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SUMMER
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{ www.theeastcarolinian.com }



The diversity that is housed at ECU offers students from a variety of backgrounds comfort and support.....**Page 6**



The ECU baseball team heads into the NCAA Regionals with some much needed momentum. Turn to the sports section to find out what familiar foes the Pirates will be playing and what their chances look like.**Page 9**

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CLASSIFIEDS **Page 11**

MySpace releases criminal information

Sex offender information made available

NIA RICHARDSON
STAFF WRITER

After being subpoenaed by eight states including North Carolina, MySpace has agreed to release data on registered sex offenders that are users of its site.

In early May, seven thousand MySpace users were identified by the Web site as being on a state sex offender registry.

MySpace removed the offending members and developed a database program called, "Sentinel Safe," which provides information on sex offenders that attempt to use the Web site.

Attorney generals from seven states in the U.S., along with North Carolina's attorney general, Roy Cooper, composed a letter requesting that MySpace share the compiled information with the states.

MySpace refused to release the information until the states abided by the Federal Electronic Communications Privacy Act and issued legal requests for the information to be shared.

Within hours of MySpace receiving the order, eight states issued subpoenas that demanded the information.

"Sex offenders have no business being on this site, and we believe MySpace has a responsibility to get them off the site," Cooper said.

The information that MySpace will provide regarding sex offenders includes names, birthdates and their current living locations.

"We agree with the attorney general, that keeping bad people out of good places on the Internet is a challenge and a priority," said Hemanshu Nigam, chief security officer of MySpace.

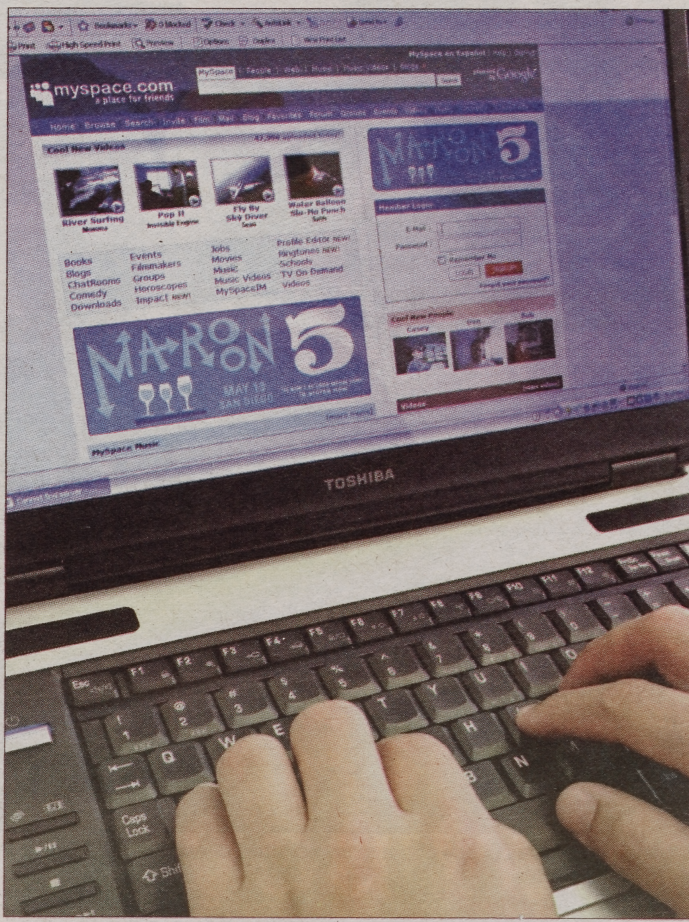
The information provided could aid in the investigation of offenders and locate those who violate parole," Copper said.

"Sex offenders know that if they go on MySpace that their information will be passed on to their home state and any criminal activity or activity that violates parole will be punished," said Peter Romary, director of student legal services at ECU.

There are over 14,000 registered MySpace users at ECU alone. The safety of students while online is a definite issue the university has taken interest in.

"It will always be a concern of the university that the students are aware of what is going on in society around them so that they may take whatever steps they deem necessary

see **MYSpace** page 2



Many students are registered users of the social networking website, Myspace, which is also open to sex offenders.

Construction management students save the day for local Greenville woman

Wheel chair ramp is built at her home

JAMI DAVIA
STAFF WRITER

Thanks to several members of the ECU construction management program, the Jarvis Methodist Church "Shepherd's Helpers" and the Pitt County Kiwanis Club, Jane Minton now has a wheelchair ramp at her home.

The ramp was built on May 18 so that Minton could freely travel to and from her home on Sunnyside Road.

Minton has suffered from a stroke, two heart attacks and is currently battling Alzheimer's disease,

which has involuntarily made her wheelchair bound, and forced to spend most of her time inside.

Roy, her son, act as her primary caregiver, providing full-time assistance to his mother.

Before the ramp was built he had to carry her in and out of the house if they traveled, therefore remaining inside had ultimately prevailed because movement was so difficult.

Minton is now able to travel the distance on her own due to the voluntary work done by the three groups.

The workers constructed a new porch and a system of ramps off the back of her home which makes traveling a whole new experience in itself.

Two large ramps were built with a platform in-between so that Minton would have an alternative, other than the porch, to rest outside.

The Pitt County Kiwanis Club funded most of the materials for this project and Shepard's Helpers contributed the equipment and tools.

"A large part of what our construction management program teaches in not only management skills, but a sense of service and of giving back to the community,

"As a business person, I want my students to understand that while they will be contractors and

see **CONSTRUCTION** page 2

Summer congress meetings begin

Agenda discussed

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
NEWS EDITOR

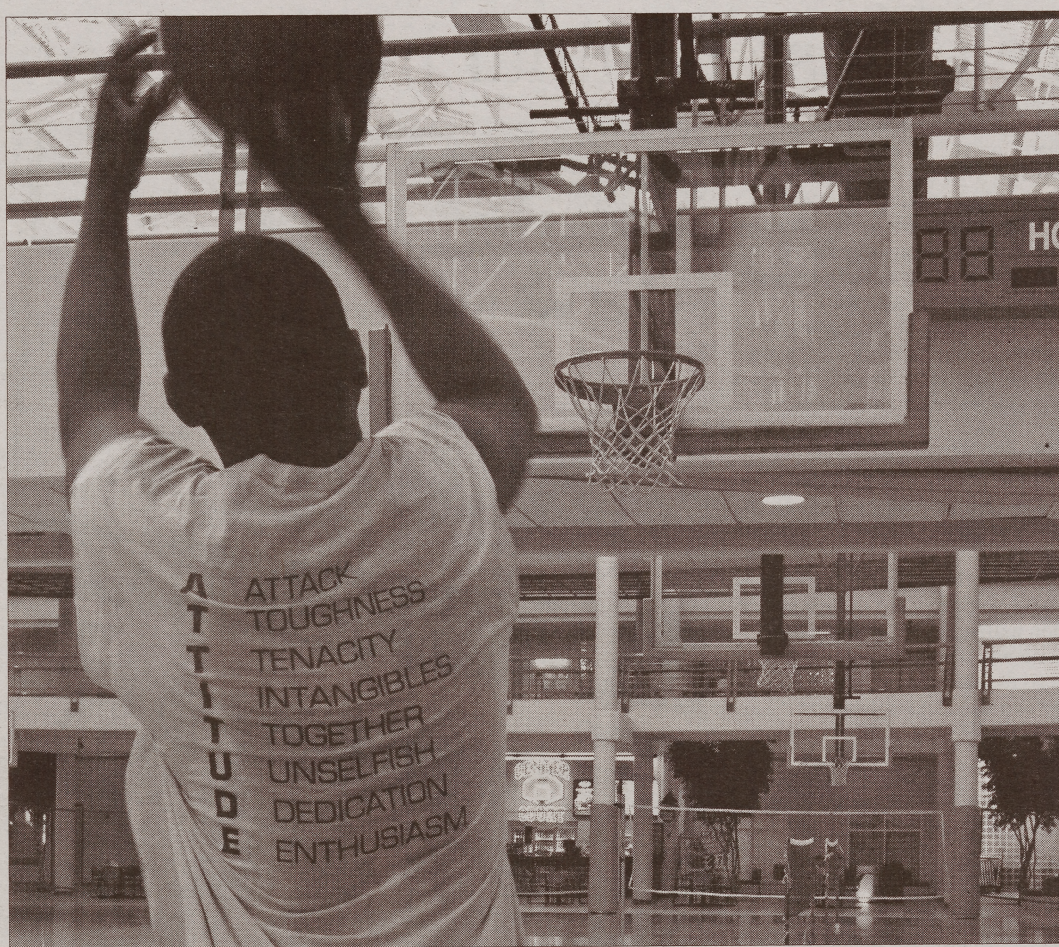
The first summer Congress meeting addressed issues that SGA plans to tackle within the upcoming weeks.

Five committees were presented in the meeting that Congress members can choose to serve on.

Committees for the summer include finance, constitutional review and reconstruction, plus/minus grading scale, graduate student advisory and tuition/

see **CONGRESS** page 3

Student Recreation Center offers activities throughout the summer



Student participates in one of the many activities offered by the Student Recreation Center during the summer.

Several ways to stay fit and active

ZACK HILL
SENIOR WRITER

Though many students have gone home for the summer, the Student Recreation Center [SRC] continues to offer programs and sports teams for those in Greenville wishing to remain active over the summer sessions.

"Discover it, play it, live it. That is what we encourage all students, faculty and staff to do year round," said Nancy Mize, assistant vice chancellor of campus recreation and wellness.

Intramurals for the first summer session included dodge ball, softball and 3 on 3 basketball. Intramurals for the second session will expand slightly to 5 on 5 basketball, racquetball and kickball.

Nick Russell, senior industrial technology major, and Josh Taylor, senior geography major, are thinking about putting together a team

for the 5 on 5 basketball league in the second summer session.

"We've played some before during the regular semesters, but not during the summer," said Russell.

"We think we can do a little better now since there are less people and less competition," Taylor added.

Kathryn Hunt, associate director of marketing for campus recreation and wellness, noted that the response to the intramurals has been good so far.

"However, due to the decrease in students during the summer months, we do offer fewer programs," said Hunt.

In addition SRC will also be offering five adventure trips this summer; whitewater canoeing and kayaking, rock climbing, surfing, sea kayaking and caving.

This is the first time that the SRC has been able to offer many trips during the summer, according to Mize.

A slew of fitness and lifestyle enhancement programs are being offered as well that cover a broad range from group fitness classes

and yoga sessions to Pilates and swing dance classes.

"You can even hire a personal trainer to get you in shape during these summer months," Mize said.

There will also be seminars offered in cholesterol and diabetes and alcohol and tobacco use, said Hunt.

"This summer, we also offered aqua fitness and tidal strength and free body fat analysis," Hunt said.

These programs are free to students enrolled in summer classes, while the students that opted not to attend summer school must pay a fee to participate.

If a student is not enrolled, they can purchase a summer session membership. Students must also pay a fee for the adventure trips.

For more information about summer programs, visit the Campus Recreation and Wellness Web site at ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/crw/ or stop by the Student Recreation Center.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com

CONSTRUCTION continued from page 1



Construction management students help build local woman a wheel chair ramp.

will ultimately hold managerial positions they also must give back to the community," said Ronald Sessoms, construction management instructor.

The construction management students and faculty provided the labor and sparked an appreciatory response from the ECU administration.

"We always encourage our students and faculty to make an impact on the community and I am tremendously proud of all that the department of construction management, it's faculty and it's staff do to make us a success," said Ralph Rogers, dean of the College of Technology and Computer Science.

Asa Doolittle, construction management student, was on-site

with this project from the very beginning.

"The experience was amazing and the most rewarding part was the look on Ms. Minton's face when she was brought out and shown what we had created for her.

"Her son was wonderful as well, it was nice to see how appreciative and down to earth someone can truly be," said Doolittle.

This project proved beneficial for both the Minton's as well to those who participated in the undertaking.

"Overall it was a great experience and it also had a happy ending," Doolittle said.

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

MYSPACE continued from A1

to be safe.

"MySpace is helping in this regard by giving valuable information to states that they can then use to keep citizens safer," Romary said.

Those seeking to inves-

tigate possible registered sex offenders may visit the NC Sex Offender Register Web site at ncfindoffender.com.

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

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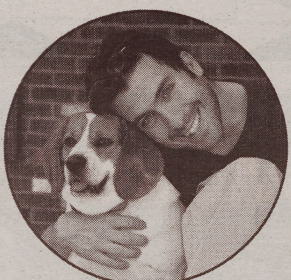
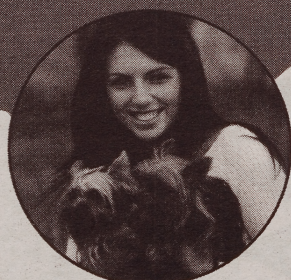
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CONGRESS continued from page 1

fees.

"Most of these [committees] come from a need on campus," said Speaker of the Congress, Ashley Yopp.

A committee that is likely to get a large amount of participation from members is the tuition/fees committee.

"One of the most important goals this year is to make sure students are informed about the student fee process," said Keri Brockett, SGA president.

Another initiative that summer Congress will be working on will include working with the Association of Student Government [ASG].

"We have already started some events with ASG," Brockett said.

Members of ECU's SGA and students from the other 15 UNC campuses went to Raleigh on May 21 to lobby for there to be a student voice on the UNC Board of Governors in the form of a vote.

If the idea is accepted, ASG President M. Cole Jones will have the power to vote with the UNC Board of Governors.

Recruiting new leadership on the executive board is a topic that the Congress discussed in the meeting.

Dena Mazie, former SGA secretary, recently resigned from her position and an election for a new secretary will be held on June 11.

"I will present two names to the congress and based on those candidates, a new secretary will be chosen," Brockett said.

Yopp acted as the speaker of the congress for the first time at this meeting, after being elected to the position on April 23.

Two candidates, Charles Owens and Michaelina Antahades, ran against her for the position.

Yopp won the election by a substantially larger amount of votes than the opposing candidates.

Yopp received 41 votes, Antahades received 10 votes and Owens received 5 votes.

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

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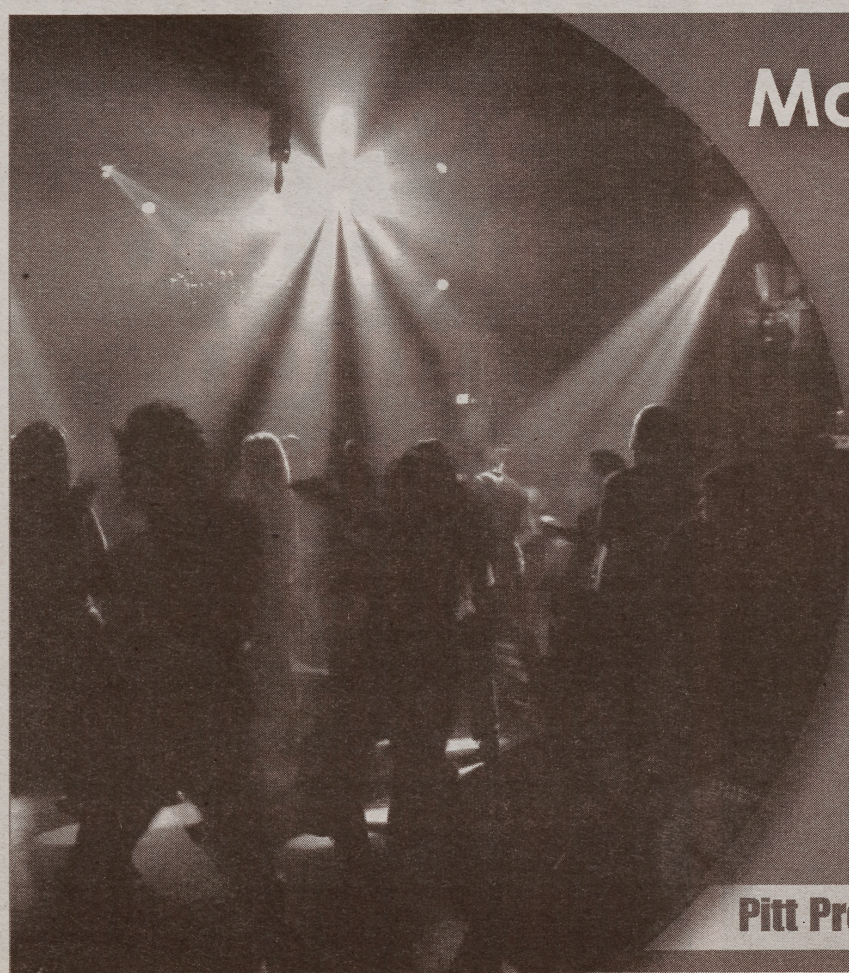
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Opinion

WEDNESDAY MAY 30, 2007 PAGE 5

It's summertime, and the living is easy

Get creative in finding ways to shake the monotony

GREG KATSKI
SPORTS EDITOR

For those of you like me who are taking classes for the first summer session, life can get downright boring in Greenville during the dog days of summer. The good news is that there are options around the area for enthusiasts of all kinds.

If you're a beach bum like me, Atlantic Beach is an easy hour and a half drive from Greenville. Some friends and I made the short trip to Atlantic Beach this past weekend, but if you work on a tight schedule on the weekends, a day trip is also reasonable. One thing that does hamper a road trip like this are the egregious gas prices, so make sure you bring as many friends as you can squeeze in to the ride to chip in on the fuel expenses. Anyways, I've always believed in the ideal, the more friends the better. If you don't share this belief make sure you take a small car, and not a gas guzzling truck or SUV.

For anyone who is strapped for cash and doesn't mind roughing it in the wilderness, there are an abundance of campgrounds around eastern North Carolina. On our road trip to Atlantic Beach, my friends and I stopped in New Bern for the night to camp out on the Neuse River. We stayed at a free campsite in the Croatan National Park in New Bern. The campground was ideal for any enthusiasts and featured designated campgrounds for different parties. Each site featured two bonfire pits with an attached grill, and two picnic benches. There was even a walkway leading down to a beach area on the Neuse River that people were camping on. I don't recommend pitching a tent on the beach of the Neuse River as high tide to damper your tent and your morning.

Another hidden gem of New Bern that can be reached in less than an hour from Greenville is the infamous "Green Springs". I'm sure many of you have heard of the place, or maybe even paid a visit, but if not "Green Springs" is best described as a five-story playground for the kid dwelling in everyone. Although not the safest structure in the world, "Green Springs" is a lost gem in the structured, politically correct society we live in where everyone else is accountable. Admission to "Green Springs" is free of charge and everyone who visits the giant playground in the water is accountable for their own actions. Although careless kids have indeed been injured at the playground, amazingly no one has sued the owner of the property or at least tried to. This is a good thing, as a few bad apples don't ruin the experience for everyone else. While there I jumped off a four-story platform into the Neuse River and took a zip line from the third story and plummeted into the water. Other braver than me jumped off of the fifth story, and one wild soul even did a double front flip off of the top story, landing it perfectly.

Atlantic Beach is not the only nearby beach where a good time can be had. If you are willing to add an extra hour on to your drive, you can find a bevy of things to do in the Outer Banks. I'm a sucker for climbing Jockey's Ridge and rolling down it in a ball of sand. If eating sand is not something you had in mind, you can go shopping in Corolla, check out the pier in Kill Devil Hills, or even go camping right on the beach.

For some fun had close to Greenville, you can drive out to "little" Washington and go fishing on the river. If you have a wakeboard or water skis you can hit the wakes all day. And if you have no way of getting out of Greenville you can fish or take a boat out on the Tar River. Although I am not one willing to jump in the river, many people go wakeboarding on it.

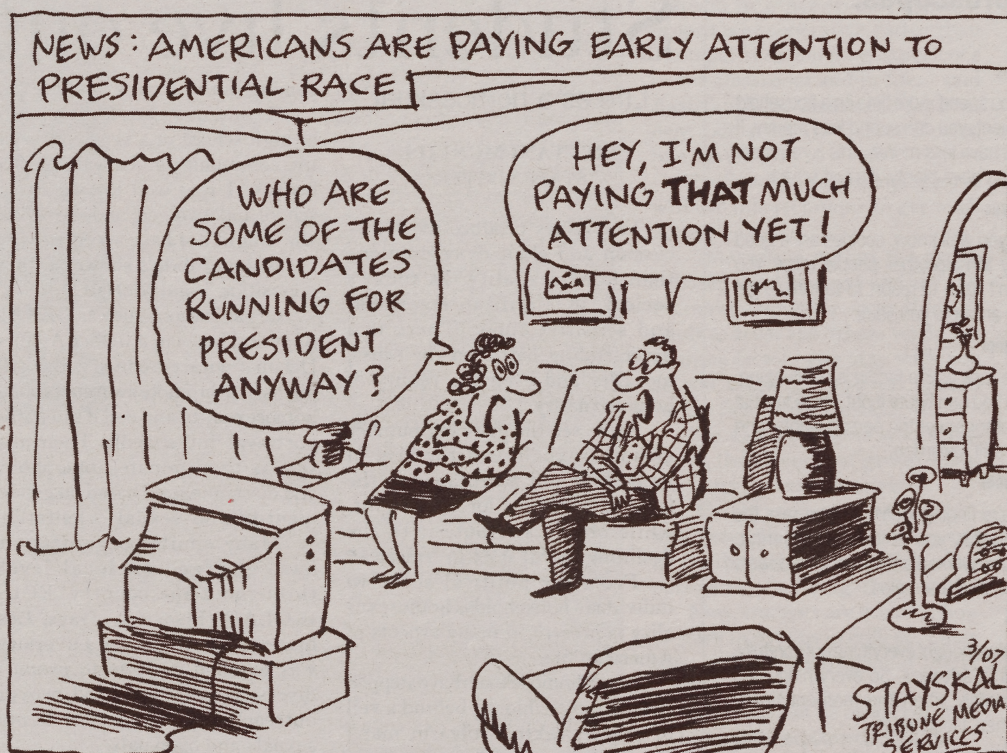
This brings me back to the point that next time you are sitting at home after you get out of class don't say, "Greenville is so boring, what am I going to do the rest of the day?" Instead, get off the couch and do something about it because there are plenty of ways to have fun right outside the city limits.

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

RANT OF THE DAY

My professor needs to wax his eyebrows. They grow together in a straight line that looks like Bert from Sesame Street.

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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.

People that dress up for class bother me.

I'm so not paying the overages for the apartment that we accumulated when your boyfriend was basically living here.

I think that ECU really stands for Endless Construction University.

Hooking up with my ex was supposed to give me closure, but instead it reminded me of what we gave up, and now it's all I can think about.

Why are there no signs in the Whichard Building yet?

New rants only once a week? How will I survive? I am having rant withdrawal. Somebody help me.

I can't wait for Pirate Football! Aarrggghhh!

My cell phone fell in the toilet; please give me your number.

I always fall for the wrong guys.

If your day seems to be going completely wrong, try a strawberry zinger smoothie. At the very least, you'll give yourself a delicious treat!

My roommate's boyfriend should pay rent because he never leaves.

I feel like Charlie Brown. I'm in love with a cute little red-headed girl. Well, maybe more of like a beautiful redhead;-)

I don't know which is worse, people that get in front of you and walk really slow, or people on bikes that always seem like if you were a centimeter to the right of where you were, you'd get hit. Oh wait never mind. People that have Vera Bradley purses, they are the worst.

I hate allegies!!!

I heard Cinderella goes to school here, if so please tell her I found her slipper.

To the girl in class that always has a bad attitude. Get over yourself. You make an enjoyable class miserable. Go away or cheer up. Life can't be that bad.

Is it Friday yet?

You forgot my birthday.

My professor needs to wax his eyebrows. They grow together in a straight line that looks like Bert from Sesame Street.

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Horoscopes:

Aries

If you spend more time on a household project, you can spend less money. If you have less money, this is required. If you have plenty, it's just smart.

Taurus

As you well know, cookies are a good way to help other people relax. You won't have to resort to torture to get the answers you seek.

Gemini

The task you're facing is challenging, but you can figure it out. Provide what a rather eccentric person wants, and be well rewarded.

Cancer

You're finding it easier to express the thoughts you've been pondering. You've worked out a lot of the answers now, and that helps.

Leo

You've thought everything out carefully, well in advance. So everything goes smoothly when the moment finally comes. Good work.

Virgo

You and your team are developing a very effective bond. You're joined in the goal of producing results. You're becoming a powerful force.

Libra

You're in a very creative phase, and you will be for a while. Use these skills to increase your wealth. Take it past "art for art's sake."

Scorpio

During the upcoming phase, you'll deal with jointly held money. This includes your credit cards and all your stocks and bonds. You're really good at this stuff, once you get into it.

Sagittarius

One of the reasons you live life so close to the edge is because you can. One of the reasons you believe in miracles is because they happen.

Capricorn

Friends can understand a lot of what you've been going through. Talking with a wise older person helps you put it into perspective.

Aquarius

Inquiring minds want to know, but you don't have to tell them. Wait until the project's complete, and you have your big unveiling.

Pisces

The money vanishes quickly, but it's not the most important thing. You're gaining confidence and you're providing security. That matters a lot more.

Students live outside of the closet

Life as a homosexual

BRITTANI MCNEILL
STAFF WRITER

Few issues produce more discussion and elicit more opinions than homosexuality. In today's society, it is still an emotional and sensitive topic. There is a never-ending battle on the cause, morality and even the reality of homosexuality.

Some see the growing number of homosexuals and the rise in awareness and acceptance of the issue as a victory for civil rights, while others attribute it to the declining moral state in America.

From the political scene to individual households, homosexuality is present in many aspects of American life.

Many homosexuals have stepped out, no longer hiding behind a veil of shame, taking roles in many venues from churches to college campuses, including here at ECU.

Does the ever-increasing presence of homosexuals in our communities mean an increasing amount of acceptance and tolerance?

Sophomore T.J. McNair said that his personal experience with

coming out was not a bad one.

"I came out when I was a junior in high school in a very conservative community, and it was accepted because I was well known in my school and involved; and even those who might not have accepted what I was doing didn't showcase their opposition," said McNair.

Organizations such as GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) are credited with working hard to promote awareness about homosexuality and end its negative portrayal in the media. Their mission is to eliminate homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

Many similar organizations have emerged on local levels throughout the country. ECU's B-GLAD (Bisexuals, Gays, Lesbians, and Allies for Diversity) was founded in 1994 to promote diversity awareness, and provide outreach and support for homosexuals and bisexuals.

"When I first came here I meshed with B-GLAD and some other organizations that were very open and very diverse," McNair said.

McNair stressed that organiza-

see **HOMOSEXUALITY** page 8



Photo by MCT

Gays and lesbians are becoming more and more open with their sexuality.

Group assignments help college students

Groups are beneficial for students' future

ELISE PHILLIPS
FEATURES EDITOR

Almost every student in the entire country has had to do it at one time or another. While some love the idea, others simply hate it.

Group projects are a source of much concern for some students, while for others the idea of a group project offers a sense of relief.

"I feel that group work is beneficial for students only if each group member does their part and work together. If they don't have the right components to work harmoniously and equally, then I feel like group work is more of a hindrance than a benefit," said Arturo Cummings, senior music major.

Whether you're feeling stuck in a group, or privileged to be in one, one question stands out: are group projects beneficial for students?

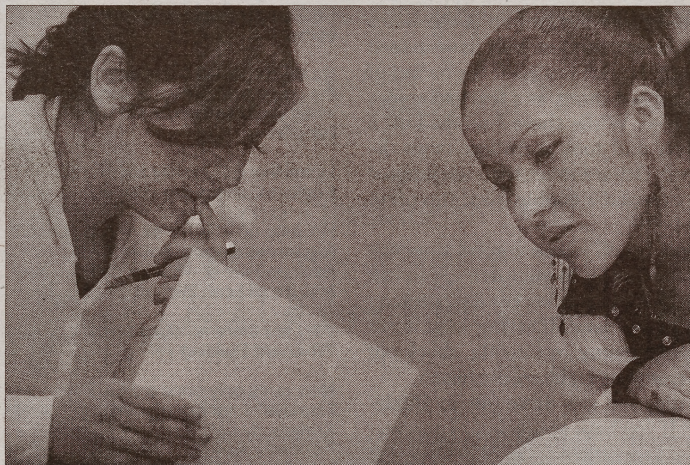


Photo by MCT

Working in groups proves to be difficult, but helpful to students in college.

According to Dr. Charles Grant, Communication professor at ECU, group projects are important for college students.

"I think groups are probably the most likely way to get work done, no matter what your job is. A group of people can do a lot more than one

person can do," Grant said.

Grant feels that learning how to work in groups will prepare students for what the workforce is really like.

"Business people see it as an important skill to learn and have," Grant said.

Despite the fact that working in groups can help students after college, there are still some students who feel like they are always stuck with the bulk of the work.

To these students, Grant says, "that's what communication is all about."

"There are always two dimensions to group work: the task-related dimension, which is about the job to be done, and the relationship-related dimension, which develops relationships with other people in the group. [This way] no body has to do more than their share," said Grant.

Thus, although many students hate the idea of working in groups, they will likely have to get used to it.

"Ideas are important to the success of the project, not personalities. A group's strength lies in its ability to develop ideas individuals bring. Conflict can be an extension of creativity; the

see **GROUPS** page 7

Lawyers: advocates for the common man

Lawyers' long hours help the public

BEN HARRIS
STAFF WRITER

Like many careers that require advanced degrees, the path to becoming a lawyer is not an easy one. The good news, however, is that law schools do not require students to choose one particular type of major to be admitted into law school.

"For the most part, there are no specific majors to take when considering law school, and sometimes it depends on the schools that a student is interested in," said Ashlee Bell, president of the ECU Pre-Law Society.

Bell advises that it is always a good idea to get in contact with some schools to see what they require as far as majors are concerned.

While many law schools do not take into account choice of major, all pay close attention to grades and personal qualities such as leadership and communication skills.

William Hardee, lawyer for Brantley, Jenkins, Riddle,

Hardee & Hardee, says that public law schools, such as UNC, tend to look at grades, LSAT score and extra-curricular activities. He also says that private law schools, such as his alma mater, Campbell, look at the student at a more personal level through interviews in which the student voices his vocational and social desires and displays his or her particular leadership capabilities.

A major hurdle for students to overcome in order to be admitted into law school is the LSAT.

According to the test's Website, LSAT.org, The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is a half-day standardized test required for admission to most law schools.

The LSAT provides a standard



measure of acquired reading and verbal reasoning skills that law schools look at as one of several factors in assessing applicants.

Hardee advises that a big part of doing well on this vital test is understanding the testing process. For

instance, many questions in the LSAT test the student's deduction skills.

After passing the LSAT and gaining admission to law school, the student faces the final and most dynamic chapter of his or her life before becoming a lawyer: finishing law school.

After graduation begins the career that a law student has so meticulously prepared for throughout the last decade.

"Lawyers spend their days counseling clients, negotiating with major companies and other lawyers and sometimes in front of judges and juries," said Hardee.

Thus, the ability to communicate eloquently and effectively is a fundamental skill lawyers must possess.

Hardee explains that lawyers must be dedicated and have a strong work ethic. Lawyers tend to work extremely long hours and it can take up to months, even years to close a case.

According to Bell, it is also important that lawyers can handle themselves well in any situation, whether it is in the classroom, at the workplace or within an organization.

Students interested in becoming lawyers should consider joining the Pre-Law Society of ECU. The society discusses the different testing methods of law school, the best ways to prepare for the LSAT and they also have guest speakers who come and discuss their careers as lawyers. For more information on the society, contact Bell at

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com

GROUPS

continued from page 6

group should be aware of this eventuality. Resolution of conflict balances the end goals with mutual respect. In other words, a group project is a cooperative, rather than a competitive, learning experience in the classroom and in life, "said Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Life at ECU's Career Center, Sue Martin.

Professors and employers alike will use this technique to get work done.

"Interaction within the group is based upon mutual respect and encouragement; for some it is difficult to trust the others work. All of these factors can stay with you as you transition to your chosen career field," Martin said.

For those students who shudder at the thought of group work, Dr. Grant gives this advice.

"Group management is internal. You can't just say I'm not going to do this job because this other person is not doing their work."

Now, students are learning how to work in groups in college. Later, they will be getting paid for it.

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HOMOSEXUAL continued from page 6

tions like B-GLAD have to be careful to promote the right messages, so that members and potential members don't become statistics or fall into negative stereotypes.

"I believe that young gays that come here can get in with the wrong crowd and get mixed with the club life and drug life. I think that if they don't pick the right crowd that tells them that it's ok to be who they are and that they don't have to fit the stereotypes, then they can find themselves in stereotypes, and oftentimes that can be using drugs or maintaining STDs."

Jamal Campbell, a recent ECU graduate and President of Breakthrough Campus Ministries, doesn't support homosexuality, but feels there is still an obligation to show love regardless of a person's sexual orientation.

He spoke out against groups that use Christianity as a basis for hate.

"I don't believe Christians

should be like those people who come on campus every year and speak with such malice, they do more damage than if they'd never come on campus to begin with," Campbell said.

The ideas that both McNair and Campbell promote are love and respect.

"I think that Christians need to learn to have agape love, and acceptance of each other," said McNair. "We should have an unapologetic sincerity for the welfare of everybody's life regardless of what their preference is."

Campbell and McNair are proof that with a rational mindset those on both sides of the issue can coexist peacefully.

However, it is likely that with the ongoing political and social debates surrounding homosexuality, the topic will be a headline for years to come.

This writer can be contacted at
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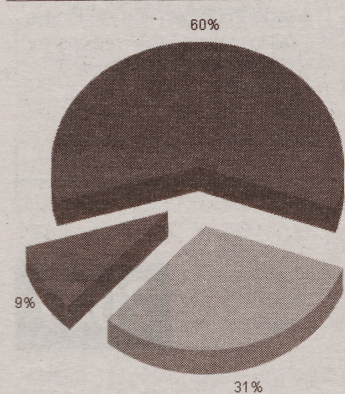


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Results from last week's question:

Do you think that the ECU baseball team will ever fulfill former coach Keith LeClair's dream of playing in the College World Series in Omaha and someday winning the championship?

60% -Yes, the team is making strides under ECU baseball Head Coach Billy Godwin

9% -No, the team has been digressing ever since LeClair retired because of complications with ALS.

31% -Maybe, it's too early to tell if the team can get back to the competitive level it was at under LeClair.

Online poll question:

Do you think that the ECU baseball team received a fair seed in the NCAA Regionals as the No. 2 seed at the Chapel Hill, N.C. site?

Yes, the team had some big wins during the season but not enough to earn a No. 1 seed or match up in a NCAA Regional against a lower ranked No. 1 seed than UNC.

No, the team proved in the C-USA Tournament that they deserved a No. 1 seed or at least the chance to play a lower seeded No. 1 team than the third best overall club in the nation, UNC.

Maybe, UNC is considered the third best club in the nation but ECU has an advantage matching up with the Tar Heels because they are familiar with the team and know what they need to do to beat them.

To vote on this weeks poll question go to theeastcarolinian.com and submit your vote. Current results can be found by clicking on the View Results button under the poll question. The final results will be posted in next Wednesday's edition of The East Carolinian.

ECU seeks payback on Heels

The Pirates will be the No. 2 seed in Chapel Hill

RONNIE WOODWARD
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

The ECU baseball team will not have the luxury of Clark-LeClair Stadium this weekend, but will have some familiarity with the stadium and teams that it will encounter in the NCAA Chapel Hill Regional.

ECU will be the No. 2 seed in the regional, along with top-seeded host North Carolina, third-seeded Western Carolina and fourth-seeded Jacksonville.

"We're excited about making the NCAA Tournament field," said ECU Head Coach Billy Godwin after the 64-team field was announced on Monday. "Our goal when we started early in the year was to play in a regional, and have an opportunity to win in a regional and advance."

However, ECU hasn't had much success in Chapel Hill this season. In a midweek game just over a month ago the Pirates were shutout



Photo by Robyn McLawhorn

Pinch runner Broc Sutton slides in for the tying run in the bottom of the ninth inning against Southern Miss.

by the Tar Heels, 10-0.

"It helps that we're familiar with them, but when those games start, the score is 0-0," said Godwin. "The fact that we've played North Carolina and know a lot about their personnel is a good thing."

UNC made a trip to Greenville two weeks after the 10-0 drubbing, and again beat ECU, 5-1.

"It's hard to beat one team three or four times in this game," Godwin said. "I don't think we've played our best baseball against North Carolina, and all I really want to focus on is us going over there and playing our best baseball of the year, and this is the time to do it."

ECU will have to beat Western Carolina in the first round before

it can get a chance for redemption against the Heels. The Pirates beat Western Carolina 3-2 in Clark-LeClair Stadium earlier this season.

"We have Western Carolina in the first game and we beat them earlier in the year, but they have a

see **NCAA** page 10

Pirates comes through in the clutch at tourney

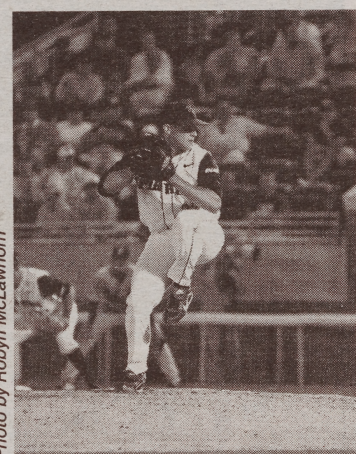


Photo by Robyn McLawhorn

T.J. Hose was strong against Tulane.

ECU reaches the C-USA Tournament championship game

RONNIE WOODWARD
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

ECU's Harrison Eldridge has a flair for the dramatic.

The 5-foot-7 energetic center-fielder hit a game-winning home

run and stole home in back-to-back nights, leading the Pirates to two crucial victories and eventually the C-USA Tournament championship game last week.

"Hero is not the right word, I have to thank my team for this," said Eldridge after the Pirates' 10-inning, 2-1 victory over Southern Miss in the C-USA Tournament. "I can't take all the credit for this, this is a team game and everybody put forth their effort tonight, it was a long haul but we got through it and came out with the win."

The second round game between second-seeded ECU and third-seeded Southern Miss game was a long haul. ECU failed to score a run until the bottom of the ninth, when pinch-runner Broc Sutton tied the game at one and sent the emotional game to extra innings on a Jamie Ray sacrifice fly.

One inning later, ECU Head Coach Billy Godwin reached into his bags of tricks, calling a suicide squeeze with the bases loaded and one out in the bottom of the tenth. As Eldridge was racing home, the ball squeaked by Southern Miss catcher Keith Winstead, allowing Eldridge

to safely steal home and give ECU the victory, with his arms raised in the air as he crossed home plate.

"Coach Godwin came up to me at third base and said, 'second pitch squeeze, no sign,' " said Eldridge. "He threw the ball to the plate and I just took off, luckily the ball got past the catcher and we got the win, it was a great feeling."

One night earlier, Eldridge pulled similar heroics. The junior from Knoxville, Tenn. hit a game-winning three-run home run in the bottom of the seventh, giving ECU a 4-2 first-round victory over Tulane.

"Talk about big time players coming up in big time situations," said Godwin. "What a great effort by Harrison Eldridge, T.J. Hose and this pitching staff, we had a solid effort all around and got some big hits when it counted."

However, things didn't start well for Eldridge. He flied out, grounded out and struck out to start the C-USA Tournament, but his next at-bat made up for it, as he sent a Shooter Hunt fastball over the right field fence for a three-run homer.

see **PIRATES** page 12

Young stars shine as teams struggle

James steps up game

MATT SIMON
STAFF WRITER

LeBron James and Deron Williams are two young stars of the NBA beginning to shine brighter than ever. James, a fourth-year player who came into the league with as much hype as anyone can remember, is trying his best to get his team into the NBA finals. Williams, the physical, gutsy, point guard of the Utah Jazz, is battling through the tough and hotly contested Western Conference.

The Cleveland Cavaliers started the Eastern Conference finals dropping their first two games to the Detroit Pistons, which had much to do with James struggling to find his rhythm early in the series. Drawing Detroit's best defender, Teshawn Prince, James scored only 10 points in Game 1 and a hard-earned 19 in Game 2. Real-

see **NBA** page 12

NCAA continued from page 9**1997**

1998: 30-29 Overall (10-11)
The Pirates finish the season with only one more win than the year before under new head coach LeClair, with no sign of the success the team will have the following year.

2000: 46-18 Overall (14-7)
The Pirates win the CAA Tournament Championship as the No. 1 seed, defeating VCU 7-6. ECU wins two games in the Lafayette, La. NCAA Regional.

2002: 43-20-1 Overall (16-13-1)
The Pirates make a successful jump from the CAA to C-USA. ECU takes the championship in its first season in the league, shutting out Houston, 4-0.

2004: 51-13 Overall (25-5)
In only his second season at the helm, Mazey coaches the Pirates to a school-record 51 wins, and a No. 8 National Rank by Baseball America, their highest rank ever.

2006: 33-26 Overall (10-14)
ECU Head Coach Billy Godwin takes over, and with little time to settle in Godwin and the Pirates fail to make a NCAA regional for the first time in seven years.

1999: 46-16 Overall (14-6)
ECU earns a No. 1 seed at the Baton Rouge, La. NCAA Regional, the first CAA team to do so, finishing the season ranked 23rd by Baseball America.

2001: 47-13 Overall (19-2)
ECU goes 19-2 in CAA play, the highest win total ever in the conference for the Pirates. ECU moves on to their first ever NCAA Super Regional appearance.

2003: 34-27-1 Overall (17-13 C-USA)
The Pirates digress after the loss of their skipper, LeClair, due to problems with ALS. Mazey steps in as head coach, starting a new, tumultuous era.

2005: 35-26 Overall (18-12)
As turmoil increases between Mazey and his superiors, the Pirates come up well short of their record setting win total of the previous year.

2007

great ballclub," said ECU's first-team All-Conference outfielder Harrison Eldridge. "It's also good to know that we're going somewhere close to home to play, and we don't have to travel all the way across the country."

Junior T.J. Hose will be ECU's starting pitcher when ECU and Western Carolina get the regional started Friday at 2 p.m. Hose did not pitch in the game against the

Catamounts this season, but did get to observe their hitters.

"You get a good observation of knowing their hitters, and how to pitch them, so it's an advantage," Hose said of his familiarity with the Western Carolina hitters.

ECU will carry a lot of confidence into this weekend's games, as it had a strong showing the C-USA Tournament last week, finishing second only to top-seeded Rice.

"We had success against Western [Carolina], and did some good things against UNC," said ECU closer Shane Mathews. "I think it will be a totally different ballgame with us being only about two hours away from home, and we'll have a lot of fan support."

Mathews was a freshman on 2004 ECU team, which was the last Pirate team to win an NCAA regional.

"This isn't our first merry-go-round, going to a regional," said ECU closer Shane Mathews. "It's definitely a regional that we feel like we can win."

This will be the eighth regional ECU has played in since 1999, but the Pirates have never made it to the College World Series, held annually in Omaha, Neb.

The College World Series stars on June 15, and after this

weekend, ECU is hoping it will be one step closer to the Mecca of college baseball, Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium.

"Everybody in the country is 0-0 right now, and there are 64 teams that have a shot at Omaha," Godwin said. "We're going to prepare and plan like we're one of them."

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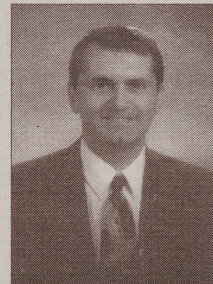
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PIRATES continued from page 9

Hunt had completely shut down the Pirates' offense prior to Eldridge's at-bat, allowing only two hits in 6 2/3 innings.

"We were struggling offensively all night; it was rough only having one hit going into the seventh inning," said Eldridge. "A couple of guys got on base, and it was great to come up to the plate in a situation like that and come through."

"I had failed the other three times and I finally got a pitch that I could do something with, not to take anything away from Shooter Hunt though, he's one of the better pitchers in this conference."

After two emotional wins, it seemed as if ECU was destined for a conference title. The Pirates won a Saturday rematch with Tulane 9-4, eliminating the Green Wave and setting up a championship showdown with top-seeded Rice.

The Pirates' good fortune ran dry in the championship game however, as Rice handed ECU its first loss of the tournament in a 16-8 slugfest.

"It's certainly disappointing to be on the short end of the stick, but we lost to a very good club," said Godwin.

Rice, which is ranked second in the nation, put ECU behind early, scoring eight runs in the second inning and building a 9-4 lead that

it would never surrender.

The Pirates didn't go down without a fight, as ECU would cut the lead to 9-8 in the fifth inning. The Owls were too much to handle though, as they scored the final six runs of the game after ECU showed signs of a comeback.

"I was very proud of the way our guys battled back," Godwin said. "I thought we could've cashed in after giving up eight runs in the second and down 9-4...I couldn't be any more proud of our group to battle back and pull it to 9-8, it just wasn't in the cards and that was a very good club that was across the dugout from us."

Rice has now won every possible championship since joining the league prior to last season. The national powerhouse won last year's regular season and postseason C-USA championships, and accomplished the same feat this season.

Despite the loss in the championship game, ECU will be returning to the NCAA Tournament after missing out last year. The Pirates earned an at-large bid as the second seed in this weekend's Chapel Hill Regional.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com

NBA continued from page 9

izing that the team needed more offensive production from their star player, James took-over in Game 3, scoring 32 points to go along with nine rebounds and nine assists.

With the game tied at 7:22 in the fourth quarter LeBron sparked his team's confidence by driving past two defenders to dunk over pesky shot-blocker Rasheed Wallace. Wallace got "posterized," abruptly shifting momentum to the Cavaliers. James made several other big shots down the stretch in Game 3, netting the biggest clutch shot in his young career; a mid-range jump shot to give his team a four-point lead with 20 seconds left in the game.

This was the type of performance that people have been expecting from James, who has been compared to the legendary Michael Jordan, since he entered the league. Like James, Jordan also had to battle some tough Piston teams early in his career before making it to the NBA Championship.

Deron Williams has been one of the biggest surprises in the playoffs. Williams is averaging 30 points and 8.5 assists per game in the Western Conference Finals.

Picked third in the 2005 NBA Draft by the Utah Jazz, he has been expected to be the heir-apparent to John Stockton. Not known as a natural scorer like James, Williams averaged 16 points and nine assists during the regular season and was known around the league as a true point guard whose first priority was to get his teammates involved.

Williams had another strong performance in Game 4 of the Western Conference Finals, scoring 31 points with nine assists despite reports before the game that he was experiencing flu-like symptoms. At some points in the game Williams was virtually unstoppable while drawing San Antonio's best defender and NBA All-Defensive first team member, Bruce Bowen. Williams blew by Bowen on several occasions to finish at the rim, pulled-up for jump shots when given space and caused havoc for the rest of the San Antonio defense with his and Carlos Boozer's unstoppable pick-and-rolls.

It's going to be tough for the rising star's respective teams to go on the road during these Conference Finals, where home teams have a record of 6-1. And

it's tough to watch the two players lay it all on the line only to be out-gunned by the deeper, more experienced teams they are facing. Each of these players is only 22 years of age, which makes it unreasonable to expect James to carry his team past the veteran Pistons and for Williams to lead his young, inexperienced team past the loaded roster of the Spurs. But it has been evident in their play that both of these players are doing everything in their power to help their teams advance. Whether it's James penetrating the defense and slamming it home for one of his patented "Sportscenter" highlight dunks or Williams hitting near impossible pull-up jumpers.

Even if both the Jazz and Cavaliers and eliminated from playoff contention we should all take a moment to tip our hat and show a little respect for how these two young stars are playing. Even though things aren't looking good in '07, it's not a stretch predicting the two could meet in the NBA Finals a few years down the road.

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