I have been coaching for about 20 years and think our fans are just amazing," Stokes said. "They were a big part of our success tonight. It just warms my heart for our students to come out and support us."

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

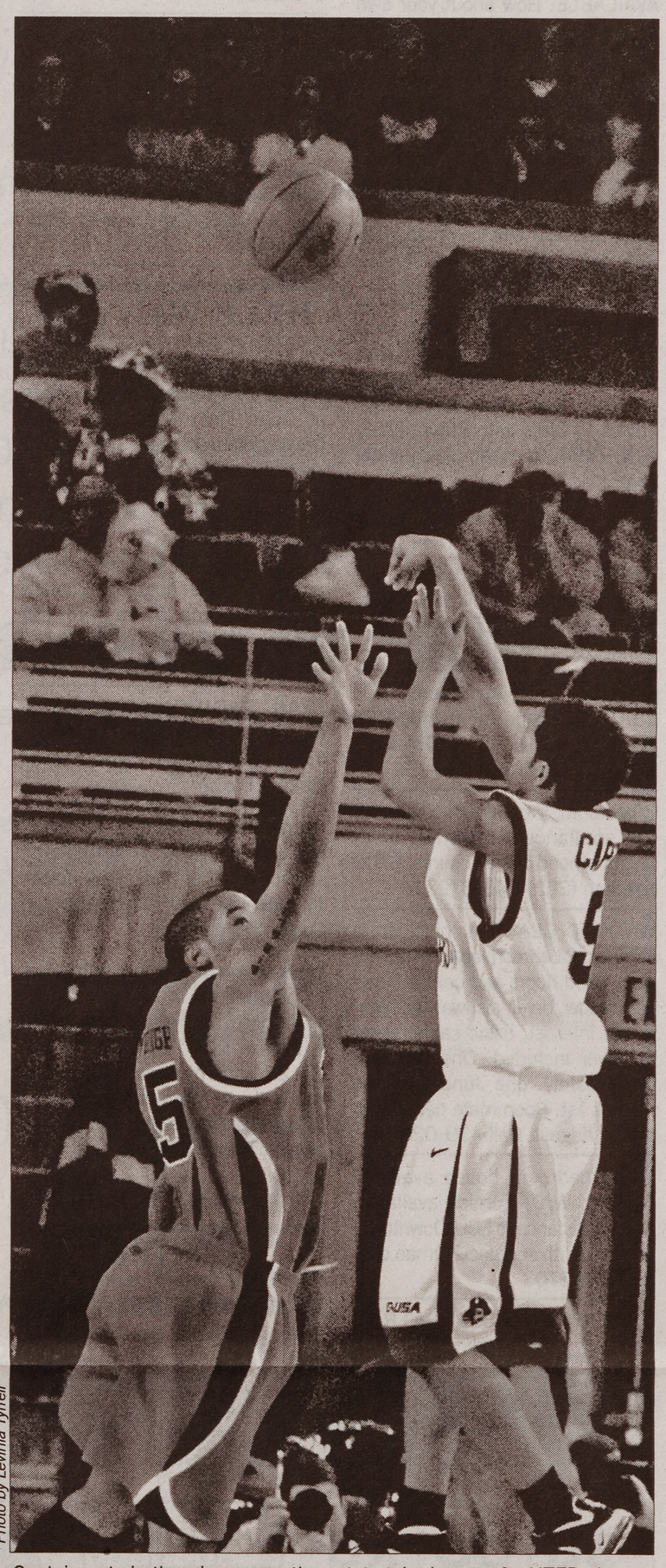


Photo by Levinia Tyrrell

Captain puts in the winner over the outstretched arms of a UTEP player.

Pirates pack offense in first sweep of the season

ECU wraps up series with big win over in-state rival

RONNIE WOODWARD
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

The ECU baseball team came into the inaugural ECU Invitational on a four-game losing streak, but left the weekend with a streak more to its liking.

By winning all three games this past weekend, the Pirates improved their record to 5-5. In the inaugural series ECU outscored it's opponents 22-8.

"We did the things we had to do to win," said ECU Head Coach Billy Godwin after Sunday's 11-4 win over Duke. "It's all about results and this weekend we were able to capitalize and I was real proud of our effort."

The offense came alive for the first time all season as the Pirates scored in seven consecutive innings, starting on Saturday and finishing on Sunday. The offensive surge was highlighted by a five-run eighth inning on Saturday that gave the Pirates a pivotal win over the Washington Huskies. ECU headed into the bottom of the eighth down 3-1, but the first eight batters of the inning reached base safely. Sophomore Stephen Batts hit a double with the bases loaded that tied the game and Senior Ryan Tousley drove in the game-winning runs on a chopper over the first baseman's head.

"It was definitely a big win, especially with the way we've been playing," said Tousley after Saturday's 6-3 victory. "To be down 3-1 in the eighth and comeback like this is definitely a good thing for this team and I think it can really help us in the long run."

The Pirates' bats stayed hot on Sunday as they scored ten runs in the first five innings against previously unbeaten Duke. Drew Schieber, who started the Pirates' eighth inning on Saturday with a pinch-hit single, went 3-for-4 on Sunday, scoring two runs and stealing three bases. Sophomore Brandon Henderson smashed a two-run homer in the third inning and recorded three RBIs on the day.

"We've been hitting balls hard, they just haven't been falling. Today we really peppered the gaps and it felt good to finally bust out offensively," said Henderson.

The Pirates had a meeting after Wednesday's disappointing 2-0 home loss to Campbell. Henderson said the focus of the team meeting was to stay confident, keep playing hard and put the early-season blunders behind them.

"We said we're going to start over; we're 3-0 already and we're feeling good," said Henderson, who leads the team in home runs. "Everyone is confident and we're just going out there and having fun and playing hard."

ECU ended its four-game losing skid on Friday, as it defeated St. John's 5-1. Junior T.J. Hose had his best outing of the year after a 0-2 start to the season. Hose picked up the win after allowing only one run on four hits in 6 1/3 innings pitched. Hose also struck out seven batters in the game.

"That was a big win for me and for the team," said Hose. "I was just trying to go out there and have command of all three of my pitches and I think I did a pretty good job of doing that."

Godwin said that Friday's win over St. John's, who had a record of 40-19 last season, was the most complete game the Pirates had played up to that point. Godwin pointed to the pitching depth as the reason for the complete victory.

"It was just an outstanding effort on our player's behalf and a great win for us," Godwin said after Saturday's win. "Dale Mollenhauer was awesome out there tonight and T.J. and the whole pitching staff did a great job. For him [Hose] to come out and throw like this and get a win under his belt is certainly good for his confidence and good for the Pirates."

ECU will look to carry its confidence into next weekend's annual Keith LeClair Classic. Pepperdine, N.C. State and Western Carolina will be in Greenville for the round-robin event. ECU's schedule is highlighted by games with 17th ranked Pepperdine on Friday and a 3 p.m. Saturday showdown with its biggest rival, N.C. State.

"If you look at our schedule, every weekend we play is tough," Godwin said. "We'll have three good days of preparation this week and we have another tournament here this weekend with three outstanding opponents."

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

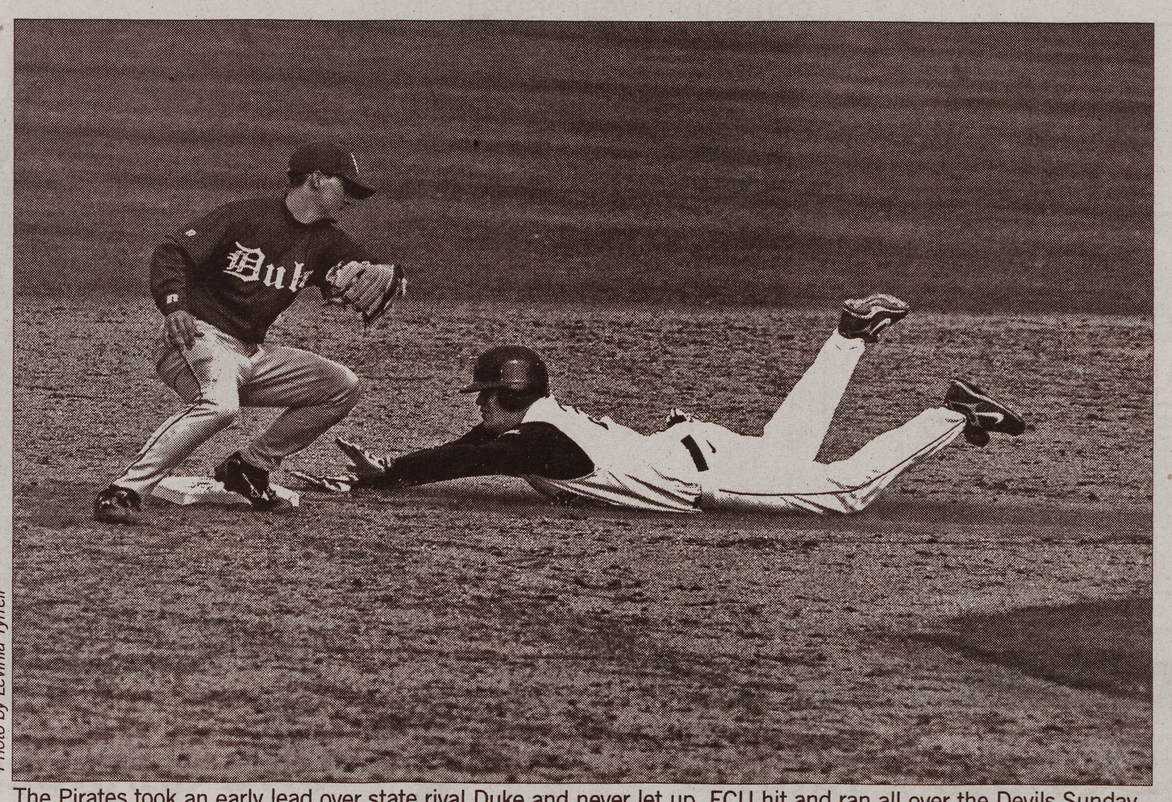
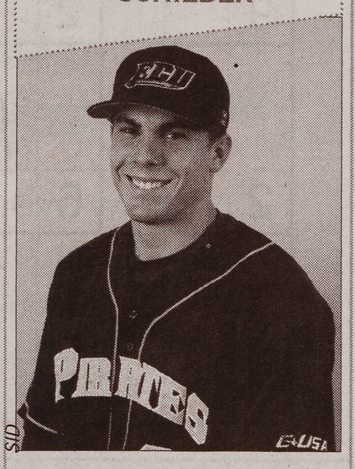


Photo by Levinia Tyrrell

The Pirates took an early lead over state rival Duke and never let up. ECU hit and ran all over the Devils Sunday.

MOST VALUABLE PIRATE
WEEKLY SOFTBALL AWARD

SCHIEBER



SID

Schieber played a pivotal part in the Pirates three wins this past weekend. On Saturday, Schieber led off the eighth inning with a pinch-hit single that sparked ECU's 6-3 comeback victory over Washington. The Pirates utility infielder then went 3-for-4 on Sunday, scoring two runs and stealing three bases. Overall, Schieber went 5-for-8 on the weekend, scoring three runs and stealing four bases. Schieber now leads the Pirates in batting average (.375), stolen bases (4), slugging percentage (.688) and is third in on-base percentage (.412)

"What a great job by Drew Schieber coming off the bench right there. I think he really ignited that inning and got something going for us." – *Head Coach Billy Godwin after Saturday's 6-3 win.*

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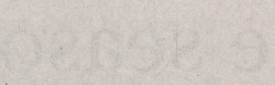

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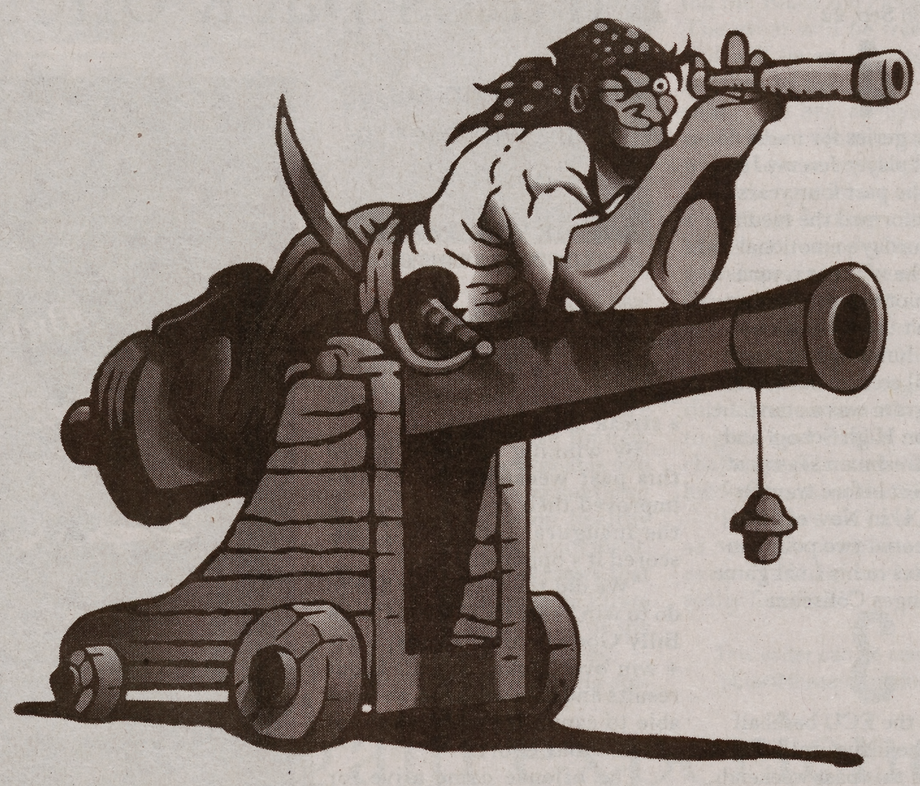

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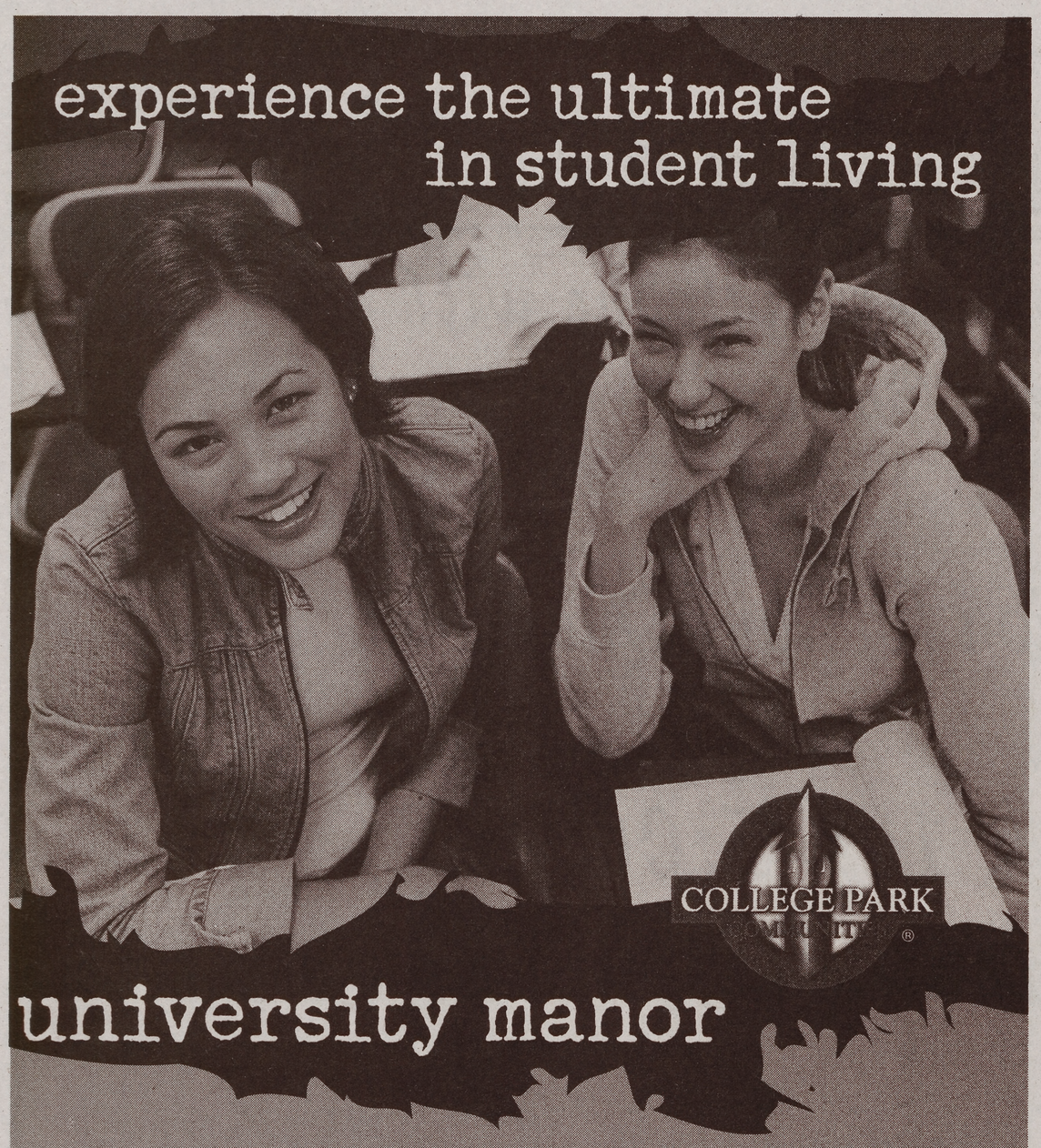

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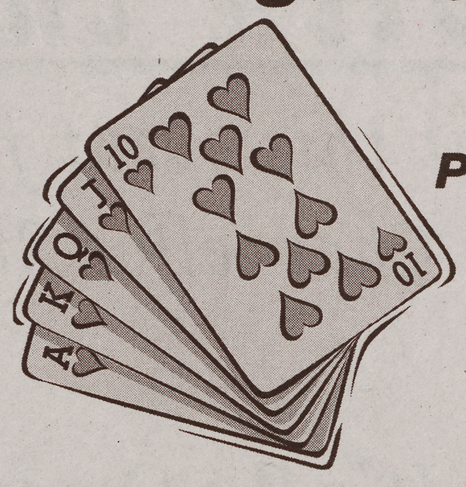

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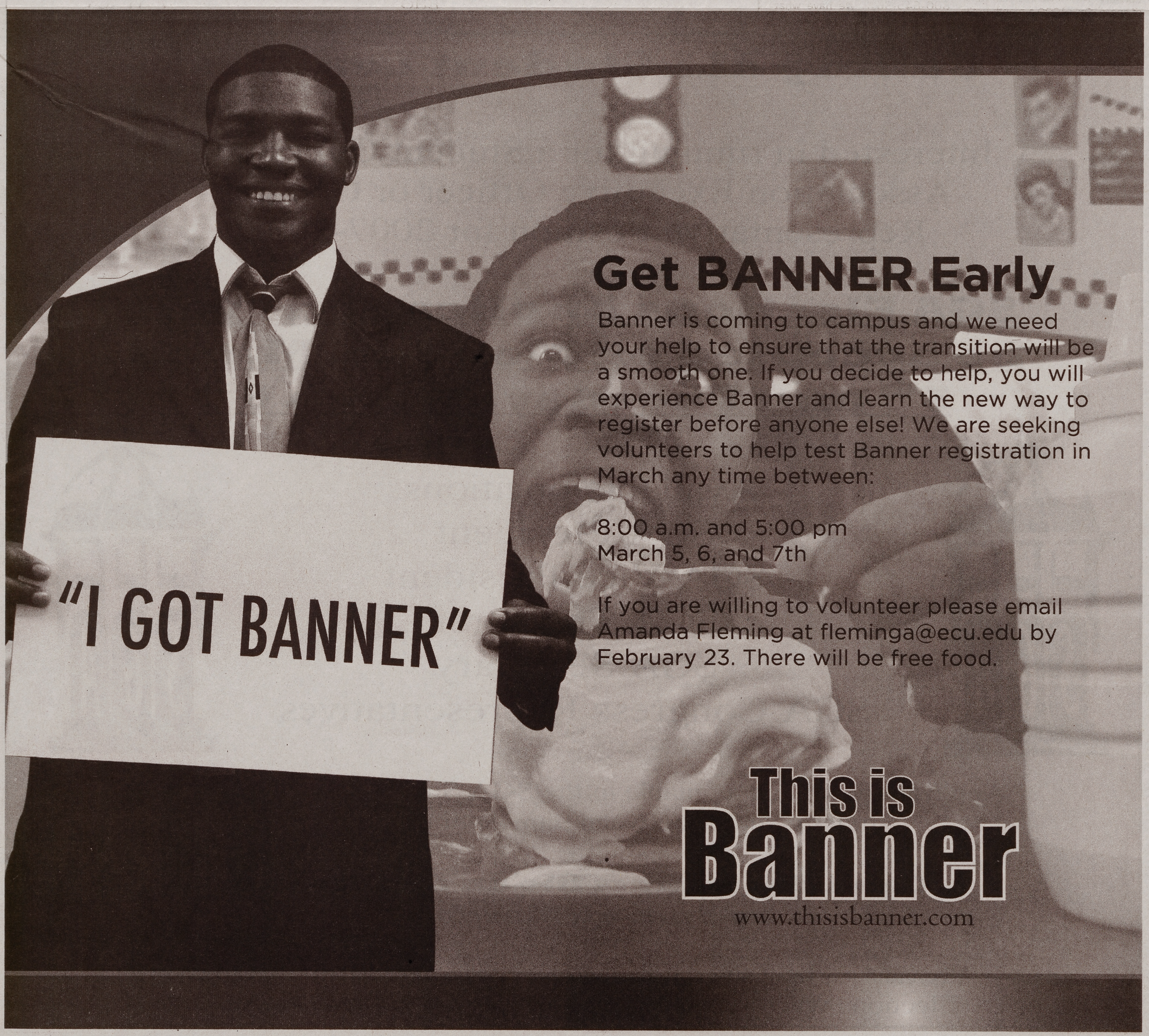

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Applications will be available in the SGA Suite – 101 Mendenhall Student Center between 9am-5pm on both days.

Candidates must file an application by 5pm on March 6th

All candidates must attend a compulsory meeting on March 7 at 6:30pm.
Elections will take place March 27th and 28th on OneStop.