The EastCarolinian

YOUR INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 82, ISSUE 61

{ www.theeastcarolinian.com }

TUESDAY MARCH 6, 2007

Don't miss the one-of-a-kind performance by the Moscow Festival Ballet tonight in Wright Auditorium. To learn more about the performance, turn to.....**Page A4**

SGA along with other campus organizations have been working hard to plan Diversity Week, find out more about the week.....**Page A4**

The Pirates are streaking into the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship. Turn to the sports section to find out how the ECU women's basketball team got the job done in thrilling fashion.....**Page A6**

The ECU baseball team got clutch performances in the ECU Invitational two weekends ago. See if the Pirates could carry over this momentum in the Keith-LeClair Classic going against hated rival N.C. State and nationally ranked Pepperdine.....**Page A6**

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Chat with the Chancellor held in Hendrix Theater

Students express concerns

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
SENIOR WRITER

The second annual Chat with the Chancellor event was held in Hendrix Theater on March 1 at 5 p.m.

Omicron Delta Kappa, SGA and the Student Union collaborated to sponsor the event.

Timothy Darden, SGA congress representative, opened the event followed by Nick Genty, attorney general of SGA, who introduced the speakers and served as the moderator.

On the panel were Chancellor Steve Ballard, Vice Chancellor of Student Life Marilyn Sheerer and Provost an Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs James Smith, who answered questions prepared both prior to the event and from the audience.

The topics of the discussion included funding for the dental school, diversity, the plus/minus grading scale, parking and tuition increases.

Other issues discussed involve the development of the next major school or college at the university, lighting in the mall, possibility of a smoke-free campus and prominent speakers coming to the university.

Contributed photo

James Smith, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, Chancellor Ballard and Vice Chancellor of Student Life Marilyn Sheerer chat with students.

Dental school

The first issue addressed at the event was what kind of progress the university was making in establishing a dental school.

Efforts are being taken to bring a dental school to the university, but it is an expensive project to complete, according to Ballard.

The dental school will cost $87 million in construction and then additional money will be spent to operate it, said Ballard.

Diversity

Ballard, Sheerer and Smith addressed the progress the university has made in the area of diversity.

"When I came to the university, it was clear to me that the school wasn't doing all it could in the area of diversity," Ballard said.

Ballard suggested that the school isn't where it needs to be on this issue, but he did mention some steps that are being taken to improve this situation.

Next year the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center is moving to the space between Joyner East and the Mendenhall Student Center.

"The new center is on schedule for being relocated in the Spring of 2008," Sheerer said.

Plus/Minus grading scale

The plus/minus grading scale was another major issue discussed by the panel of speakers and representatives from the audience.

Mark Taggart and Wendy Sharer, members of the faculty-senate committee who are working on this proposal, addressed questions from the audience about the scale.

Taggart said that he plans to meet with the executive officers of SGA to discuss how communication can be improved between faculty and students.

The reasons given by Sharer for the scale's proposal includes providing a better reflection of grades and rewards for those who continue to succeed academically.

Parking

Ballard discussed parking in relation to the growth of faculty and students at the university.

"We're increasing the faculty over a seven-year period by 50 percent," he said.

According to Ballard, only a small amount of space is available to build parking lots, and the school can't move north or east of Fifth Street.

The idea of building parking decks near campus to supplement the problem of parking also was discussed.

In order for parking decks to be built near campus, people would have to use them all the time, or if not, charge students a lot of money to park there, according to Ballard.

Ballard added that the bus system is a good alternative to building parking decks or creating more parking lots.

see **CHANCELLOR** page A2

Nationally recognized artist speaks at ECU

Bill Fick educates students

ADELINE TRENTO
STAFF WRITER

Last Wednesday, the ECU Printmaking Guild and the School of Art and Design hosted a presentation by nationally recognized artist Bill Fick.

Fick, who is currently an Artist-in-Residence at UNC Greensboro, has exhibited internationally and in most major cities across the U.S. His artwork can be found in several museums throughout the country, including the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University and the New York Public Library.

"Bill Fick is a name that people know," said Charles Stephens, president of the ECU Printmaking Guild. "You talk to people in the art world and they know his work, especially in printmaking. This caliber of an artist is something that we haven't had at ECU for a really long time, if ever."

The presentation, which was held in the Speight Auditorium, gave students a chance to see Fick's work and learn how he became a successful artist.

Fick talked to students about his influences and experiences, as well as the importance of self-promotion.

He discussed the business side of art and informed students about new ways to market themselves and their artwork.

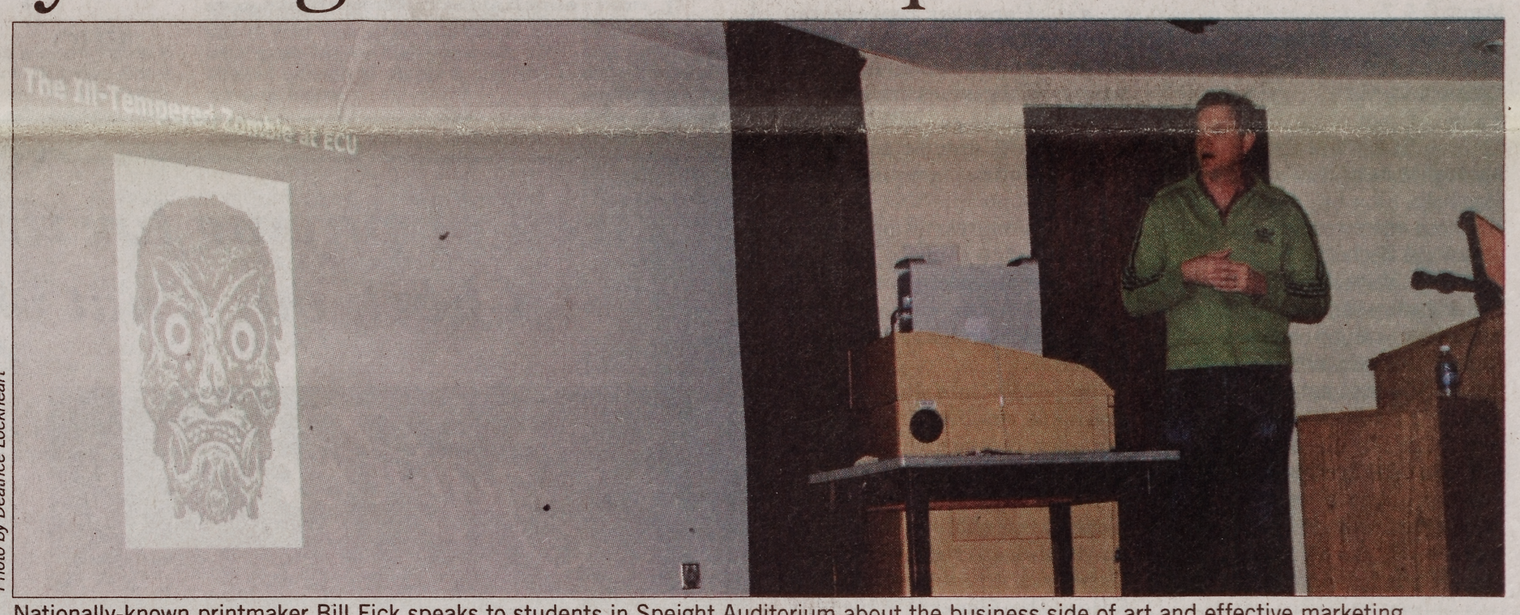

Photo by Deatrice Lockheart

Nationally-known printmaker Bill Fick speaks to students in Speight Auditorium about the business side of art and effective marketing.

"Having him here is a great opportunity," Stephens said. "He is known as a master self-promoter and it will help us all to learn from someone who is actually making a living off of art. He got his name out there by promoting himself and I think that will help any artist in any media."

While he was at ECU, Fick also met with seniors and graduate students to discuss portfolio development and the benefits of networking.

"I thought it was definitely helpful to have him speak to us," said Owen Beckmann, graduate student in printmaking. "He gave us a lot of creative ways to promote our work and get it seen by a larger, different audience."

This month, the Printmaking Guild will also take on the huge task of publishing an original, large-scale Fick print.

The students will use the print shop in the Jenkins Fine Art Center to publish 35 editions of Fick's "Ill tempered Zombie" linocut.

Printmaking professor Matt Egan said that this is a very big opportunity for ECU as well as the students participating in the project.

Egan said that by serving as printers for an accomplished artist, students would get to learn different techniques and methods, which will help them in the future.

"The more things students are exposed to the better," said Egan. "There aren't two print shops in the country, or even the continent that are set up the same. It gives students a chance to see how different people do things and it helps them to learn from someone so experienced."

Fick will return to ECU in April to sign the editions produced by the Printmaking Guild and give a demonstration to undergraduate students and printmaking majors.

"It's pretty exciting to be a part of something like this," Beckmann said. "Fick does low-brow artwork that really goes against the grain and he became successful in the art world with it. This is a great opportunity for all of us to learn something."

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

Paint job welcomes everyone to Pirate Nation

Photo by Zach Sirkin

Saffo Contractors' crew works on painting Pirate logos and the words "East Carolina University" on the trestle over Charles Boulevard.

Trestle near stadium now shows school spirit

ALYCIA WENDT
STAFF WRITER

The ECU phrase "Paint it Purple" has come true. The trestle near the football stadium on Charles Boulevard was recently painted with "East Carolina University" across it in the school's spirited color of purple, flanked by pirates.

This project was a joint effort of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the city of Greenville and ECU. The project took two phases to complete.

The first phase was a base coat, which the City, NCDOT and ECU funded together. The school's share of this joint payment was $33,082. The graphics were paid for entirely by ECU for a cost of $35,500.

"It is another example of the university and city working together to create a positive image for this community," said Associate Athletics Director Lee Workman.

The design process of the painting did take some thought. University Printing and Graphics Director, Ann Weingartz, and Director of Marketing for Business Services, Leslie Craigle, were both asked to review several different designs for the bridge.

Their task was to come up with a simpler design that would work around the metal girders on the bridge. These girders stick up about every four feet. If the painting of the letters were done on a girder, the image would have been distorted.

The graphics painted on the bridge are part of ECU's Centennial celebration and they help to promote ECU.

"The timing to have the overpass work completed for the start of the university's centennial celebration is a credit to all those involved with this project," Workman said.

The bridge is owned by the railroad but with the assistance from NCDOT, permission was granted for it to be painted on. The Saffo Contractors from Fayetteville, N.C. did the painting job.

Before the bridge was worked on, it consisted of graffiti, chipped paint and rust.

"Driving under the bridge and seeing the new painting was a big surprise, but it is definitely a great way to welcome people to Greenville and ECU," said freshman Kayla Cangelosi.

Charles Boulevard, the road that the bridge hangs over, is located right by a main entrance to the ECU football stadium.

"This project was part of a group effort to enhance Charles Boulevard, one of the major entrances into Greenville and ECU," said Associate Vice Chancellor for Business Services Buck Scott.

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

News

{ Campus & Community }

CORRECTIONS

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.

TODAY'S EVENTS

6 Tue

Advising begins for Summer session and Fall 2007

Moscow Festival Ballet: Don Quixote
For more information visit ecu.edu/SRAPAS/
Wright Auditorium

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

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

ECU TAG lecture: That's what I like about the South
Dennis Preston, University Distinguished Professor of English at Michigan State University, will present: "The Cognitive Foundations of Linguistic Attitudes and Beliefs: That's what I like about the South." This presentation provides an overview of work in folk linguistics and the social psychology of language.
Bate 1031
6 p.m.

Wheelchair Rugby
Student Recreation Center Sports Forum
8 – 9 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blood Drive
March 6 & 7
Sponsored by the American Red Cross
Christenbury Gym
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Application deadline
March 15
For those interested in pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Rehabilitation Services, applications can be obtained online at ecu.edu/rehb/ or from the Department of Rehabilitation Studies, 4425 Health Sciences Building. If you have questions regarding the degree, please contact Dr. Martha Chapin at 744-6291.

CHANCELLOR

continued from A1

Tuition increases

The last topic extensively discussed by the panel was tuition increases.

Recently, schools were given the option of having a campus-based tuition, which allows students to vote whether or not they wanted tuition to increase, according to Ballard.

With the approval of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors, the SGA congress has voted to increase tuition six out of the last seven years.

"We put 25 percent of tuition into faculty salaries. If we didn't pay faculty they would go somewhere else and we would get a B level faculty instead of an A level faculty," Ballard said.

"If we didn't vote for campus based tuition and others did, our quality would go down," Smith said.

Other topics discussed

As far as developing a new college or school at the university, Ballard said that faculty and student input is needed to make that decision.

Sheerer addressed the question of what steps the university is taking to increase lighting in the mall.

"We have a student safety committee now and we're looking at everything from surveillance cameras to safe parking and lighting," Sheerer said.

Ballard also mentioned that there are smoke-free areas on campus and that the university may move towards the direction of a smoke-free campus.

Another question asked by the audience was how the university is going to bring more speakers that are prominent to campus.

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

SGA notes

Congress members reintroduce past topics

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
SENIOR WRITER

- New sophomore class president elected, Bradley Congleton-former sophomore class officer resigned and submitted a statement about her reason for resignation, that will be released to the public at a later date.
- Young Graduate Pirate Club Membership introduced by Seth Horton, Student Pirate Club President, allows recent graduates to apply to the club and receive discounted season tickets to football and basketball games, subscription to Pirates' Chest, and invitations to Pirate Club meetings, socials, golf tournaments and tailgate parties.
- Student Pirate Club Senior Send Off Party introduced by Horton, party for all graduating Pirate Club members at the Harvey Hall Banquet Room in the Murphy Center on March 27 from 6 - 9 p.m.
- Wendy Creasey, Information Technology Manager, introduced that Windows Live Update will be the e-mail system for graduates of ECU, information will be forwarded from your ecu.edu account to alumni.ecu.edu and will go through a pilot stage for Spring 2007 graduates.
- Jon Massachi, speaker of the congress, informed the congress on the state of the proposal for a grade appeals process, a few minor changes must be made.
- Congress voted in favor of the resolution to reject the plus/minus grading scale-final decision will rest with Steve Ballard, chancellor.
- Executive branch met with the Mark Taggart and Wendy Sharer of the faculty senate committee to discuss increasing communication between students and faculty.
- Congress representatives for the faculty senate committee are now required to submit reports of the issues discussed in the meetings-issue arouse after congress felt uninformed about the plus/minus grading scale change.
- Congress members were encouraged to come to the next faculty senate meeting on March 20 at 2:10 p.m. in the Great Rooms of Mendenhall Student Center.
- M. Cole Jones, SGA president, announced the elections for the faculty senate on March 24.
- Jones announces the General Assembly meeting held on March 8 in Wright Auditorium.
- A presentation will follow the General Assembly meeting on March 8 in front of the fountain area.
- The Board of Governors will visit ECU on March 15 in Mendenhall and March 16 in 1120 of the Health Sciences Building.
- Board of Trustees will have a meeting on April 19 and 20.

To find out more about these events, resolutions and meetings, contact SGA at 328-4742 or visit the SGA Web site at ecu.edu/sga.

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

ECU dean accepts provost position at Morehead State University

Interim dean announced

ELIZABETH LAUTEN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Karla Hughes, dean of ECU's College of Human Ecology, has accepted an offer to become provost and vice president of academic affairs of Morehead State University in Kentucky effective July 16.

MSU President Wayne D. Andrews announced Feb. 27 that he is asking the Board of Regents to approve Hughes' appointment at their March 8 meeting. Hughes is "the right person at the right time" for the position, said Dr. Andrews in a news release on MSU's Web site. "Dr. Hughes has established a strong reputation as an academic leader of vision, energy and integrity." Andrews continued, "I am confident she can help our faculty take us to even greater heights as a top tier public regional university."

When Hughes arrived at ECU in 2000, there was no College of Human Ecology. The college was created July 1, 2003, when the School of Human Environmental Sciences and the Carolyn Freeze Baynes School of Social Work and Criminal Justice Studies merged. At the time of the merge, Hughes had been named interim dean of the of Social Work and Criminal Justice Studies and remained Dean of the School of Human Environmental Sciences during the creation of the College of Human Ecology

Hughes was dean of the college when it created the world's first Ph.D. program in Medical Family Therapy in 2005. She also helped create the city's Intergenerational Center, a project that hopes to help revitalize west Greenville. In addition, Hughes has helped secure over one million dollars for a range of programs at ECU from 2001-2006. She has had more than 30 other grants funded throughout her career, including the USDA Grant that supports Leadership through Service Program from students at ECU, NC A&T, the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore and Pitt Community College.

"I am going to MSU because it is a professional opportunity for me that fits with my education and experience. Like ECU, MSU is an outstanding institution that understands its importance to the region and the state while being committed to a quality educational experience for students," said Hughes.

"As we sometimes say, East Carolina's loss is Morehead State's gain," said James LeRoy Smith, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "It should come as no surprise that a well-respected university like Morehead State would find a proven and innovative leader like Karla Hughes to be a very attractive candidate for provost." Hughes will finish out the semester here at ECU, before making her transition to MSU. The university does not know who will be her successor at this point, but it will "conduct a national search to find a replacement in the future. However, no timeline has been set at this point," said John Durham, ECU Chief Public Affairs Officer. Current associate dean for research and graduate studies of the College of Human Ecology, and professor for the past 25 years, Dr. Margie Gallagher will serve as the interim dean until a replacement has been found for Hughes, as of July 15. Gallagher previously held the position of dean, while Hughes was an ACE Fellow in 2005 and 2006.

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

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Opinion

{ An outlet for expression }

RANT OF THE DAY

I wish the ALE would leave Greenville alone so we can enjoy being young and out of control.

Hating hate crimes

American Family Association commits crimes against logic

BRIDGET TODD
OPINION WRITER

On Feb. 13, 72-year-old Andrew Anthos was riding a bus back to his apartment in Detroit, Michigan. A male passenger asked him if he was gay and when Anthos exited the bus, the passenger followed him. The male passenger began to strike Anthos with a metal pipe leaving him bleeding on the sidewalk. Anthos died 10 days later.

Michigan state police have no leads in this case. The man who murdered a senior citizen is still out there, free. Under current hate crime statutes, federal law enforcement has no jurisdiction to help in this case, even if state officials request their assistance. Right now, the federal government can only assist in the investigation if the crime is motivated by race, religion or national origin.

No matter how you feel about homosexuality, I think we can all agree that being gay is risky. Remember Brandon Teena? The person who was born female and lived as a male until two men discovered his gender and raped and murdered him? Remember Matthew Shepard? The one who was tied to a fence, pistol-whipped and left to die in the freezing night? People kill homosexuals for the mere fact that they're gay. The Human Rights Campaign Web site writes that "According to 2004 FBI statistics, hate crimes based on sexual orientation constituted the third highest category reported and made up 15.5 percent of all reported hate crimes." Only race and religion based crimes are more prevalent than crimes motivated by sexual orientation. So it seems logical that crimes motivated by sexual orientation would get federal backing, especially when state officials have no leads. That's why people are working for the approval of the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crime Prevention Act (HR 254), which would allow federal assistance in such crimes.

Apparently, logic isn't something the American Family Association has a firm hold of. In an e-mail the organization sent to their membership, they claimed that if a comprehensive hate crime bill was formed: "polygamy would be legalized," "employees would be forced to hire homosexuals," "gay adoption would be legalized in every state" and that "preachers would be arrested for preaching that homosexuality is a sin." I'm really not sure how they think that passing a legislation that allows the federal government to help in crimes motivated by sexual orientation would lead the aforementioned things, unless the federal agents who work on the cases are so moved that they decide to be gay and adopt a baby.

If those claims make you angry, I recommend taking action. Contact your representatives and urge them to become an original cosponsor of the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crime Prevention Act. In Greenville, representatives are G.K. Butterfield (D-N.C. 1st) and Walter Jones Jr. (R- N.C. 3rd). Maybe by taking action we can bring our laws into the 21st century and help bring the man who murdered Andrew Anthos to justice.

Your vote does matter

Make a difference in the next election

JASON PATTY
OPINION WRITER

The United States' Presidential election has vast implications in your day-to-day life. As college students, we are the decision making future in this country. In just a short time, we will all be part of the "real world," facing house payments, our children's educations, security for ourselves and our families from threats both domestic and foreign, gas to get ourselves to and from our jobs, and the challenges of those very jobs. It is imperative that we begin now to shape this country into what we want it to be.

Many college students feel distanced from the entire political process, believing that whatever happens, their lives will not be affected. The President of the United States makes a difference in our lives every day, be it for better or worse. With Supreme Court nominations, other appointments and policy and agenda decisions, the next decade or so of our lives will be heavily influenced by next year's election.

Many students feel that their vote does not matter; yet elections are decided every year by the smallest of percentages. Your vote does matter. When students see others involved, they begin to get involved themselves, if for no other reason than to "go cancel that guy's vote."

Obviously, the most important part of voting is being informed. As the time draws closer for the primary elections and next year before the final elections, there will be hundreds of different opinions (including mine) on who to vote for and why. Ultimately, however, you will have to decide what you think is best for this country. What do you value? How do you feel about foreign and domestic policy? How do you think social welfare programs should be handled? What role do you think that the government should have in the economy? How do you really feel about taxes and where that money is spent? Find a candidate that you believe will do a good job running this country and support him. Tell other people who you are supporting and why. Have valid reasons for your support. A democracy cannot survive with apathetic citizens. We have the distinct privilege of being an integral part of our society's government. This is something that most of mankind has not had. Remember that if you do not do your part and vote, other people will make the decision without you and you will have no right to complain about the outcome.

I am sure that I will do my best to convince you of what I believe as election time grows closer. Whether I am successful or not, hopefully you will think about what you want to see in our country and make an educated decision about which candidate can make that happen. Now go vote.

MCT

PIRATE RANTS

The *East Carolinian* does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants. Questions regarding Rants can be directed to Rachel King, Opinion Page Editor, at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com. Log onto theeastcarolinian.com to submit a Rant of your own.

I find it so sad when people are actively seeking a boyfriend/girlfriend. How must that make your partner feel to know that they're there to fill a quota?

I caught my boyfriend... well, ex-boyfriend cheating and he fussed me out...

Is it a sailor? Is it a football player? Is it a 300 pound man? No, it's just my female roommate burping!

I miss you!

You keep saying that you're tired of the games. I really think you mean you're tired of playing games with me. I try to call you and spend time with you. I'm tired of dealing with you all together.

Dear night bus driver—I don't understand why you couldn't just let me get on the bus. You were going to the school anyway, and it's not like you didn't have the room. It's because I'm black, isn't it?

For some reason I believe I am a procrastinator.

I hate it when I see a chunky girls in straight leg jeans or in leggings. Some things are just meant for the skinny girls. And as a soon-to-be ex-chunky girl I can say that.

Today at the mall, I saw a 7-year-old girl carrying a Victoria's Secret bag. I don't know why she would find the need to shop there.

Ew. You look like a clown. Learn how to wear make-up please.

My boyfriend can be a really condescending jerk. Why do I stay with him?

I thought I knew my best friend but then she went and broke me and my boyfriend up.

I love my southern accent.

I just met one of my friend's teachers downtown. I love ECU!

Is it narcissistic to think that all your away messages are about me?

If my neighbor slams her door one more time I'm going to throw my freaking bunny slipper at her.

If homosexuality is a disease, lets all call in queer to work. Hello. Can't work today, still queer.

I wish I could have told you I wanted to marry you before you dumped me for someone else so then maybe you would understand why this is so hard for me.

I use hand sanitizer very often because I love the way it smells.

For the guy whose girlfriend faked it for two years, it sucks to be you... But don't worry; my roommate just admitted today to doing the same thing!

Why is it so hard to find a nice house in Greenville?

300 is going to be awesome. To anyone who thinks otherwise: I will fight you.

I don't cry anymore. I drink. That is the definition of a man.

I'm terrified that I'm never going to see you again once you graduate... please stay in Greenville.

I want a nap!

If I were President, I would bring back "Rocko's Modern Life." That show was awesome.

Thank you to the guy in my Criminal Justice class who proved to me that not all guys are the same. Thank you for actually considering my feelings.

People complain too much.

Text messaging sucks. You can't ignore it and if you don't respond, people get pissed.

My boyfriend farted in my ear. Is that enough to break up with him?

Is anyone else excited that we now have a Tripp's in Greenville?

ECU personals group on Facebook... Why didn't we think of this before?

They need to hurry up on that new mall.

Sometimes, I wish I could just pop you in your face when you tell us all what to do. Maybe then you would be straight enough to attract a guy and leave us alone!

I drunk dial a lot, and my friends love it!

I don't do anything for myself. Everything I do is to please my parents.

I'm totally Switzerland.

Well it sure didn't break my heart any when you said you didn't want to date me!

Jack Bauer is Chuck Norris with a different name.

I don't know if this means I'm cheating on him or not.

I think I met the love of my life in art class.

Honey, thanks for climbing in through my window, we were locked out.

ECU dining rocks... the food at other schools is so nasty compared to ours.

I would like new friends... mine pretty much suck.

I love my gorgeous boyfriend.

I hope I pass Chemistry...

So, I definitely sit around the apartment wearing my purple gown. It's a pretty pimp robe.

To the person who wished karma would drop a ton of cinderblocks rather than bricks on someone—is there really a difference after a ton falls on you?

The boy at West End is gorgeous. Please eat there more often and around 5:30 p.m. Thanks.

I am a nice, attractive, single guy with only one problem. Girls scare the hell out of me.

Why do you only act like you want me when I have another guy in my life? Stop taking advantage of my feelings!

The real world scares me... a lot.

I think that I have Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, but my laziness cancels it out.

Who is ready for the girls around campus to pull out their short skirts and shorts... I am!

I consider myself an attractive guy... so why don't girls talk to me?

Please stop coming to me with all your drama... I really don't care!

Paris Hilton is 27 and still calling people "Fire Crotch." Does anyone else think this is pathetic?

Do you seriously know how bad the tanning bed is for you? You look orange now, but in a few years you'll look like a leathery old hag.

Hey ECU. Do not change the grading policy.

I'm tired of the Middle East; they need to get a clue and just chill. They have been fighting since the beginning of time, let's get a clue.

First I saw you at basketball games, and now I pass by you every few days. You're so pretty that I wish I had anything in common with you so I could strike up a conversation and maybe get to know you. *Sigh.*

My friends are mean—they ignore me all of the time and exclude me from pretty much everything. I still continue to hang out with them though and I am starting to realize how stupid I am. There are a lot of people on campus. I could find better friends.

To the guy who paid for my lunch on Tuesday in 360... thank you! You saved my day.

Is it bad that I lied about being pregnant just to get abortion money?

If you say I love you, you better mean it because that is a sure-fire way to break my heart.

I know we haven't been dating that long, but I think I'm in love with you and I have no idea how to tell you.

Why can't all ex-girlfriends move to Zimbabwe?

I hate it when I use a public bathroom and the water splashes back up my rear... Eeeewww!

I want there to be fat-free brownies, fat-free pizza, fat-free pasta, fat-free...

If the green pants you are talking about liking happen to be covered in the Polo logo, then thank you. I like to keep things exciting.

Why do my plants keep dying?

I wish this one girl would realize she needs to break up with her dude for me... she would be so much happier!

Is anyone else about to go to prison?

I love short skirts.

Pirate Rants and peanut M&M's are taking over my life.

I can't believe some girl said "girls with booties like mine don't talk to boys with faces like yours." That was just cold.

We should have Spring Break when it's actually warm enough to be considered Spring.

JUST ASK JANE

Need advice? Want answers? Just ask Jane.

Dear Jane,

I am in a relationship with a wonderful man. I came to ECU in search of my self, a career and a companionship that, until him, I had given up hopes for. Everything is amazing; we practically live together and we understand each other without words. He and I met at a stage in college when we liked to party and have a good time, which was perfect at the time because we could go out together. Now, I am past that point. I like to drink a little on Friday or Saturday nights, but the party scene is old. For him, he likes to drink whenever his friends are and he enjoys smoking weed on a constant basis. I have expressed my feelings to him and he simply said, "I do not plan on smoking after college, so let it be." I guess what I am writing to you for is maybe some advice on being able to do that. I just wish he would see that the dependency is there and that it scares me.

Thanks for your time,
A Concerned Girlfriend

Dear Concerned,

Everything is not amazing if you have issues with his smoking dope. So you may want to reconsider whether or not everything is great. It sounds like it will be hard for you to ignore it. I'm not going to preach about the weed part. I've known people that could (and have) put it down and never looked back, and I know people that can't function without it in the morning. How do you feel about that, either way?

If you're going to learn to live with it, the only thing to do is look the other way and hope for the best. However, I would strongly advise you to reevaluate this entire relationship. I'd bet that a great number of people don't just stop cold just because college is over, and if you want to build a future with someone partaking in an illegal activity, you risk him being fired due to unexpected drug screenings, etc. Think about it.

Sincerely,
Jane

Time to show the Pirates some love

ECU women's basketball team deserves recognition

GREG KATSKI
SPORTS EDITOR

While the ECU men's basketball team has been slaving through another year of disappointment and ineffectiveness, the Lady Pirates are enjoying their most successful season in 25 years.

After beating Rice in an impressive showing in the Conference USA Women's Basketball Championship, ECU will be "dancing" for the first time since 1982. The Lady Pirates also carry a 10 game winning streak into the "big dance," an ECU program record mark.

This might seem like a big deal for a basketball program that hasn't sent a men's or women's team to the NCAA tournament since the early 1990s, but excitement around campus has not been very evident up to this point.

While in-state rivals like Duke, UNC and N.C. State consistently play in front of sell-out crowds at home, our Lady Pirates have gotten used to playing in front of passive crowds barely clipping the millennium mark.

It seems that while women's basketball is worthy of attention in such regional leagues as the ACC, SEC and Big East, C-USA teams can't pull fans even if the players hand out tickets.

Now as far as the league goes, ECU actually has a stronger following at home games than most teams. When the Lady Pirates traveled to Birmingham, Ala. to play conference rival UAB, the teams played in front of an astounding 348 people, according to the attendance check.

The two teams met for the third time this season in the C-USA Women's Basketball Tournament, going head-to-head before 840 fans for the chance to play in the C-USA Championship.

That's a lot on the line for such a meager showing of fans; especially for two young teams that match up well and have battled down to the wire in both previous matches this season.

Although the Lady Pirates have received more home crowd love than most teams in the league, attendance for their home games pales in comparison to the turnout for ECU men's basketball home games.

In 13 home games this season, the ECU women's basketball team has hosted an average of 1,205 total students, alumni and fans. In stark contrast, the men's basketball team averaged a respectable 4,533 fans in 14 home games.

While the ECU men's basketball games are filling up nearly half of Minges Coliseum's friendly confines, the Lady Pirates play in front of scarce, unresponsive crowds.

The crowds at ECU women's basketball games are more like Sunday afternoon family social gatherings than sweat soaked purple and gold displays of pride.

Maybe that's the problem I have with the state of ECU women's basketball. While some locals take time out of their lives to catch the games, the Pirate Club Student Section is always a shell of the beast on display at men's basketball games.

Where's the support for our fellow Pirates?

Even in the worst season in the history of the program and during a program high 13 game losing streak, students were still flocking to games in droves. In the middle of the 13 game losing streak, the Pirates lost to Southern Miss 80-42 at Minges Coliseum.

A respectable 3,679 fans witnessed the worst home loss for ECU since the coliseum opened its doors in 1967.

To put this in perspective, the women's basketball team has never played in front of this many people.

With the Lady Pirates set to play in the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament after securing an automatic birth with the program's first ever C-USA Championship, maybe it's time to show a little more support. With electrifying sophomore point guards Jasmine Young and LaCoya Terry leading the way, it looks as if the Lady Pirates are here to stay.

Let's show this team that we're with them every step of the way, as they look to leave their mark on the NCAA tournament.

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Pulse

Horoscopes:

Aries
Let somebody else make the trip and bring back whatever you need. Even better, go together. That's more fun than going alone. And more effective.

Taurus
Improve your skills and you'll soon see an increase in your income. It's not incoming yet, that's true, but it will be. Keep the faith.

Gemini
Search far and wide for information; gather as much as you can. The answer you're seeking looks, at first, like it doesn't fit.

Cancer
Your work routine should be pretty well established by now. Set the wheels in motion, so you can put your feet up and supervise.

Leo
Take time to relax. Catch up on the news with friends and family. Remember that supportive listening gains more information than talking.

Virgo
Your workplace is humming. Your money machine is cranking out abundance. Turn it up to full speed.

Libra
Your natural tendency is to flirt with a very attractive person. Doing it during business hours, however, is dangerous. Keep private things private.

Scorpio
Your intuition's pretty good, especially now. You can find the money or other valuables, wherever they're hidden. Sniff them out.

Sagittarius
You're charming, fascinating and intellectually stimulating. You don't give a fig about working, however. This is fine, if you're a professor of philosophy or independently wealth. You really should be both.

Capricorn
Your next assignment requires a change in your attitude. Look at a task you thought was disgusting as an opportunity.

Aquarius
Travel conditions are good now, and meetings will be productive. Ideas suggested by the group will inspire you to take action.

Pisces
Counting your money and paying bills is a bit easier now. There's also a link between doing that and gaining authority, which leads to making more money.

Drink Recipe:

Mojito Limeade

1/2 cup fresh mint leaves, plus sprigs for garnish
2 limes, cut into wedges, plus more for garnish
2 cups crushed ice, plus more for serving
1 cup Lime-Mint Syrup, recipe follows
1 liter white rum
1/2 cup fresh lime juice
Club soda

Muddle the mint leaves and lime wedges with two cups crushed ice in the bottom of a large pitcher. Add Lime-Mint Syrup, rum, lime juice, and more ice. Top off with club soda, to taste. Pour into glasses over ice and serve. Garnish each glass with a lime wedge and mint sprigs, if desired.

Lime-Mint Syrup:
2 cups sugar
2 cups water
2 limes, zested
1/2 cup fresh mint leaves

Bring the sugar and water to a boil in a medium saucepan and cook until the sugar is completely dissolved, about one minute. Remove from the heat, stir in the lime zest and mint, and let sit at room temperature for 30 minutes to infuse the syrup with the flavor of lime and mint. Strain out the mint and zest and refrigerate the syrup, covered, until cold.

Please drink responsibly.

{ Campus Scene }

Don Quixote comes to Greenville

Moscow Festival Ballet to perform tonight

LIZ FULTON
SENIOR WRITER

Contributed image
The S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series presents the performance of Don Quixote by the Moscow Festival Ballet tonight at 7 p.m.

Ballet may be perceived as nothing but tutus and pirouettes, but it also manages to beautifully tell a story through dance.

Coming to Wright Auditorium as part of the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series, the Moscow Festival Ballet will perform *Don Quixote* tonight, at 7 p.m.

"If you want to see an amazing company trained in the finest Russian ballet tradition, here's your chance," said Michael Crane, assistant dean in the College of Fine Arts and Communication. "To see a professionally trained Russian company performing a work that doesn't see the stage frequently without taking a road trip, who could ask for anything more?"

In the fiery, seldom-toured classical production, the 60-member Russian troupe will bring to life the misadventures of the charming, but deluded nobleman Don Quixote. The plot centers on the adventures of Don Quixote and his squire, Sancho Panza, as they follow the vision of Dulcinea, a lady of true beauty and perfection.

A love triangle ensues when Kitri, a girl in love with the poor barber Basilio is attempted to be married off to a nobleman by her father. Quixote becomes entranced by Kitri and envisions her as Dulcinea.

The ballet becomes a dramatic chase for Kitri with all three men pursuing her. The romantic tale of the "knight" of La Mancha was originally brought to life in the late 19th century by Marius Petipa, who raised the standards of dance technique and choreography in Russia to new heights.

While there have been several revisions to the original performance, it is the music of original composer, Leon Minkus, who lit the fire of creativity for the choreographers.

The Moscow Festival Ballet was founded in 1989 when Sergei Radchenko, the legendary principal dancer of the Bolshoi Ballet, sought to realize his vision of a company that would bring together the highest classical elements of Bolshoi and Kirov ballet companies in independent, new dance corps.

Under his direction, the company continues to expand its repertoire, commissioning new works from within Russia and abroad, as well as performing classic works such as Giselle, Paquita and Carmen.

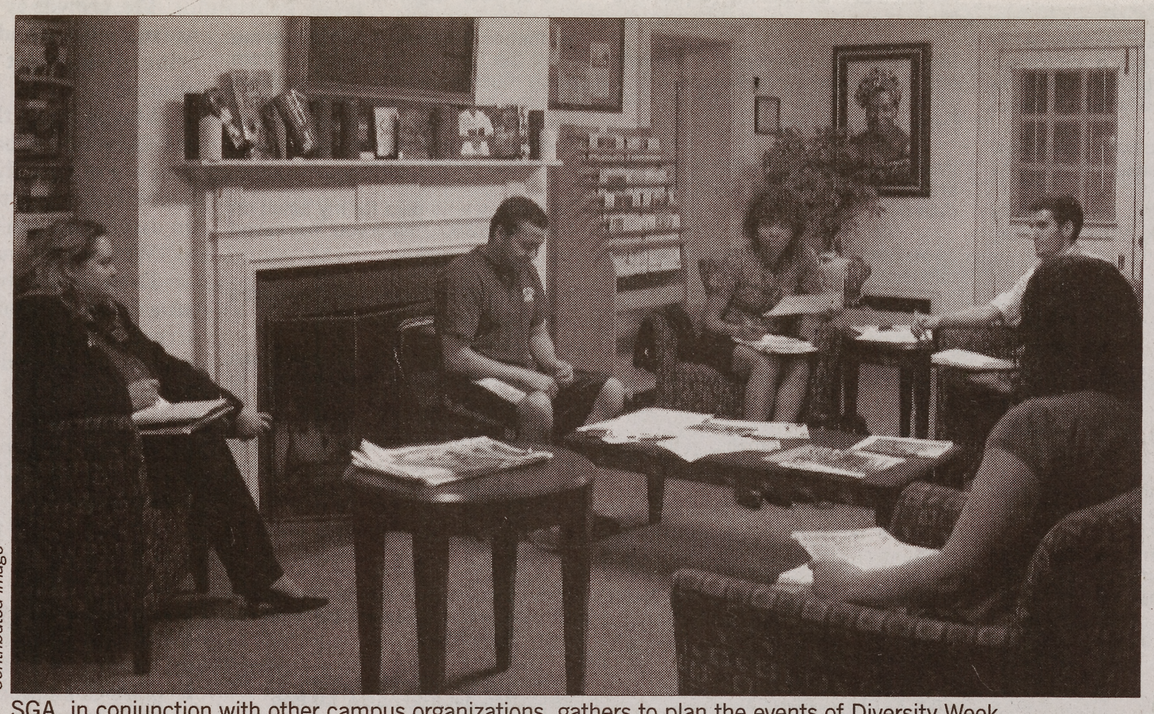
"The Moscow Ballet is a recently formed, world class dance company made up of Russia's finest Ballet dancers," said Megan Gulla, senior dance performance and costume design major. "It is a rare and wonderful opportunity to see Don Quixote the way it should be performed."

Tickets can be purchased at Central Ticket Office in Mendenhall or at Wright Auditorium before the show. Students can take advantage of rush ticket sales, which allows tickets for $5 with a valid student ID.

Come enjoy the magic and delight of a story that has been told for centuries. Don Quixote is sure to remind everyone of the joys of dreaming and seeing life for its beauty.

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

SGA prepares for Diversity Week



Contributed image
SGA, in conjunction with other campus organizations, gathers to plan the events of Diversity Week.

Elevating cultural awareness at ECU

YAZID FINN
STAFF WRITER

For the past few weeks, SGA has been working on one of the largest culturally diverse events ECU has seen this year.

Gathering weekly in the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, representatives from clubs and organizations of all backgrounds have come together, sharing thoughts and opinions in planning this year's Diversity Week.

Among the groups in attendance were the Black Student Union, B-Glad, SALSA and the Asian Student Association. Because of the scale of activities planned for Diversity Week, every organization's input is equally valued in constructing all aspects of the events.

The results of their meetings will be presented to students throughout Diversity Week, which will be held March 19-25. SGA hopes that through their work, students will take something with them after each of the day's events of the week, appropriately titled "Leading Through Diversity."

Residence Hall Association President, Joseph Gill, was among the representatives at these meetings preparing for Diversity Week and is looking forward to seeing everyone's work pay off.

"ECU's Residence Hall Association is very excited to help celebrate and enhance the university's diversity," said Gill.

Each day throughout diversity week will supply numerous events and activities for students to either observe or partake in. The events are timed to allow even the busiest of students to attend something that may interest them, at least once a day.

Some of these events include humorous performances, such as a presentation of "One Arab, One Jew," a clean, non-political act of stand up comedy. Others will hold a more serious message, such as the Yom Hashoah Name Readings, reciting all those who have passed away in the holocaust.

Not all these events place students on the sidelines, as two separate parties will be thrown both Friday and Saturday, inviting everyone to an alternative night out.

In addition, a contest with cash prizes will take place March 22, testing student's awareness of just how cultured they are. "What in the World Do You Know?" will see just how much contestants know about the world around them, using questions provided by clubs and organizations collaborating with SGA.

"I hope to see Native American art and crafts bring awareness to our campus," said Wayne Sampson, junior communication major and representative of East Carolina Native American Association, "I want to see a good turn out for the Craft Exhibit and the fashion show as they will both be depicting Native American traditional culture and regalia for ECU students."

The Multicultural Fashion Show will be held March 24 from 4 – 6 p.m., with members of the different organizations involved as the models and showcasing traditional attire of their represented backgrounds. However, this will not be the only runway that will be walked during the week, as a Drag Show is also scheduled to be held in the Pirate Underground.

From guest speakers such as Maya Angelou and Hal Gurnee coming to Greenville to diversity workshops to answer questions of students, SGA has outdone themselves in planning this year's events.

Full list of all participating and supporting clubs and organizations of Diversity Week 2007: East Carolina Native American Association, Sigma Omicron Epsilon, African Students' Organization, SALSA, RHA, LWCC Emissaries, Black Student Union, Spanish Club, Muslim Students' Association, Student Union – Cultural Awareness, SGA Diversity, Hillel and the ISC.

Any questions or comments related towards Diversity Week 2007 can be directed to the sgadiversity@ecu.edu.

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

CMLA provides educational experiences

Organization produces leaders while helping the community

ASHLEY WALKER
STAFF WRITER

Collegiate Middle Level Club, CMLA, is an organization often overlooked by education majors, however the club can prove to be an essential tool by aiding post-graduate experience, employment opportunity and community involvement.

CMLA nationally trains its club officers on how to become better leaders. Leadership is a quality necessary for running a successful classroom, especially since teachers must command respect from their students. CMLA prides itself on providing leadership opportunities for ECU students interested in the club. Those interested can immediately become involved in one of the four main club committees of finance, recruitment, service or social.

"Our club is preparing undergraduates to make a difference for the youth through service projects and leadership," said Kim Rispress, president of CMLA.

When a student joins CMLA at ECU, that student automatically joins NCMSA, the North Carolina Middle School Association. NCMSA immediately gives both undergraduates and North Carolina Teachers access to a statewide Web site filled with articles and information about effective teaching strategies in the classroom and current research on middle school education.

NCMSA holds conferences periodically where both undergraduates and teachers can interact while listening to lectures on relevant educational topics. This interaction between undergraduates and teachers enables students to scout out schools and employers whom they might desire to work for in the future. In the same sense, employers can find eager young recruits to teach the youth of our society.

This organization is not just something that lasts only throughout college, it also helps to prepare ECU students with knowledge and experience on how to become a better teacher after graduation.

CMLA is not limited to just middle school education majors. The BCTE, Business and Career Technologies majors, or anyone who expresses an interest in teaching students around middle school age are encouraged to join.

"Our ECU middle grades program is nationally recognized and we are proud to have such an active CMLA here on campus," said Assistant Professor in the College of Education and Department of Curriculum and Instruction and CMLA advisor, Dr. Johna Faulconer.

CMLA seeks to facilitate both social connections between its members and influence the community through service projects. At the beginning and end of each semester, the club holds tailgating, back-to-school and exam socials.

In the past, CMLA has adopted families in Pitt County to help monetarily through the holidays. The club has also tutored area middle school students.

"We are a service-based organization that works together to serve the middle school students in Pitt and surrounding counties," Rispress said.

Future service projects in the works are assisting with the Special Olympics and working with students in the Building Hope Community.

The next CMLA meeting will be held on Thursday, March 8 at 4 p.m. in Speight 313. Any questions about CMLA can be directed to Rispress at krr0815@ecu.edu.

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

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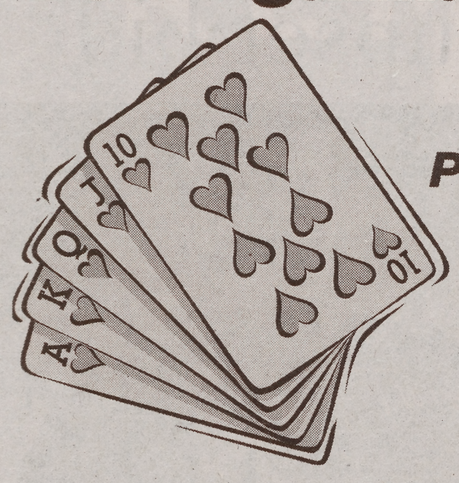

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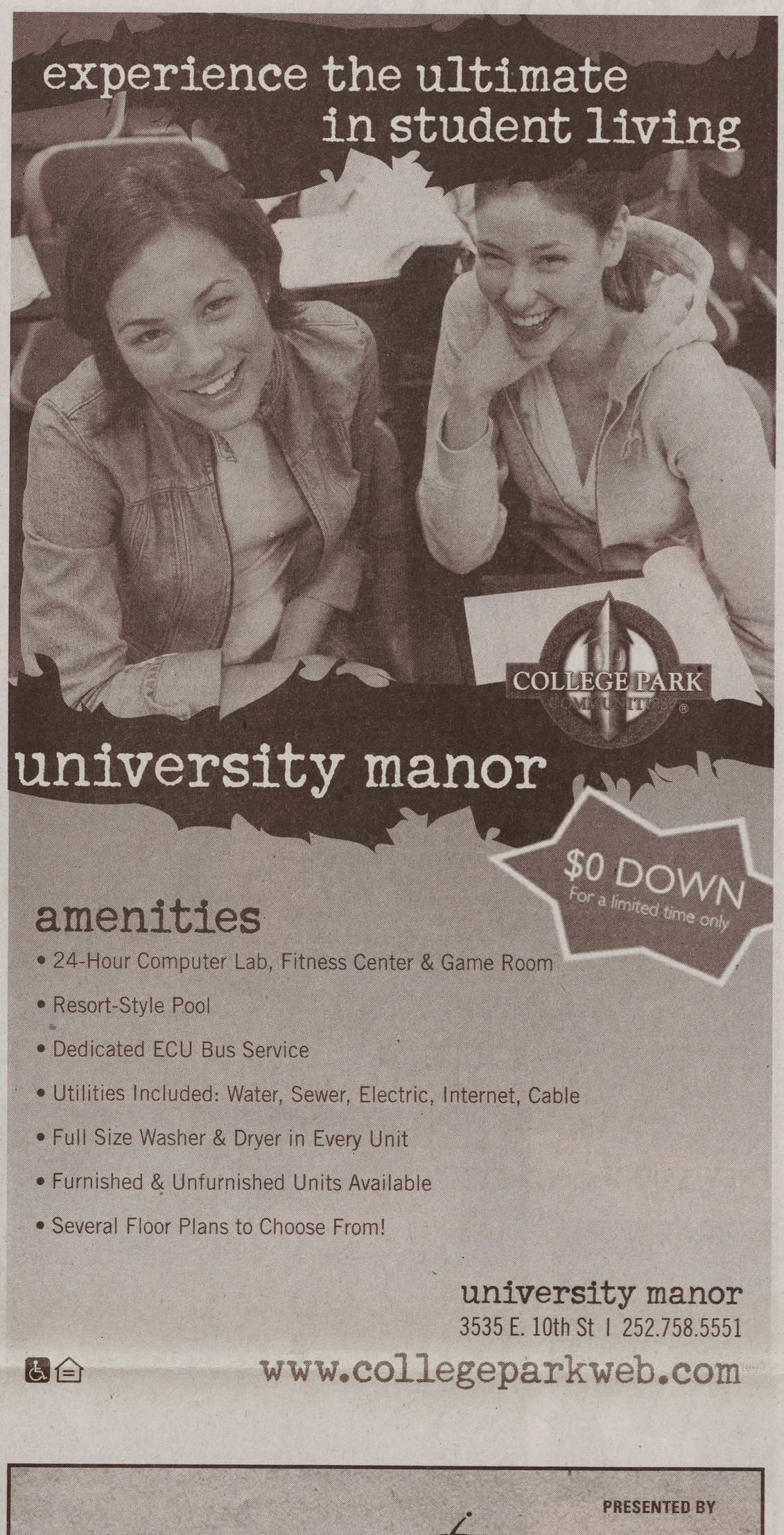

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Sports

{ECU's Inside Source}

BY THE NUMBERS

38-17

Run for the ECU women's basketball team to end the C-USA championship game against Rice on Sunday; ECU was trailing 53-41 with 12 minutes, 17 seconds left in the game, but guards Jasmine Young and LaCoya Terry led the Pirates to the 79-70 comeback victory; the Pirates have now clinched a spot in the Women's NCAA Tournament; the last time the ECU women's basketball team went to the NCAA Tournament was in 1982

60

Points scored by LaCoya Terry in the C-USA women's tournament this past weekend; Terry was named tournament MVP after averaging 20 points per game in the tournament; Terry's best performance of her career came in a thrilling 85-81 victory over No. 2 seed UAB in the semifinals; Terry scored a career-high 30 points and went 10-11 from the free throw line in the win over UAB; Terry then tallied 12 points, eight rebounds and had three assists in the championship game; Terry was also the only player to play all 40 minutes in the championship win over Rice on Sunday

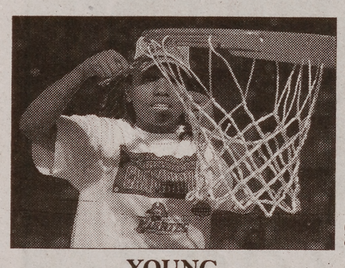
THEY SAID IT:

Photo by Levinia Tyrrell

TERRY

"It feels good. It has not really hit me yet. I am still waiting for it to hit me, but I still know we have class coming up and I am not going to be able to celebrate too long."

- C-USA Tournament MVP LaCoya Terry on what it felt like to win the championship, according to the ECU Sports Information Department

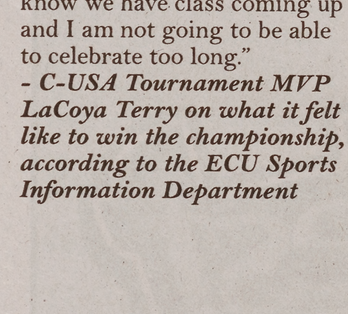


SID

YOUNG

"I felt we knew in our heart, we worked to get where we were and we just wanted to finish with a win. We just had to pull each other up."

- C-USA All-Tournament selection Jasmine Young, according to the ECU Sports Information Department



BALDWIN-TENER

"To be honest, there were times that I wondered if we could get it done, but after signing this sophomore class, I knew we had a future and could compete with the better programs. It's been a really tough time, but it's been worth it."

- ECU head basketball coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener, according to the ECU Sports Information Department

Pirates crash the Big Dance with upset bid

ECU caps off amazing run with C-USA Championship

GREG KATSKI
SPORTS EDITOR

The ECU women's basketball team entered the Conference USA Tournament as the hottest team in the league.

The Pirates (19-13) tore through the tournament as the No. 3 seed, leaving worthy foes in the dust. To top the experience off, ECU exacted revenge on the No. 2 seeded UAB Blazers for a pair of excruciating regular season losses.

The trophy is long overdue for a program that has never won a championship in any league, including C-USA.

With the tournament title, the Pirates receive an automatic birth in the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship. This is ECU's first invitation to the big dance since the 1981-82 season.

ECU is considered one of the hottest teams in the country going into the NCAA Tournament, riding a 10-game winning streak.

The type of game play that propelled the Pirates to a seven game win streak to conclude the regular season was on full display throughout the tournament.

Led by crafty sophomore points guards Jasmine Young and LeCoya Terry, ECU played at its own pace, forcing opponents to run the floor.

The Pirates play an up-tempo, fast-paced style of game akin to offensive powerhouse UNC.

When ECU forces teams into its style of play, the squad is hard to beat. It also makes for entertaining basketball.

Senior center Cherie Mills agrees with this assessment.

"A lot of guards on other teams can't match up with the quickness of our guards. So anytime we get a quick trap when people aren't expecting it, it helps," said Mills.

ECU cruised to a 76-62 win over SMU to open up the tournament. Four of the Pirates five starters tallied double-figures against the Mustangs.

Mills, ECU's leading scorer during the regular season thinks that a more balanced attack has taken the team to another level.

"We've had several people step up here lately. Anytime you've got two or three people scoring in double figures that will help," said Mills.

Leading the way was Terry, who put up 18 points to go along with eight rebounds and six assists.

Terry gives the credit for her stellar performance in the tournament to fellow point guard Young. Terry took home the C-USA Tournament MVP award, averaging 20 points in three games, while Young was also honored on the C-USA All-Tournament team.

"I think we have real good chemistry because I run the point a little bit and she runs the point the rest of the game," said Terry.

Terry followed up her performance against SMU with the showing of her collegiate career. In a close struggle with UAB in the semi-finals Terry put up 30 points, including two clutch free throws with 1.7 seconds left to ice the game, 85-82.

SID

ECU poses for the first time as 2007 C-USA Champions after beating Rice in thrilling fashion in Tulsa, Okla.

Terry attributes the performance to the track meet style of game her and Young like to run in charge of the offense.

"Fast breaks; I think that's the most progress we've shown because that's basically how we get most of our points in the game," said Terry.

ECU Head Coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener said that the game would be a tough battle.

"It's hard to beat a team twice. So that's kind of where we have to look," said Baldwin-Tener.

This sentiment rang true, as ECU was finally able to get over the hump against UAB and defeat the Blazers in their third meeting.

In the conference championship, the Pirates had to fight back from a 12-point deficit to beat Rice, 79-70. Speed and athleticism triumphed over size and maturity, as ECU ran the Owls out of Donald W. Reynolds Center. Young took over the game in the second half, scoring 23 points on 7-17 shooting from the field.

After cutting down the nets, Baldwin-Tener had nothing but positive things to say about her club.

"I am really proud of this team for stepping up and making things happen," said Baldwin-Tener, according to the ECU Sports Information Department. "It's been a long five years. To be honest, there were times that I wondered if we could get it done, but after signing this sophomore class, I knew we had a future and could compete with the better programs. It's been a really tough time, but it's been worth it."

The Pirates now look forward to March 12, when the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship bracket will be announced at 8 p.m. on ESPN.

Baldwin-Tener is astounded about the obstacles her team has overcome this season.

"I'm just really proud of this basketball team. I think that we started off the season pretty tough and lost some confidence, but the way they've responded in the past couple of months and the way they've played and come together has been really exciting," Baldwin-Tener said.

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

Pirates win two in LeClair Classic

Photo by Levinia Tyrrell

The Pirates were stuck in a heated battle with N.C. State in front of a record-setting crowd at Clark-LeClair Stadium Saturday evening.

ECU beats Western Carolina and nationally-ranked Pepperdine

RONNIE WOODWARD
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

The ECU baseball team faced three of the best pitchers in the nation this past weekend, but didn't back down as it won two of its three games in the fourth annual LeClair Classic.

The three starting pitchers that the Pirates faced had allowed only four combined earned runs coming into the weekend, but the Pirates scored a total of 11 runs against the trio of aces.

"That's what we want as hitters," said senior Ryan Tousley. "To be the best, you've got to beat the best."

Tousley led the Pirates to their first win against a ranked opponent this season on Friday night against Pepperdine, who was ranked 12th in the nation by the National College Baseball's Writers Association. Tousley went 4-for-4 in the game, and had three of the team's four RBIs. Tousley's home run in the fifth inning off Pepperdine's All-American pitcher Barry Enright, which landed on the football practice field as the football team was practicing, tied the game at four.

Two innings later, Tousley singled home Broc Sutton and gave the Pirates the 5-4 lead, which would eventually be the final score.

"It was a great day for him and it's good to see because he [Tousley] has worked extremely hard and been a good offensive player for us," said ECU Head Coach Billy Godwin after Friday's win. "I was thinking that somebody really had to step up big for us, and tonight it was Ryan Tousley."

Things didn't get any easier for the Pirate hitters on Saturday, as 6-foot-11, 97-mph throwing Andrew Brackman was the starting pitcher for N.C. State. ECU was able to score runs early for the second game in a row, but it wasn't enough as N.C. State won 5-4 in a 10-inning emotional game.

"It's certainly disappointing but I was really proud of the way our guys came out and played," Godwin said. "We just have to regroup and come back tomorrow after a tough loss."

ECU did bounce back on Sunday, beating Western Carolina 3-2 in its third straight game decided by one run. Sophomore Brandon Henderson doubled down the right field line with the game tied at two in the bottom of the ninth inning, scoring Stephen Batts and giving the Pirates the win.

"I felt comfortable at the plate all weekend and it just felt good to pick the team up," said Henderson. "I actually didn't see the ball when it left the bat but I heard the crowd erupt. I knew it was in right field somewhere and looked up and there it was."

ECU also got a very strong performance from pitcher Josh Dowdy on Sunday. Dowdy allowed only two runs on three hits in eight innings in his third career start. Godwin said Dowdy has really stepped up since Senior Jeff Ostrander, who was slated to be the Pirate's weekly Sunday starter, has been out with an elbow injury.

"I relied on my changeup today, it was one of my better pitches, and it worked out for me," said Dowdy.

The Pirates have now won five of their last six games after starting the season with a disappointing 2-5 record.

"All year we've been battling and nobody is giving up... everybody has stayed confident and it was awesome to finish out the tournament like this," Dowdy said after the Pirates exciting victory on Sunday. "We started off slow and we're not at the win-loss record we want to be at, but the team is where we want to be at and we'll get there."

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

Intense rivalry extends to the baseball diamond

RONNIE WOODWARD
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

The ECU–N.C. State football rivalry has had everything from attendance records, goalpost takedowns, government documents, coach firings and thrilling comebacks. While the baseball rivalry between the two teams might not get as much attention, the passion and enthusiasm is no different.

"Everybody knows that when N.C. State comes to town or we go to Raleigh, it's going to be a battle," said ECU pitcher and Raleigh native Josh Dowdy.

That was no more evident than in last Saturday's game between the two. 5,523 fans packed into ECU's Clark-LeClair Stadium, which now stands as the highest-attended college baseball game in the state of North Carolina's history.

"It's definitely a great feeling playing in front of that many fans," said ECU outfielder Harrison Eldridge. "Looking up in the crowd and seeing all those fans in "the jungle" really gives us the focus and energy to get the job done."

The Wolfpack won the latest installment of the 40-year rivalry, 5-4 on Saturday.

"There was a lot of emotion in this stadium," said N.C. State Head Coach Elliot Avent after Saturday's win. "This is a great rivalry and they [the fans] really love their Pirates down here. It's a great stadium and a great environment for baseball."

Saturday's game went 10 innings, making it the third time in a row the Pirates and Wolfpack were forced to settle the game in extra innings. Last season, ECU beat 12th-ranked N.C. State 2-1 in 13 innings, in front of 5,041 fans at Clark-LeClair Stadium. A week later, the Wolfpack returned the favor as it beat the Pirates 4-3 in 10 innings in Raleigh.

"We're two good clubs and it seems like every time we get together we play tight games," ECU Head Coach Billy Godwin said. "I have a lot of respect for their program and I guess that's what happens when you get two good programs together."

ECU and N.C. State have played 95 times since 1966. N.C. State leads the overall series 59-36. The Pirates have played only one other team (UNCW) more in baseball than the Wolfpack, despite never being in the same conference with N.C. State.

"This is a different kind of game than a conference game, but you can't get any more emotional than this," Avent said.

ECU will travel to Raleigh on April 4 for a rematch with its biggest rival, so you might want to start searching for tickets and plan on staying longer than nine innings, if history tells us anything.

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

Pirate softball wins tournament in dominating fashion

ECU will look to carry momentum into doubleheader

ROBERT MATTHEW PARKS
STAFF WRITER

At the end of last week, head softball coach Tracey Kee expressed disappointment in the fact that she felt her team should be playing better at home.

What a difference a week makes.

After going a slightly disappointing 3-2 in their first home tournament, followed up by a tough 3-1 loss to rival UNC last Wednesday, it would have been easy for the Pirates to suffer an emotional shut-down. Instead they responded by sweeping all five home games and taking the championship at the Holiday Inn Express Pirate Clash this past weekend.

The tournament featured wins over Vermont, Delaware, Binghamton and two wins over James Madison. The Pirates also only allowed one run all weekend.

Sophomore infielder Jessica Johnson won tournament MVP honors as she posted a .615 batting average for the weekend. The Pirates exploded offensively as they out scored their opponents 34-1 in five games, including a five RBI performance from third baseman Cristen Aona against Vermont.

The pitching came through as well. Ace senior Keli Harrell came ever closer to the Conference USA conference career strike out record of 858 after pitching complete game victories over Delaware and James Madison, respectively. She currently stands at 837 career strike-outs, 21 off the mark.

Sophomore Brooke Swann notched a complete game of her own against Vermont, including earning a career-best 10 strike-outs. Freshman pitcher Toni Paisley managed a five-inning perfect game over Binghamton.

The weekend was especially important for Paisley. After giving up the decisive home run to the Tar Heels a few days earlier, she came back with perfection.

"I didn't know," said Paisley about her perfect game. "Coach came out and she was all excited, so I asked her what happened. It is a huge step forward and it builds my confidence. In the next game, I'm just going to try and approach it the same way and hit my spots."

She followed up her performance against Binghamton with another strong performance against James Madison in the championship game on Sunday afternoon, allowing only four hits in a shutout victory that earned the Pirates the tournament crown.

After the first game against James Madison, Kee noted that she was happy with the way her players have been able to step in-and-out of different roles smoothly.

"We have had a lot of kids stepping up," said Kee. "Every game we have had a different lineup out on the field and the kids are up to the challenge."

The Pirates are now 14-6 on the season and look forward to facing the University of Virginia Cavaliers in a doubleheader today. The first game is at 4 p.m. and the second starts at 6 p.m. The Cavaliers are 8-14 so far this season and have lost six of their last seven games. After the two games against Virginia, the Pirates will begin C-USA play with a three game home series against the Central Florida Golden Knights starting this Saturday at 1 p.m.

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

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MARCH 8 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10:30 a.m. **Joint Session of the North Carolina General Assembly**
Wright Auditorium

11:30 a.m. **Trustees Fountain Preview Event**
Wright Circle

Noon **Luncheon on the Mall***
ECU Mall
- Presentation of the Centennial Awards for Excellence
- Special announcement
- Entertainment

Please note: In case of inclement weather, this event will take place at Williams Arena in Minges Coliseum.

3:00 p.m. **Chancellor's Forum on Service**
Hendrix Theatre in Mendenhall Student Center
- Forum
- Announcement of the establishment of the Servire Society
- ECU Award of Honor by Chancellor Steve Ballard
- Special presentation by Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences and J. Y. Joyner Library

4:30 p.m. **Reception**
Mendenhall Student Center Lobby and Multipurpose Room

* Reservations required by March 1. Contact the Office of Special Events at 252-328-6447 for details.

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Individuals requesting accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should call 252-737-1016 (voice/TTY) at least one week prior to the event. *Parking and Shuttle Service:* A continuous shuttle service to and from the ECU Mall area will be provided from Gate 6 in the Gold Lot at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium for the day's activities beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 6:00 p.m.

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Student Media is NOW HIRING Student Graphic Designers for Spring and Summer Employment. Please send resumes to whitlocks@ecu.edu for more information.

Greenville Recreation & Parks Department is recruiting Soccer Referees for our outdoor program and Soccer Coaches for our indoor program. The rate of pay ranges between $6.50 - $10.00 per hour/game. We are also seeking volunteer coaches for our outdoor soccer program. For additional information about training clinics and directions, please contact the Athletic Office at 329-4550, Monday-Friday 10am-7pm.

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GREEK PERSONALS

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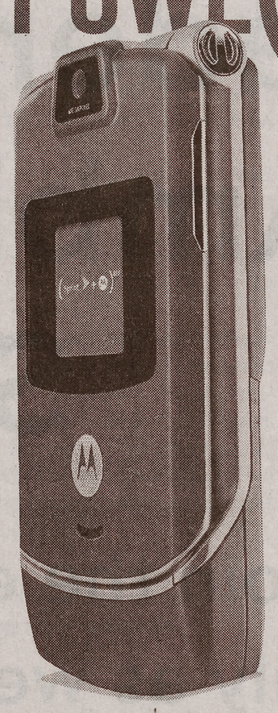

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