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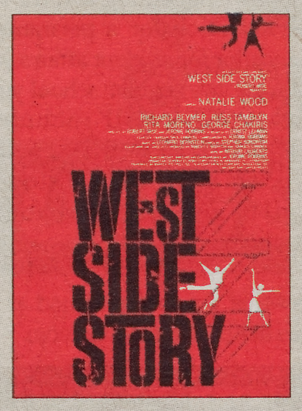

West Side Story opened to a packed house, get a glimpse of what the performance entailed and find out more about upcoming productions.....**Page 5**

The ECU baseball team lost six players to this summer's MLB Draft, turn to the sports section to find out which player's will not be playing for the Pirates next season.....**Page 9**

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Permanent associate vice chancellor named for academic programs

Contribued Image

Dr. Linner Griffin, AVC of academic affairs.

Griffin appointed to the position

JAMI DAVIA
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Linner Griffin, interim associate vice chancellor [AVC] for academic programs, began her role as the permanent AVC on July 1, 2007.

After a two year stint in this position, she was appointed by Dr. James LeRoy Smith, former provost, before his resignation in June 2007.

Griffin will take part in developing much of the agenda for The Office of Academic Programs.

Her department harbors several different sections that support the framework of ECU including providing all information for university catalogs, both graduate and undergraduate and maintaining both the online and print versions of the text.

The department also supports the Office of the Provost, curriculum committees, certifications, majors, minors, concentrations and the development of all new degree programs.

The department makes sure that these programs stay in line with university, state and federal requirements.

The University Writing Program, The University Writing Center, The Volunteer and Service Learning Center, The North Carolina Early Math Placement Program and the Center for Faculty Excellence are all supported by the Office of Academic Programs.

According to Dr. Rita Gonsalves, assistant vice chancellor for service learning, ECU had over 9,000 student volunteer last year.

These 9,000 students completed approximately 139,000 hours of service and were spread between 125 supported community agencies.

"She is very supportive of this," Gonsalves said of Griffin.

"She cares enormously about the volunteer and service experience for students. She supports all ECU students and truly understands what the agencies need."

see **VICE CHANCELLOR** page 2

College of Education reaches out to Pitt County elementary students

Students get a taste of the teaching profession

ZACK HILL
SENIOR WRITER

In the cafeteria of Wahl-Coates Elementary School on Fifth Street, just down the street from ECU's campus, two tables of five students are racing to prepare plastic hamburgers to put into Big Mac boxes.

It is a competition that is a demonstration of systems; one an assembly line, the other a craftsman-style that is part of the theme for two summer centers being held at the site.

The two centers each focus ECU students who are working on getting either their academic and intellectually gifted or special education license.

Debbie Metcalf, teacher in residence and Jennifer Palumbo, special education graduate student, coordinated the center for the special education students while Elizabeth Fogarty, assistant professor of education, and Katie O'Connor, assistant professor of education coordinated for the AIG center.

The AIG center brings 60 ECU in contact with 42 fourth and fifth-grade students from across the county. This center is for ECU students working to get their academic licenses.

The other center consists of nine ECU students working with 13 students with mild disabilities from grades 3-5. This center is for those students who are looking to get their special education licenses.

Instructors from ECU, as well as master teachers from the Pitt County school system, assisted the ECU students with working with these children. Amanda Jenkins is the master teacher for the special education camp with Laura Jones, adjunct faculty member and Pitt County teacher.

Susan Hachmeister and Carmen Smith are the master teachers for the AIG center.

On a typical day, the kids arrive in the morning around 8 a.m. and then pass through several learning stations, each with it's own theme and directed by the ECU students.

At 11:30 a.m. the children reconvene to review what they've done that day and are let out around noon.

see **ELEMENTARY** page 3

ECU appoints interim vice provost for student affairs

Contributed Image

Todd Johnson holds new position

NIA RICHARDSON
STAFF WRITER

Todd Johnson, vice chancellor for campus living, dining and transit has been appointed to a new position as interim vice provost for student affairs.

His new position went into effect immediately upon his appointment and will hold until the selection of a new provost begins in six months.

Johnson has been in the position for one week and is ready to serve the student body in the area of student affairs.

"My performance will be driven by my desire to help ECU reach its goals of education, research and service to the region and on a national scale," Johnson said.

His responsibilities include the oversight of student affairs areas including housing and dining, recreation services, transit, student health services, student union and experiences, Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, marketing, career services and the dean of students office.

"I hope to gain from my experience new perspectives on how a large diverse division such as student affairs can better support the academic mission of the university and collaborate to create a positive learning experience for all students," Johnson said.

Johnson has been working in higher education administration for twenty-six years at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, University of Maryland and Pennsylvania State University. He first began serving the ECU community in 2004, as associate vice chancellor

see **STUDENT AFFAIRS** page 2

VICE CHANCELLOR continued from page 1

"I think that the office provides vital support to the faculty, deans, the provost and through them, to the students. I am very pleased to be in a position that provides such vital service to the university," said Griffin when asked about her role in the Office of Academic Programs.

According to Griffin, a new addition will soon be added to our university catalog system. An interactive, online version of the catalog will soon be available to students and faculty.

This updated version shows any changes that have occurred since the original time of print and will certainly make searching for classes an easier experience.

"I think a more interactive catalog would be beneficial to the students," said Tracie Mills, elementary education major.

"I haven't looked through the catalog many times, but such an addition is a very good idea."

The catalog should be available within the next month and will highlight all updates and changes in green for easier viewing.

Griffin earned her bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, her master's from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her doctorate from the University of Houston.

She began her time at ECU within the School of Social Work, serving as both faculty member and interim dean for their college.

She has also served as interim director for the School of Communication.

For more information on the Office of Academic Programs, contact Dr. Linner Griffin at (252) 328-5358, or by email at Griffinl@ecu.edu.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com

STUDENT AFFAIRS continued from page 1

for campus living and dining.

Johnson was recommended for the position as interim vice provost by an executive council and leadership team in student affairs and was officially appointed by Dr. Marilyn Sheerer, interim vice chancellor for student affairs.

Sheerer is confident in Johnson's abilities.

"Todd Johnson has brought an innovative, energetic approach to his work with housing, dining and transit. In addition, he has considerable expertise in fiscal affairs. I look forward to working closely with him as he assumes wider responsibilities." Sheerer said.

Mr. Johnson is also currently assuming his duties as vice chancellor for campus living, dining and transit.

The selection for a permanent vice chancellor for student affairs will begin during the regular school year.

The process will include a national search as well as a selection process by which the student body will be given the opportunity to participate.

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Aug. 14-17 — FREE Group Fitness Classes
See Class Schedule

WELLNESS

July 11 — Wellness Wednesday Fit Stop: Diabetes & Cholesterol Screening; "Ask the Nutritionist"
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ELEMENTARY continued from A1

The program is beneficial for participating ECU students.

"It's great that the students can show their strengths in ways they don't get to during the regular year," said Ruth Kilburn of the college of education's curriculum and instruction department, as well as the coordinator of both centers.

The centers provide the ECU students with a broader perspective on education, according to Metcalf.

"They are seeing how the whole system works," Metcalf said.

O' Connor pointed out that the hands-on methods used in the centers enhance the process of getting the licenses.

Technology played a larger role than usual in this year's centers, with around 75 pieces of equipment being provided by both ECU and the Pitt County Schools.

"There was a strong partnership between the Pitt County and ECU tech staffs," O'Connor said.

This is the sixth year that special education students have held the center and the third for AIG students.

The special education students will get two weeks of experience while the AIG center will last for just one week.

Both centers are being conducted by the department of curriculum and instruction under interim chair Sandra Warren.

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Opinion

RANT OF THE DAY

I want a chicken sandwich, waffle fries and a coke for free!

Will justice ever be served?

Duke rape accuser should be punished for lives she damaged

(MCT)-There will never be justice in the Duke University lacrosse case until somebody slaps cuffs on the accuser, Crystal Gail Mangum.

In April, North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper issued a report accompanying dismissal of the charges against each of the three lacrosse players accused _ Dave Evans, Collin Finnerty and Reade Seligmann. Cooper didn't pull any punches. His findings went beyond the conventional "not guilty" to proclaim the men "innocent." Duke reached a private settlement with the men to ward off litigation. Too bad it reportedly protected 88 Duke faculty members who signed an ill-conceived petition last spring that all but explicitly sided with the accuser. Duke also settled with an uncharged lacrosse player; he complained he received a bad grade because of his association with the team.

And of course, Mike Nifong _ former district attorney for Durham County, and the man who so publicly prosecuted the case _ has now surrendered his job, his license to practice law, and the keys to his office. A disciplinary panel concluded he should be disbarred for his handling of the case, and then Durham's sheriff literally drove to his house and took his keys to the county courthouse. Before it's all over, Nifong could end up in jail.

All good, so far. But someone is missing: Mangum. She needs to return to the Durham County courthouse in handcuffs _ as perpetrator, not accuser. The idea of "closure" remains a joke until she gets a taste of what Evans, Finnerty and Seligmann went through, and what Nifong is now suffering.

She needs to be punished for the damage she has done to our judicial system and the potential harm she has caused real rape victims. It's often said rape victims are assaulted twice _ once by the perpetrator, and again by the judicial process. Fear of this process, which can become a referendum on the lifestyle of the "victim," leads some to choose not to prosecute. The Duke case, initiated by false charges, became particularly ugly, and one has to worry that this it exacerbated an already hostile climate for victims. Might a real victim look at the legitimate lambasting of Magnum and find even more reasons not to enter that arena? I think so.

The report by the North Carolina Attorney General's Office illustrates not only Nifong's naivete, but also Mangum's deceit:

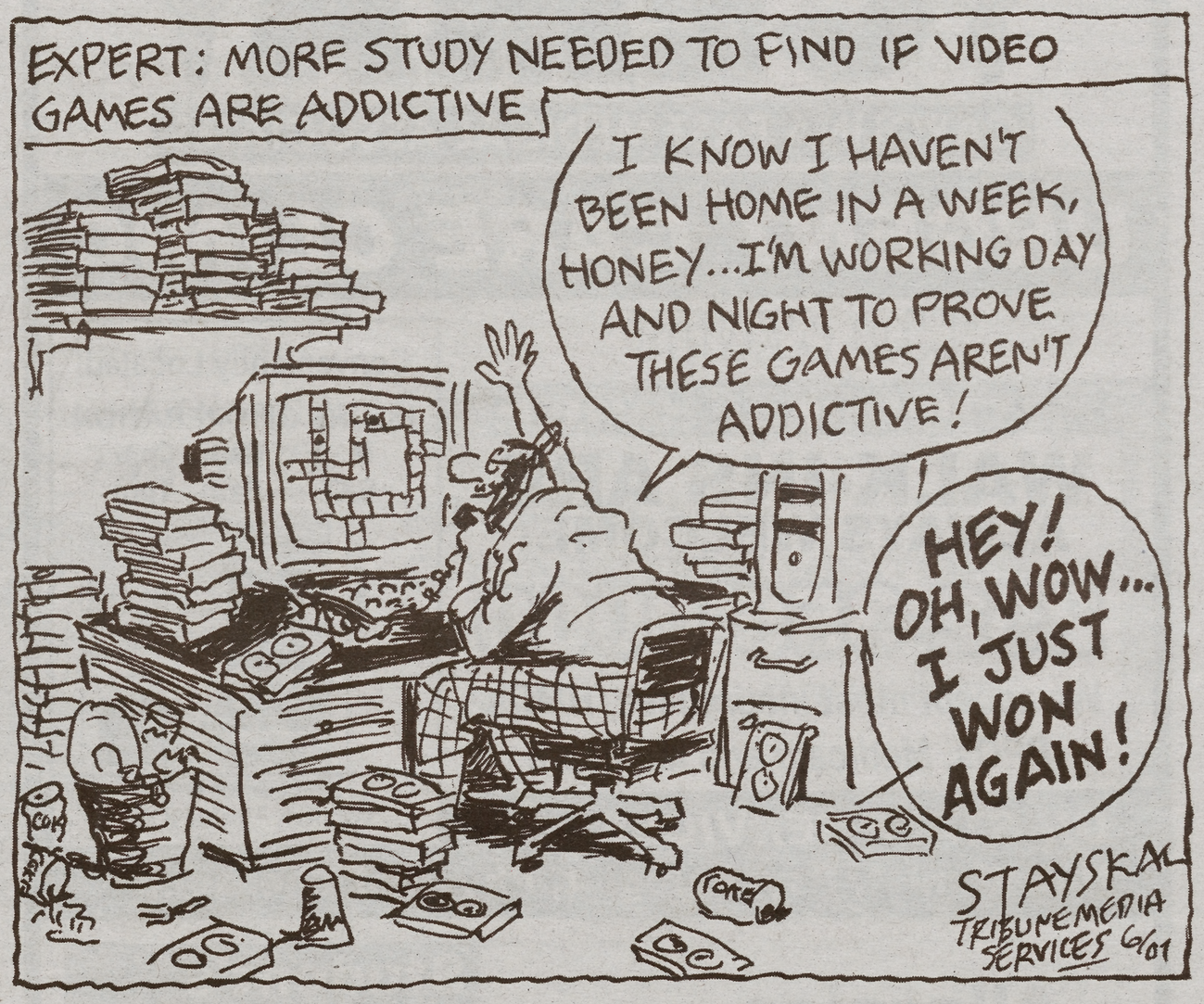
"The reinvestigation led to the conclusion that there was no credible evidence to support the allegation that the crimes occurred. ... Her proposed testimony about critical events changed whenever it was demonstrated that what she was saying could not be accurate. ...While witnesses often have inconsistencies in details when recounting events over time, the volume of inconsistent statements and the fact that many of these were substantial and were in regard to significant events rendered the truthfulness of the accusing witness in serious doubt."

In non-legal speak, she lied! But she walks free.

George Parry, a former federal and state prosecutor now in private practice in Philadelphia, told me that North Carolina law stipulates that Mangum can be charged with false reports to law enforcement agencies, a Class 2 misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in prison.

And he added: "Even though Crystal Gail Mangum set this train wreck in motion, it appears that she has `Tawana Brawley immunity' from prosecution. Thanks to racial politics, she belongs to a protected class of false declarants whom law enforcement will not dare to touch."

Let's hope it's a fear law enforcement will soon overcome. Until it does, the tracks through Durham remain un-cleared.



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.

Whose bright idea was it to get rid of the fountain in front of Wright? Instead of getting rid of it, you should've maintained it. As an Alumni, that was one of my favorite parts of campus...it was beautiful when you kept it maintained and running. Many other Alums that I've talked with were disappointed to learn it is now gone.

I wish my life was a music video so that I could dance all over campus!

I know that you talk about me behind my back and that's okay because I talk about you behind your back too.

I know you and I know what you do. Dew be dew be dew

It would be funny if someone put a ticket on the car that that a metermaid drives

I don't really expect you to still be there when I come back but getting over you is next to impossible when I dream of you almost every night.

You call me at 2am then don't pick up or call back when I phone you at a decent hour. At least let me know what is going on. There is such a thing as a stupid question, and the girl in my psychology class proves that almost everyday.

I kind of throw up in my mouth a little, when i think about you working at that restaurant.

I want a chicken sandwich, waffle fries and a coke for free!

After summer session one ended and all my friends went home, my social life has gone downhill. I've been sober for a few long days now.

I rock those big sunglasses. Maybe you should try it before you knock it. Jackie O was a classy lady but I'm sure you don't know who she is.

After watching a news story about an ECU english professor who is facing criminal charges, I was shocked to learn that ECU does not do criminal background checks when hiring their faculty. And they expect us to feel safe on our campus?

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Features

Horoscopes:

Aries
Your research project will bring you more than information. Influential people are impressed with your diligence.

Taurus
You have natural talent for making enough out of not very much. Don't worry _ necessity is still the mother of invention.

Gemini
You're charming and witty and extra smart now. Also remember the rules you've been taught and you'll make an excellent impression.

Cancer
They want the job done yesterday. And it's complicated. Look at the instructions again.

Leo
Your friends all agree with you. They think you're a hero for standing up, as much as you could, to a blockhead bureaucrat. Take comfort in that.

Virgo
Finish a job you promised, just `cause you said you would. There's no more money in your pocket for doing this but you will gain respect.

Libra
You're able to put other people's ideas into words, which is good. Be careful, however, when telling the boss what to do.

Scorpio
Your reputation is growing, as is your authority. Continue to keep important people apprised of your intentions.

Sagittarius
Let yourself be led into a brand new adventure. A teacher you trust wants to take your education to the next level.

Capricorn
It's taken a while but now you're making progress more rapidly. Pay off an old debt and ease your burden even more.

Aquarius
A person you care a lot about can help you understand a person you've found to be very frustrating lately. These may be the same person.

Pisces
Take care of domestic issues. Clean your place up a bit. You've been distracted lately, but you may want to entertain soon.

West Side Story opens to a packed house

Actors shine in the portrayal of *West Side Story*

ELISE PHILLIPS
FEATURES EDITOR

Contributed image

A number of actors created a thrilling production of the classic musical West Side Story during performances.

Students, faculty and members of the community showed up to the premier of the production of ECU's *West Side Story* on June 29, almost selling out McGinnis Theatre.

The show, which ran until Saturday, June 30, only drew bigger crowds as the week progressed, according to Jeffrey Woodruff, Managing Director of the ECU/Loessin Summer Playhouse and Theatre.

The play consisted of student actors from ECU, as well as others from around the country.

"This gives [ECU students] a chance to work with working professionals [and] provides a good mentoring process," Woodruff said.

West Side Story, based on the book by Arthur Laurents, has a semblance to the Romeo and Juliet love saga. It begins by depicting two rival gangs in 1957 New York City, one consisting of newly immigrated Puerto Ricans, the other composed of native New-Yorkers.

The drama begins early in the plot when one of the native New-Yorker gang members, Tony, is in love with a Puerto Rican girl, Maria.

This causes conflict between the gangs. Fighting ensues as the opposing gangs quibble over territory in the city.

As the conflict progresses, the actors depict the fighting in beautiful, dramatic ways, using music and dance to portray the controversy.

Songs like "Something's Coming" and "Tonight" gives the audience a feel for the tension between the two gangs.

All the while, Tony and Maria's relationship grows, while the fighting of the rival gangs escalates around them.

Despite every effort to stop the gang-on-gang violence, Tony kills Maria's brother Bernardo in a brawl between the gangs, leaving the audience stunned.

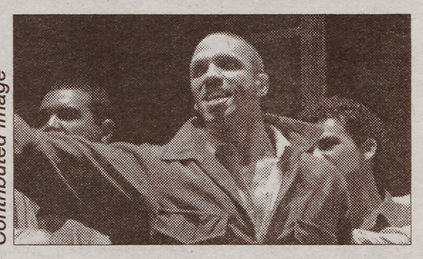
The production ends with Maria crying over Tony's body with the members of each gang standing by.

Members from each gang sadly carry Tony's body out as the curtain falls, leaving the audience silent and contemplative.

The June production of *West Side Story* was a great success. The cast members received a standing ovation by the audience, all riveted by the life-like portrayal of this contemporary version of Romeo and Juliet.

For students who have never attended a production at ECU, Woodruff advises that they take advantage of going to a liberal arts school, and go to one.

"They will never a see a show that good that cheap ever again," Woodruff said.



Contributed image

The ECU/Loessin Summer Playhouse and Theatre will also be putting on *Barefoot in the Park*, which opened yesterday and will run through Saturday, July 14 and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, on July 24-28.

For tickets and more information log on to ecuarts.edu.

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com

ECU Students honored at Project HEART Banquet

Program benefits at-risk children in the area

ELISE PHILLIPS
FEATURES EDITOR

ECU students, along with other college students in the area were honored on Friday, June 29 for a job well done.

These students work with an organization called Project HEART, an acronym for High Expectations for At-Risk Teens. The program began in 2000 with an idea by the then Governor Jim Hunt to target academically at-risk children in Eastern North Carolina that were affected by a flood that devastated the area. This at-risk status was measured by below-standard scores achieved on state exams.

"The program was designed to help children live through the trauma of the flood and focus on academics and the importance of education," said Dr. Betty Beacham, Project HEART's Director.

Governor Hunt shared the idea with a dean from ECU, who brought the prospective program back to Greenville.

In 2000, the program targeted four Eastern North Carolina counties, utilizing 48 tutors for 480 middle school students.

Today, the program has grown to include over 500 tutors helping approximately 6,000 students in the region.

Project HEART works with children not only in area schools, but also in faith-based organizations, the Boys and Girls Club and other organizations.

The program has seen significant academic growth among at-risk students, which range from third to twelfth grade.

For example, since the program started, 89 percent of elementary and middle school-aged children passed their end-of-grade tests in reading and moved on to the next grade.

Project HEART has had tremendous success with the students that are being tutored, but it also provides benefits for the college students who are tutoring.

Students who tutor children receive a bi-weekly stipend of $224.92, along with an educational grant of $2,362.50 after completing their hours.

Although the financial benefits of Project HEART are helpful to students who participate, more important benefits can be gained from the program.

"Being able to know that I made a difference in a child's life [is the best part of the program.] It's rewarding when someone says 'I was here and now I'm here. You helped me with this,'" said Ryan Chapman, a 2007 graduate of ECU and a two-year member of Project HEART.

The program just received more federal funding and will expand to three more counties.

"Our long-range goal is to reach the whole state, but for now, our goal is to reach every child in every county in Eastern North Carolina," Beacham said.

For students who would like to get involved, Beacham gives some advice.

"Students need to realize that it [working with Project HEART] will take tremendous commitment. They have to realize that they are working with fragile children who really need stability in their life. But the rewards and payoffs are well worth the effort," Beacham said.

For more information about Project HEART or to learn how to get involved, visit coe.ecu.edu/projectheart.

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com

Lennon's music sparks awareness

Artists ban together to end suffering in Sudan

ELISE PHILLIPS
FEATURES EDITOR

Famous artists from around the world banned together to create a project under Amnesty International, the largest grassroots human rights organization in the world.

Their goal: to help raise awareness through music of the suffering in Darfur, Sudan, where millions have been displaced from their homes and more than 4.5 million people are at risk for starvation and disease, rape, torture and other attacks.

The album, entitled *Instant Karma: Save Darfur*, incorporates artists like Christina Aguilera, Avril Lavigne, Aerosmith, U2, Lenny Kravitz, Green Day and many more, combining hip-hop, country, rock and pop music.

Proceeds from the album, which was released on June 12, will go towards ending the suffering in Darfur and to further human rights activism. The proceeds will also go towards other crises around the world.

Over 50 recording artists and 30 record labels joined together to recreate John Lennon's solo songbook, which was generously donated by Yoko Ono for the cause.

Some of Lennon's songs remade are "Mother," sung by powerhouse Christina Aguilera, "Cold Turkey," sung by Lenny Kravitz and "Dream," sung by R.E.M.

A surprise on the CD was "Imagine" sung by the usually punky Avril Lavigne, who sang the song with shockingly gentle sensitivity.

Other artists sang Lennon's songs with passion and intensity, remaking his legendary songs into a more contemporary style.

Corinne Bailey Rae sung the soulful ballad "I'm Losing You." Ben Harper's sultry voice captured Lennon's "Beautiful Boy," stunningly.

This two-disc project will undoubtedly leave listeners motivated to do their part to end the suffering in Darfur, Sudan.

For more information on the project and to learn how to get involved, visit the Web site instantkarma.org.

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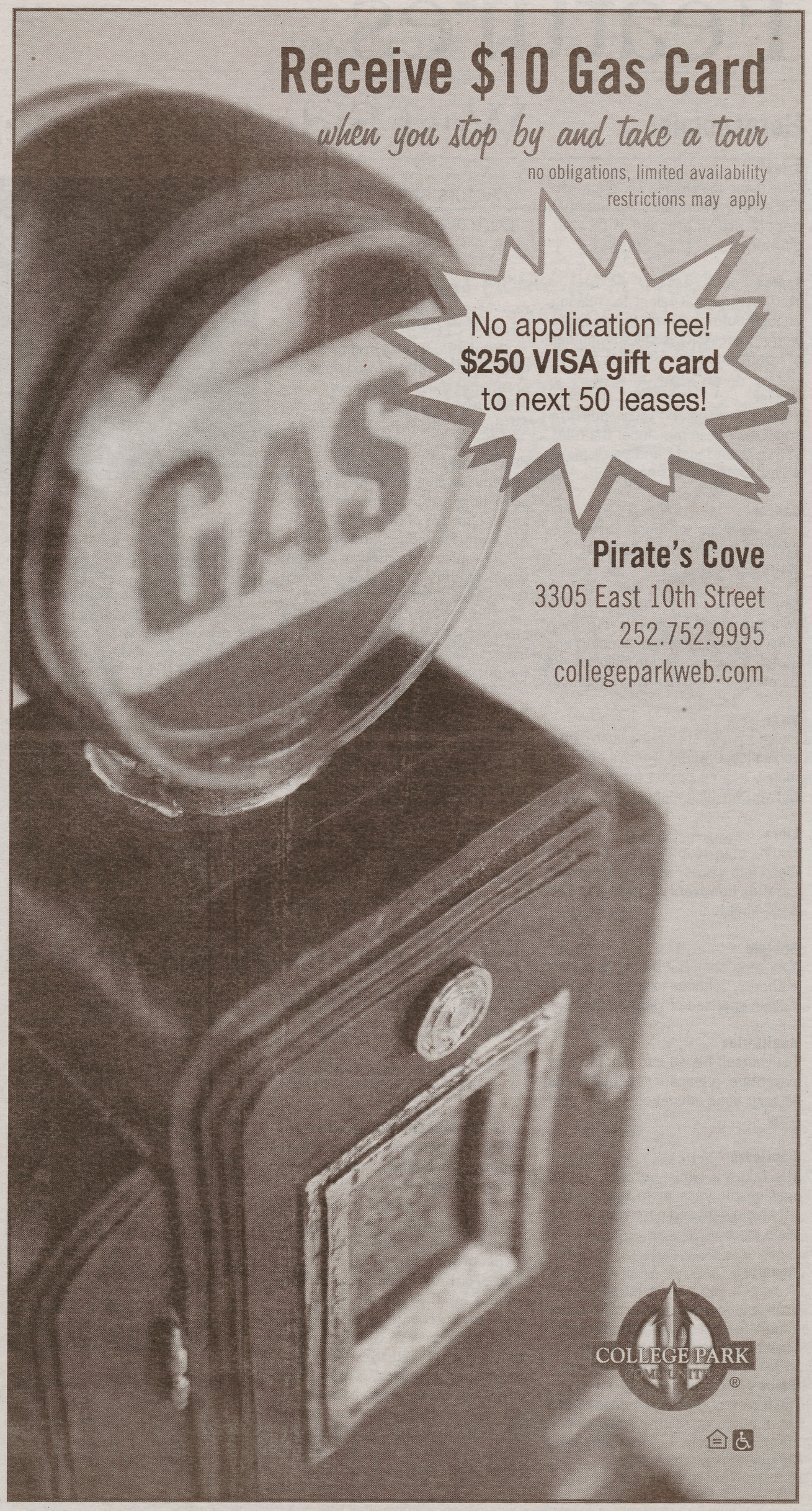
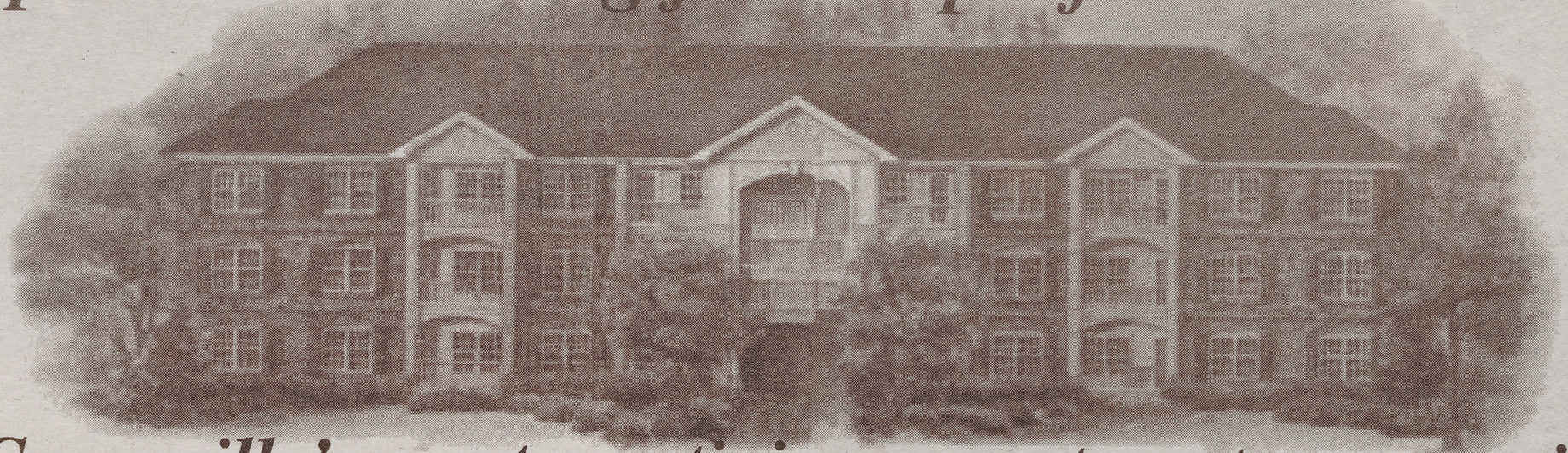


Sophisticated living for the professional student



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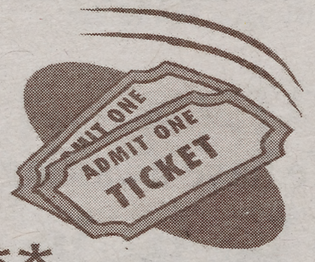

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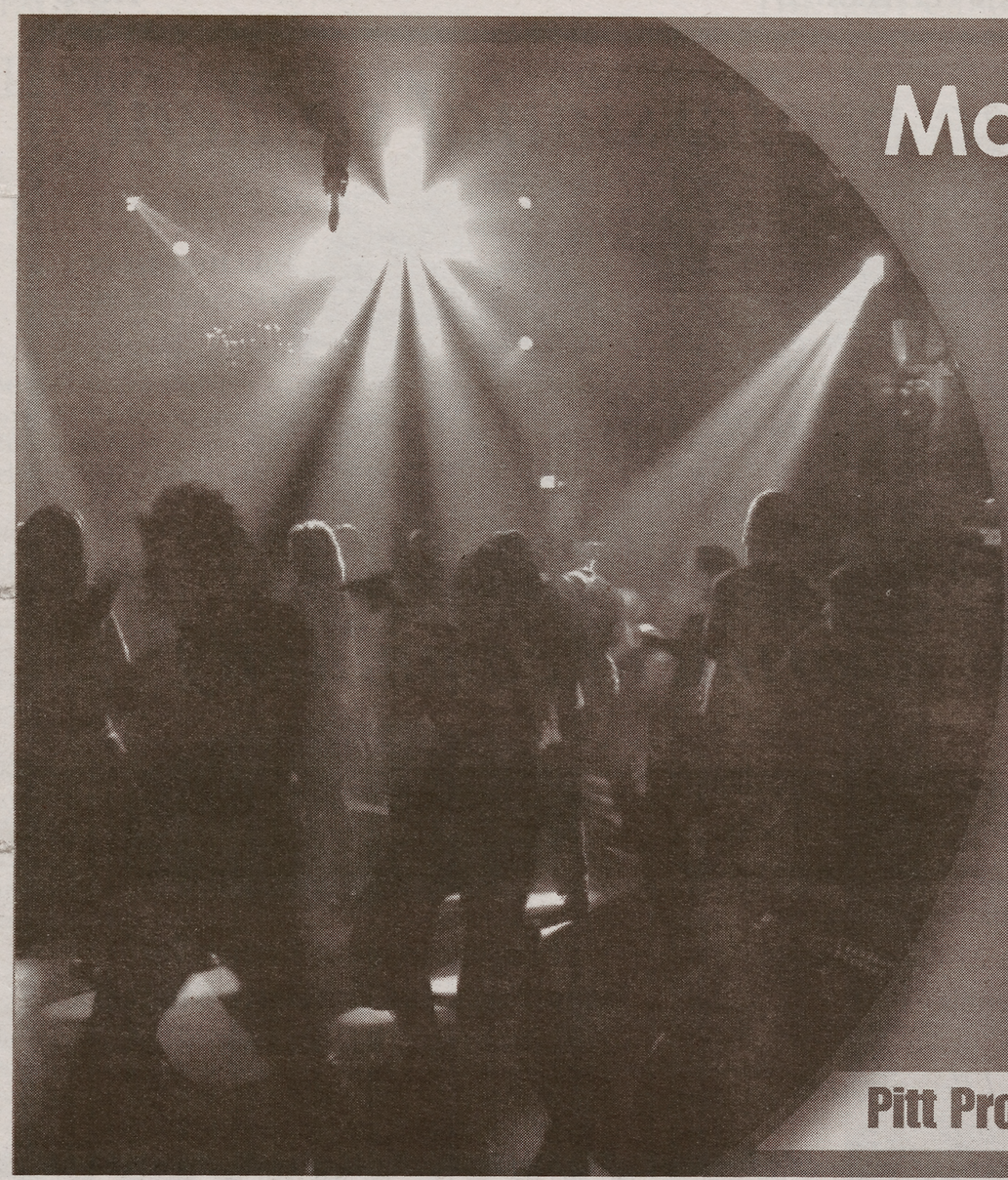

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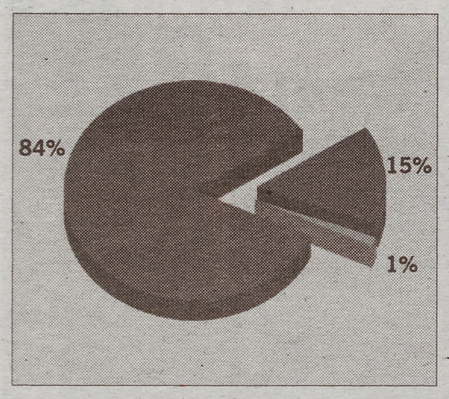

Results from last week's question:

Which ECU basketball program will win more games next season?

15%- The Men's team

84%- The Women's team

1%- They will win the same number of games

Online Poll Question:

Which ECU running back will rush for more yards this season?

A. Dominique Lindsay

B. Chris Johnson

C. Norman Whitley

D. One of the incoming running back recruits that ECU signed in February

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 the July 18 edition of The East Carolinian.

MLB draft makes its presence felt

ECU loses six players to the pros

RONNIE WOODWARD
SPORTS EDITOR

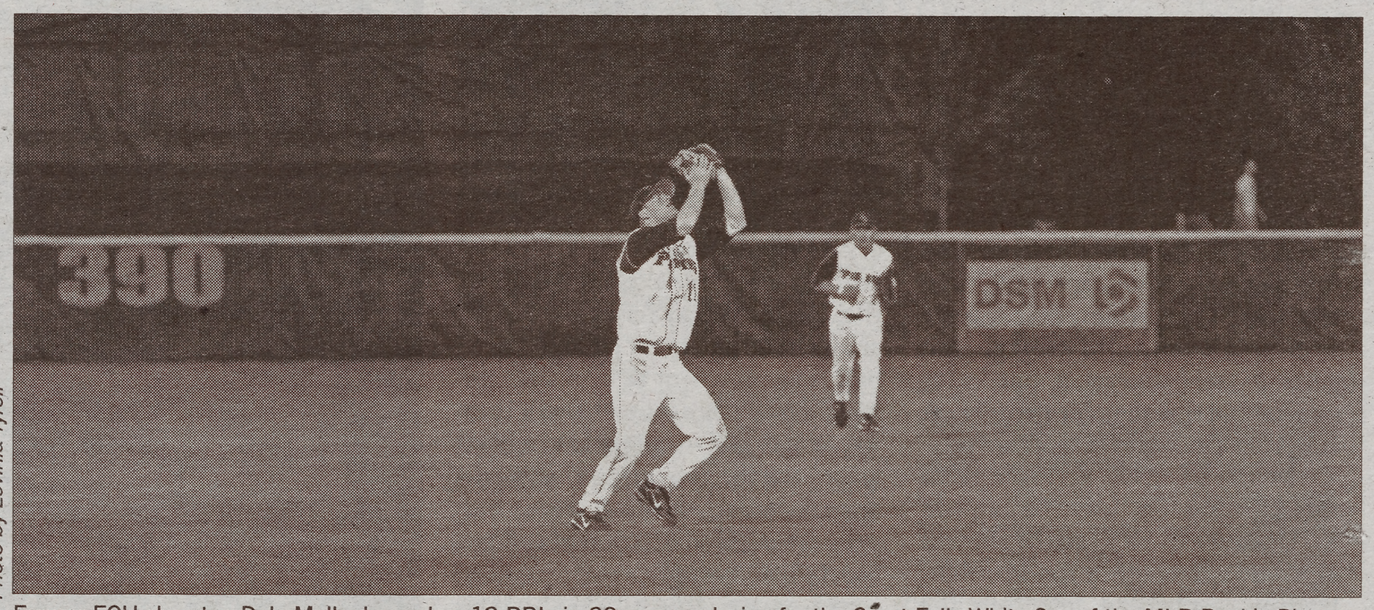

Photo by Levinia Tyrell

Former ECU shorstop Dale Mollenhauer has 13 RBIs in 20 games playing for the Great Falls White Sox of the MLB Rookie Pioneer League this summer.

When the ECU baseball team's season ended a little more than a month ago, the Pirates had 28 underclassmen slated to return and 12 incoming recruits signed to play in 2008, but four days later, things changed.

The 2007 Major League Baseball Draft started on June 7, and some of the MLB teams dipped into ECU's talent pool, drafting three ECU juniors and three of ECU's incoming recruits. All six draftees have now either signed or agreed in principle with the team that drafted them, deciding to start their professional careers instead of playing for the Pirates next season.

According to ECU baseball coach Billy Godwin, losing players to the draft has become a part of college baseball and the ECU players that have decided to go pro were not unexpected.

"The standard now is for your best players to be in college for three years," said Godwin in a recent phone interview, while recruiting in Pennsylvania. "We have to look at our junior class at the beginning of the year and decide which guys are going to go [pro], and you pretty much have to count them gone."

ECU lost juniors Shane Mathews, Dale Mollenhauer and Dustin Sasser, and incoming recruits Tyrell Worthington, Derrick Conatser and Rigoberto Lugo to the MLB Draft. ECU signee Sthil Sowers was also drafted, but is still planning on coming to ECU in the fall.

While the NFL and NBA have recently made rules restricting players from high school turning pro, high school baseball player's are not only eligible to be drafted, but encouraged to sign out of high school because it can take years for a baseball player to progress through a MLB team's minor league system.

A baseball player who decides to go a four-year college cannot be drafted again until he is three year's removed from graduating high school. This rule can make it difficult for college baseball coaches to actually get the top high school players to attend college.

"High school kids can't get drafted in those other drafts, so it makes a huge difference," Godwin said of the MLB Draft compared to the NBA and NFL. "We have to look at our recruiting class and try and be a predictor, which is very difficult thing to do."

With limited amount of scholarship money available, college baseball coaches have to manage their recruiting classes and returning player's scholarship money during the off-season, to avoid going over the allotted amount.

"You have to decide out of the incoming recruiting class who are the possible draft guys and you might want to sign an extra guy as a safety net," said Godwin, "but you have to be careful because you can't go over but so much, because if nobody gets drafted then you're over in scholarship money.

"You have to have the ability to overdue things in the recruiting process because if you're recruiting the top players, you're going to have to go through that every year, and that's the type of player's that you need to have to get to Omaha."

The ECU football team also took a hit from the MLB Draft. Worthington, a heralded two-way star at nearby South Central High School, was selected by the Arizona Diamondbacks in the fifth round of the MLB draft, and has decided to sign with the Diamondbacks instead of coming to ECU to play both baseball and football.

Worthington rushed for 2,652 yards and 28 touchdowns as a high

see **DRAFT** page 10

C-USA basketball team tabbed No. 1 by ESPN

Memphis returns a lot of experience and talent

JOHN HOLT
STAFF WRITER

Conference USA member Memphis is the No. 1 college basketball team in the country for the 2007-08 season, according to the *ESPN.com* summer preseason poll recently released by ESPN analyst Andy Katz.

The defending C-USA champions will return everyone except guard Jeremy Hunt from last year's team, which finished 35-4 and went all the way to the Elite Eight before falling to eventual national runner-up Ohio State.

"I want to enjoy my summer a little bit before we think about Memphis," ECU basketball coach Ricky Stokes said with a laugh earlier this summer. "But with no question it is good for the conference, it is important from a visibility standpoint and with everyone they have coming back they should be a very tough team to handle."

McDonalds All-American Derrick Rose will also join the Tigers for the upcoming season. Rose, listed at 6-foot-4 and 195 pounds, was ranked as the No. 1 point guard recruit in the nation by *ESPN.com*.

"Look, the Tigers still haven't lost anyone of significance from an Elite Eight team," Katz wrote on *ESPN.com*. "They also added Derrick Rose to the mix, which gives them one of the top talents coming in this season. Chris Douglas-Roberts and Joey Dorsey are a one-two punch that can allow John Calipari's squad to press, run and score in bunches."

A tough non-conference schedule should also help Memphis from a national perspective.

"Memphis just locked up Georgetown for a home game and already had Arizona, Gonzaga and Tennessee at home, and USC and possibly Kentucky in neutral games in New York," said Katz "This squad is loaded, the schedule is popping with RPI points and the Tigers have the one coach who isn't afraid to say anything."

Former C-USA members Louisville and Marquette also appeared in the summer poll, ranked sixth and thirteenth respectively.

North Carolina, Kansas, UCLA and Georgetown round out Katz' top five.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com

DRAFT continued from page 9

school senior, including a 351-yard, six-touchdown performance in South Central's first ever playoff win last fall. He was a four-time all-conference selection as a football player, a three-time all-conference member as a baseball player and was ranked as the 16th best high school football player in the state by *Rivals.com* in 2006, but will never step foot on an ECU football or baseball field as a Pirate.

"I felt like if Tyrell [Worthington] was drafted in the fifth round or better then that would be a great opportunity for him, and that's exactly what happened," said Godwin. "I'm certainly an advocate of people coming to college and getting their education, but I also understand that they [draftees] look at it from a business standpoint too."

Mathews, ECU's closer from this past season, was the highest ECU player to be drafted. He was drafted in the eighth round by the Baltimore Orioles, marking the third time that he has been drafted. Mathews was drafted in the 20th round by the Cleveland Indians after graduating from Hickory's St. Stephens High School, and was drafted in the 26th round of the 2006 MLB Draft after his third year removed from high school.

Teams like Louisville and UC Irvine making unexpected trips to the College World Series last month shows that parity in college baseball is as prevalent as ever, and the MLB Draft has a lot to do with that.

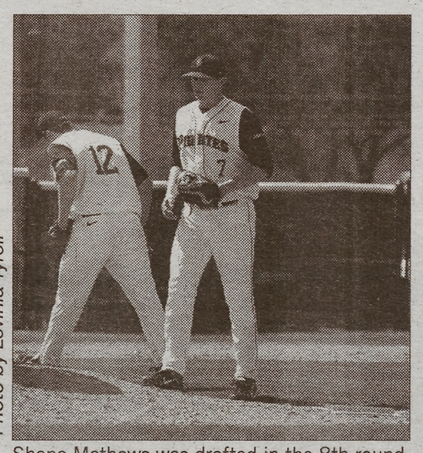
Photo by Levinia Tyrell

Shane Mathews was drafted in the 8th round by the Baltimore Orioles.

"It's tough to compete at a high level with the recruiting that we do and the impact the draft has on our programs," Godwin said of college baseball as a whole.

Despite losing six players to the MLB Draft, "We still believe our recruiting class is very good," said Godwin. "We'll have a lot of depth coming back and we added a very good recruiting class even after the draft."

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com

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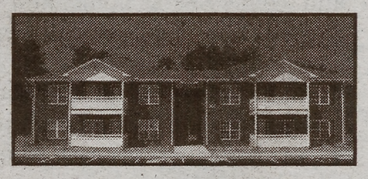

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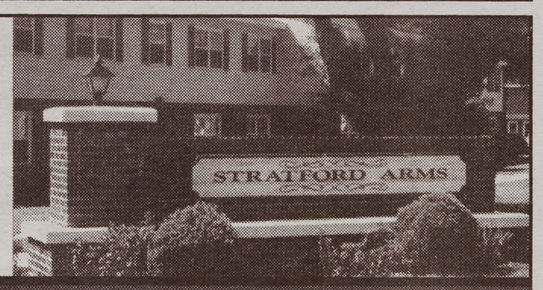

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