



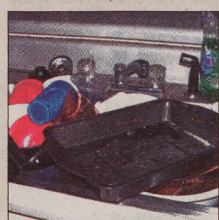
The East Carolinian

YOUR INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

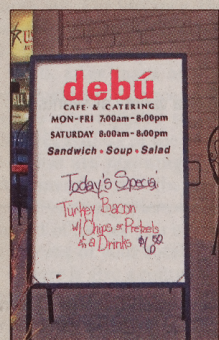
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WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2007



Living with a significant other can cause rifts from arguments involving simple chores such as cleaning the kitchen to financial issues; find out more about cohabitation....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



The ECU women's basketball team finished up the regular season over the weekend. Read more.....Page A6



The ECU softball team came home to Greenville for their first home series of the season. Find out if the Pirates could secure a tournament win in the Hampton Inn Pirate Classic.....Page A6

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'Party School' ratings outdated

Students' perceptions perpetuate stereotype

ZACK HILL
SENIOR WRITER

Does ECU have a reputation as a party school?

Junior business management major Lauren Boone said that before arriving at the university she had heard that ECU was an "extreme party school with, like, 70 percent of freshmen not making it because of it."

A common belief held by many students at ECU is that the school has constantly been at the top of annual rankings of party colleges and universities by *Playboy* magazine. But the facts don't really back that up.

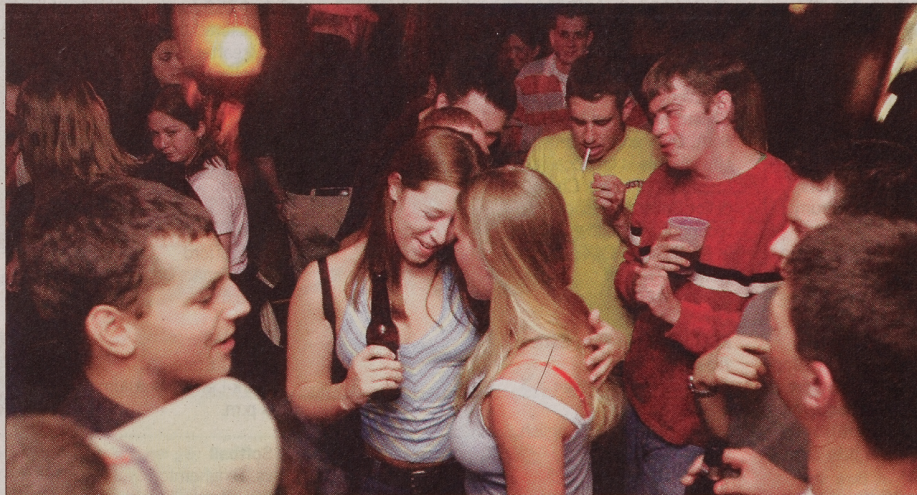
The magazine has only published the rankings three times in its history, 1987, 2002 and 2006. ECU did appear once as number 19 in the 2002 list.

But the beginnings of the party reputation took hold long before 2002.

Brian McMillen, professor in the department of pharmacology and toxicology, said that when he arrived at the university in the early 1980s he was immediately informed by another ECU employee that the school had been ranked first in the nation for partying in *Playboy*.

He and Bob Morphet, assistant director for the center for counseling and student development, are the co-directors of IMPACT ECU, a coalition working to reduce the impact of drugs, alcohol and violence at ECU. They agree that the *Playboy* myth probably began even before McMillen's arrival and subsequent introduction.

"I've talked to alumnus from the 70s and they say that the reputation was here then, too," Morphet said. Morphet provided counseling



Students socialize at a bar near the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. According to a 2001 survey on drinking and partying, ECU rates almost the same as other schools in the nation.

for Patrick McMahon, also known as the DJ Crash on Raleigh-based rock station 96.1 FM, when he was a freshman.

"When I started my freshman year... I got hammered, fell off a bus at the top of College Hill, blocked traffic and was taken to the hospital, all at 5:30 p.m. on a Tuesday. I nearly died. My BAC [blood alcohol content] was .31. I am mortified by what I did then and that's what worries me sometimes about ECU's reputation. I went into ECU thinking I had to act that way," McMahon said in an e-mail.

"Probation, housing restriction, drug and alcohol screenings, even the help of Bob Morphet kept me out of trouble for the most part after that. The administration was overly generous in not kicking me out of school."

McMahon was a senior majoring in communication in 2002 when the *Playboy* list featuring ECU was published.

"If I remember correctly, I might have just graduated, or was about to graduate, when the list was put out but it was a joke. Everyone was jumping around all proud that we made the official list but did you really read it? Other than the part about the baseball field's "jungle" (RIP), I just laughed at it," McMahon said.

Alfred Smith, commander of the campus safety division at ECU, said that the party reputation stretched all the way to Jacksonville during his days as a Marine at Camp Lejeune in the late 1980s.

"I heard about it then, that ECU could out-drink and out-party anyone," Smith said. "All the guys would go to Greenville on the weekend and would come back and talk about it."

McMillen and Morphet said that results of a survey conducted in 2001 on drinking and partying show that ECU rates almost exactly the same as other schools in the nation.

"If you get on Facebook you see the exact same scenes of students partying at other schools. It's just different faces," Morphet said.

"[The drinking] it's not something, if it is different, that can be measured. In terms of what they say they do it's the same as other institutions," McMillen said.

The problem here seems to be students perception of how much other students drink.

"The perception by college students of their peers' drinking is usually worse, but at ECU it is far worse," McMillen said.

In essence what the survey showed was that ECU students don't see themselves as partying more than other schools. They think that everyone around them does.

"The perception is greater than the reality," Morphet said. Smith echoed his sentiments. "It's a perception, it's a myth and

see REPUTATION page A2

College of Education receives award for collaboration

(ECU News Bureau)—The College of Education at East Carolina University has received a national award for its collaboration with community colleges to respond to the demand for more rural teachers.

ECU received the "Best Practice Award for Collaboration with Community Colleges" Feb. 27 from the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education at the organization's annual meeting in New York. ECU's collaborative effort is known as Wachovia Partnership East.

"East Carolina University recognizes the importance of working closely with community colleges to support teacher candidates through their entire preparation from the community college to completion of a four-year degree," said Sharon P. Robinson, president and CEO of the association. "Without East Carolina's and the state's many community colleges' strong commitment to partnership, the profession would lose many potential teachers."

The award recognizes from among its 800 member institutions outstanding collaborations between teacher education programs at AACTE member institutions and community colleges.

John Swope, dean of ECU's College of Education, who received the award on behalf of the university, said the honor highlights the college's motto of 'Excellence through Partnership' and brings deserved recognition to an exemplary teacher preparation program.

"We are deeply proud of our College of Education and its splendid heritage here at East Carolina and are grateful to AACTE for its important recognition of our work," Swope said.

Entering its fifth year, Wachovia Partnership East aims to fulfill the high demand for public school teachers across the region. Sponsored by the Wachovia Foundation, the consortium consists of 18 community colleges, a private college, an Air Force base and 34 public school systems in eastern North Carolina.

The program, offered through the College's department of Curriculum and Instruction, enrolls 234 students, offers degree programs in elementary and special education. It is designed to accommodate both non-traditional and working students through on-site and online instruction.

With more than 1,350 students, the College of Education is one of the exemplary programs in North Carolina, according to the State Board of Education's Higher Education Performance Report, and receives numerous grants every year to address the state's teacher shortage.

In 2002, the college received the Christa McAuliffe Exemplary Teacher Education Award for its Latham Clinical Schools Network.

Eating Disorder and Body Image Awareness Week begins with some personal pampering

Educational events raise awareness, confidence

CARMIN BLACK
STAFF WRITER

Eating disorders are becoming more and more prevalent among college age men and women, which is why leaders from ECU's Campus Recreation and Wellness and the Center for Counseling and Student Development are hosting a week long series of events for Eating Disorder and Body Image Awareness Week.

Eating Disorder and Body Image Awareness Week runs from Feb. 25 through March 3 and kicked off Monday night in Mendenhall's great room with a Pamper Party.

The Pamper Party included free massages given by Holistic Health Practitioners, makeup and skin care products by Beauty Control cosmetics, as well as door prizes and informational booths set up by the ECU Healthy Pirates and the Student Dietetic Association.

"The purpose of having a pamper party was to provide education on the topics of eating disorder and body image, but not only to provide education but give students services that make them feel good about themselves just as they are," said Tara Barber, assistant director

of nutrition services for Campus Recreation Wellness.

As fun as the activities at Pamper Party were, the heart of this event seemed to lay in the words of the volunteers working the informational booths.

"My father has diabetes and my friend had an eating disorder, everywhere you turn there are people who need help and this is why I'm here and why I want to become a nutritionist," said Lee Lamb, junior nutrition and dietetics major and SDA volunteer chairperson on her personal reasons for coming out to educate others about eating disorders and nutrition awareness.

Just like Lamb, it seemed that each person who was running a booth had a story to tell.

All the volunteers were either able to provide advice about nutrition or tell about how an eating disorder had affected their life either indirectly through things like the media or advertisements or more close to home with a friend or themselves struggling with this epidemic.

Just ask Ashley Arens, the sophomore psychology major whose confident demeanor might very well make her the last person anyone would ever guess struggled with an eating disorder or any type of negative body image.

see PAMPER page A2



Photo by Deatrice Lockhart

A free massage from Holistic Health Practitioners is given at the party.

Governors: Education, workplace must change

(AP)—Globalization has come to every hometown, every school and every workplace, but students and workers are not given the tools to keep up, governors reluctantly agreed Tuesday.

It's past time for a sweeping transformation of education, worker training and economic development, governors said, ending a four-day National Governors Association's meeting with a call for a national commitment to change.

Everyone talks about globalization and international competition, but it's time for concerted action, said Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano. The changes are "under our feet. On the ground under us, right now," she said.

Governors set out a framework for what they termed innovation, and hope to get federal support to include their ideas in legislation

now in Congress on work force training, education, and research and development. Among the ideas:

—Create federal "competitive innovation grants" to encourage states to develop regional hubs that build on existing strengths, like computer development in North Carolina's Raleigh-Durham area.

—Refocus on science, technology, engineering, math and foreign language proficiency. They are seeking programs to encourage students and teachers in those subject matters.

—Make worker training more flexible, coordinate training with regional needs and make progress measurable.

The aim is more skilled students and workers, higher-paying jobs, and a more vibrant economy. Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., told governors Tuesday that

the demands of competitiveness were going to drive improvements in energy and health care, but that they won't come without costs and turmoil.

"Our companies can't keep up in the world if their health care costs are too much. The pressures of competitiveness" will force change, he said.

The key is improving education, and to align it better with the needs of business so students come out of high schools, community colleges, vocational schools and higher universities with the knowledge for today's business world, said Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, a Democrat.

"We are really falling far behind other countries in the world with our skill set for workers," she said.

Students in many other industrial countries are better educated

than American students, said William H. Schmidt, a Michigan State University professor who studies education.

By the end of eighth grade, students elsewhere are two years ahead of American students, he said. "These children, we're putting them at a disadvantage. This makes it more than an economic issue, it makes it a moral issue," Schmidt said.

Meetings over the four-day conference hammered the point. School teachers, business leaders, scientists, pollsters all delivered the same message—overhaul school curriculums, retrain workers and revamp economic development so that businesses build upon each other, rather than pit one state against another.

They heard from Dean Kamen, the inventor of the Segway; Robert

Rubin, the former Treasury secretary during the Clinton administration; President Bush's top trade negotiator, Susan Schwab, and many more.

Governors sought support for more federal help from Alexander and Rep. Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., chairman of the House Science Committee.

But the biggest challenge is changing the mindset of the country, said Rhode Island GOP Gov. Don Carcieri, so that people embrace everything from the math and science skills needed to work in the 21st century to the larger changes needed in health care and energy.

"There's a huge sense of urgency about this," Carcieri said. Scientists are "the brainpower for all of our nation's capacities... I'm frustrated about how we communicate that and how drive it."

News

{ Campus & Community }

CORRECTIONS

In News, the article "University proposes plus/minus grading system" contained an inaccuracy. At the top end of the proposed grading system, there is an A and an A- (but not an A+), with the A- corresponding to a slightly lower number grade than an A.

The Pirate Gladiators article that ran in yesterday's Pulse section listed the date of the event as Feb. 27, when it will actually be held tonight Feb. 28 at the SRC. Family Fun Day was also listed as being held on March 21, but it is actually scheduled for March 24. This event is free for students and their dependents, \$5 for SRC members and \$6 for non-members.

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, Feb. 26 through Friday, March 2 in Wright Auditorium. You can schedule your appointment now by logging onto our year.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 underclassmen, faculty and staff walk-ins are welcome. Bring your 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 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 reinventing 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.

28 Wed

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.

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
The fee (textbook included) is \$49 for all eight sessions for World Affairs 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.
Rivers West Building auditorium
10 a.m. – 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 Sun

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

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



*Featured Event:

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

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.

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Christenbury Gym
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Baseball
vs. NC A&T
Clark-LeClair Stadium
3 p.m.

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

Softball
vs. Virginia
ECU Softball Field
6 p.m.

REPUTATION

continued from A1

once that gets established it's hard to get rid of," Smith said.

Nevertheless, something has to trigger the perception.

"All that said, transfer students relate that there is something different at ECU than other places," McMillen said.

Morphet pointed out the nature of *Playboy's* rankings.

"I take the rankings with a grain of salt. I don't think they did a sophisticated research project," Morphet said.

He said that one concern associated with the party reputation is that it devalues a degree from ECU.

McMahon agrees.

"I'm in the Triangle now and you know how many people care about ECU's reputation as a party school and cheer about that? No one. No one cares. Not NCSU, not UNC, not ECU alumni, not anyone. I have to fight stereotypes everyday about being an ECU grad and it angers me to no end we still don't get the respect we deserve," McMahon said.

Since 2002, several changes within the school and state laws have helped the attempt to curtail drinking on and around campus.

A zero tolerance policy has been implemented in the dorms meaning students can be kicked out upon their first alcohol or drug offense. During orientation, more information is being provided to freshmen and transfer students about the dangers associated with drinking and drug use.

New laws make it easier for police officers to nab underage drinkers while also requiring a permit to buy a keg.

McMahon said that an underage drinking citation while he was in school would have been a slap on the wrist and a \$25 fine. Now, that same offense carries a fine of over \$100 and a misdemeanor charge that goes on the student's permanent record. The same holds true of simple possession of drugs like marijuana.

Smith, McMillen and Morphet all feel measures such as these have helped reduce the kind of partying that got ECU ranked in the first place.

"Without a doubt it's gotten better," Smith said. But it still needs to get better.

Barry Knox, bassist for Greenville-based band Parmalee, has toured across the nation.

He tends to disagree with McMillen, Morphet and Smith's assessment that the partying has diminished since 2002.

"I've been to so many college towns. Greenville parties just as hard if not harder. I've had friends come out from L.A. and be surprised. They'll tell me, 'hey, you guys party just as hard as us,'" Knox said. "There hasn't been much of change [since 2002]. If there was a change, I'd say it was around '92 or '93. It was kicking back then and I don't think we party as hard as they did back then but we're still going strong."

Knox said that there may be one crucial factor that separates Greenville from other college towns.

"The chicks here are so much better. It's more fun 'cause there's more chicks," Knox said, citing another, perhaps more flattering, reputation with another (though still unscientific) rating—ECU did rank ninth in schools with the hottest girls in a 2000 *Playboy* list.

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

PAMPER continued from A1

However, Arens was once one of the millions of people who each year battle with this epidemic.

Sitting at a booth put up by one Women's Studies class, Arens was at the Pamper Party to talk with anyone who would listen about the importance of self appreciation and healthy eating habits.

Arens, who said that in 10th grade she once lost 90 pounds in two months, attributes the onset of

her disorder to her parent's divorce and trying to constantly compete with "skinnier friends."

"When people saw me losing weight I felt encouraged, not like I needed help, but I didn't realize I had a disorder until my friends started saying things," said Arens.

Arens attributes her ability to overcome her battle with food to self appreciation and falling in love. She

said that she is now dating someone who prefers her bigger and that she has now become more comfortable with her body once she realized people really do appreciate her.

Success stories like Arens' makes educating people about eating disorders well worth the effort for Tara Barber, who directed the Pamper Party.

"We know that many college students struggle with eating dis-

orders and/or body image concerns, some people feel they don't have a problem and here we can educate them, but some people know they have an issue and are ready to get help," said Barber.

For more events, log on to toecu.edu/cs-studentlife/crw/programs/campuswellness/.

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

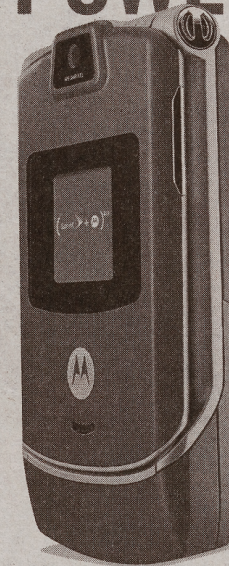
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Sprint POWER UP
Together with NEXTEL

Opinion

{ What's your opinion? }

Walk a mile in a waitress' shoes

One way to impress a potential employer

LISA URAM
OPINION WRITER

In the fast paced world of the 21st century, most people opt for going out to eat instead of taking the time to cook a home cooked meal. It's no surprise, then, that according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, food and beverage servers and other related workers hold over seven million jobs in America. These jobs are mostly held by teenagers and students between the ages of 16 and 25, about six times the proportion for all workers.

Unfortunately, even in 2007, most of America still remains oblivious to the etiquette involved in dining out. For instance, the average hourly pay for a waiter in North Carolina was recently raised from 2.13 to 3.13 per hour.

Still, after taxes are taken from their checks, the remaining balance is always zero. In addition, servers are required to claim 15 percent of their sales, regardless of the amount of tips they receive. So if you are planning on enjoying a nice dinner out, remember that the service you receive is also a part of your experience and should account for the amount of money you intend to spend, usually 15 to 20 percent of your total bill.

There is also a common misconception about the demands of a waiter. In most restaurants, servers can work anywhere from four to 12 hours at a time without sitting down.

On a day-to-day basis, waiters are faced with countless demands from managers, other employees and customers. It is way more than taking orders and keeping drinks full. In fact, *Health* magazine lists being a waiter as one of the top 10 most stressful jobs in the U.S.

Being courteous to your waiter when dining out isn't always just about ethics; it may even get you hired in the company of your dreams. According to an article that was published in *USA Today* in April, 2006, how you treat your waiter predicts a lot about character.

Bill Swanson, CEO and the first to write down this innovative theory, goes on to say, "A person who is nice to you but rude to the waiter, or to others, is not a nice person." Well, doesn't this make sense? How can anyone claim to have good character, only to manipulate those with less wealth or power than oneself?

In all our lives, we will either be a waiter, know a waiter, be waited on by a waiter or be judged by how we treat the waiter. It's about time that America becomes more educated on the people who respectfully take the time to make our lives simpler. After all, the majority of waiters in America are in college, just like us, trying to make a better life for themselves.

Turn off the news

The cure to the common conversation

JUSTIN SUMMERS
OPINION WRITER

It seems like we spend a lot of time in our lives talking and debating about issues we hear about in the news. Recently it was Britney Spears' baldness and/or addiction problems, loony astronauts in diapers and Bill O'Reilly's analysis of who should get custody of Anna Nicole Smith's trim corpse.

Before that, it was Paris Hilton and her drunken endeavors, or Tom Cruise going nuts on Oprah. There was Angelina Jolie's exciting adoption of a bunch of Malawian babies, and the Duke Lacrosse scandal.

Even further back in my memory I can remember others, like Natalee Holloway, JonBenét Ramsey and a whole host of other pretty white girls who somehow remain important news stories for months, even years.

We know in our hearts that these stories are useless and that they are slowly rotting our brains, but we find ourselves absorbing them like spilt beer on a paper towel. I am proof of this as I don't even watch the news and I could name ten pseudo-news stories off the top of my head.

We are ingrained with useless "news" and opinions about stories that no one should care about and, even worse, are the people like me, who fuel the fire by claiming these stories are stupid while secretly being fixated on them.

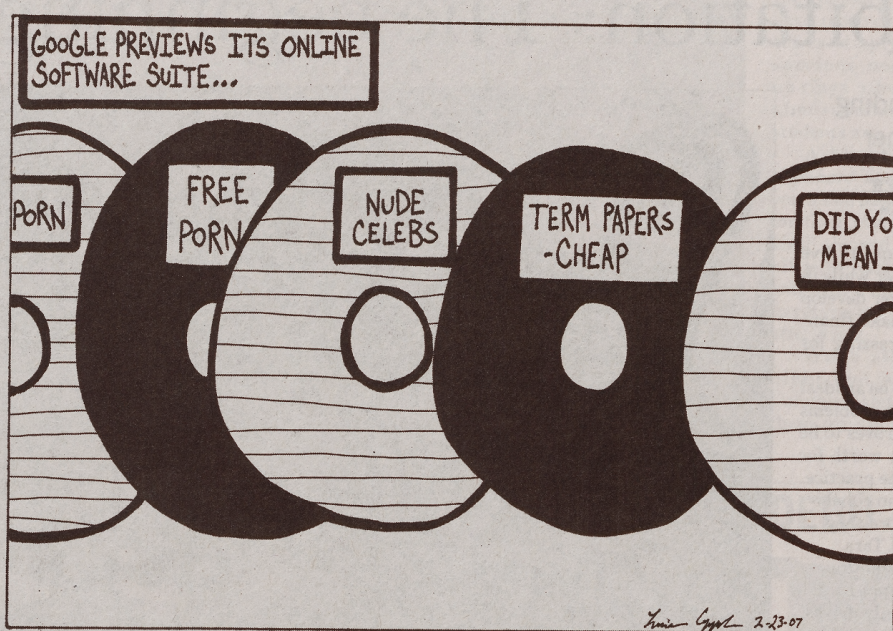
I have a suggestion to all of you out there who are looking to rid themselves of this plague and if you heed my words you may never feel obligated to talk about one of these stories in small talk ever again. Turn off the news!

Imagine the things you could accomplish if you turned off that glowing box and did something productive with your life, like reading. Now there's a novel idea, reading! When you read a book or the news you are not force fed information from some hollow media pundit and you can actually form an opinion yourself about what is important.

I have realized from the responses to my prior articles that the majority of students here rely solely on television and mainstream media outlets for their news and rather than having a carefully formed opinion; most simply regurgitate the rhetoric they see on TV. In a true democracy, it is important to find out for oneself what is going on in the world not just accept that what you see on the idiot box is a relevant news story.

Is Anna Nicole's dead body really important for the nation? Will they ever find Natalee Holloway? The answer to both of these questions is "no," and if you really wanted to entertain yourself I suggest to you turn off your television and go to the library and check out a book.

There is a world of opinions out there, why align yours with the likes of Bill O'Reilly, Nancy Grace and Anderson Cooper?



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.

Why is it that nobody can go the speed limit on Greenville Blvd.? It's 45, not 40, or 35, but 45 people!

One of my good friends goes to the club every weekend. I think it is safe to say she is on one of those seven year plans!

I heard a song the other day and thought of you instead of him.

Who else feels like paying their roommate to go home on the weekends?

If my skill with talking to girls was as half as good as my video gaming skills, I'd be unstoppable.

Did anyone ever find the baby in their cake at Todd for Mardi gras?

It's OK. Jabba the Hutt is sexy!

I just got tested for ADHD and they found out I... wait, what?

I named my cat Samuel L. Jackson. He's white.

I wish my soccer coach would believe in me.

If you changed your hair, bad habits, and morals, I would date you.

I hate it when people use the warp zones in Super Mario Bros. and say that they beat the whole game. You don't beat it unless you play it all the way through!

I love men who play sports in short shorts.

To the person Ranting about the complete lack of customer service at Carmike Cinema, bless you for speaking the truth.

My girlfriend told me just last night that for the past two years, every intimate climax was faked...

Please fix OneStop.

Whichard, Whichard, Whichard, your building is so confusing. The fact that there are no signs up that tells you what is in each office is amusing.

I saw you staring at me last night and I liked it.

Yes! My curse is over. A cute guy instead of an ugly 30 year-old finally hit on me.

I have officially decided to give up writing papers for Lent.

I wish my parents would pay for my Spring Break!

Ever ask your professor a question and then get creeped out when he proceeds to stare directly at you for the next ten minutes? Maybe that's just me... a little paranoid.

I wanted to say thank you to everyone who puts Chuck Norris jokes in the Rants. You make my day and cause me to laugh in the middle of my classes.

I love my red high heels!

I totally made out with a UNC baseball player. I can't wait until they play the Pirates in April.

I didn't know it was possible to kill fake fish... but somehow I did it.

Dear old friend—don't you think it is getting to be about that time to tell your parents that you are in an interracial relationship?

We don't like to call it stalking. We like to call it good timing and excellent observation.

I found out you guys hooked up two days after it happened. I'm just waiting for one of you to have the integrity to tell me.

I'm sorry I ran in front of your car and almost made you wreck. I'm also sorry for getting up and running off as fast as I could. I was afraid of you!

I miss my best friend.

To the young female student that watched me fall today while descending the ramp outside the Croatan and kept right on walking, just hope that you're not in any of my classes here at ECU... Were I not on the faculty I would have shouted "B****!" to you as you walked away. And to the young male student that did come over and asked if he could help—you redeemed my faith in the student body.

You just need a girlfriend? I need a boyfriend. PS—you're the sexiest guy I have ever become friends with, and it's killing me.

I think my roommate wants to strangle me in my sleep.

To all the people that think it is cool to say, "I'm so in like with you," you are idiots and you make me cringe.

Why do so many people on MySpace feel the need to take so many pictures of themselves? I mean come on, we can see your arm in the picture!

I appreciate you updating us with what you're doing on your away messages. I even think it's cute that you think we care, but the only reason I read them is so I know where not to be, so thanks.

To those guys who look to their girlfriends to make decisions for them... get a life and grow up! Be a man and make decisions for yourself!

In response to the comment about people not washing their hands downtown, I always wash my hands no matter how drunk I am. Not washing your hands is just nasty!

I love boys with accents.

I have no intention of cheating on him, but I know exactly whom I would date instead of him.

According to the Academy, Martin Scorsese's *The Departed* is officially the best movie of 2006. Leo finally got him some street cred. Now we can forget about the "Boat" movie.

Is it bad that I have a long distance relationship with someone I love and care about, but I am in love with someone here....

Living with you was the biggest mistake ever.

I hate Jim Carrey... how about you?

The Wright Place is way too crowded when I eat lunch at 1 p.m.

Your past is still bothering me.

Is it May yet?

I am sorry that I have such a freaking temper!

Cinderella goes to this school and she is gorgeous, point her in my direction and tell her I found her glass slipper!

My Marine boyfriend is being deployed for Iraq next week. Please keep him and the rest of the men and women over seas in your thoughts and prayers.

Goal for 2007: Move all the bulldozing equipment out of the Wright Fountain area. Move Jack Sparrow sculpture to where the fountain once was. Anyone

want to help? It will be the biggest attraction on this campus!

It wouldn't be quite so disgusting if you changed your underwear every day.

I think the squirrels are cuter than the boys on campus!

No, I will not see you on the CW... and you can't make me.

My best friend's birthday is this Saturday... and she died in December. Happy Birthday, we love you and miss you!

Still Life is a breeding ground for meatheds.

How do you know it's love?

An art major does more work in one class than you probably do in all your classes for the entire year. I dare you to take a class even just the fundamental classes and see how hard we work.

Nothing is better in this world than hanging out with my boyfriend during the 8.4 spare minutes he has every day.

I hate you for all the promises you failed to keep.

OK, online games do not count as social interaction!

Sometimes I just want to lose my virginity so that it won't be a big deal anymore.

Every time I go home, I cry when I leave but only because of my dogs.

I love you ECU! I'm so sorry I have to leave...

Am I a jerk? I am using our school's database to look up information about the school I am transferring to.

To the guy working in Joyner on Friday morning—you were so helpful. Thank you so much. The day started terribly and you made it better.

Why does everything have to be about race? Maybe I just do not want to hang around people of another race because I don't enjoy their company, their music or their views on political issues, or anything else that they do.

Every time I hold a door for a woman that doesn't even give me the courtesy of a thank you or even just a smile, I want to slam the door right on her nose.

Where are the hot ladies with the country accents? This is eastern North Carolina, I know you are out there.

Thank you for being a true friend.

He has great plans for you.

Vanilla-enriched organic soy milk can make anything in life better.

Pledging is not hard. Just suck it up and don't be a wuss. You are probably doing a wussy fraternity anyway since you are complaining that it's so hard.

I am tired of the taste of beer.

I think I'll like Banner, but pancakes and mustard makes me vomit.

I can't believe you are dipping in class. That is so disgusting and your spit bottle makes me want to gag.

I have a friend whose only goal in life is to be a wife and a mother. Pretty sad, huh?

If you think someone notices when you wear a garment more than once, don't flatter yourself. No one cares what you are wearing or doing.

RANT OF THE DAY

To the guy that found my OneCard downtown and returned it, thank you so much!

Obama and Hillary can fight it out.

I'm voting for John Edwards, anyway.

EDWARD MCKIM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I don't really like to admit it, but I do enjoy—to a certain extent—watching presidential elections.

Not because they have any substance or because the people running are by any means people I could ever respect, but because the more these candidates try to protect the skeletons in their closets, the more obvious it is that there is something to hide.

I found it laughable how fast Hillary Clinton attacked the notion that someone would think her and her husband were good liars. Don't get me wrong, they're liars, hell that's what I loved about Bill Clinton, he was just so damn good at lying.

But those were simpler times. Times have changed. There was no war on terror, not that you can really fight wars against radical ideologies... The people who embody them, yes you can fight them, but fighting ideas is a much tougher proposition... There wasn't a war in Iraq, and Afghanistan, with wars against Iran, China, South Korea and probably Cuba (easy pickins' once Fidel Castro buys the farm) on the horizon.

It became obvious this past week that Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are so concerned about their image that they'd rather fight to the death over that than address the real issues... of course that's something Hillary has been doing for ages.

For those of you who didn't know about this, David Geffen, a media mogul and long time Clinton family supporter, made several comments to the *New York Times* early last week after dumping Clinton to host a \$1.3 million fundraiser for Barack Obama. In the article Geffen dubbed Hillary as polarizing, overly ambitious and obviously scripted.

"It's not a very big thing to say, 'I made a mistake' on the war, and typical of Hillary Clinton that she can't," Geffen said. "Everybody in politics lies, but they do it with such ease, it's troubling."

Even more troubling is how quickly both candidates found their way back to the name-calling politics of America today. See, in the Senate, that's how it works, if things look bad for you, you attack someone else.

Not even a month into their political campaigns for the Presidency—both of which, by the way, face the obvious adversity of neither candidate being a white male candidate... and the sad truth of all of this is the fact that this hurdle will make more of a difference in two years than what either is saying right now—both candidates have already left their out-of-the-gates promises to make this a clean and non-personal race.

All the while John Edwards pressed on with the issues, subtly reminding us while Hillary and Barack have been doing practically nothing in the Senate other than making speeches and empty complaining about President Bush and the Government, Fmr. Senator Edwards was out doing real, substantial work. It is obvious to me and many others that John Edwards is not out to make this a personal battle. John Edwards is not seeking to defeat the Republican Party. He is seeking to change America.

This is why I think Senators have such a hard time becoming Presidents... it's because they typically don't do anything except argue and cast votes that don't really represent their constituencies. Most of them have their interests split between that and their other professional careers.

Now I know some of you are saying "But John Edwards was a Senator!" While this is true, since John Edwards left the Senate for an unsuccessful Presidential, then Vice Presidential candidacy in 2004, he has worked tirelessly to cure this nation of poverty. Some might remember John Edwards' speech regarding the two Americas in Iowa in January 2004, where he eloquently recited some of the most worrisome trends in modern America.

"Today, under George W. Bush, there are two Americas, not one: One America that does the work, another that reaps the reward. One America that pays the taxes, another America that gets the tax breaks. One America—middle-class America—whose needs Washington has long forgotten, another America—narrow-interest America—whose every wish is Washington's command. One America that is struggling to get by, another America that can buy anything it wants, even a Congress and a President."

Now doesn't that seem a little more promising that Hillary's constant criticisms of the White House without offering a better solution? It seems stronger than Barack's... well I am not really sure what Barack is saying. I can't see past the hype.

This election seems more like the Grammys to me. An event where bands who—while opinionated, ready to speak their thoughts, and beautiful—couldn't sound less like a group of wailing banshees are rampant.

Ironically, they get all the attention, honors, and awards, and take all the attention from the good bands that no one hears about. While the Dixie Chicks won eight awards, I award them with a ninth: Most likely to get a lot of awards because stupid overly liberal judges feel it's some sort of vindication of the words they spoke about President Bush.

Likewise, election 2008, an event where politicians who—while opinionated, ready to speak their minds, and... well slightly more attractive than old men with hair coming out of their ears, and Barack Obama—get all the media attention, awards and honors. While all the while being constantly praised by overly liberal pundits who feel it's some kind of vindication that someone is stumping what they believe and have been saying for years. The parallels are frightening.

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{ Pirate Buzz }

Horoscopes:

Aries
You're getting luckier. Don't let this news interfere with your critical thinking. Winning isn't the only thing. How you play the game matters, too.

Taurus
You have a talent for building monuments. Construct a legacy your family can rely upon for generations.

Gemini
You're looking good, but don't relax. There'll be another tough question. No flirting, drinking or wild giggling fits until after the gig is over.

Cancer
You have the natural ability to do very well in business. This serves you in whatever you do. You can manage both time and money.

Leo
A difficult task is nearing completion and that's a wonderful thing. Don't let this event go by unnoticed. Plan a celebration for tomorrow.

Virgo
Not only do you have to get the job done yesterday, but the requirements keep changing, too. Luckily, you do well under pressure. Keep telling yourself that.

Libra
Your friends provide lots more than a few good jokes. They strengthen your resolve, improve your confidence and tease you into action. You've got to love them for it.

Scorpio
You're very good at keeping secrets, so do that again. Don't let anybody know who's really in charge. Put up a figurehead.

Sagittarius
More research is required. Hit the books or the Internet. Several new questions have popped up and you can find the answers.

Capricorn
Better figure out what you've made and what you've spent recently. This is one of those jobs that you're better off doing yourself.

Aquarius
Others seek your advice and well they should, since you're so smart. Listen to their ideas, too, and you'll prove it conclusively.

Pisces
It's perfectly natural to go over your decision in your mind. Don't worry, you can make adaptations as you go along, if you like.

Drink Recipes:

Tiziano
1 bottle dry sparkling wine
1 bottle white grape juice

Mix equal parts sparkling wine and grape juice. Serve chilled with the garnish of your choice.

Mojito Slushy

1 cup sugar
1 cup water
1/2 cup fresh lime juice, about 4 to 6 limes
1/4 cup fresh mint leaves, firmly packed
2 limes, zested
1/2 cup light rum
8 cups crushed ice
Mint sprigs and lime wedges, for garnish

In a saucepan over medium heat, add the sugar and water. Cook for about five minutes, stirring often, until the sugar is dissolved and the syrup is clear. Set aside to cool.

Put the sugar syrup, lime juice, mint leaves, lime zest and rum into a blender and blend until smooth. Add the ice and blend until slushy. Spoon into glasses; garnish with a sprig of mint and a lime slice.

Capri Fizzy

4 large ice cubes
1/4 cup Campari liqueur
1/4 cup strawberry nectar
Club soda
1 strip orange peel, for garnish

Place ice cubes in a tall glass. Pour Campari and strawberry nectar over ice. Add club soda to fill the glass. Twist the orange strip and drop it into the drink. Serve immediately.

Please drink responsibly.

Cohabitation: The beginning of the end?

Issues surrounding living together

LEIGH CARTER
STAFF WRITER

Many students choose to live with their dating partner while in college in order to better develop the relationship and make financial obligations less pressing for both individuals.

While this seems to be an ideal solution to several of the problems students face, it often proves to be more trouble than it is worth for many who engage in the practice.

"A lot of couples who cohabit suffer burnout before they even get married," said Tara Owen, sophomore communication major. "Their attempt to get closer as a couple only drives them apart in the end."

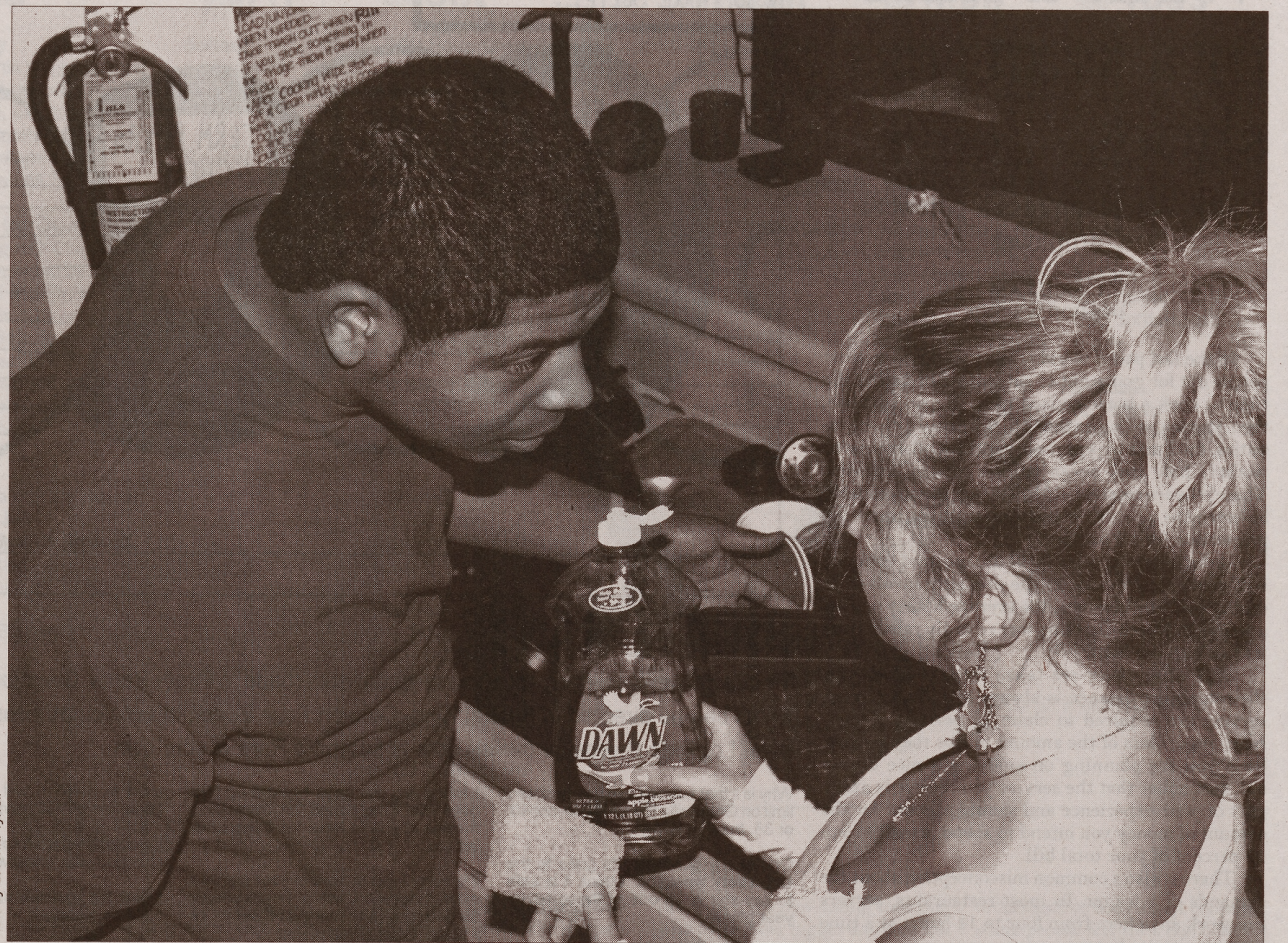
This statement has been proven true many times as the divorce rate in the U.S. reaches over 50 percent and the number of relationships that fall apart despite good intentions climbs even higher.

"Couples our age often rush into things too quickly," Owen said. "They want to feel grown up and ready for such a commitment but a lot of the time they just aren't."

While this may be true for many of the pairs seen around college campuses, it cannot be said for all. Kristen Lee, senior public relations and broadcast journalism major, has been with her boyfriend throughout her entire college career.

"He is a sophomore at N.C. State and a cheerleader for the university as well," said Lee. "We both know what it is like to balance classes, work and a relationship and agree that it takes a great deal of commitment."

Having someone to come home to that can listen to your problems and help to get over a stressful week seems to some students a fair



Simple tasks such as washing dishes can become a point of hostility when couples disagree about whose turn it is to complete the chore at hand.

trade to giving up a bit of privacy or personal space while others find the idea of even sharing a bathroom undesirable.

Webster defines cohabitation as "to live together as or as if a married couple," leading to the inevitable question for some individuals as to whether or not the practice of living with a person you are not married to is morally acceptable.

"Your opinion on the practice of cohabitation really depends on what your own personal beliefs are," Owen said. "Many parents are against it, believing instead that marriage must happen first before a couple resides together."

Struggling with the beliefs of an older generation, dealing with awkward personal habits and having to share an already limited space is too much for many stu-

dents to take on while others find cohabitation a refreshing change from living with friends or dealing with a roommate finder service.

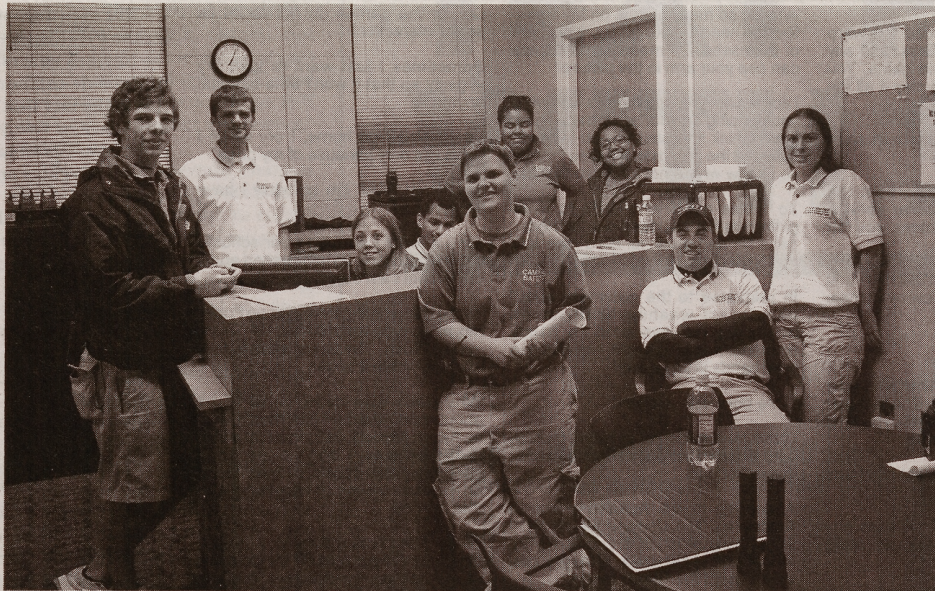
"Even if you don't stay together as a couple forever, the experience allows you to learn to bond and get to know someone more completely," said sophomore communication major Marquita Braswell. "Learning how to share space and negotiate boundaries also helps

you to know what you are willing to accept and where you have to draw the line."

Before deciding to live together, couples should take time to weigh all aspects of cohabitating in order to come up with the best living situation for both parties involved.

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

Cruising with SafeRide



A typical evening for the SafeRide drivers can often last into the wee hours of the morning without a break.

Greenville's nightlife from another perspective

YAZID FINN
STAFF WRITER

12:28 a.m. — Leaving my dorm, I make my way to Fletcher Hall and to the Campus Safety's office. The door is open and the staff on duty that evening welcomes me, as they call for a van to swing by Fletcher to pick me up. It's interesting to see the students behind the radio, as their voices will be heard for the remainder of the night. I'm told the van has arrived and I walk out to meet Nathaniel Steward, sophomore business management major.

12:37 a.m. — We make our way to the van and I'm informed that there is someone already being transported who is ready to be dropped off. I climb in the side of the SafeRide van and immediately take note of how clean everything is. Even though the van has been through night after night of constant driving, it still smells as if it was just driven off the lot.

Naked fruit drinks and bottles of water fill the cup holders near the radio, which plays a combination of rock and roll and country music throughout the night. Sitting in the passenger seat is Ashley Colón, a junior exercise physiology major. While Stew drives the SafeRide van from location to location, Ashley's job is to record incoming calls, including destinations and student's names.

12:51 a.m. — We drop the student off and receive our next call. As I soon find out, most calls of the night direct our van to the R2 lot downtown. We arrive sooner than expected as vehicle traffic is lightly scattered from street to street. Stew notes how it's a common theme to wait sometimes up to 10 or 15 minutes for the callers to actually make their way to the van.

We sit and watch as students pour out of bus after bus, with people locked arm in arm making their way downtown. Eventually, the "traffic" we're waiting for make their way to our van and present their OneCards.

1:12 a.m. — Two females make their way onto my seat and we exchange names and handshakes. After

confirming their destination, we head back in the direction of campus as we strike up a conversation about our favorite music.

1:20 a.m. — With no traffic for nearly 20 minutes we get a bite to eat and drive around campus. Stew tells me regardless of where we drive downtown, someone, somewhere will always prove they can ride by shouting the words "Safe Ride" written on the side of our van.

This point is soon proven. We cross Fifth Street and no sooner than we turn down Cotanche a group of males point at our van and shout for everyone to hear, "Safe Ride!" Stew and Ashley recognize them and we soon realize they were already in the process of calling in for our services. Without any other traffic, we take their OneCards and they pile in the van.

1:29 a.m. — We drive the three guys to their apartments and I find that one of them is a regular driver for SafeRide, while another is a prospective applicant for the position. I ask what made him want to work for Campus Safety and he tells me how not only would he like to help people, but work in a position that shows real responsibility.

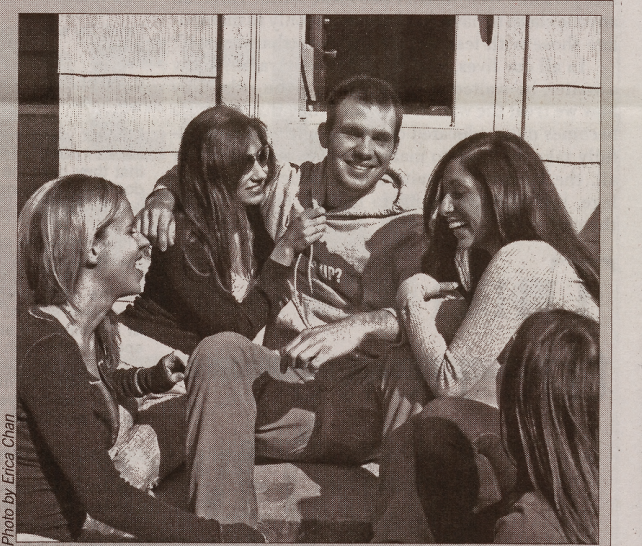
1:52 a.m. — "It sometimes gets tough with multiple groups," said Steward, "we'll get different calls and only be allowed to take so many people at a time. We have to tell those waiting students why we can't take them right away, while we pile in the others."

Continuing our adventure through the night we pick up a few more groups off campus before returning to the R2 lot. Ashley had described early that night, how sometimes students will try to get a ride without calling in beforehand, by asking where SafeRide is heading.

Seeing me, Sean Cybrowski, a junior finance major, asks where I am heading. I reply that I am there to actually record the nights of events, following Stew and Ashley around, with the intention of clearing some misconceptions of the SafeRide system.

"It's pretty straight forward," said Cybrowski. "It's free and not only saves you from potential disaster, but saves you from worry. No calling roommates at two in the morning to pick you up from the outskirts of town."

see SAFERIDE page A5



Relationship lecture housed in Bate

Today a lecture discussing the ethical issues surrounding multiple romantic relationships will be presented at 2 p.m. in Bate 1032.

Deirdre Golash, associate professor of Justice, Law and Society at American University will present the lecture that will be based around the concept of polyamory, which is consensual non-monogamy and the ethical implications that are associated with it.

Golash's educational background includes a Ph.D. in

philosophy from the University of Maryland and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

"I became interested in polyamory as an ethical issue as a result of conversations with polyamorous friends, from which I learned that many of my assumptions about these relationships were unfounded," said Golash, on how she became involved in lectures about polyamory.

Admission to the lecture is free for all students.

Debú offers unique atmosphere and flavors

Do 'New York,' Greenville Style

JESSICA DUNLOW
STAFF WRITER

On Arlington Boulevard, a tiny café is one of Greenville's best-kept secrets. Debú resides in the backside of the Stanton Square strip mall, which is one reason it is not well displayed for the out-of-towners to see. Wrought iron tables sit outside and the atmosphere changes from Greenville, N.C. to a very "Central Perk" (as in television's "F.R.I.E.N.D.S.") café.

The interior is painted a very calm light brown and adorning the walls are *Life* magazine posters that show the classic scenes of early twentieth century New York. For instance, the infamous Cotton Club from the Jazz era is one. To the immediate right, painted on the wall, is "Life is short, eat dessert first." A single television sits atop

exposed pipes and the lights are made of what looks like salvaged scrap metal. Jason Mraz's live album playing in the background and the little tables decorated with live flowers provide for a perfect afternoon dining experience or a romantic evening.

Atmosphere is not everything, but it matches the food perfectly. The menu consists of the traditional panini sandwiches, delectable wraps, salads and soups. Debú's famous grill caught my eye, because the name said it all.

A wrap of your choice grilled to perfection with fajita chicken, chipotle sauce, mushrooms and tomatoes served with a side of pretzels or potato chips. The sauce is what made it taste like no other deli wrap. The house soup was homemade chicken enchilada and it was spectacular. In addition, the portions were

see DEBÚ page A5

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SAFERIDE continued from A4

2:38 a.m. – The night continues and Ashley fills me in on the regulars that Stew and she have received that night. Sometimes simply knowing where someone needs to be picked up rings a bell and they know almost immediately, who the students are.

Ashley flips through her clipboard and announces today was a two page night, a little slow for their average SafeRide trips. Until the end of our run, we are hit with back-to-back calls, but end with a no show, allowing us to return to Fletcher Hall a little after 8 a.m.

We're all tired from the night and we return to the Campus Safety's office. I thank them for allowing me to travel

around with them for the evening, but they apologize in return, they're sorry for it being such a slow night.

I leave to head back to my dorm and I realize something. While I return home to sleep and attend classes the following morning, Stew and Ashley return home as well, to sleep, but with full knowledge, they'll be repeating the evening's events again the following night. Now that is responsibility.

This article had to be edited for length due to space limitations. A full account of the night's events can be found online at theeastcarolinian.com.

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

DEBÚ continued from A4



Photo by Erica Chan

The cozy cafe atmosphere that Debu creates echoes their food perfectly

more than enough to fill an empty stomach and to have leftovers for another meal.

For those who have a sweet tooth, Debu offers a wide variety of desserts, including a five layer carrot cake, key lime pie and numerous chocolate temptations.

Not only was the food served quickly, the service was friendly and I was not left with an empty glass of water the entire meal.

Moreover, Debu caters and offers full menus to their events that include their signature sandwiches and desserts. For all those of legal drinking age there is monthly wine tasting. Dates and times are available on their Web

site at debucafe.com.

Debu only has two drawbacks. First, the prices are a little high for a small restaurant, but the price is worth it for the taste. Second, the location, since the café is located three miles away from campus.

Overall, Debu is worthy of becoming every college student's favorite locale to sit and enjoy the simple pleasures of life. Excellent food, great atmosphere and a little more sophistication than the average café, Debu earns a grade of A plus.

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

Get BANNER Early

Banner is coming to campus and we need your help to ensure that the transition will be a smooth one. If you decide to help, you will experience Banner and learn the new way to register before anyone else! We are seeking volunteers to help test Banner registration in March any time between:

8:00 a.m. and 5:00 pm
March 5, 6, and 7th

If you are willing to volunteer please email Amanda Fleming at fleminga@ecu.edu by February 23. There will be free food.

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Sports

{ECU's Inside Source}

BY THE NUMBERS

Pirates prepare for conference mutiny

9 1/3

Innings pitched for softball pitcher Keli Harrell in the Baymont Inn & Suites Pirate Classic without giving up a hit; Harrell threw her third career no-hitter on Saturday as she led the Pirates to a 9-0 victory over St. Johns; The Pirates ace pitcher struck out 12 of the 19 batters she faced in her no-hit performance against the Red Storm; Harrell pitched the following day against Appalachian State and threw an additional 3 1/3 innings before finally surrendering her first hit of the weekend; Harrell allowed only one run and three hits in 11 innings pitched in the tournament; she now holds a 0.66 ERA and has only allowed 18 hits in 42 2/3 innings pitched this season

ECU demands respect going into C-USA tournament

GREG KATSKI
SPORTS EDITOR

In a season filled with peaks and valleys, the Pirates have reached the pinnacle of their season carrying a seven game win streak. The ECU women's basketball team goes into the Conference USA Tournament this weekend as the hottest team in the league.

After winning their last two games on the road with routs over Southern Miss (68-52) and UCF (76-57) to round out the regular season the Pirates have earned the No. 3 seed in the tournament. The seed is the highest ever for the ECU basketball program (men's and women's teams) since joining C-USA.

The No. 3 seed also guarantees that ECU will receive a first round bye in the tournament.

Looking back to the conclusion of the 2005-06 season, the maturity of a young Pirates squad is clearly evident. ECU finished out the 2005-06 regular season going 17-12 overall, but only 8-8 in conference play.

The Pirate's inexperience was on full display in the 2005-06 C-USA Tournament. After beating UAB, 47-46, in the opening round, ECU was blown out by Tulsa, 77-60. The Golden Hurricane, who eventually won the C-USA championship, sported a savvy veteran team that took full advantage of the Pirate's shortcomings.

This postseason ECU (16-13, 10-6 in C-USA) looks to be the deeper, more mature team in the tournament.

The undisputed leader of the club is sophomore point guard Jasmine Young. Young earned C-USA Co-Freshman-of-the-Year honors last season, the first ever ECU women's basketball player to receive the award.

In 29 games last year, Young averaged 5.3 assists per game (ranked 28th in the nation) and 13 points per game. This season, Young opened up the year in a "sophomore slump" before realizing her teammates could pick up the slack.

"Our team this year is more balanced so my teammates picked it up and then I just started letting the game come to me instead of being so pressed to score so much," said Young.

Young's 5.2 assists per game are almost identical to her production

2007 Conference USA Women's Basketball Championship Bracket

THURSDAY MARCH 1	FRIDAY MARCH 2	SATURDAY MARCH 3	SUNDAY MARCH 4
(8) Marshall	(1) Tulane		
(9) Houston		1 P.M.	
(5) UTEP	(4) Rice		SEMIFINAL 1 CSTV 2 P.M.
(12) Memphis		3:30 P.M.	
(7) Southern Miss	(2) UAB		CHAMPIONSHIP ESPN 2 4:30 P.M.
(10) Tulsa		6 P.M.	
(6) SMU	(3) East Carolina		SEMIFINAL 2 CSTV 4:30 P.M.
(11) UCF		8:30 P.M.	

last year dishing out the ball, but her average of 5.8 assists per game in C-USA is part of the reason for ECU's recent success.

For her outstanding conference play, Young was named to the C-USA All-Conference second team yesterday. Young realizes that she is now the leader of the team, but has confidence in her teammates and thinks the Pirates can take home the championship.

"They look to me to be a leader. I'm just going to do my best and do the same thing I've been doing all year, just trying to be a leader on the court," said Young. "If I can't score I know that Cherie [Mills] and Coyee [LaCoya Terry] or somebody else will pick it up so it's nothing. We're going in there to get a team win."

Pirates Head Coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener wants to raise this kind of confidence from her players and is leaving it up to them to take home the championship and receive an automatic bid in the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament.

"I'm not going to put pressure on them and say any kind of magic before we play. It's just something that they've got to want to do," said Baldwin-Tener.

The ECU women's basketball team has not made it to the NCAA Tournament since the 1981-82 season, when the Pirates went 17-10 and lost to USC, 54-79, in the NCAA Eastern Regionals. The Pirates have also never won a conference tournament since joining the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) before the 1985-86 season,

then moving to C-USA.

"We've got an opportunity to do something that's not been done here, and I think that they have a lot of confidence right now playing," said Baldwin-Tener. "We've just got to continue that and continue to play like we've been playing the last seven games."

ECU seems destined for a rematch with UAB in the conference tournament. UAB comes into the tournament as the No. 2 seed and if the Pirates and the Blazers both win their quarterfinal match-ups with lower seeds, the squads will meet for the third time this season in the semifinals. UAB won both regular season meetings with ECU in a home-and-home series, with each game coming down to the wire.

In an early season match-up in Birmingham, Ala. the teams traded blows in a defensive struggle, with UAB pulling out a 59-52 win. A few weeks later the teams met in Minges Coliseum for a game that saw the Pirates leading for the duration before the Blazers pulled away and won 73-69 in overtime.

"They [UAB] are definitely capable of taking us again, but you know I think at this point in time in the season we're ready and able to compete with anybody in the league," said Baldwin-Tener. "Hopefully we'll be able to do that."

Young echoed this sentiment of dealing with the newfound rivals. "Definitely, we're going to beat them this time though because the last two times we just slipped up. And now the season's basically



Point guard Jasmine Young eludes two defenders and puts up a trey.

over, so we know how to handle a lead better," said Young. "It's crunch time, so we have no choice. We can't lose any leads. We have to win now. It's definitely going to be revenge if we see UAB."

Baldwin-Tener sees the loss to the Blazers at home as the true turning point in the season.

"I would say maybe the double overtime loss to UAB. I think it really had an effect on our team. We picked it up after that and won some games," said Baldwin-Tener. Senior center Cherie Mills thinks that the turnaround came far earlier in the season. After some tough out of conference losses, including a defeat in the Caribbean Classic at the hands of 2006 NIT Final Four team Pittsburgh, the Pirates called a team meeting.

"We said when we came back from the Cancun trip right before Christmas that when we came back it was going to be a new season," said Mills. "We said it's conference time, and right now the record's

0-0. So we just made up our mind that we were going to start over and put the losing streak behind us and start winning."

Mills, who along with Young made the C-USA All-Conference second team, is the leading scorer on the squad. Mills is averaging 15.1 points per game and 16.3 in conference play. She is also fourth in the league in field goal percentage on the season (.486) and coming into this season was ranked first all-time in the category (.535).

Even so, Mills gives credit to her teammate's defense for the winning streak.

"Our defense has stepped it up lately; picking it up on 'D' and our transition offense beating a lot of people down the court and getting the ball out quick."

Mills added, "As a team, a lot of people have stepped up these last couple games."

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

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Assists for ECU point guard Darrell Jenkins this season; Jenkins broke Japhet McNeil's single-season assist record at ECU last Saturday against UTEP as he dished out nine assists in the Pirates first C-USA win of the season; Jenkins has made an immediate impact in his first season as a Pirate; the junior floor-leader transferred to ECU prior to this season after stints at UNLV, Santa Anna College and the College of Southern Idaho; Jenkins and the Pirates will look to build on last Saturday's win as they play at Tulane at 8:05 p.m. tonight

2

Years in a row that ECU women's basketball players Cherie Mills and Jasmine Young were both selected to the C-USA All-Conference second team; they also both ranked fourth in C-USA statistical categories, as Young finished fourth in the regular season in assists with 5.21 per game while Mills finished fourth in field goal percentage at .486; Mills, a senior, led the Pirates in points per game (15.1) and rebounds per game (7.1) this season; Young, only a sophomore, led ECU in minutes played, three-pointers made, steals and assists; Mills and Young will try to lead the Pirates to their first ever C-USA Tournament Championship this weekend in Tulsa, Okla.

12

Out of the 14 games that ECU softball shortstop Paige Baggett has got a hit in this season; Baggett had a fourteen-game hitting streak going into last weekends Baymont Inn & Suites Pirate Classic, but failed to get a hit in the first game of the tournament; Baggett ranks first on the team in batting average, doubles, home runs, RBIs and total bases; Baggett has also started every game for the Pirates this season

THEY SAID IT

"They look to me to be a leader. I'm just going to do my best and do the same thing I've been doing all year. If I can't score, I know that Cherie [Mills] and Coyee [LaCoya Terry] or somebody else will pick it up. We're going in there to get a team win."
- ECU women's basketball starting point guard Jasmine Young

"I think at this point in the season we're ready and able to compete with anybody in the league. Hopefully we'll be able to do that."
- ECU women's basketball Head Coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener

Harrell helps Pirates grab championship

ECU prepares for clash with UNC

ROBERT MATTHEW PARKS
STAFF WRITER

The ECU softball team won the Baymont Inn & Suites Pirate Classic, their first home tournament of the year, this past weekend.

The Pirates took three of the five games they played, with two victories over Appalachian State and one over St. John's. The win over the Red Storm came at the hands of ace pitcher Keli Harrell, who posted an impressive no-hitter.

The two losses came to Towson on Friday and St. John's, in the first of two meetings between the teams, on Saturday.

"For us this past weekend was all about trying to establish home-field advantage," said head coach Tracey Kee. "We are just trying to set ourselves up for conference play and take advantage of teams when they come into Greenville. We want to play on our field and try to use that as a force."

The Pirates started the tournament by splitting the two opening games on Friday with a 1-0 loss to Towson and squeezing out a 2-0 victory over Appalachian State. In the latter game the Mountaineers held ECU to only one hit, but made costly mistakes in the field. The Pirates capitalized on ASU's blunders, scoring two runs off of a passed ball and a wild pitch.

ECU's most amazing feat was pulled off when Vanessa Moreno reached base on a throwing error by ASU's Robin Bronson, then scored on three passed balls by the Mountaineers. Freshman pitcher Toni Paisley notched her first career complete game shutout in the victory over ASU.

"I struggled the first two weekends," Paisley said. "All last week coach had me in the bullpen and we worked really hard on refocusing when I'm on the mound and how to throw each pitch, pitch-to-pitch."

Paisley added, "My hard work came through."

While things were going well on



Freshman utility infielder Cristen Aona guns down a baserunner. ECU played well on defense in the home series.

the mound for the Pirates, the offense lagged behind.

"On Friday we only registered three hits in two games," said Kee of her offense. "Very seldom do you get one hit in a game and win. We just weren't firing on all cylinders."

The Pirates came back on Saturday to split two games with St. John's, losing the first game 4-3. "We spotted St. John's three runs quickly and spent the last half of the game trying to get back in it," said Kee.

"After that we had a little team meeting where we talked about some things and refocused and I think that showed the last two games out," said Kee. In semifinal play, Harrell came out with all guns blazing as she put a no-hitter on the Red Storm. The offense responded to Harrell's performance and came alive behind junior outfielder Beth Nolan and infielder Paige Baggett. Nolan smacked a bases-loaded triple, while Baggett provided some insurance with a home run in the sixth inning, as the Storm fizzled out on their way to a 9-0 loss.

"I don't think she enjoyed sitting in the bullpen on Friday," Kee said laughing about her ace's no-hit performance, the third of her career. In addition to dominance on the

mound this season, Harrell has been a source of irreplaceable leadership in the clubhouse.

"Keli has really stepped up as a senior. She has had a great career here but the growth in maturity I've seen from her junior year to now has been priceless," said Kee. "Any time you can throw a no-hitter at this level it says a lot about your pitcher. She is a dominating force on this level."

Behind Harrell's effort the Pirates rallied offensively as well. "We just came together as a team. We were seeing the ball a little bit better and we had confidence up at bat," said Baggett, referring to the offense in the second game against St. John's. "We knew we needed that win."

"We needed to gain our confidence back and that is what we did in that game," said junior utility player Erin St. Ledger.

The win put the Pirates in position to take on Appalachian State in the championship game, as the Mountaineers defeated Towson in their semifinal game.

The Pirates took it to the Mountaineers on Sunday, defeating them 8-1 on the back of yet another strong performance from Harrell. Harrell pitched five shut out innings before being replaced by

Paisley, who came on to close out the game and the tournament.

"To win the first home tournament sets a good tone," said Paisley. Coming out of the classic, the Pirates currently stand at 9-5 on the season.

The team now turns their attention to the University of North Carolina Tar Heels, who come into Greenville to play the Pirates at 3 p.m. today.

"We're definitely very, very excited," St. Ledger said of playing the Tar Heels. "It is always one of our biggest games of the year."

The Tar Heels, 8-8 on the year, have lost three of their last five games and are looking for revenge after the Pirates defeated them last year on a suicide squeeze.

"I'm sure they remember that," Kee said of last year's victory.

The Pirates will also be hosting another tournament this weekend in the Holiday Inn Express Pirate Clash. They are scheduled to play Vermont, Delaware, Binghamton and James Madison as part of the tournament. Play starts for the team this Friday, March 2 at noon when they open against Vermont.

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

Club rugby mauls the competition

Pirates prepare for postseason

JOSEPH MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

If you're like most Americans, myself included, you have only been exposed to rugby when you flip past some foreign sports channel and happen to catch a fleeting glimpse of the sport. Novelty soon gives way to confusion and you change the channel back to a nice American sport that you are already familiar with. It was not until I attended the ECU Rugby Club team's match last Saturday that I gained an understanding and appreciation for the sport that our football was based on.

On that day, the Pirates soundly defeated the UNC Wilmington Seahawks 60-0. The team competes in Division II but still plays against Division I opponents in the regular season. The other teams in their conference are Appalachian State, UNC Wilmington and N.C. State. They also compete against other regional teams such as James Madison University, University of North Carolina, Wake Forest and Virginia.

So far this season the team is 3-2; a match earlier this season against Appalachian State is under protest and will likely be replayed this Saturday.

Team captain Casey Clapp describes rugby as "a mix between soccer and football without pads and with the rules of hockey." Five points are rewarded to the team that advances the ball into the "try" zone and if the team converts on its football like extra-point kick attempt, they receive two points. Also like a field goal in football, a player can drop kick the ball

see RUGBY page A8

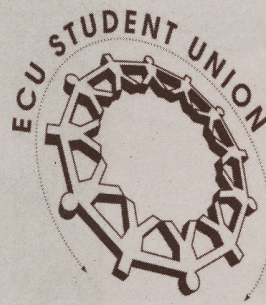
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All candidates must attend a compulsory meeting on March 7 at 6:30pm.
Elections will take place March 27th and 28th on OneStop.

RUGBY continued from A6



The Pirates have turfed teams all season, and are optimistic about a positive postseason against tough foes.

through the goalposts for three points during the course of play.

The football expression "touchdown" is a direct derivative of rugby. In rugby, a player does not only need to cross the goal line but also apply downward force onto the ball and ground, literally touch the ball down. The extra point attempt is taken on the same line that the "touchdown" occurred; therefore, it is to the team's advantage to try to convert between the goal posts or close to them.

Like soccer, rugby has a continuously running clock of 45-minute halves. When the ball goes out of bounds there is a throw in like soccer, but with an extra twist. In an attempt to catch the throw in, each team lifts a player into the air from behind to catch the ball in mid-flight.

In rugby, the ball is advanced either by running or kicking the ball. The way the ball is advanced in rugby, with a series of backward laterals, is like watching black and white footage of an old wishbone football team or more recently the Nebraska triple

option that still dominated college football a decade ago. Except that in rugby all 15 players take part in the constant pitching and running, not just the skill position players, like in football.

Team coach Jorge Conte said that the most enjoyable part of the club rugby team is the camaraderie both between teammates and opposing teams and players.

"It's the competition and the camaraderie," said Conte. "The camaraderie extends beyond just the field; after the game all the players from both teams get together and have a good time in a social setting. We get to know each other and it really becomes a type of community where friends are playing with and against friends."

As of now, the Pirates are one of the top teams in the south region of Division II Rugby and are set to face Georgia Tech in the regional quarterfinals on March 24. If they win three consecutive matches in regional competition, they will be regional champions and advance to the national semifinals of Division II rugby.

This weekend the team will face Appalachian State again to replay the match under protest, which will be their last match before the regional playoffs.

The Pirates club rugby team has its sights set on advancing deep into postseason play. "We only lost to UNC, who is a Division I team, by three in the last minute," Clapp said.

Anyone intrigued by rugby and interested in finding more information should go to the ECU Club Sports Web site and the USA Rugby South Web site at usarugbysouth.com. The team has open tryouts and tries to accommodate all who have an interest. A word of warning, the meek need not apply. Rugby is not just a contact sport like soccer, but also a collision sport like football and hockey except without the pads. If the thought of colliding with another person at full speed gets your adrenaline flowing, then you should try rugby.

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

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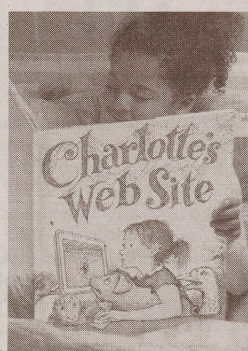
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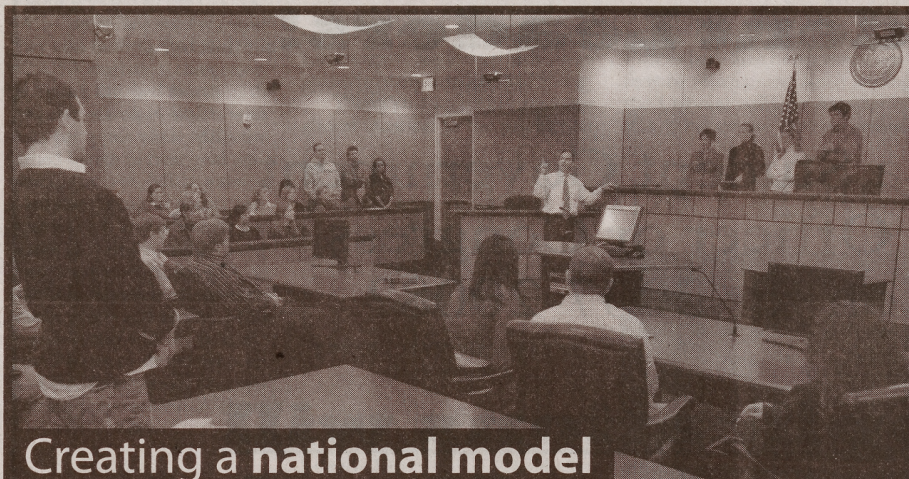


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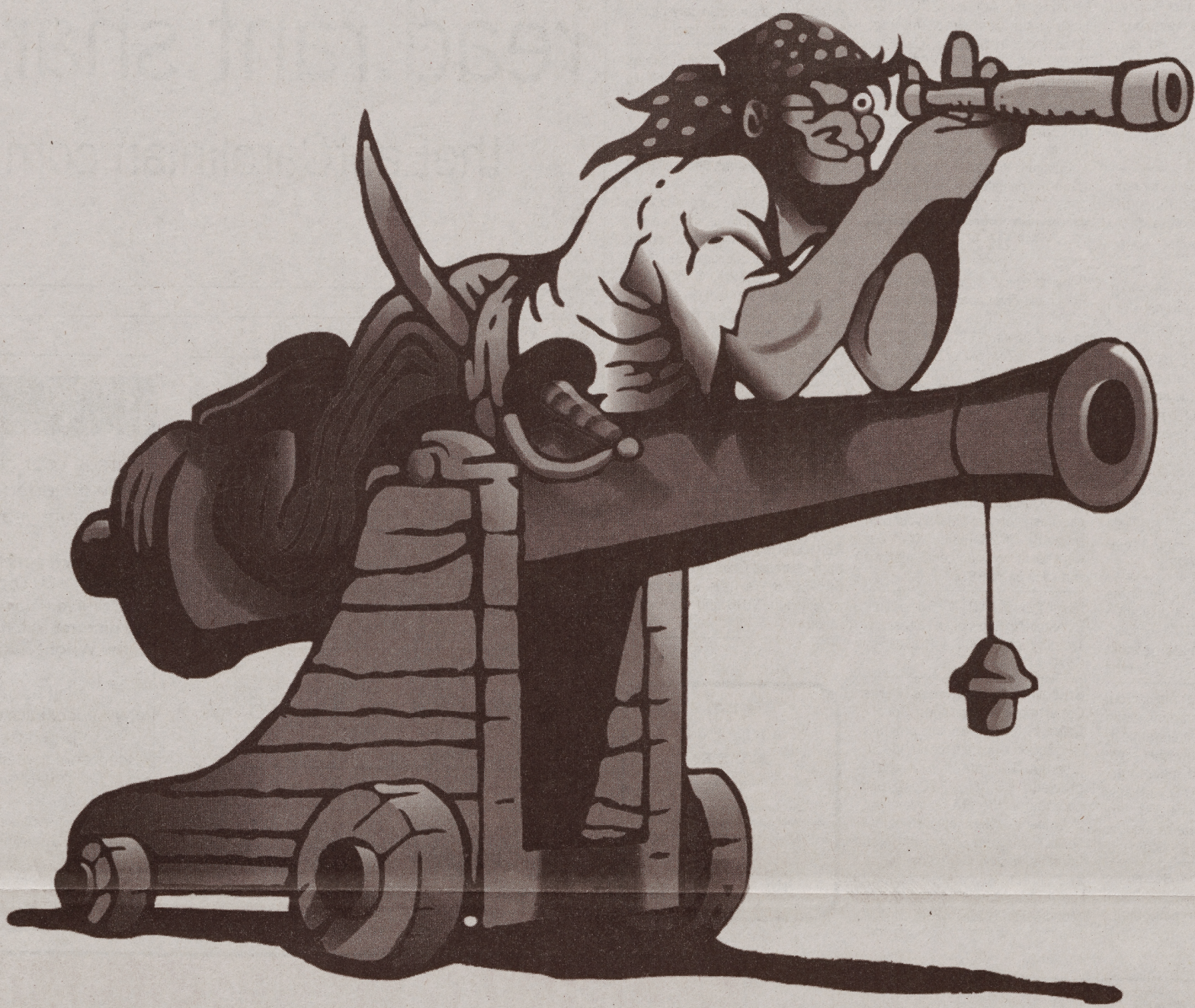
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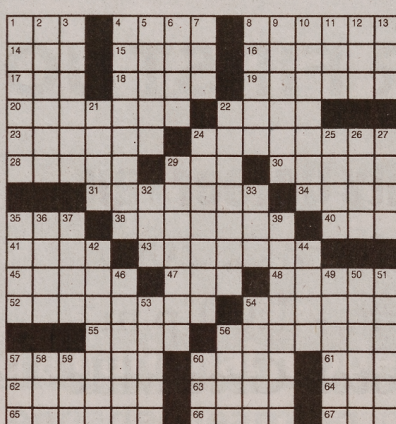
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15 Kuwait ruler
16 Wanderer
17 Fuss
18 Fireside yarn
19 Excursion
20 Aluminum wrapping
22 Helen or Bonnie
23 Not hip at all
24 Walking like a duck
28 Capital of South Korea
29 Damage to a degree
30 Family car
31 Paraphrases
34 Signoret film, "Madame"
35 Have a meal
38 Portal
40 Statute
41 Political group
43 Baltimore birds
45 Greek letters
47 Travel stopover
48 Tabernacle table
52 In an agitated state
54 Furrow
55 Lift one's voice
56 Floating bridge support
57 Tranquil
60 Series or skirt lead-in
61 Tango number
62 Gaffer Gary
63 Unwrap
64 Waikiki garland
65 Bandleader Herb
66 Actress Gertrude
67 Blunder
- DOWN**
1 State of affairs
2 First-aid topical
3 Denver pro
4 Changed gear?
5 Online messages
6 Pickle flavoring
7 Mine's yield



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Solutions

8 Haughty
9 Nags
10 Diamondback or sidewinder
11 Pierre's pal
12 D.C. bigwig
13 Work unit
21 Two squared
22 Attained with difficulty
24 In a state of armed conflict
25 Graven image
26 Shuttle grp.
27 Chew on
29 Anchoring alternative
32 Court
33 Actor Mineo
35 Recedes, as the tide
36 Away from the wind
37 Carry
39 Longing
42 Atwood novel
44 One-armed bandit
46 Black eye
49 Play a flute
50 Confessor
51 Impressionist painter
53 Motionless
54 Hopeless case
56 Meerschaum or corn cob
57 Mineral spring
58 Building extension
59 Quick blow
60 Unruly crowd

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