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WEDNESDAY MAY 16, 2007

The new Greenville Grande movie theatre offers students a discount and includes a variety of other amenities such as stadium seating and a plentiful concession stand.....**Page 6**

The ECU baseball team has had an up and down couple of weeks. Check out the sports section to see if the Pirates could pull it together leading up to the last weekend of conference play with some clutch hits.....**Page 9**

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Preliminary budget for the School of Dentistry released

Budget is lower than expected

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
NEWS EDITOR

The N.C. House of Representatives presented a budget for the School of Dentistry, which allotted funding that was significantly lower than what the university hoped to receive.

The budget only reserved $4.5 million for planning, construction, staff and operational fees for the next two years.

The university planned to receive $87 million to cover planning and constructing the building, and an additional $1.3 million for staff and operations.

The budget was addressed by Steve Ballard, chancellor, in a letter that is available to the public on the Web site ecu.edu/purplealert.

"ECU is requesting $87 million in capital funds as well as operating dollars," Ballard said.

The faculty working directly with the school does not seem worried that the budgeting may alter the plans or scheduling for the school.

"If we get all the construction and operational funding, we're still shooting for a 2010 opening date," said Dr. Gregory Chadwick, interim dean of the School of Dentistry.

"This is just one particular point in the legislative period," Chadwick continued.

"We are working on options for funding that would ensure that there is no delay in our goal of getting the first class of 50 in Greenville for fall of 2010," Ballard said.

The faculty still seems optimistic about receiving all the funding requested to get the School of Dentistry up and running.

"We fully expect additional funds to be added during the remainder of the session," Ballard said.

The budget presented is just a proposal that will follow other budgets created by the Senate and the House.

"The Senate will prepare its budget based on the House budget," Chadwick said.

"If there are any items in one budget that is not in the other, they will form a com-

see **DENTISTRY** page 3

MCT

If the university receives all the funding requested, the School of Dentistry will open as early as 2010.

Heart institute to receive $2 million endowed chair

Area couple contributes funds

SARAH CAMPBELL
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Greenville executive Eddie Smith and his wife Jo Allison Smith recently donated $1.3 million through their foundation in a quest to provide the East Carolina Heart Institute with the necessary funds to support the director of the institute.

Their donation will be matched by $667,000 from the UNC system's Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund to develop a $2 million Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Endowed Chair.

"This gift from the Smiths will help ensure that we always have excellent leadership at the heart institute," said Chancellor Steve Ballard.

"The Smiths understand the importance of recruiting and retaining the best leaders throughout East Carolina. It is a great gift," Ballard said.

As a local resident, Smith provides the eastern NC community with sportfishing boats through Grady-White Boats, where he serves as chairman and chief executive.

Although Smith is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill his heartbeat echoes support for the pirate nation.

"This heart institute is going to be immensely important to the region," Smith said.

see **HEART** page 3

Contributed image

From left to right, Jo Allison Smith, Eddie Smith and Dr. W. Randolph Chitwood Jr.

Construction in multiple places on campus

Alternate routes for buses and students

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
NEWS EDITOR

Photo by Lizz Wells

The parking lot in front of the Christenbury Gym, the Brewster Building, and Fletcher Music Hall will be closed throughout the summer due to steam pipe repairs.

The parking lot in front of Christenbury Gym, the Brewster Building and Fletcher Music Hall will not be accessible this summer, due to construction.

The construction can be contributed to the steam that has been commonly seen by the university community in that area.

"We're trying to remove the pipes from the pits to get rid of the steam plums," said Robert Newell, steam operation manager.

The steam from the pipes is a hazard to look at, but cause environmental hazards if it is not repaired promptly according to Newell.

The construction will improve the steam issue but it poses a problem for individuals that normally use those parking spots.

"The only thing it will affect is parking for faculty and staff," said Beth Fuller, executive assistant to the director of School of Music.

Most faculty do not foresee any changes in the times or locations of classes due to the construction.

"We don't have any changes planned in our schedule," Fuller said.

Transit buses will have some changes in the location of bus stops on campus this summer.

"That area will not be available to us the whole summer," said Joel Barefoot, administrative assistant for ECU Transit.

"The construction probably isn't going to be complete until mid August," Newell said.

Bus routes such as The Exchange [704S], Purple [701S], University Suites [705S], and Pirate's Cove [501S] will be stopping in front of Speight instead of Christenbury as it has in the past.

"Most of them [transit buses] will be going to the Speight Building," Barefoot said.

Not all bus routes will be affected by the closed parking lot during the summer sessions.

"Minges Park and Ride [610S] will be hubbing in front of Joyner Library and will stop in front of Christenbury as usual," Barefoot said.

Students that ride Minges Park and Ride will be picked up in front of Christenbury on the pavement closest to the road.

Other routes such as Blue [303S] and Campus Shuttle [304S] will continue to stop at the Mendenhall bus stop.

An area of Wright Plaza that normally has a lot of student traffic is blocked off due to construction in that area.

A sewer line that extends from Wright Plaza to the Graham Building is being repaired according to Ricky Hill, associate director of facility services.

"It's an old line that we've been having trouble with clogging," Hill said. "We're replacing it using a line with different material."

The project is expected to be finished in a couple of weeks, according to Hill.

To find out more about the bus schedules for the summer sessions, visit transit.ecu.edu.

This writer may be contacted at new@theeastcarolinian.com.

Student safety awarenesss survey results released

Nearly double expected responses

ZACK HILL
SENIOR WRITER

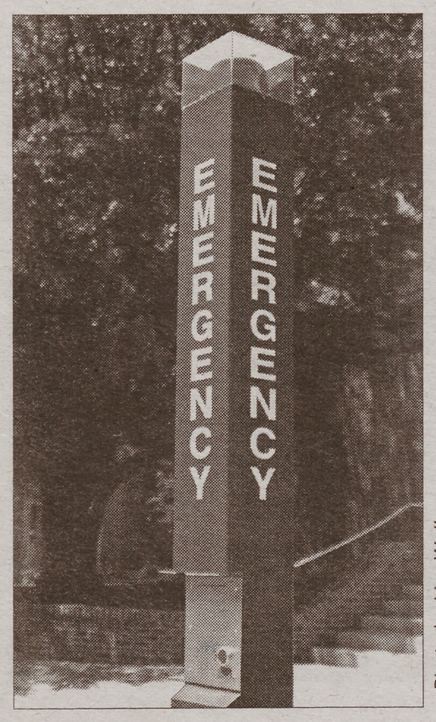

Photo by Lizz Wells

Blue light for campus emergencies.

A safety survey conducted at ECU is already providing campus officials with imperative information, which they can use to create new safety initiatives and strengthen existing ones.

Michelle Lieberman, director for off-campus and community living, said that the 3,913 total student responses have been very helpful.

She has compiled 10 chapters; one for each area like parking and transit and police and administration that are aimed at enhancing safety at ECU.

The report totals 108 pages and passes on what the students said in the survey, which began on April 18, 2007.

Lieberman said that it was not a response to the shootings at Virginia Tech.

"We had been planning to do this long before what happened there," Lieberman said.

The forty question survey also gave room for written responses, and Lieberman is still looking at those, which totaled around 4,000.

She wants students to know that this survey will not be something that they do not hear about again.

"We're planning on putting out a report in the fall to show what changes have been made," Lieber-

see **SAFETY** page 3

HOW OFTEN DO YOU DO THE FOLLOWING?

Open residence hall doors for people you don't know.
4.82 % Always/Often
13.21 % Sometimes
17.08 % Rarely
64.89 % Never

Walk alone at night on campus
9.97 % Always/Often
34.28 % Sometimes
32.27 % Rarely
23.48 % Never

Walk alone at night off campus
6.27 % Always/Often
21.41 % Sometimes
33.01 % Rarely
39.31 % Never

How do you feel in the follow situations: Walking on campus during the day
61.79 % Very safe
30.55 % Somewhat safe
4.38 % Neither safe nor unsafe
1.33 % Somewhat unsafe
.54 % Very unsafe
1.41 % Not applicable

How concerned are you about safety on the ECU campus?
39.05 % Very concerned
43.76 % Somewhat concerned
14.99 % Not very concerned
2.20 % Not at all concerned

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Ledonia Wright Cultural Center
Division of Student Life
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www.ecu.edu/lwcc

To the ECU and Greater Greenville Communities:

As we move through the busyness of ending our spring semester, we wanted to take a moment and thank all of our students, faculty, administrators and community members for their support of the 2007 *Women of Distinction Gala: Power & Pearls.* East Carolina University was honored to have Dr. Maya Angelou deliver the keynote address as the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center and the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Women recognized women on our campus that have furthered multiculturalism, equity, women's empowerment and social justice. Paris Kee, an Exercise Physiology senior, did an outstanding job introducing Dr. Angelou. She represented the approximate 150 students in the audience, as well as all ECU students, exceptionally. It was a wonderful night.

Such an event could not have been delivered without the strong support of our university and community. The way our students, university, community organizations and businesses came together to support the evening was significant, helping to offset the cost of such a tremendous event, and raising over $24,000. The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center is also fortunate to have alumni and supporters whose philanthropic gifts contributed another $5,000 to the event. There were several in-kind gifts provided for the evening from the College of Education, two university departments and programs, and various businesses, including The Rock Springs Center and Jefferson's Florist. The logistical and financial needs required to deliver an event with such a legendary speaker were substantial.

Thank you to all those who gave of their time, talent and treasure to assist with the success of the 2007 *Women of Distinction Gala: Power & Pearls.* Dr. Angelou's message of "finding and recognizing rainbows in the clouds" was both inspirational and personally uplifting. We congratulate the ten honored Women of Distinction, as well as the recipient of the *Dr. Linda Allred Profiles in Leadership Award.* Finally, we want to thank our students, faculty, administrators, partners, and community members for providing East Carolina and Greenville for the opportunity to hear Dr. Maya Angelou.

Sincerely,

Khadine S. McNeill — Vivian Mott — Virginia Hardy

Khadine McNeill
Ledonia Wright Cultural Center

Dr. Vivian Mott & Dr. Virginia Hardy
Co-Chairs, Committee on the Status of Women

DENTISTRY continued from 1

mittee to prepare a budget that represents both groups," Chadwick continued.

The procedure that the Senate and House are going through with this bill is standard for any bill, according to Chadwick.

"While some reports have been pessimistic about the House budget, this pessimism is simply a failure to understand how the process works," Ballard said.

To learn more about the School of Dentistry, visit the Web site at ecu.edu/cs-dhs/dentistry.

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

HEART continued from 1

"East Carolina is just doing such a wonderful job in so many ways and is so important to this area," Smith continued.

The founding director of the institute, Dr. W. Randolph Chitwood Jr. currently holds the position of ECHI chair. His primary responsibility is to ensure that income from the endowed chair is used for research, program development and various other needs.

"These funds will enhance and promote the mission of the institute not only in providing the best clinical care for cardiac, vascular and stroke patients but also in securing our position in basic science and clinical research, disease prevention and education," said Chitwood.

"This gift typifies the heartfelt nature of the Smiths by improving the health of all of our citizens. They really care deeply," Chitwood said.

Chitwood also serves as the senior associate vice chancellor for health sciences at ECU as well as chief of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery in the Department of Surgery at the Brody School of Medicine.

His work in cardiac surgery, specifically robot-assisted heart surgery and mitral valve repair is internationally distinguished.

Chitwood also helped develop the da Vinci surgical system, which he continues to refine through numerous surgeries. He became the first surgeon in North America to perform a total heart valve repair using robotic technology.

"He's such a dynamic person and dynamic leader," Smith said of Chitwood. "I'm not sure people understand the position he holds in the medical community nationally and internationally. I sincerely doubt this heart institute would be coming out of the ground if it weren't for his leadership," Smith continued.

Although this endowed chair will be the fourteenth at ECU that is funded in part through the UNC system, it will be the first of its kind to attain the top level of funding.

Established in 1985 as a means for each constituent institutions throughout the UNC system to receive and match challenge grants to create endowed chairs for selected distinguished professors, the Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund matches grants of $1 in state money for every $2 in private funds.

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

SAFETY continued from 2

man said.

She was especially pleased that the survey covered nearly every demographic at ECU with a near perfect percentage.

"We couldn't ask for a better response," Lieberman said.

The initial goal was 2,000 responses, but that was exceeded within 48 hours of the start of the survey by more than 400. The final tally of 3,918 is nearly twice what Lieberman had hoped for.

She also plans to use the results as a "myth buster" of sorts, showing the disparity between what students believe and the actual facts.

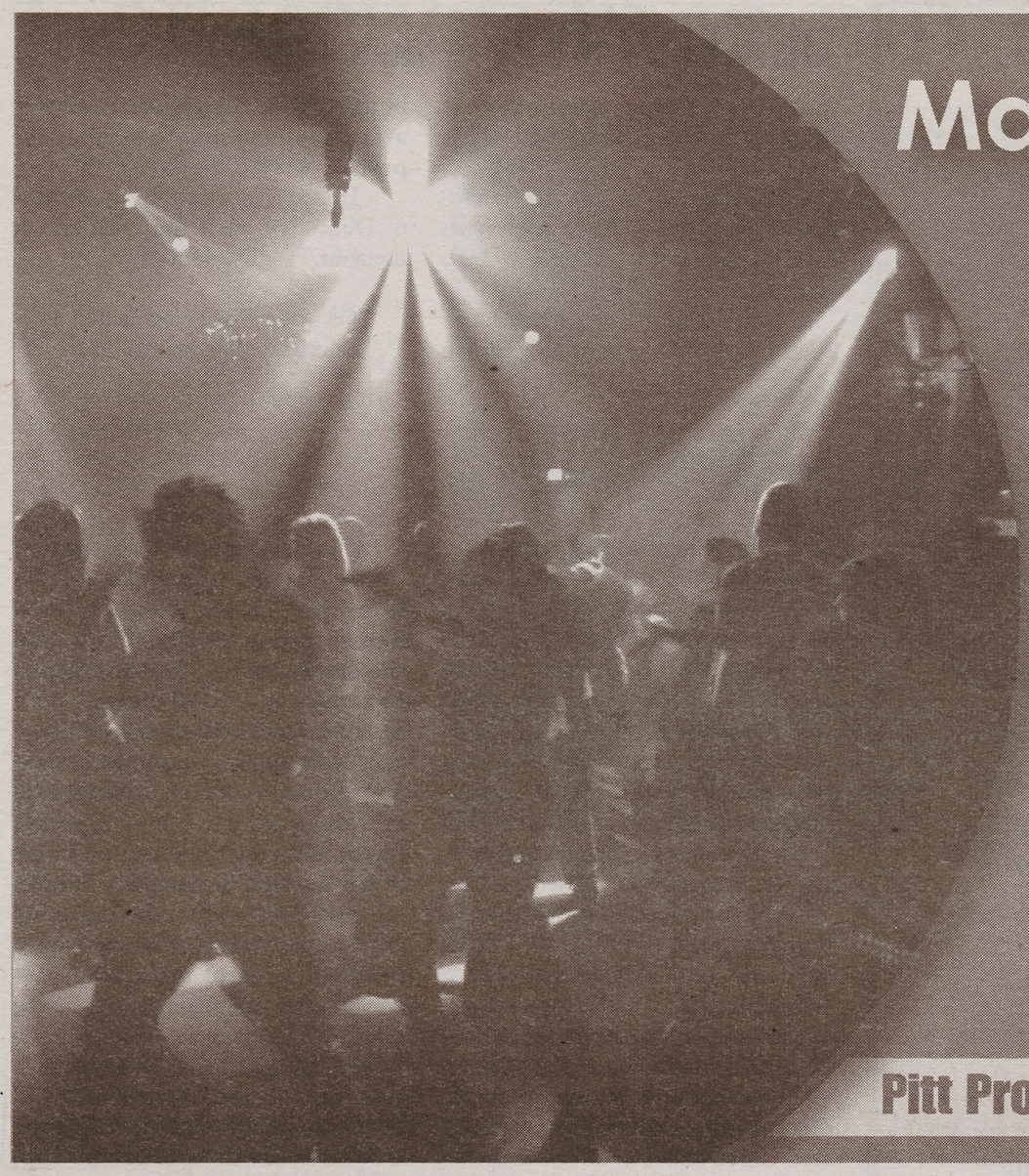
She used a common complaint that parking and transportation officers should spend more time patrolling the lots and less writing tickets.

"Parking and transportation is not in the same department as the police," Lieberman said.

The average time to take the survey was between five and ten minutes.

She hopes students will start seeing results as the report is issued in the fall

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



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Opinion

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RANT OF THE DAY

I'd write for the paper but then I'd lose my ranting ability.

The break is over

Summer sessions provide little time off

SARAH CAMPBELL
EDITOR IN CHIEF

For those attending summer school this year the break is over. Gone are the endless summer days filled with dozens of opportunities in which to spend free time, gone are the nights of partying until the sun comes up and sleeping until noon. That's right, believe it or not some of us actually have to face the harsh reality that school is back in session.

After a mere 12 days of vacation time students began their trek back to campus for the start of classes yesterday.

No matter where one looked around campus solemn faces seemed to fill the air and it was evident that everyone was dreading the next four weeks.

For those attending both summer sessions the end is even further out of sight. As there is no break at all between the first and second summer sessions. Exams take place on Wednesday, June 20 and classes start up again on Thursday, June 21.

Students don't even have one day off to enjoy the frills of summer such as an afternoon by the pool or a cookout with friends and family before they begin plunging into their studies full force.

Sure, some may argue that students in summer session are only taking a maximum of six credit hours, but with the freedom of summer also comes the obligation of work. Many students begin working longer hours in order to earn more money to use throughout the upcoming year.

For those students who find themselves feeling the daily grind, the lack of break between summer sessions may leave students feeling even more exhausted after summer than they were before.

The only point throughout the summer in which students will truly find themselves being able to take a break is when the second summer session draws to an end on Friday, July 27 before the fall semester begins on Wednesday, August 22.

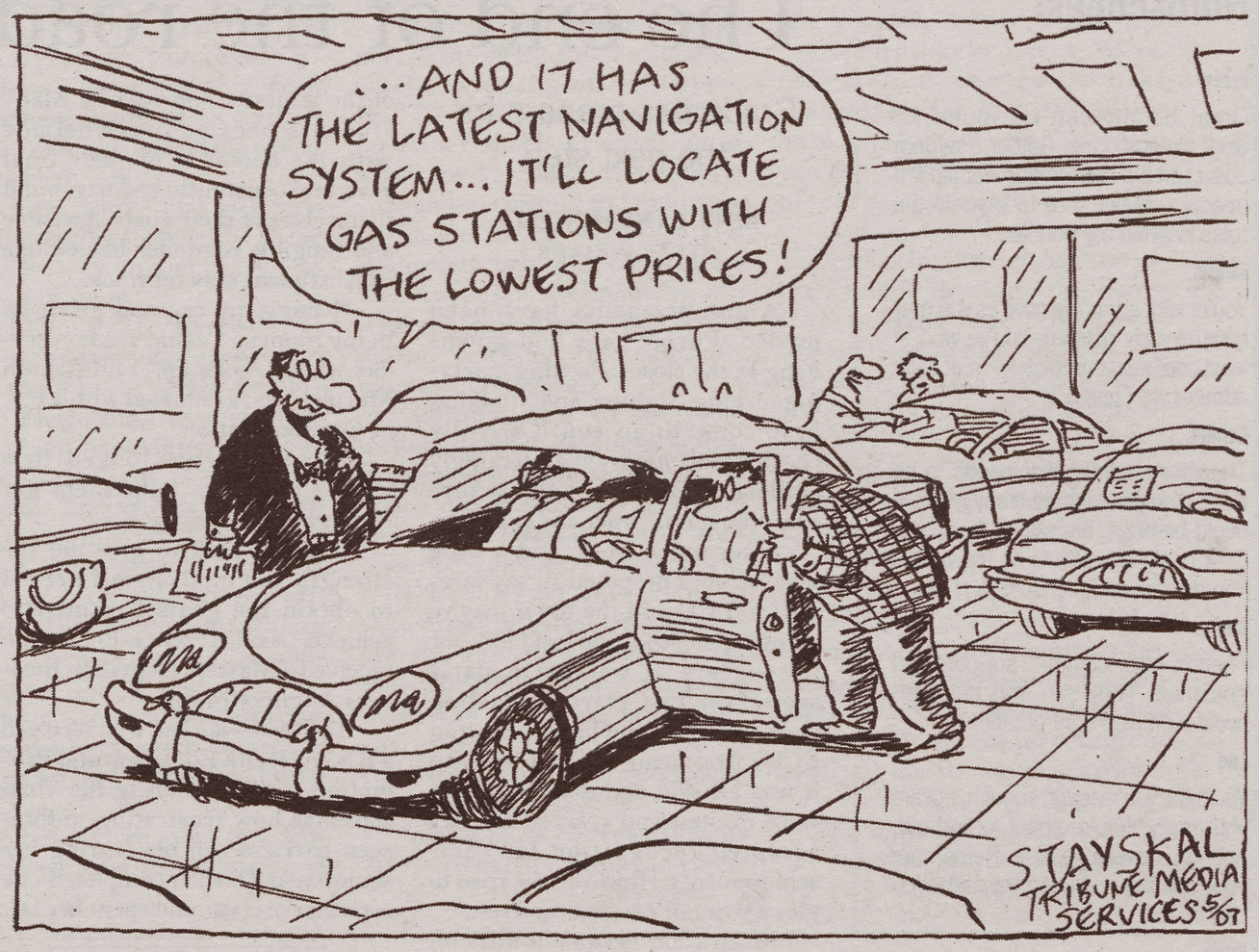
Despite the shorter period of time in which students will be enrolled in classes, the workload is often doubled. An increase in work can oftentimes lead to more headaches for students who are trying to carry a full course load, work full-time and still take time out to have fun.

The lack of a break between summer sessions not only causes students to feel more stressed out during a time in which they should be relaxing, it also keeps many students from visiting family or taking a much needed vacation from the daily stressors of life.

Maybe those professors teaching second summer session will give students the break they deserve by assigning minimal coursework to be done outside of class and offering a number of optional days throughout the semester, but the more likely reality is that students will have to suffer through two months of hard work only to get a one month break before it all starts again in the fall.

The only words of advice I can offer to my fellow Pirates is to enjoy every free moment of time because the likelihood of receiving the ideal amount of rest and relaxation may forever be a distant memory from childhood. One of the disadvantages of growing up is realizing that there is no such thing as summer vacation.

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



PIRATE RANTS

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

I'm hungry and on a diet. The healthiest thing to eat on campus under $5 is a cup of grapes.

When people ask if I'm in a relationship I say, "Yeah, with interior design."

I can't be your crutch if you won't try to stand, and frankly I'm tired of being leaned on.

SGA still effectively represents the students. Get involved if you disagree.

Don't you hate it when you drive away from the drive-thru without your food.

People who think marriage solves everything are in for a rude awakening.

My little sister just got a Blackberry and I'm still rocking the phone Zach had on Saved by the Bell.

This isn't a rant, its a rave..thanks to the boy who gave up his seat in Austin Computer Lab so that I could use his computer. Your mother would be proud.

I don't care what everyone says! I love being Greek!!

Has anyone else noticed how beautiful the sunsets are here?

FOR SALE: new set of encyclopedia's. No longer needed. Just got married. Wife knows everything!

I drool over boys with long hair...they're bringing sexy back!

I spent five times more on my instrument than I did my car

I love it when the guys that made fun of me in high school see me on campus and then get all nicey-nicey because I got hot!

I don't need an alarm clock- my roommate and her boyfriend get the job done.

I'd write for the paper but then I'd lose my ranting ability.

Listen ladies I know that sometimes guys get the wrong idea based off what you wear, so I'll just say that you might not be a whore, but you sure are wearing a whores uniform.

If you end a relationship on bad terms theres no chance of you getting with your ex's good looking friends. Think of the big picture people!

Sarah Campbell
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Pulse

Horoscopes:

Aries

Great bounty can be yours, for work already done. Gather a refund, collect an old debt or discover hidden treasure. Make sure to play by the rules to avoid big trouble.

Taurus

You're very attractive now, as you may have already noticed. You've won at least one heart completely. Treat each admirer with respect.

Gemini

There's something that needs to be done. You can't ignore it any more. It could be huge, like saving the world. Or it could be defrosting the fridge. You decide, and just do it.

Cancer

Friends offer comfort, support and guidance. They can also help you avoid a difficult confrontation.

Leo

You think you're tough enough, but are you, really? You're about to find out, and so is everyone else. Remember your training and keep the faith. You can do it.

Virgo

A trip with a friend to far distant places is a wonderful idea. Make solid plans now. Tomorrow you'll think of all the reasons why not.

Libra

Better go through your books and find out how much money you have. Odds are good you're in for a very pleasant surprise.

Scorpio

You do a lot of your communicating non-verbally. This method works quite well for you now. Those who need to know what you need, know.

Sagittarius

Sometimes you have to dig up the whole yard before you get to plant your garden. Something like that appears to be going on at your place. Keep at it; don't give up.

Capricorn

Don't knock yourself out with details, review the big picture. Remember what it is you want to accomplish, and why.

Aquarius

Your visions of Utopia need a solid foundation. This is an excellent time to work on personal basics. Get your house in order.

Pisces

The trouble is that Mars, the planet of impulsive decisions, is now into your 2nd Solar House of Money. Get my drift? Enough said.

The end of the road

Graduates prepare for the next step

BRITTANI MCNEILL
STAFF WRITER

Announcements have been mailed. Purple caps and gowns hang in the closet. Packing, partying, crying, sighing and studying have come to an end. Carefully checking off items on a seemingly endless to-do list, making sure everything is in order and complete.

After much work, and a little play, seniors prepared to say farewell to ECU and the town they've painted purple for the last four—or five—years. It was particularly special for this years graduating class, who had the honor of being ECU's first Centennial class. When it was all said and done, students were excited and relaxed as they accepted recognition for their achievements. However, the road to glory was not easy or carefree.

Motivation became a difficult thing to hold on to as the final weeks of the semester approached. Many students became overwhelmed with the demands of their final year, and constantly had to remind themselves of their goals. A visible and tangible reminder helped one ECU student stay on track.

"I hung my cap and gown up in my room so I could see it everyday when I woke up," said Lauren Murphy, who graduated with a B.S. in Communication.

Some students looked to a higher power to help them get through the semester.

"I asked God to give me the strength and motivation I needed to obtain the goals I wanted to achieve," said Terence Benn who received a Masters Degree in Business Administration.

Ta-Kisha Darden, who received a B.S. in Health Education and Promotion, realized during her final semester how frustrating unforeseen barriers can be. During her senior year Darden completed one semester of class, and spent her last

see **GRADUATION** page 8

Contributed image

Reggie Martin, a 2007 graduate, proudly wears purple on graduation day.

Heating up: Global temperatures sizzle

Global warming proves deadly

BEN HARRIS
STAFF WRITER

With the summer months on the horizon, global warming will undoubtedly be the subject of many news articles and debates throughout the world. The concept of global warming remains a controversial topic in both political and scientific circles despite a plethora of new scientific evidence brought forth by domestic and foreign scientists alike. There are dozens of mitigating factors that make global warming the problem that it is today.

According to Dr. Scott Curtis, professor of geography at ECU, the debate lies in exactly how much of global warming is caused by humans. Human causes of global warming include the burning of fossil fuels releasing carbon dioxide, deforestation which also leads to increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and cattle farming which releases vast amounts of methane into the atmosphere.

ECU Professor of Geology, Dr. David Mallinson adds that methane, while thankfully not as abundant as carbon dioxide, is actually a more potent greenhouse gas.

"Humans have doubled methane in the atmosphere due to agriculture and permafrost thawing," said Mallinson.

Permafrost thawing, which is a direct result of increased temperatures, releases huge amounts of methane when trapped organisms under the permafrost layer become exposed and subsequently decay. Carbon dioxide and methane contribute to what is called the greenhouse effect.

The greenhouse effect, as Curtis describes it, acts like

see **TEMPERATURES** page 7

Greenville Grande offers student discount

Photo by Lizz Wells

The new theatre on Greenville Blvd. offers discounts for students.

View the latest flicks without breaking the bank

ELISE PHILLIPS
PULSE EDITOR

The city of Greenville is expanding, and college students are reaping the benefits of more businesses, restaurants and attractions.

The city is benefiting from this expansion too, and the uprising of attractions like the new movie theatre on Greenville Blvd. is no exception.

The new theatre, Greenville Grande, began construction in June 2006, and recently opened its doors on April 20 of this year.

Located on the outskirts of town, many students and members of the community are not aware that the theatre has been up and running for almost a month now.

"People have been asking me, 'when will you guys open?' And I have to tell them we've been open for almost a month," said Ryan Coon,

see **THEATRE** page 8

$ EASY MONEY $

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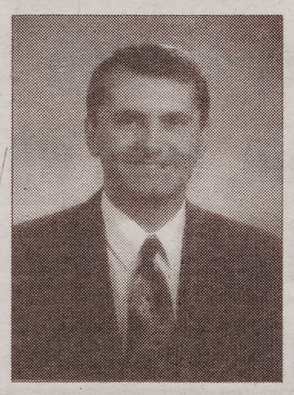

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TEMPERATURES continued from 6

a blanket covering earth, trapping sunlight and therefore warming the planet. An extreme example of a greenhouse effect is the planet Venus. Millions of years ago Venus experienced an increase in the levels of greenhouse gases due to a thick atmosphere made up of carbon dioxide, which blanketed the planet and trapped heat.

Natural factors that influence global warming include the shape of Earth's orbit around the sun, as well as sun spots.

In the past, periods of warming and cooling depended on the shape of Earth's orbit. According to Mallinson, these changes took place over tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of years. The effects of global warming, while not as exaggerated as those seen in the film The Day After Tomorrow, will nevertheless be detrimental to every citizen of the global community.

The most obvious change is the rise in sea level which is directly affected by the rise in global temperatures.

"We could see a 1.5 to 2 foot rise in sea level within the next 100 years, which will ruin many coastal communities and lead to a loss in water resources due to increased salt water intrusion," Mallinson said.

Sea level rise is due in large part to the melting of the polar ice sheets, especially that of Greenland. It is estimated that Greenland's ice sheets are melting at a rate of 51 cubic kilometers a year and, according to Dr. Curtis, if the ice sheets on Greenland completely melt there could be a 4 foot rise in sea level globally. Sea level rise will displace millions of people leaving an enormous number of refugees.

Globally, other effects would include warmer days and nights, extensive droughts and when it does rain, it will be extremely heavy and prolonged. Hurricanes, often a hot topic in the global warming debate, will be one of the changes that directly affects NC. Monetarily, the most obvious way to curb global warming is by investing in clean, renewable energy such as hydroelectricity and wind energy. or by purchasing a hybrid electric vehicle.

While most college students aren't wealthy enough to be in the market for a brand new hybrid car, there are still several things that can be done that do not cost anything. It is always best to follow the three R's: recycle, reduce and reuse.

According to Larry West, free lance environmental columnist, by just recycling half of your household waste you can save up to 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide annually.

Other wallet friendly ways to help with global warming include driving less, using less heating and air, turning off appliances while not in use, using less hot water, planting a tree, and encouraging others to conserve.

In just a few short years, humanity will be feeling the major effects of global warming and our children and grandchildren will have to live through the worst of it. It is imperative that all members of humanity work to solve the problem immediately, so that a clean and environmentally secure planet can be realized for future generations.

This writer can be contacted at pulse@theeastcarolinian.com

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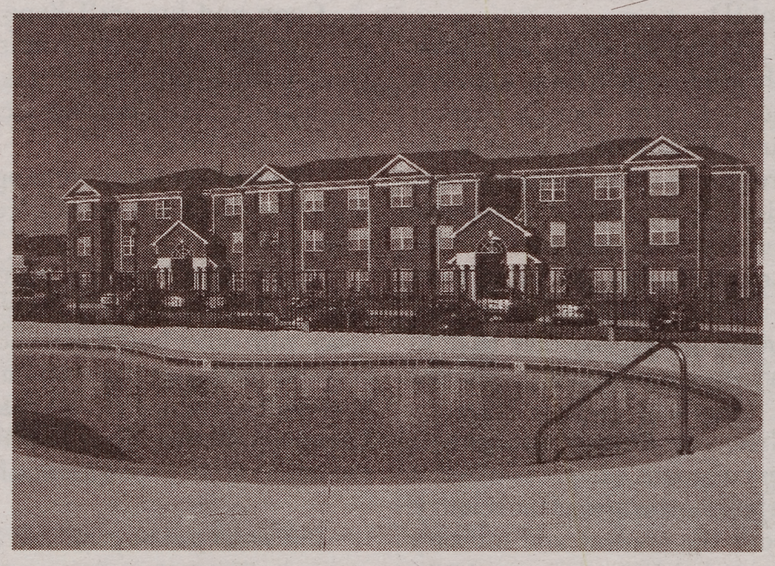

Professionally Managed by Brown Investment Properties campuspointeecu@bipinc.com

GRADUATION continued from 6

semester as an intern with Community Heath Programs working with pediatric health education. Darden thought her internship was the last requirement to finish her degree, but with just a few weeks left in the semester an obstacle was thrown in her way.

"An email was sent to me and my advisor saying that I was missing one credit hour. I didn't even have time to ask questions about why they didn't catch it earlier," said Darden. To fulfill this requirement Darden was required to write a term paper on disaster preparedness. Darden admits she was bothered about how the requirement seemed to slip through the cracks, even after she completed her senior summary with her advisor almost a year earlier. But she was calm about the whole ordeal.

"I got an A," she said, noting that the end results were all that mattered; especially so late in the semester.

Classes are complete. Finals have been passed. Commemoration, congratulations and celebrations have passed. Finally an alumnus.

For all those students who survived the pressure and completed the required tasks, commencement celebrations on May 4 and 5 were bittersweet. Although the journey at ECU has come to an end, this ending is only a new beginning. So, what's next? "Next year I plan on taking the necessary classes to prepare for the MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test) for med school," said Darden.

Others who have finished their educational pursuits are taking a moment to relax.

"I decided, to take a break between finishing my Master's degree and going out into the real world; because I know I won't get a break like this again until I retire," said Benn.

Now that they are alumni, many recent grads feel like they have a little wisdom to give to those who are still on the journey.

"Talk to other people, and you'll find out you're not the only one going through certain issues. Get out and have fun, but stay focused and do your work," Darden said, who maintains that keeping a healthy balance between your social and academic life is the way to go.

Graduating from college is a great achievement that all students should be proud of. However, being prepared to take the next step after graduation is an important tool for all prospective graduates to remember.

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

THEATRE continued from 6

General Manager for the theatre.

Coon said he didn't realize that the theatre location was so far from other businesses, which are generally located on the other end of Greenville Blvd., but he believes that the location will help to attract not only people who live in Greenville, but also the surrounding areas.

"I like that the theatre is away from all the hustle and bustle of the other side of Greenville Blvd.," said senior music major Arturo Cummings. "Plus, I live really close to the theatre, so it's great. With the other one, I had to drive what seemed like forever."

Coon wants students to come and enjoy the new theatre, which will offer a discount to all students with a valid student ID.

"I was shocked when I heard that the other theatre didn't offer a student discount. I think that [a student discount] is the basic element of the theatre business. As college students, you don't have a lot of disposable income to go and see a movie. This way, students can get away from their studies, clubs, organizations, and other things that they have to do and see a movie at a discounted price," Coon said.

Greenville Grande also gives a military discount, which Coon feels is important for this area of the country.

Both the student and military discounted ticket prices are $7.00 per person, which is cheaper than the Carmike Cinemas, that charge $8.00 per person.

Greenville Grande includes fourteen auditoriums with stadium seating, all with reclining seats and huge screens. Each auditorium varies in size, with the largest holding about 300 people, and the smallest holding about 100 people.

Right now, the management at the theatre is working on a digital pre-show for all who attend the theatre. This will include commercials, trivia, and music for moviegoers to enjoy before their movie.

Although the theatre is only one month old, they have seen large turnouts for movies like Spider Man 3.

Coon and his staff hope that more people will begin coming to Greenville Grande, even if it is a bit of a drive from the Firetower location of Carmike Cinemas.

"Once people know we're open, I think we will have more of a crowd," Coon said.

With the coming months, Greenville Grande will be sharing a space with other businesses and restaurants. Although these new attractions will not be open for a while, the Greenville Grande, Greenville's new theatre, is up and open for business.

This writer can be contacted at pulse@theeastcarolinian.com

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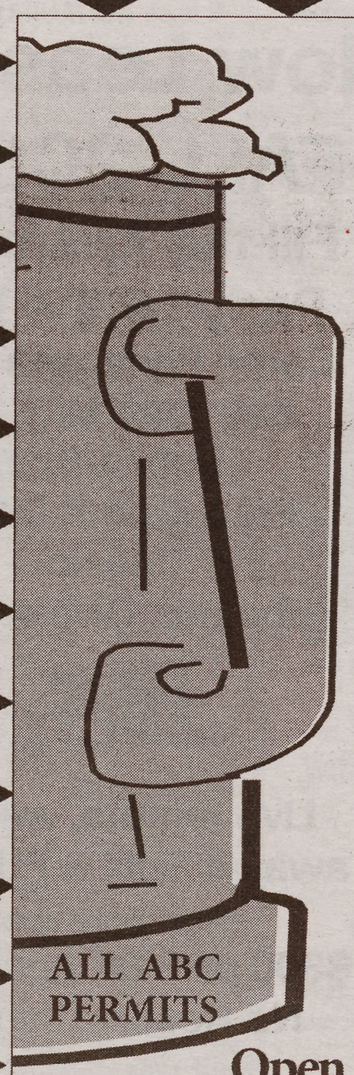

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Sports

They said it:

From The Desk Of Terry Holland

POSTS PASSED ON TO ME BY GOOD PIRATES FOLLOWING THE LOSS TO UNC ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT:

"We will typically make the regionals but rarely host or win one. I believe that is the expectation of the man at THE top of ECU athletics and you are already seeing ECU Athletics moving away from the Omaha goal. Expectations are being actively managed down. When is the last time you saw any mention of "We're Goin" by ECU? You haven't for a couple of years and you won't in the future IMO."

"Realistically, the best days of ECU baseball are behind us IMO as the BCS money splashes over into baseball in our three-state area dominated by ACC and SEC teams."

MY THOUGHTS ON THESE POSTS:

"Our baseball program has taken some body blows that would have felled many lesser programs. The devastating loss of Coach LeClair to ALS and the subsequent immaturity of our program that alienated almost every baseball person in eastern North Carolina as well as our own players who were alienated enough to transfer or leave early for the pros."

"There are no coaches at any price who could have healed those wounds as quickly and effectively as Coach Godwin and his staff have done, which is reflected in our current No. 20 national NCAA RPI rank. In spite of the early loss of talented players who would have been juniors and seniors on his first two teams and against a brutal schedule, Coach Godwin's teams have remained competitive. AND, Coach Godwin's first recruiting class has yet to arrive since he was hired in the fall of 2005 after this year's freshmen were already committed to the previous head coach." -ECU Athletic Director Terry Holland

Excerpts taken from an ECU General Release as posted by the ECU SID

Pirates show off power in conference sweep

ECU extends C-USA winning streak to seven

RONNIE WOODWARD
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The ECU baseball team flexed its muscles this past weekend, scoring 29 runs and blasting timely home runs in a pivotal three-game sweep of C-USA foe UCF.

Freshman Kyle Roller recorded two home runs and nine RBIs on the weekend, while junior Corey Kemp provided a game-winning home run in game two of the series.

"They're strong guys and they were able to square some balls up, and they came at big times for us," said ECU baseball Head Coach Billy Godwin after the Pirates' second consecutive sweep over a C-USA opponent.

ECU is now in second place in C-USA with a 13-7 record, and is two and a half games ahead of third-place Memphis and Houston with just one conference weekend left to play.

"To get a sweep at this time of the year is big," said Godwin. "It was a good weekend for us to sweep this series and put us in a better position in C-USA."

Kemp's game-winning blast came after the Pirates squandered a 7-1 lead in a very unusual way.

Saturday's game was suspended in the fifth inning with ECU in control, leading 7-1. But fortunes changed quickly when the game resumed Sunday morning, as UCF scored two runs in the fifth and four in the sixth to tie the game at seven.

The Pirates recaptured the momentum when Kemp led off the eighth inning with a solo home run, giving ECU the 8-7 win.

"I've been struggling lately and that [home run] kind of got me back into the swing of things," said Kemp. "I've been working with the coaches all week on staying through the ball and I got a good pitch to handle and drove it out of the ballpark."

Kemp's blast came against UCF's closer Justin Weiss, who had seven saves, a 4-0 record and a 1.33 ERA coming into the weekend.

"He's a sidearm guy and I'm pretty sure that it was a slider that just didn't slide too much," Kemp said of the 1-1 offering from Weiss. "It kind of stayed in on me so I stayed through it enough to get it out of the park."

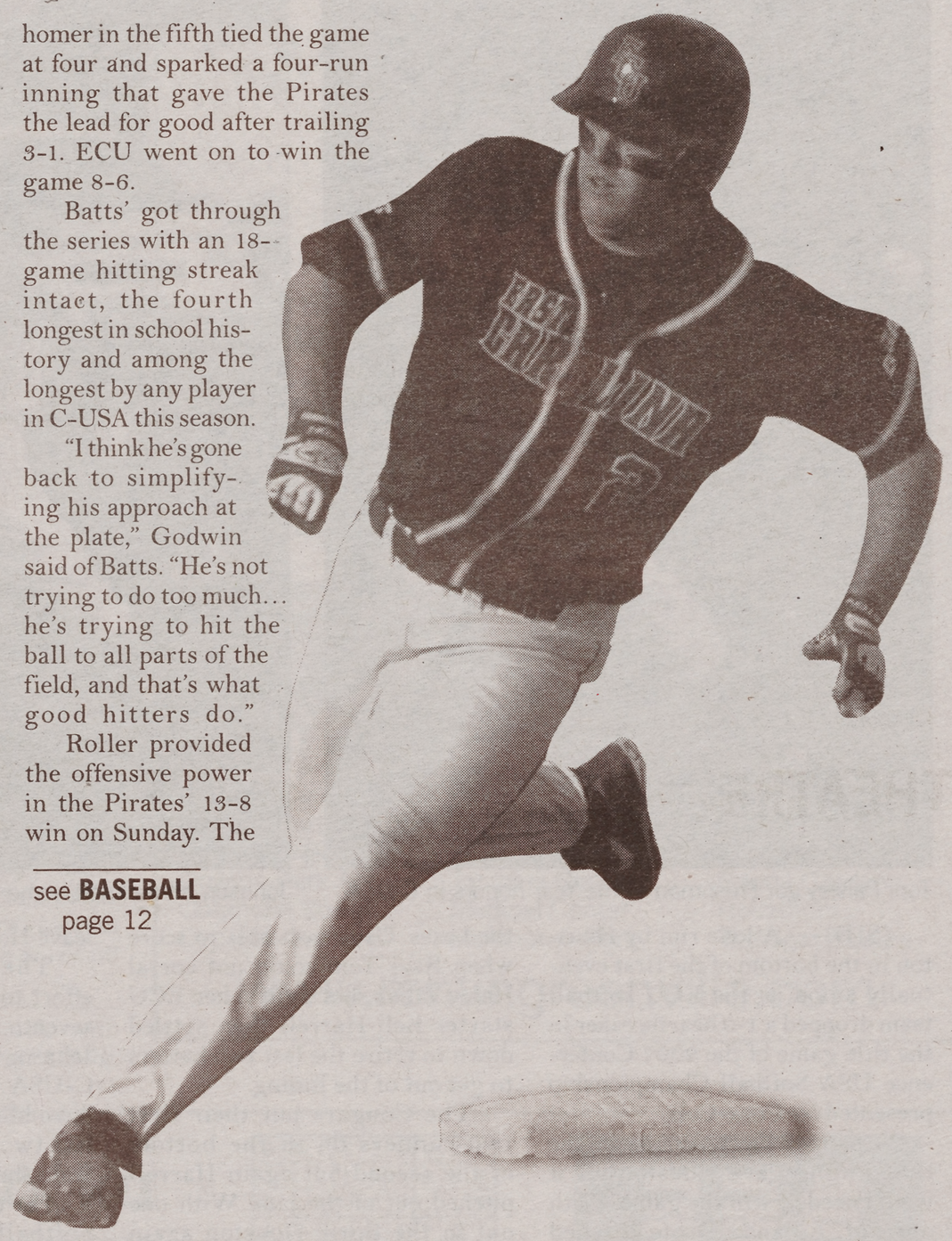
Pirate first baseman Stephen Batts pulled off similar heroics in the series opener Friday night. His three-run homer in the fifth tied the game at four and sparked a four-run inning that gave the Pirates the lead for good after trailing 3-1. ECU went on to win the game 8-6.

Batts' got through the series with an 18-game hitting streak intact, the fourth longest in school history and among the longest by any player in C-USA this season.

"I think he's gone back to simplifying his approach at the plate," Godwin said of Batts. "He's not trying to do too much... he's trying to hit the ball to all parts of the field, and that's what good hitters do."

Roller provided the offensive power in the Pirates' 13-8 win on Sunday. The

see **BASEBALL** page 12



C-USA baseball standings

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
Rice	19	2	41	11
ECU	**13**	**7**	**35**	**17**
Houston	12	9	27	23
Memphis	12	9	32	20
Southern Miss	11	10	33	19
UAB	10	11	23	30
Tulane	9	15	30	23
UCF	5	16	24	29
Marshall	4	16	20	30

PSEUDO-RPI REPORT

Three members of Conference USA are ranked in the Top 31 and six are listed in the top 57 of the most recent Pseudo-RPI's (May 14), as published by Boyd Nation (www.boydsworld.com). As a league, C-USA is ranked fifth, trailing only the SEC, Big 12, ACC and Pac-10 Conferences. Here's a look at where each C-USA school ranks in the current ratings:*

1.	Rice
21.	**ECU**
31.	Southern Miss
55.	Houston
56.	Memphis
57.	UCF
74.	Tulane
139.	UAB
198.	Marshall

**according to www.conferenceusa.com*

2007 HIT STREAKS

Six Conference USA players have registered hitting streaks of 15 games or better in 2007, including two that have reached 20 games. Here's a look at the longest hitting streaks in C-USA this season (active streaks in bold):

20	Michael Murray, Memphis
20	Jimmy Cesario, Houston
18	**Stephen Batts, East Carolina**
15	Adam Amar, Memphis
15	Tyson Auer, UCF
15	Phil Bell, UAB

ECU drops Conference USA Softball Championship Game to Houston 1-0

Photo by Levinia Tyrell

Toni Paisley got Freshman of the Year honors in C-USA.

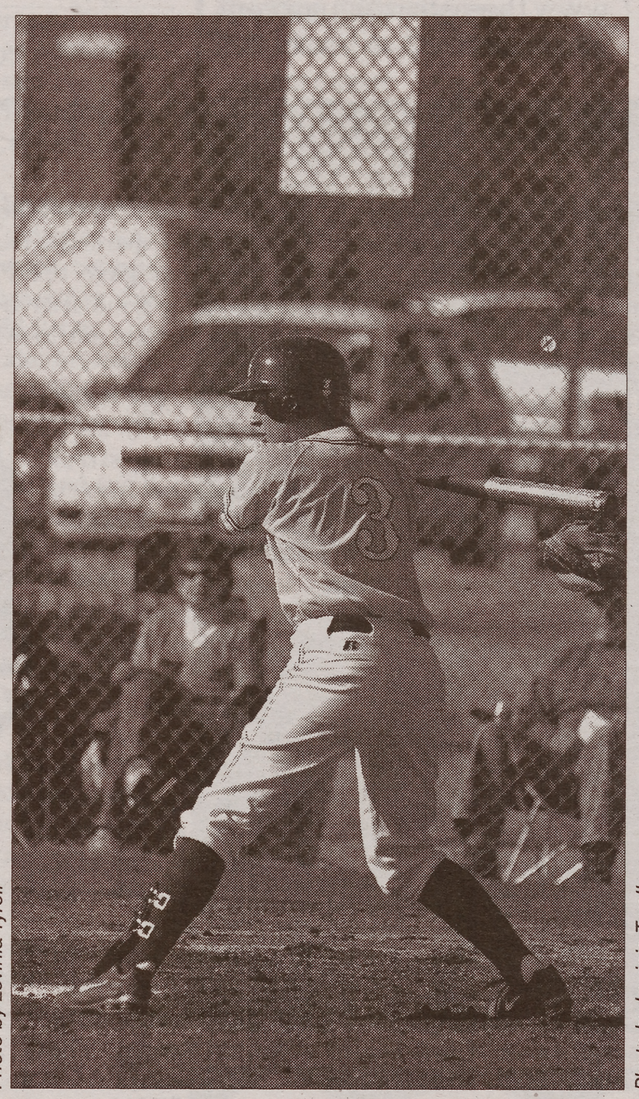


Photo by Levinia Tyrell

Johnson hit a clutch home run to get ECU in the final.

(SID)--- A lone run by Houston in the bottom of the first eventually stood as the ECU softball team dropped a 1-0 heartbreaker in the title game of the 2007 Conference USA Softball Championship presented by Coca-Cola.

A pair of Pirate errors in the first inning gave Houston all it would need to win the game. With one out, Amanda Grote reached first when Erin St. Ledger could not hang on to her grounder. Elaina Nordstrom then singled before Krista Raley walked to load the bases. Grote was able to score when Kaui Tom could not corral Haley Valis's shot right at her. ECU starter Keli Harrell then settled down to retire the last two batters to get out of the inning.

The Cougars put their first two runners on in the bottom of the second but again Harrell pitched out of the jam. With one out in the third, Houston again threatened when Valis singled up the middle. Then with two outs, Laurie Wagner singled but Harrell yet again retired the last batter to leave Houston leading just 1-0.

The Pirates made one last effort to tie or take the lead in the seventh when with one out, Jessica Johnson singled through center, but C-USA tournament MVP Angel Shamblin was able to set down the last two ECU batters to give her team the title.

For their efforts in the C-USA Softball Championship, sophomore Jessica Johnson and freshmen Toni Paisley and Charina Sumner were named to the All-Tournament Team.

Pirate Track and Field wraps-up 2007 C-USA Outdoor Championships

Men's 4x100 Relay Team win first-ever title

(SID)--- The Memphis men and Rice women captured the 2007 Conference USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships at the Rice Track Stadium on the campus of Rice University Saturday night. Memphis, under first-year head coach Kevin Robinson, stunned the men's field by winning the meet with 154.50 points. Rice women secured its crown and a complete the track sweep, by winning the indoor title, with 154.50 points.

UTEP men and women took second place with 145 points for the men and 122 points for the women. The Miners men won the 2006 title, while the women also finished second a year ago.

Houston men and women also recorded identical placing of third. The men recorded 134 points, to the women's 105.

ECU men finished fourth with 114 points, while the women placed 11th (34). Rice finished with 110.5 points for fifth, while Tulsa and Southern Miss rounded out the seven-team men's field with 92 and 63 points, respectively.

Tulsa women came in fourth place with 88.83 points, while UCF scored 66.33 for fifth. SMU's 53 points edged UCF's 50 for sixth and seventh-place finishes, respectively. Memphis scored 47.33 points for eighth, while UAB and Southern Miss finished ninth with 45 points apiece.

The ECU men made history when they won their first ever crown in the 4x100 meter relay with an NCAA Regional time of 40.19. UTEP placed second (40.22) and Rice was 3rd (41.23). Adian Sanderson, Jerek Hewett, David Rucker and Kevin Thompson represented the Pirates for the winning effort.

The 4x400 meter relay team, comprised of Brandon Small, Sanderson, Bryson Bowling and Chris Richardson, took home 3rd place honors with an NCAA Regional time of 3:09.92. Three Pirates placed in the 100-meter dash finals, with Sanderson taking home 2nd place with a time of 10.58. Thompson was 4th (10.69) and Rucker came in 5th (10.83). In the 200-meter dash finals, the Pirates took home four of the top seven spots. Thompson (21.27) finished 3rd, Small (21.46) was 4th, Sanderson (21.58) was 5th and Rucker (21.99) was 7th. Small added a 3rd place finish in the 400-meter dash finals with a time of 46.64, while Richardson came in 4th (47.24). Richard Armstrong took home 7th in the 800-meter dash finals with a time of 1:54.99.

In the final field events, Akintunde Abisogun finished 2nd in the triple jump with a mark of 14.45m. Eric Frasure came in 6th in the discus with a mark of 46.49m.

On the women's side, Camelia Morman came in 4th in the triple jump with an NCAA Regional mark of 12.39m. In the discus, Danielle Eiler came in 6th (44.56m) while Emily Thompson finished 15th (38.93m). Lindsay Rosales finished 6th in the pole vault with a mark of 3.50m while Brie Berkowitz was 10th (3.05m). Finally, the 4x400 relay team took home 10th place honors with a time of 3:56.48. Chalonda Silver, Amy Hart, Samantha Lichtner and Berkowitz represented the Pirates.

The Pirates will now wait for the NCAA Regionals, which take place May 25-26 in Gainesville, Fla.

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BASEBALL continued from page 9

Photo by Terrell Gordy

Corey Kemp hit the game-winning home run in game two of the series.

6-foot-1, 245-pound designated hitter recorded his seventh home run of the season and career-high six RBIs in the series finale.

"I just came in seeing the ball well today," said Roller. "It helps my confidence and I think it was a good day for me and for the team."

Weather favored the hitters of both teams all weekend. Rain and wind helped lead the two clubs to a combined 50 runs, 79 hits and 10 home runs.

"It was huge for our pitchers and hitters to come out and battle with the wind blowing out the way it was," Batts said on Sunday. "It was a good day to hit and a tough day to pitch, but I think we battled all day long."

ECU relievers Shane Mathews and Bailey Daniels stepped up in the series, as the Pirates' usually steady weekend trio of T.J. Hose, Dustin Sasser and Josh Dowdy allowed a combined 12 runs in 11 2/3 innings.

Daniels recorded the win in Friday's game, pitching three 2/3 scoreless innings in relief of Hose. He also got out of a bases loaded jam in the series finale; striking out two of the three batters he faced in the fourth inning.

Mathews was the winning pitcher in game two and pitched a perfect ninth in game three for his twelfth save of the season, tops in C-USA.

"I was struggling for awhile with my stuff and confidence, but it's starting to come back now and it was good day for me." Mathews said

Rice, which is ranked second in the nation by Baseball America, has already clinched the top-seed for the upcoming C-USA Tournament. ECU is in good position to grab the second seed in the tournament, which will be held at Clark-LeClair Stadium from May 23-27.

"This sweep kind of separates us from three and four," Mathews said. "Us playing good ball is nothing but a plus, especially with the tournament being here."

ECU's final three regular season games and the C-USA Tournament should determine its placement in the NCAA Tournament.

"It's important for us to keep some momentum going as we go into the conference tournament," said Godwin. "We're building our resume for the NCAA Tournament and every game is important."

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Most Valuable Pirate

Most Valuable Pirate
Weekly Baseball Award

Kyle Roller

SID

Roller hit two home runs and drove in nine runs in three games against UCF this past weekend. The freshman from Rockingham, NC, had a career game on Sunday, going 3-for-4 with six RBIs, one home run and two runs scored. His six RBIs was only one shy of tying the school record for most RBIs in a single game. The Pirates' designated hitter is now second on the team in on-base percentage, and is batting .318 with seven home runs and 25 RBIs. All seven of the freshman's home runs and 22 of his 25 RBIs have come in conference play.

"They're [UCF] a solid team, they hit the ball real well and it was big for us to get this sweep, it will help us in the C-USA standings." –Kyle Roller