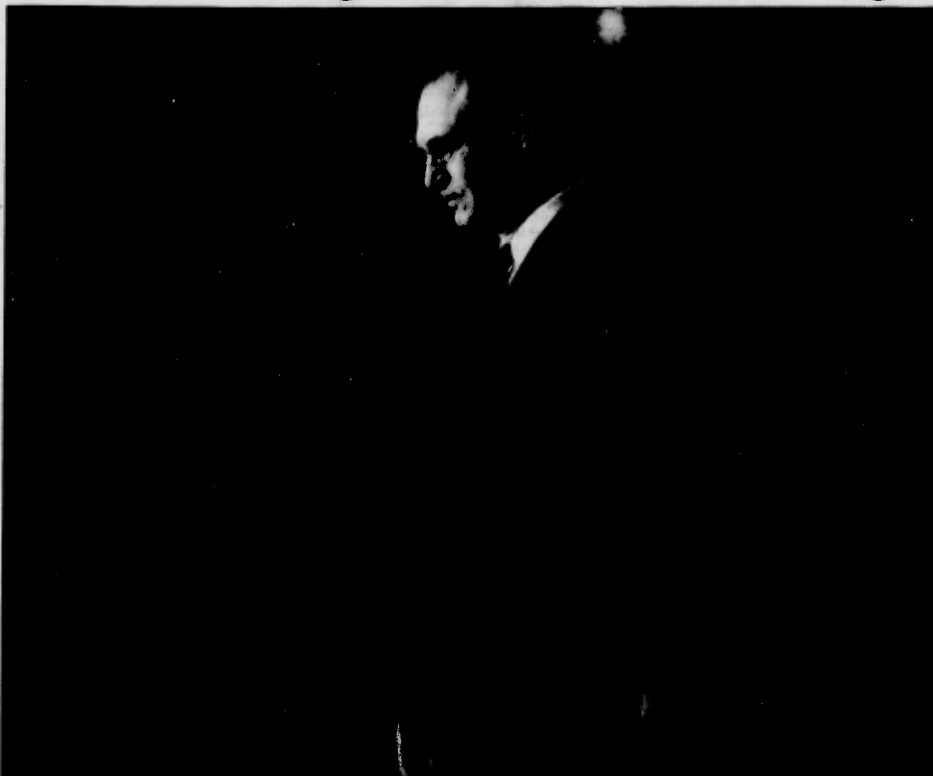




Supreme Court nominee beginning Senate hearings



Judge Samuel Alito prepares for Senate questioning. He is Bush's second nominee to replace the retiring Sandra Day O'Connor.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush sent Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito off to his confirmation hearings Monday with best wishes and a demand that senators "give this man a fair vote and an up or down vote."

Alito was facing close questioning by the Judiciary Committee to determine his fitness to be the nation's 110th Supreme Court justice. But first, he got some last-minute encouragement from the president over breakfast at the White House.

Speaking to reporters afterward, the president called Alito "eminently qualified" to be on the high court and said he told the judge that "he's conducting himself with such dignity and class."

"Sam's got the intellect necessary to bring a lot of class to that court," Bush said as he escorted Alito before news cameras in

the Rose Garden. "He's got the judicial temperament necessary to make sure that the court is a body that interprets the law and doesn't try to write the law."

Alito, a conservative, 15-year member of the federal appeals court in Philadelphia, was chosen by Bush on Oct. 31 to succeed the retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman on the high court.

O'Connor, a justice since 1981, was a decisive swing vote on abortion, the death penalty, affirmative action and other highly contentious issues.

"My hope, of course, is that the Senate bring dignity to the process and give this man a fair hearing and an up or down vote on the Senate floor," Bush said. He added: "Sam, good luck to you."

Ten-minute opening statements by the panel's 18 members

were likely to consume much of Monday's opening session, with direct questioning of Alito getting fully under way beginning Tuesday. The hearings are expected to last at least two days.

Judiciary Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said Sunday he will wrap up the hearings this week. He has called for a committee vote by Jan. 17.

Republican leaders hope for confirmation by the full Senate on Jan. 20, but Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy, the committee's top Democrat, would not promise the schedule would hold.

"Obviously, if (Alito) doesn't answer the questions, then it gets out of my control. Some senator would move to hold it over. Let's hope we get all the answers so that doesn't happen," Leahy said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation."

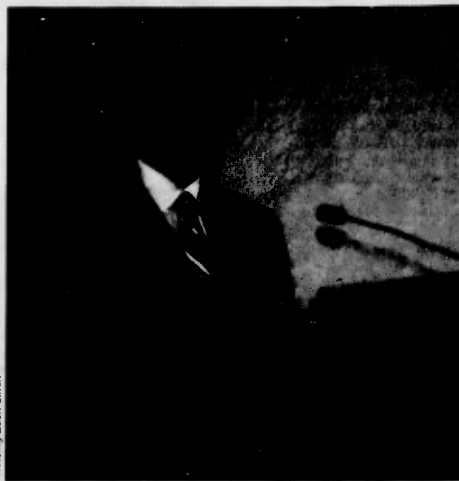
Alito was Bush's second choice

to replace O'Connor. White House counsel Harriet Miers withdrew from consideration after conservatives questioned her judicial philosophy and qualifications for the Supreme Court. Democrats also voiced doubts.

Bush then turned to Alito, 55, who served as a federal prosecutor and a lawyer in the Reagan administration.

Republicans say there is no reason to delay or filibuster Alito. Senators who have met privately with Alito say he told them that his 1985 written comments maintaining there was no constitutional right to abortion were part of a job application for the Reagan administration, which opposed abortion.

At the same time, he wrote in a separate legal memo while at



Moore

SGA Senate holds first meeting of 2006

Garrie Moore addresses the assembly

CHRIS MUNIER
NEWS EDITOR

The SGA Senate convened yesterday for the first time this semester in order to discuss items of appropriation as well as bus stop augmentations.

The Senate was also greeted by Garrie Moore, vice chancellor for student life, who told the assembly about last month's Board of Trustees meeting and how the Board of Trustees was appreciative of student input.

"It really made a difference," said Moore.

Moore's sentiment was shared by Senate President Benjamin Wythe. Wyche and Moore explained how important it was for students to be at the BOT meeting especially considering the miscommunications between school administrators and students regarding the Higher One Card.

"It was one of the first times the BOT apologized to the students," said Wyche.

Moore also alluded to some of the renovation projects that are being considered by the BOT. He said it is important for students to take control of changes that are happening to buildings like Mendenhall Student Center and Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, places used heavily by students. He encouraged senators and all students to go to meetings where

renovation plans are discussed. "These are your buildings... when you see there is a meeting set up... it is really important you attend," Moore said.

Moore informed SGA last month about provisions involving pre-paid legal services for ECU students. He said the Division of Student Life will cover the costs for the services.

The \$2.50 student fee increase was not accepted by the BOT because they want to remain within spending limits.

John Massachi, chairman of the Senate parking and transportation committee, proposed two resolutions involving the availability of bus schedules to students. Senate Resolution 11-1 called for a mandate on ECU buses to post schedules permanently, securely in each bus.

"Schedules are already on the buses," said Massachi.

"This is here to enforce it." The problem with bus schedules not being securely posted on buses is related to another problem SGA addressed through SR 11-2. It was passed along with SR-11 in order to make sure bus schedules are posted at the bus stop as well as the buses in a secure manner. In the past, they were torn down or washed away from rain.

The Senate also passed three bills involving appropriations. Senate Bill 11-1 provided ECU College Republicans \$723 for two

see SGA page A3



Israeli residents express their concerns for their ailing prime minister.

Doctors work to pull Sharon out of coma, Israeli leader breathes on own

JERUSALEM (AP) — Doctors started bringing Prime Minister Ariel Sharon out of an induced coma Monday, and the stricken leader immediately began breathing on his own and reportedly moved one of his hands.

Outside experts said that while independent breathing meant Sharon had better chances for survival, it gave no indication about his other physical or mental capacities in the wake of his massive stroke Wednesday.

The process of weaning Sharon, 77, from sedation could take anywhere from several hours to days, Hadassah Hospital director Dr. Shlomo Mor-Yosef said.

Doctors made the decision to lift the anesthesia after a round of consultations Monday.

Hadassah Hospital officials would not comment on a Channel 10 TV report that Sharon moved his hand. The report did not say which hand.

Hospital officials said they would not discuss Sharon's condition until a Monday afternoon briefing.

"As soon as we started reducing the drugs... the prime minister started to breathe independently, although he is still hooked up to a respirator that is used as an aid," Mor-Yosef said, adding that Sharon remained in

critical condition.

Outside experts have said doctors should have a good idea of the extent of Sharon's brain damage by the end of the day. One of Sharon's neurosurgeons said it was unlikely he could function as prime minister again.

Experts said the prime minister suffered most of the damage to the right side of his brain, so he has a greater chance of regaining his speech and comprehension, which are controlled by the left side.

After withdrawing the sedatives, doctors will pass their assessment of brain damage to

see SHARON page A2

Five new human cases of bird flu reported in Turkey

DOGUBAYAZIT, Turkey (AP) — Turkey reported five new human cases of the H5N1 strain of bird flu in preliminary tests Monday, a Health Ministry official said.

The tests were conducted in Turkish labs on samples provided by five people suspected of having the disease, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to speak to the media.

The new cases raise the number of human bird flu cases in Turkey to 15. They have not yet been confirmed by the World Health Organization.

Health Ministry official Turan Buzgan said the new cases were discovered in four separate provinces in eastern and central Turkey, as well as on the Black Sea coast, indicating the disease was continuing to spread across the country.

Health officials note the virus so far has only been confirmed in humans who were in close and prolonged contact with birds. But they are watching the disease's spread and development for fear it could mutate into a form easily transmitted between humans, sparking a pandemic.

The European Union took further steps Monday to contain the disease, agreeing to ban imports of untreated feathers from six nations bordering eastern Turkey. The ban on



Bird flu continues to raise concerns for European countries.

imports from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Iran, Georgia and Syria is expected to come into force after formal approval Tuesday by the European Commission.

Other poultry imports from those countries are already banned, said Michael Mann, spokesman for the EU's health office.

In Turkey, 10 people had previously tested positive for H5N1 in tests done in the country's labs, four of which were confirmed by the World Health Organization.

Those four include two siblings who died last week in the eastern city of Van, the first confirmed fatalities caused by the virus outside eastern Asia, where 74 people have been killed by H5N1 since 2003.

A third sibling also died in Van of bird flu, but the WHO lab has yet to confirm H5N1.

On Monday, Health Minister Recep Akdag visited with the father of the children in Dogubayazit, a largely Kurdish town near Van where most of the bird flu cases have originated. He was accompanied by officials from WHO and the European Union.

The doctor who treated the siblings said they probably contracted the illness by playing with dead chickens.

Earlier Monday, authorities reported 18 additional people were hospitalized in southeast Turkey while undergoing testing for bird flu.

see FLU page A3

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SGA from page A1

conferences they are attending, one with the state government and another with the national government. The state project received more funding than the national one.

The Asian Student Association was allocated \$350 for projects as well through SB 11-2.

The new organization, "Educate," received \$180 for recruitment purposes. Educate is a group that advocates minorities going into the education field.

The Senate also had an attorney general appointment to confirm during the meeting as well. Former SGA judicial board member, Nick Genty, was confirmed to be the next attorney general.

He was sworn in by current attorney general, Brian Mitchell after a brief confirmation discussion amongst assembly members.

SGA President M. Cole Jones welcomed back the Senate with

an opening speech.

"We have new initiatives we will finally be able to push through," said Jones.

Jones gave an update on the movement of the SGA offices to the first floor of Mendenhall Student Center. He said the move might be completed by the end of the month. The new office will be where The Spot used to be located. The old offices upstairs will continued to be used by SGA.

"Current offices will be maintained for SGA office space," said Heather Arrington, advisor for SGA.

Jones quoted Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to convey to the Senate their need to be committed to leadership and service.

"Everyone can be great because everyone can serve," said King.

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

FLU from page A1

Three new cases of H5N1 were reported Sunday in Ankara, two young brothers and a 65-year-old man as well as two other cases in Van, about 600 miles to the east.

The boys, Muharem Canak, 5, Iskender, apparently caught the virus while playing with gloves their father had used to handle two dead wild ducks outside Ankara, their doctor Metin Dogan said. The boys did not appear sick, despite testing positive for the virus in tests done at Turkish labs, Dogan said.

Health officials believe the best way to fight the spread of bird flu is the wholesale destruction of poultry in the affected area. But they often run into problems in rural areas like Dogubayazit, where villagers have resisted turning in their birds.

On Sunday, a group of Turkish workers in the town had to climb over a wall when a woman refused to open the door and hand over several chickens, insisting they were not sick. The workers said they would return with police.

Boehner, Blunt vie to replace DeLay as GOP floor leader



DELAY

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans, buffeted by a lobbying scandal and running poorly in opinion polls, are mulling a choice between two veteran Midwestern lawmakers to replace embattled former Majority Leader Tom DeLay.

Rep. John Boehner of Ohio announced Sunday he is seeking to become the No. 2 GOP leader in the House. Republican Whip Rep. Roy Blunt of Missouri, the acting majority leader, campaigned for the job as well.

making," Boehner wrote fellow Republicans in a letter declaring his candidacy. "But I also believe that if we are able to renew our energy and our commitment to our basic principles, the best is yet to come."

Blunt made a similar observation in a letter appealing for votes. "Unfortunately, the recent scandals have caused some to question whether we have lost our vision and whether the faith they have placed in us is justified," he wrote.

"While I have no doubt that it is, it will be difficult to move forward ... until we regain the trust and confidence of our constituents by enacting new lobbying reforms and enhanced penalties."

The majority leader's post is central to advancing the GOP agenda on Capitol Hill, and it could be a stepping stone to eventually succeeding Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill.

DeLay is under indictment on campaign finance charges in his home state of Texas. He stepped down permanently Saturday as majority leader days after lobbyist Jack Abramoff pleaded guilty to federal conspiracy, tax evasion and mail fraud charges in a congressional influence-peddling investigation.

The leadership campaign will be fought mostly by telephone as Blunt and Boehner track down colleagues scattered while on an extended holiday break. The vote is slated when lawmakers return to Washington the week of Jan. 30.

"We've had a tough run recently, some of it of our own

Blunt said that despite setbacks such as Hurricane Katrina and the Abramoff lobbying scandal, "our conference performed well as a team, racking up impressive legislative accomplishments" during his time as DeLay's stand-in.

Blunt, 55, began his leadership career as a protégé of DeLay, who named him a deputy whip in 1999.

His voting record reflects the priorities of the GOP majority that he helps lead, including opposition to abortion, support for tax cuts and approval for the landmark Medicare prescription drug benefit legislation that passed during President Bush's first term.

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Our View

Welcome to ECU, or welcome back

Welcome back to campus Pirates. For those of you freshmen, rejoice, you've got one semester behind you and only seven or so more to go. For you seniors, hang in there - in four months you'll be tossing your cap. For those of you who have transferred in here, welcome to your new home.

We at TEC know that many of you are still in the frame of mind where you just want to lay around and watch football (or whatever else pleasures you), but it's time to crack open those books once again. It's hard to get back into the swing of things after just having nearly a month away from the classroom, so we're here to help you.

eHow.com has a broad range of answers to stop procrastination (the most popular college activity) and a few of those will be highlighted now.

When you're given an assignment, even if the due date isn't until the end of the semester, start by either writing it on your calendar, programming it into your Palm Pilot, whatever. Just have it in mind.

They then say that you should calculate about how long the assignment will take to complete. Schedule how long you'll spend working on the assignment each day or week, and don't let any other leisure activities get in the way.

Some tips that eHow.com gives include:

- For particularly long assignments, don't think too much about how much work it will actually take to finish. Instead, take small steps and have faith that they'll add up to something big. After all, as they say, a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

- Every person has his or her own style. Tweak this method in whatever way fits you best. For instance, if this process doesn't feel quite arm-twisting enough, try marking off each day on the calendar when you get up that day.

- Remember that you're not alone - lots of people are guilty of procrastinating.

In our newspaper tomorrow, we will also point out various other ways to start the new year on a good note. We here at TEC want all of our peers to have an enjoyable and productive semester. Once again, welcome back to the pirate nation. Summer will be here soon enough, but in the meantime, you might as well try your hardest to get the most out of your education.



Opinion Columnist

God, monkeys and Rocky

Banning Intelligent Design is downright stupid

GARY MCCABE
BITTER BOULEVARD

Being of sound mind and body...

It's been over 75 years since the Scopes Monkey Trial, the extraordinary case which saw the Supreme Court of Tennessee overrule a lower court's judgment, ultimately lifting a ban prohibiting the teaching of Darwin's theory of evolution in public schools. Oh, what a difference a couple of decades make.

The tables were turned late in December when a U.S. District Court judge issued a decision to a case more than a year in the making. The question at hand was whether a Pennsylvania public school system could teach Intelligent Design - an alternative to evolution as an explanation for our existence - in their biology classes. The ruling was a resounding "no."

If you've ever seen the Rocky series, the story of evolution follows a similar path. A true underdog - raw, undersized and dismissed by the boxing world - Rocky shocked the world when he knocked out the Heavyweight Champion of the World Apollo Creed in Rocky II. The Scopes Monkey Trial was evolution's prize fight and its victory drastically changed the world of science in the same way that Rocky's victory changed the world of boxing.

However, Rocky got lazy after years on top, sparsely defending his title against legitimate contenders. Evolution and its supporters have gotten just as lazy, opting to fight the teaching of an opposing theory rather than encourage new ideas in that field of science. And guess what - Rocky ducked fighting Clubber Lang in Rocky III at first and he ended up getting his butt kicked by the young upstart.

So am I saying that the theory of evolution isn't the best explanation for our existence and that Intelligent Design would kick its butt in a scientific debate? Absolutely not. Evolution has an overwhelming amount of scientific evidence supporting it and quite frankly, I'm 99 percent certain that evolution is the reason I'm sitting

here at my computer typing this article, not because some Supreme Being created me so he'd have something to read.

So why do I hesitate to dismiss all other theories about our existence when I support evolution so fervently? It's because of that one percent of uncertainty still lingering in my head. After all, the theory of evolution is just that - a theory, not a scientific law. And while there is a ton of compelling evidence supporting evolution, it hasn't yet been proven with any absolute certainty. So until that day comes, I don't really feel that it's appropriate to disregard any other ideas brought to the table.

I think it's ridiculous that a judge would interfere with a public school's decision to teach something other than evolution - and I dare any detractors to bring up the separation of church and state alluded to in the U.S. Constitution. That was written solely to keep religion from dominating the American government like it had done in several European nations. It has nothing to do with controlling some high school's science curriculum so I'm telling you in advance not to waste your time thinking that somehow it does.

Granted, Intelligent Design is merely Creationism with a shiny new bow and a more science-minded title. If you've never heard of it, basically what proponents of Intelligent Design believe is that all of nature (the human body in particular) is far too complex to have been created by happenstance, or by natural selection, as Darwin suggests. So therefore, a divine agent had to have guided, or altogether created, all of humanity. What I think about the theory in terms of validity doesn't really matter - I've already given my stance.

What I have a problem with is that valuable tax dollars and valuable time (again, this debate was in court for more than a year) were wasted just because a school board decided to beef up the curriculum by including a few new ideas for students to consider. And on what grounds was it denied? Is it because some students who don't believe in God would feel uncomfortable learning about Intelligent Design?

If that's the case, then what

about the students who believe that God created the universe who have to sit through endless lectures about evolution? I sincerely doubt that they feel any more comfortable in that situation, so if the courts want to keep Intelligent Design out of classrooms for that reason, evolution has to go as well. I don't see much of a difference there.

If it's a matter of scientific merit, I can honestly say that I'm nowhere near qualified to determine whether Intelligent Design has any validity or not. There are many scientists who consider it a true science and many who consider it pseudoscience simply because any theory that involves God in some way is automatically suspect because it has never been proved or disproved with any certainty that God even exists.

Clearly, banning the teaching of another theory - which obviously has its proponents - is a silly move. The logical solution is simple - let's teach our students everything. Science classes should teach everything there is to know about evolution because not only is it the most widely accepted theory, but there's a lot of evidence and information about it. And while teaching evolution, what's the big problem with saying, "Oh, here is another theory that some people believe..." Obviously, most students would agree with the theory with the best supporting evidence (evolution) but it's not the school's place to make that judgment for them.

Instead of preaching a theory to our students, let's lay out some options and let them make the decision for themselves. It's not the school's place to set an agenda, whether it's promoting a religious idea or not. This is America. We're not supposed to stifle ideas - that's what backwards Islamic states do. We're better than that.

I'm sure as the "liberal" columnist for TEC, you may be surprised that I'm supporting the Religious Right's side - but I'm not doing that at all. I'm supporting the true liberal ideal that's being attacked here - the freedom to believe whatever the hell you want to believe. That's what's really going on here.

In My Opinion

(KRT) - Like so many coal-field tragedies, the deaths of 12 miners underground in West Virginia now seem to have been sadly predictable.

The federal government knew the mine was dangerous. The company knew the mine was dangerous. And so did some of the men who worked there, according to their families.

And, like other coalfield tragedies that have riveted the nation for a few days, this one will probably be forgotten all too soon.

It was just a little more than four years ago that 13 miners died in an explosion in an underground mine in Brookwood, Ala. Then, as now, Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and officials of the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration promised a thorough investigation. They eventually levied \$435,000 in fines against the mine's operator, Jim Walters Resources.

But in November, the fines were reduced to just \$3,000 by an administrative law judge who ruled that MSHA did not prove most of the violations.

With that kind of record, it's little wonder that mining companies would feel free to flout

safety laws, especially under the Bush administration, which has pushed "compliance assistance" over strict enforcement.

At the Sago Mine where the 12 died, the list of safety violations was long and serious. Since May, federal inspectors had issued 13 unwarrantable failure orders, the most serious kind.

Unwarrantable failures are issued when management knows about an unsafe condition and fails to fix it or when the danger is so obvious that there's no excuse.

The citations against Sago included persistent problems with build-ups of flammable coal dust. The operation had been cited for not providing adequate ventilation to keep the mine clear of deadly combustible gases and failing to insulate electric wires. Sparks from electrical equipment can ignite coal dust and methane gas, thus causing underground explosions.

It was an explosion early Monday, as the mine reopened after a holiday break, that trapped 13 miners underground.

The cause of the explosion still is undetermined. From what little we know, the miners did what they could to save themselves.

They hung a curtain designed to block the spread of deadly carbon monoxide, and each had a personal rescuer that can provide oxygen for a short time.

Twelve miners were found together behind the curtain; the one survivor was taken from the mine unconscious but moaning, according to The Associated Press. Another miner died elsewhere in the mine.

Our hearts go out to the families, whose suffering was compounded by a false report that the 12 had been found alive.

The jubilation lasted three hours before officials from the mining company, International Coal Group, informed the families that only one miner had survived.

With that backdrop, the investigation begins under a cloud of mistrust and suspicion. That's a good reason for MSHA to convene a public hearing into the causes of this disaster, as mine safety advocate and former state and federal official Tony - urges.

Pirate Rant

Am I the only person who didn't realize classes started Friday?

Bring back the long llnes, Higher One sucks.

Why does ECU insist on starting the spring semester on a Friday? It is so stupid. We should start on a Wednesday like we do in the fall.

Why is Christmas so much more fun when you are a little kid? Growing up sucks.

Okay, I don't go to ECU but I just wanted to say that this whole rant thing is almost the coolest ever! I want one ... (University of Tennessee student!) Go Pirates!

To the person who wanted to know about the hockey team's upcoming schedule: We'll be playing our next home game Jan. 27 at 9:30 p.m. at Blades across from the Overton's on Red Banks Rd. We get a couple hundred people to come out to the games, and we always want more! Hopefully we'll see you there!

To the girl who took my laundry out of the dryer and folded them for me on the last Wednesday before Christmas break in Aycock's laundry room, thank you very much for being so nice and considerate. You are the greatest!

Thanks to the girl who stole my doorknob! Now I can't get into my room!

To the person who ranted about finals not being the end of the world. I don't know what class you're in but my final exam is a big percentage of my grade. So yeah, failing would have been the end of the world!

Thought you might want to ask administration what they were thinking when they scheduled the roof of Austin to be redone during a day of a final. I'm not talking about light construction either. Imagine the whole building shaking and being pounded on a floor above you! What were they thinking?

I cannot deal with safe ride. Every time I've ever called them they say we'll be there in 10 minutes and they either take much longer or don't show up. When Safe Ride comes when they're suppose to, I'll stop complaining.

Here's to you Gary McCabe. We may not always agree with what you say, but you've the balls to say what you think. It's easy for people to whine but not have the guts do anything to get their thoughts out there. And thanks for giving my roommate a shout out.

I thought the class was called Shakespeare Tragedies, not Shakespeare as it relates to Christianity.

I am the one who leaves parties because I am tired of listening to loud, annoying, drunk freshmen girls.

Who drops a soccer program because they aren't winning? Hey! You know what... the football team wasn't winning for how long? And this season wasn't all that better, just a minor improvement. So, I find myself asking why didn't the football team get dropped? Hey Terry Holland, why don't you just get a new coach for the soccer team until someone works out, that's what you're best at.

What's the deal with the clock tower? For once I'm here at 12 and there is no down, and the thing doesn't even chime!

Why not open up parking for everyone over the break? Some of us actually devote our lives to our studies and don't leave just because of a national observance.

Since when does ECU Parking tow on Saturdays? The school is closed, right? Back in 2000 we used to park our cars on campus at 7 p.m. on Friday, and now the weekend's not safe until Sunday afternoon!

Why didn't I get the memo that wearing "mix-match" colors were in style?

Why did they cut the men's soccer team? The football and basketball team aren't doing any better.

TEC really needs a new movie reviewer. Was there really a need to mention in the Aeon Flux review that he thought it was going to be as bad as Rent when the two movies are in no way comparable? One is a musical and the other is based after a TV show!

I never could have imagined what a re-hydrated mummified corpse might taste like, but after eating a pear in West End, I think I have a pretty good idea.

I think Tony McKee should go undercover and investigate SGA's blatant abuse of power.

Maybe I want to wear my State, UNC or Duke shirts because they're all in the ACC unlike ECU! And maybe if J Redd were to see me walking down the street in a Duke shirt, he would yell at me!

Go Panthers!

Graphic design students are a whole lot more computer nerds than they are artists - have you seen the crap they call art?

Dear Java City and Aramark - Just because you're convenient to us students doesn't mean that you have to buy the cheapest crappiest coffee beans on the market.

I can't wait until the greatest station in the world comes back - WZMB. The station rules!

Hey administration! Thanks for cutting our break short by making us come back on Friday! What a waste of another couple days with our families!

Should my roommate have been kicked out for having fireworks under her bed when it wasn't even her fault? I realize it is in the rulebook but who follows the rules? When plenty of underage people are getting busted for possessing alcohol? Come on, this is a little ridiculous!

To the girl who doesn't know if a guy likes her or not - If you've kissed him (or anything more), he likes you, but he may still be deciding whether it's going to be friends or more. He may be dating other women as well. If you like him, fight. Don't be lazy and don't get mad like a little baby, it's not attractive.

The Constitution makes this a country of laws and equal rights. That means your beliefs are no better than anyone else's. Believe in whatever you want

Marcus Vick is just as bad as his brother.

Editor's Note: The Pirate Rant is an anonymous way for students and staff in the ECU community to voice their opinions. Submissions can be submitted anonymously online at www.theeastcarolinian.com, or e-mailed to editor@theeastcarolinian.com. The editor reserves the right to edit opinions for content and brevity.

This week in Features:

- Look for:**
- How to stay healthy in 2006
 - Organizational skills for success
 - Celebrity Profile: Heath Ledger
 - Golden Globes Preview
 - People Poll: Brad and Angelina
 - Top 10 Spring Music Choices

Names in the News:

Will Brad be there?

Robert De Niro's new film, *The Good Shepherd* begins filming in the Dominican Republic next week. The film, based on the history of the CIA, stars Angelina Jolie as the wife of one of the agency's founders, James Wilson, who will be played by Matt Damon. No word yet on whether Jolie's "chum" Brad Pitt will be along for the one-week shoot. De Niro is stepping into the director's chair for the first time since the acclaimed *A Bronx Tale*.

Airing out

We can all breathe easier now that pop star Lindsay Lohan has been released from a Miami hospital after a bout with asthma. Lohan had been in Florida to ring in the new year. According to her mother and manager, Dina Lohan, Lindsay was heading home to New York to recover after her discharge Thursday. No longer content with the sugary roles she played in *Herbie: Fully Loaded* and *Mean Girls*, Lohan is diving into deeper waters with Robert Altman's *A Prairie Home Companion*, based on Garrison Keillor's radio show. Lohan will join the likes of Woody Harelson, Kevin Kline, Tommy Lee Jones and Keillor himself in the film. Other Lohan projects include *Bobby*, a film about Robert Kennedy that Emilio Estevez will direct, and *Chapter 27*, about Mark David Chapman, who killed John Lennon 25 years ago.

Oh, him again

The best-selling book of 2005 was - maestro, drum roll please - *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, the sixth installment in J.K. Rowling's series, according to the Book Standard, a leading source of information in the publishing industry. Filling out the top 10: *A Million Little Pieces* by James Frey, *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, *1776* by David McCullough, *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown, *The World Is Flat* by Thomas L. Friedman, *The Purpose-Driven Life* by Rick Warren, *Angels & Demons* by Dan Brown, *You, The Owner's Manual* by Mehmet Oz and Michael Roizen and *Eidest* by Christopher Paolini.

Still Naked

Kelly Reilly, the Irish actress who plays one of several lovely, unclothed starlets in *Mrs. Henderson Presents*, invited her parents to the film's London premiere. They are "very proud," she told *USA Today*. Still, it couldn't have been easy for them to sit there along with 600 other people and see their daughter nude. Afterward, she took her dad to a bar and gave him a stiff drink. He was absolutely fine. No word on how her mother self-medicated. The film's director, Stephen Frears, wanted the showgirls to have the kind of bodies that women had during World War II the setting for the story so he discouraged the actresses from getting buff (as in muscular). Reilly told *USA Today*, "I thought it was important that we weren't made to not look real."

Local Concerts:

General Johnson and Chairmen of the Board will be performing at the Lincoln Theatre in Raleigh Friday, Jan. 13.

Nada Surf will be at the Cat's Cradle in Carrboro Friday, Feb. 10.

The Pietasters will be at the Cat's Cradle in Carrboro Saturday, Feb. 11.

Southern funny man Larry the Cable Guy will be performing at the RBC Center in Raleigh Friday, Feb. 11.

Matisyahu will be performing at the Cat's Cradle in Carrboro Wednesday, Feb. 15.

Keith Urban and Pat Green will be performing at the Charlotte Bobcats Arena Thursday, Feb. 16.

O.A.R. will be at Owens Auditorium in Charlotte Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Black Rebel Motorcycle Club and special guests Elephant will be at the Cat's Cradle in Carrboro Wednesday, Feb. 22.

G. Love and Special Sauce will be performing at the Lincoln Theatre in Raleigh Friday, March 3.

Jerry Seinfeld will be performing at the Progress Energy Center for Performing Arts in Raleigh Friday, March 10.

Martina McBride will be at the RBC Center in Raleigh Sunday, April 2.

Joyce Yang shines with silver



Above is Joyce Yang, a 19-year-old pianist who is sure to impress ECU.

Joyce Yang coming to Wright Auditorium

MEREDITH STEWART
SENIOR WRITER

ECU welcomes 19-year-old Joyce Yang to the Wright Auditorium Jan. 19. She is the winner of the silver medal at the 12th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and will be performing in the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series recital at 8 p.m.

Yang was the youngest of the Van Cliburn Competition's 35 contestants and was clearly favored by the audience. The *Dallas Morning News* described her as "a brilliant pianist" and her performance as "a million-volt presence onstage." She also won the Steven De Groote Memorial Award for the "Best Performance of Chamber Music" along with the Beverly Taylor Smith Award for the "Best Performance of a New Work." This young lady has captured and amazed many, and now it's ECU's chance to welcome her and attend her recital.

It was "Yang's finest moment, achieving a spine-tingling effect,"

hailed Susan Elliot of *Musical America.com*.

Joyce Yang was born Seoul, Korea and took her first piano lesson at the age of four. She quickly took a liking to the piano and she soon received one as a birthday gift. After much practice and dedication, Yang won several national piano competitions in Korea. By the time she was 10 years old, Yang entered the Korean National Conservatory and made multiple appearances in Seoul and Taejeon playing recitals and leaving the crowd in awe.

Yang moved to the United States in 1997 and began the pre-college division of the Juilliard School of Music in New York. It was only her first year when she won the Pre-College Division Concerto Competition. As a result, she was able to perform the *Haydn Concerto in D Major* with the Juilliard Pre-college Chamber Orchestra. Three years later, she won the Philadelphia Greenfield Competition, which opened a doorway to many new and exciting recitals.

Among her many accomplishments is performing on the Rising Stars Recital Series at both the Gilmore and the Ravinia Festivals. She has also been honored by the La Jolla Music Society and has been invited to perform several pieces with the Grammy Award winning Takacs Quartet this season. She has debuted with the Albany, Baltimore, Fort Worth, Knoxville, Long Island and Houston Symphony Orchestras. Since 2005, she has been

working with the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra as well as the Arkansas, Midland, Pacific and Tucson Symphony Orchestras, and she plans to work with them through 2006.

To be so young, this extraordinary girl has touched many and created a new light for all who aspire to be successful one day.

Joyce Yang will be performing with a variety of other talented musicians at the Wright Auditorium, so be sure to reserve your tickets today. The tickets are \$10 for ECU students, \$12 for youth, \$22 for ECU faculty and staff, and \$24 for the public. For groups of 15 or more, the prices will be \$9 each for students, \$11 for youth, \$21 for ECU faculty and staff, and \$22 for the public. Groups are awarded one extra ticket for every 20 people. The Performing Arts Series will provide a shuttle, and tickets are also available to assure a safe ride to and from Wright Auditorium.

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



Mon. - Fri.
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sat. - Sun.
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Telephone: 328-4788

Online: ecu.edu/ecuarts/cto.cfm

Advice for roommates



Returning from holiday break is a great time to discuss new rules and do some much-needed cleaning.

How to make the best of the situation

TOMEKA STEELE
SENIOR WRITER

This is the start of a new semester and with that can come a new roommate. We've all experienced the roommate from hell - the one who never pays their part of the bills on time and forgets to flush the toilet. For those who haven't experienced this person, consider yourself extremely lucky. There are ways to avoid tension and conflict and have a resolution to roommate problems.

The trick to keep problems in the apartment or dorm room

from escalating is to address problems ahead of time or right when they occur. Don't let the little things that bother you fester because it will only get worse.

Besides having a lease for an apartment, roommates should draw up "house rules." It may seem childish, but there's a need for them, especially when bringing two people from possibly two very different backgrounds together in a small space. House rules can be especially beneficial for dormmates since the space is so limited.

Both roommates should make a list of the things they want done and things they don't want to happen in the dorm or apartment. Then both should

read over each other's list and ask questions or get the specifics if necessary. From there, the two lists should be compiled into one list where both parties sign.

Some important things that should be included are smoking preferences, how the bills will be split, how food will work and anything else of importance to you. Even the best of friends should do this because one never truly knows someone until they live with them.

House rules are important because things like bills are a necessary evil in the real world. When they aren't paid on one person's side, it becomes

see ROOMMATE page A6

ECU School of Art and Design



The piece featured above is just one of the many intricate pieces that can be found at Gray Gallery.

A guide to their offerings

SARAH CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

It is doubtful that many students know ECU's School of Art and Design is the largest art school in North Carolina and one of the largest in the Southeast. Students are offered a variety of concentrations which are tailored to each student's specific needs. Concentrations range from painting to weaving design. The school is home to more than 700 undergraduate students and more than 50 graduate students.

Since 1962, the School of Art and Design has been accredited by the National Association of Schools, which is an honor because the ECU school is the only such accredited institution in NC and one of only 220 in the United States.

"The School of Art and Design is dedicated to the idea that educating men and women in the visual arts constitutes a major responsibility in the total mission of higher education at ECU," states the School of Art and Design's Web site.

"The curriculum in both the undergraduate and graduate programs encourages experimentation, the development of ideas and problem solving in areas such as fine arts, applied arts, and art education and art history. The nearly 50 faculty and seven staff members believe that our graduates will make positive contributions to their communities and excel in their chosen professions," is the School of Art and Design's commitment as stated at ecu.edu/art.

see ECU ART page A6

Writer Opinion: Six predictions for '06



Photo by Zach Siskin

Daniel Brock, a features writer, predicts sun and rain for today.

One guy's view into the future for all to read

DANIEL BROCK
STAFF WRITER

I'm not clairvoyant. In fact, I am an average gambler at best. However, I have some hunches on a range of subjects, and I'm going to go out on a limb by making several predictions, varying in boldness, for the Year of our Lord, 2006. Please keep in mind that these are my opinions, and they in no way reflect the opinions of anyone else at ECU or at TEC. Enough disclaimers: Prepare for a glimpse into the future.

Sports:

Terry Holland will fire at least three people. For those employed by the ECU Athletic Department, you're on notice. Terry Holland has axed more people in his short time here than Gimli did in the entire *Lord of the Rings* Trilogy. The head men's football, basketball and baseball coaches - not to mention the entire men's soccer program - have gotten the boot under Holland's reign. Holland's employees should start wearing the T-shirts made popular by late 90s professional wrestler Bill Goldberg with the slogan "Who's Next?" emblazoned across the front. Cuts are coming and they're coming quickly. Coaches and custodians, beware. Heck, knowing the broad strokes Holland works with, I might get fired for this article.

As a side prediction: In a surprising move, Terry Holland may at some point fire himself this year.

Movies:

Rachel McAdams will be the most popular actress in

the world. Rachel McAdams is ridiculously hot. So very, very hot. Inconceivably hot. Oh, and she's a good actress too. It is unfortunate that she's not American, so we can take no credit, but my hat is off to Canada. Thank you. She's been in some amazing movies during the past two years, and her star is going to continue to rise. Some of the triumphs she has appeared in recently include *Mean Girls*, *The Notebook*, *Wedding Crashers* and *The Family Stone*. McAdams is on her way to super-stardom whilst her *Mean Girls* co-star, Lindsay Lohan, is on her way to rehab. Rachel McAdams is my pick for Starlet of the Year, not that this really carries any weight.

Music:

The Black-Eyed Peas will spontaneously combust. You can only suck at something for so long. At some point, everyone is going to have their fill of the Black-Eyed Peas. Heeding their own advice to "Get retarded in here," the BEP's have filled the airwaves with more inanity than anyone since Vanilla Ice. They look weird, they sound weird, their songs are about weird things. They are literally un-listenable. The day they spontaneously combust will, for millions around the globe, be a day filled with much rejoicing and celebrating in the streets. However, for dozens, their favorite group will have ceased to be. Don't worry - there's always Chingy.

Politics:

George Bush will recover in a big way. Admittedly, 2005 was not G-Dub's finest hour. A

see SIX page A7

Roommate from page A5

a hassle for the responsible roommate who doesn't want the electricity to get cut off.

This contract of house rules can always come in handy just in case you have to take some sort of legal action. It's a harsh thing to say, but it happens more often than you think.

Another tool to use when dealing with a roommate from hell is just to speak up. There are those people you always hear complaining that their roommate is always loud when they are trying to study, but they themselves never say a word. If you want or need your roommate to do something and

you think it will offend them if you say something, simply update the house rules and have them take a look at it. Talking the problems out right away is more effective than letting the problems build up over time.

If things have gotten so heated between roommates that talking things out is impossible, it's better to bring in a non-biased party to mediate the situation. Preferably you want to choose someone who will be honest and possibly knows both you and your roommate.

Living with a really good friend often isn't as good of an idea as it may seem. It seems

rational, but it could be the death of a friendship. It's always best to room with someone you know and trust but don't hang around all the time.

"My sophomore year, I roomed with a good friend and it was horrible. We basically drove each other crazy. Things went back to normal the next year when we weren't roommates. I wouldn't advise living with a really good friend," said senior CDFR major Tieren Evans.

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

ECU Art from page A5

Students must go through a portfolio review before being accepted into the program of their choice. However, freshman admission does not require students to submit such a portfolio until they have completed the foundational courses. Upon portfolio submission, admission into these programs is limited and competitive. Therefore, students should have other alternatives in mind when applying.

Once accepted into the pro-


gram, students take classes in their concentration area and must submit a senior show before graduating. The senior show is exhibited in the Wellington B. Gray Gallery, which is located inside the home of the School of Art and Design, the Jenkins Fine Arts Building.

The Gray Gallery exhibits rotating student, faculty and visiting artists' work throughout the year. A new exhibition, the North Carolina Sculpture Exhibition,

will begin Jan. 9 and run until Feb. 3. The exhibition will feature work by faculty throughout the NC University System.

Several symposium presentations will also be held during this time period. Richard Hunt, Hoss Haley and Jesus Morojos will lecture in Speight Auditorium, which is inside the Jenkins Fine Arts Center.

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



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January 3, 2006

Dear Student Organization Leader/Advisor:

We are excited as a new office "Student Activities Center" to provide support to our 280+ student organizations at East Carolina University. Over the past several months, my office has talked with numerous students about their needs within their student organizations. The top needs expressed were:

- Improve space reservation process.
- Increase communication among student organizations.
- Better training and orientation for student leaders and faculty advisors.

In response to these needs, the following process has been implemented.

EARLY STUDENT ORGANIZATION REGISTRATION FOR 2006-2007:

- All student organizations who desire to reserve space "early" for fall 2006 must register by February 28, 2006.
- All student organizations who desire to receive SGA funding must register by February 28, 2006.

REGULAR STUDENT ORGANIZATION REGISTRATION FOR 2006-2007

- The final deadline for student organizations to register for 2006-2007 is September 29, 2006.
- Remember that student organizations must be registered to receive SGA fund and reserve a space in MSC.

Please know that this new process will be most beneficial to student organizations and will help alleviate registration and room reservation concerns. January 1, 2006 will begin the early student organization process for fall 2006-spring 2007. Please view the important dates listed below regarding the new registration process for the upcoming year.

IMPORTANT DATES (2006):

- (January 9th) 06-07 Early Student Organization Registration Begins
- (January 9-13th) Information sessions for registration/SGA funding.
- (February 28th) Deadline for 06-07 Early Student Organization Registration.
- (March 20th-31st) 06-07 Early Space Reservation (ONLY REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS)
- (March 28-29th) Founder's Day Student Leader Installation
- (April 1, 2006) Mandatory Organizational Training Session
- (April 7, 2006) SGA Annual Funding Deadline
- (September 29th) Final deadline for returning Student Organizations to register.

The Student Activities Center is here to assist you in anyway we can. Please feel free to stop by our office in 109 Mendenhall Student Center or email us at studentactivities@ecu.edu.

Sincerely,

Levy Brown Jr.
Assistant Director for Student Activities & Organizations

IT'S TOURNAMENT TIME!

You could represent ECU at Regional Competitions in
Bowling • Chess • Table Tennis • Spades
Poetry Slam • Nine Ball • Dance Dance Revolution

Tournament winners will be awarded trophies and the opportunity to represent ECU at regional competitions to be held at East Carolina University Greenville, NC the weekend of Feb. 17-19, 2006. All expenses paid by Mendenhall Student Center.

ARE YOU THE BEST?

If you think you could be, we want to give you the opportunity to find out!

Chess

Sat. Jan. 21 10:00 AM-5:00 PM
Mendenhall Student Center
Social Room

(Men's and Women's Divisions)
Table Tennis
Tues. Jan. 17 6:00 PM
Mendenhall Social Room
(Men's and Women's Singles/

Bowling

Thur. Jan. 26 6:00 PM
The Outer Limitz
Mendenhall Bowling Center
(Women's and Men's Divisions)

Team Divisions)

Spades

Fri. Jan. 27 6:00 PM
Mendenhall Student Center

Poetry Slam
Thur. Jan. 19 6:00 PM
Mendenhall Billiards

Great Room 1

Billiards
(Nine Ball)
Mon. Jan. 23 6:00 PM
Mendenhall Billiards Center

Dance Dance Revolution
Mon. Jan. 30 6:00 PM
Outer Limitz
Game room

There is a \$2.00 registration fee for each tournament. Registration forms are available at the Mendenhall Billiards Center, and the Outer Limitz Bowling center located on the ground floor of Mendenhall Student Center. Call the Recreation Program Office, 328.4738 for more information.

Six from page A5

string of missteps and bad luck conspired to slow down the W Express, but in 2006 it's going to be full steam ahead. First of all, he's going to make some concessions about Iraq, but he's going to do it his way, which in this case – as in many cases – will probably be the right way. Perhaps we shouldn't be too hopeful that he's going to get out of Iraq, however, as he famously had quite a bit of trouble removing himself from a Novem-

ber 2005 press conference. Secondly, neither Hurricane Katrina nor any other natural disaster was the President's fault. The weather was so bad in 2005 that people were beginning to think hell was a balmy destination. Not everything was handled correctly, but that doesn't mean George W. Bush doesn't care about black people. Bush has made some mistakes, but in 2006 he's going to pick himself up and cement his legacy as a fine President.

The East Carolinian:
Gary McCabe will become even more embittered. TEC's resident curmudgeon Gary McCabe is certainly not the most popular man at ECU. His left wing views and dour outlook on life have endeared him to no one. This year shouldn't see a change in this trend. Unless McCabe had some sort of Christmas Eve Scrooge experience, he'll probably be as down in the mouth as always. Anyone who

hates the South has obviously got some personal issues that they need to deal with. The South is a delicate flower that blooms for all to admire its beauty. If you can't appreciate that, it is a dark day indeed. Those opinions aside, Gary McCabe is going to continue his journey down Bitter Boulevard and it's going to be a lonely walk indeed.
This Semester:
Spring 2006 will be out of control. Can you spell Spring 2006

P-A-R-T-Y? The spring semester is just one bash after another. MLK Day, the Super Bowl, Valentine's Day, Easter, March Madness, most any week day after 5 p.m. and Spring Break are highlights of times to throw down and drink up. As the semester progresses and the weather warms up, the number of girls around becomes inversely proportional to the amount of clothes they're wearing. Basically, short shorts and bikinis in mass. Of course, girls don't want to be

undressed with no place to go, so baseball games, frat parties such as Kappa Alpha's "Sun Up to Sun Down" and Phi Kappa Tau's "Fill the Tub" and apartment complex swimming pools will be swarming with people ready to have a good time. Did I already mention that these opinions were mine and mine alone? Take them as you will. Rant away, Pirates.
This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Features spring fitness tips

To become a better swimmer

Some recommendations that can help swimmers, from novice to veteran, swim better:



Use good technique

Use what you know about good swimming style whether you are swimming fast or slowly

Swim often

It is difficult to improve without swimming about three times a week; three or four short workouts are better than one or two long ones

free
six kick switch
free
fingertip drag
breast
3 up, 3 down

Do drills every time

Swim coaches, books and web resources can teach you some useful drills



Ask someone to watch

This is the best kind of feedback, especially if he or she videos you

Push hard sometimes
About once a week, swim hard for a few minutes to learn what full exertion feels like



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Source: Your Guide to Swimming by Mat Luebbers
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**NCCPA LEAD Conference
Elon University
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Saving the World, One Leader at a Time

It's the 10th anniversary of the LEAD Conference and you're invited to the celebration! This year's winter conference will take place February 11th on Elon University's campus located in Burlington, North Carolina. ECU will be taking a delegation of 40 students to the conference. University Unions will pay \$25 of the \$35 registration fees and we have chartered a bus to take everyone to the conference. If you are interested in attending, please fill out an ECU registration form that can be picked up in 255 Mendenhall Student Center and turn it in with your \$10 to the same location no later than Friday, January 13, 2006. Registration will be taken on a first come, first serve basis, so get your registration in early. This is a great leadership development opportunity!!

To learn more about the conference, visit the conference website at
<http://www.nccpaweb.org/LEAD2006.html>
Questions call 328-4742

Sports Briefs

Castro out indefinitely, Hammonds will miss one game

ECU senior forward Mike Castro will be out indefinitely after sustaining an injury to his right foot announced Head Coach Ricky Stokes on Monday. Stokes also announced that sophomore guard Tom Hammonds would not play in Wednesday night's game against Memphis after suffering a sprained left ankle against Saint Paul's this past Saturday. He is listed as questionable for Saturday's game at UTEP. Castro, who has not played since Dec. 18 at Winthrop, has been plagued by the nagging injury and has seen action in just seven games after playing in all 28 games a year ago. He is averaging 2.6 points and 2.3 rebounds in eight minutes per game this season. Hammonds is averaging 3.8 points and 1.7 rebounds in 16 minutes of action per game this season.

Marc Yellock Named Elon Defensive Line Coach

Elon University Head Football Coach Pete Lembo announced today the hiring of ECU defensive graduate assistant coach Marc Yellock as the Phoenix defensive line coach. Yellock, 27, joins Lembo's first Phoenix staff. Lembo was introduced as the 19th head coach in the 85-year history of Elon's football program on Dec. 19 after coaching at Lehigh University for eight years, including the last five as the head coach. Yellock worked the past two seasons as ECU's staff assistant coach, working primarily with the Pirates' defensive line. He served ECU as a video intern for the 2003 campaign after coaching the linebackers at J.H. Rose High School, also located in Greenville, NC, for the 2002 season. A four-year letterman as a linebacker at ECU, Yellock played for the Pirates' 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 teams after red-shirting in 1996. He played in 26 games, making 18 starts during his playing career with the Pirates under coach Steve Logan. Prior to that, he was a four-year letterman as a defensive end for Person County High School in Roxboro, NC, playing for the 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995 squads.

Taylor fined \$17,000 for spitting at Pittman

Washington Redskins safety Sean Taylor was fined \$17,000 Monday by the NFL for spitting in the face of Tampa Bay Buccaneers running back Michael Pittman. Taylor was ejected and penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct for spitting at Pittman in the third quarter of Saturday's playoff game. The offense was considered so egregious that Pittman wasn't penalized for slapping Taylor in the helmet in retaliation. Taylor escaped suspension for his action, keeping him on the active roster for this week's game at Seattle. Taylor has been fined several times in his two-year career for a bevy of infractions, including \$25,000 for skipping the league's mandatory rookie symposium. He has several in-season fines for illegal hits and uniform violations, including \$5,000 for wearing striped socks that resembled a barber pole in this year's home game against Philadelphia. Taylor was investigated by the league last season for allegedly spitting at Cincinnati receiver T.J. Houshmandzadeh, but no fine was levied because there was no video evidence. Taylor also had a drunk driving charge last season that was later dismissed. He is scheduled to go on trial next week in Miami on a felony charge of aggravated assault stemming from a June 1 confrontation near his home, although he is expected to request a postponement because of the Redskins' playoff run.

Gretzky loses grandmother three weeks after mother's death

Wayne Gretzky is mourning the death of his grandmother, three weeks after the ice hockey great's mother died. Betty Hockin, the grandmother of the Phoenix Coyotes coach, died Saturday at 84 in a hospital in Brantford after being stricken with a heart attack last month. The funeral home, the Beckett-Glaves Family Center in Brantford, listed her death on its Web site Monday. Hockin entered the hospital one day before daughter Phyllis Gretzky was admitted for deteriorating health from lung cancer. Hockin was released from the hospital to attend her daughter's funeral Dec. 22. Wayne Gretzky took a 10-day leave of absence from the Coyotes to be with his mother, who died of lung cancer Dec. 19 in Brantford. Hockin, who had 21 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren, is survived by sister Eileen Lockley and sisters-in-law Clara Cook and Elaine Van Brant. The funeral is scheduled for Wednesday in Brantford.

Roundball Pirates continue to progress

ECU has won three of last four games

ERIC GILMORE
SENIOR WRITER

While students were nestling in Holiday cheer following exams, the men's basketball team continued to be tested. Though the squad is far from perfection, their improvements have been dictated in recent scores.

Evidence was Saturday night when the Pirates struggled early against Saint Paul's, an athletic Division II team. But ECU held tough and clawed back from a nine point halftime deficit to eventually ink out an 80-74 home win.

"I don't know if we'd have won this game three weeks ago, maybe two weeks ago," said first year Head Coach Ricky Stokes.

"I think we've made some strides in battling adversity."

With the game in the balance, ECU closed the final four minutes with a 10-2 run. Senior leader Corey Rouse was good from the charity stripe

to convert a three-point play with 3:48 remaining. After a Saint Paul's miss, an opportunistic Sam Hinnant put back an offensive rebound. A possession later, Japhet McNeill slithered through the lane to push the lead to six.

Rouse led five double-figure scorers with a game-high 22 points and 15 rebounds. Tyrone Beale, Jeremy Ingram and Hinnant notched 13 points each while Courtney Captain added 11.

"We knew they were going to come at us and we just had to come back at them," said Captain.

"And in the first half, we didn't play like we normally play." "The first 20 minutes for us was brutal," Stokes said.

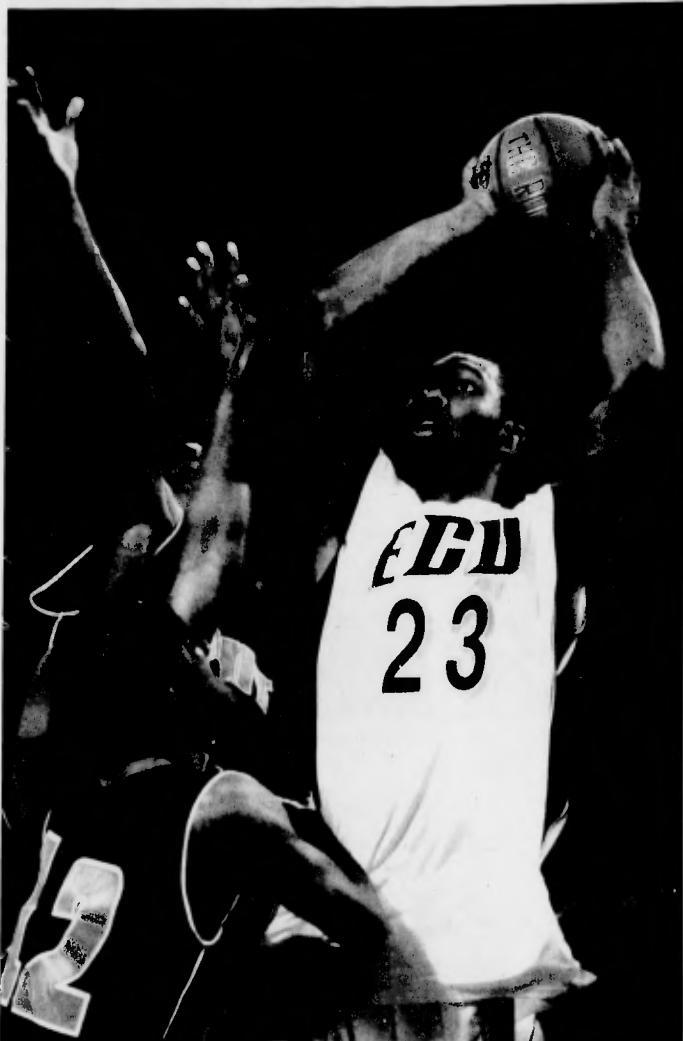
"We did not play very hard. We did not play with a lot of energy. And Saint Paul's took the fight to us."

"I was surprised with our play," said Saint Paul's Head Coach Edward "Buck" Joyner. "I'll be honest with you."

see MEN page A9

Results since TEC's last issue

Dec. 10	Western Carolina	48-56 L
ECU shot only 13-of-41 (31.7 percent) from the field en route to most disappointing loss of the season		
Dec. 18	at Winthrop	48-70 L
ECU turned the ball over 27 times for Eagles second consecutive win over the Pirates		
Dec. 21	at Toledo	62-73 L
Pirates 32-28 halftime advantage fizzled with poor second-half shooting and free-throw percentage		
Dec. 28	Limestone	87-54 W
Jeremy Ingram notched a career-high 25 points over Division II opponent to end five-game losing streak		
Dec. 31	UNC Wilmington	82-69 W
ECU snapped a three-game losing streak to the Seahawks leading from wire-to-wire		
Jan. 3	at Wake Forest	54-58 L
Late game miscues cause the Pirates golden opportunity to upset ranked ACC team on the road		
Jan. 7	Saint Paul's	80-74 W
ECU claws from largest halftime deficit to win for the 19 consecutive time over a Division II team		



Rouse recorded his ninth double-double of the season against St. Paul's Saturday.

Lady Pirates continue streak against Memphis

Four players reach double figures in fourth straight win

The ECU women's basketball team could be the hottest thing to come out of Greenville since David Garrard. The Lady Pirates, after losing three straight games over winter break, have kicked-off 2006 with four consecutive victories at an average of 11 points per game. Out of their last 13 games, the Lady Pirates have come out on top ten times. ECU holds the second-best record in Conference-USA, right behind Tulsa. To put it simply, this team is on a roll.

The Lady Pirates (10-4, 2-1) defeated C-USA rival Memphis (2-11, 0-2) Sunday 81-68 after the season's longest road trip, spanning 11 days and five games.

ECU's 40 first-half points were the most scored for the Lady Pirates this season. That can largely be attributed to the Pirates converting 5-11 three-pointers and 70 percent of their free throws in the first half.

After putting on arguably one of their most dominating performances in the paint, outscoring the Tigers 40-20, partnered with eight team-threes, the Lady Pirates showed their versatility.

Freshman Jessica Slack led Pirate-scorers with 19 points, 15 of which came from three pointers.

see WOMEN page A9



The Lady Pirates have improved to 10-4 on the season and won their first C-USA game against Memphis.

USC speared by Longhorns' Young

Texas QB outshines USC stars, also declares for 2006 NFL draft

Opinion

RON CLEMENTS
STAFF WRITER

When Texas quarterback Vince Young walked off the field at the Rose Bowl Wednesday night, he left a champion following one of the greatest single-game individual performances in college football history.

The Heisman Trophy notwithstanding, Young was the best player on the field that night — a field shared by 2004 Heisman winner Matt Leinart and 2005 Heisman winner Reggie Bush. Young finished second in the Heisman this season to Bush, but was vindicated Wednesday night by upstaging Bush and winning the national championship for his Texas Longhorns.

Trojan fans will say, as Leinart basically said in his arrogant post-game interview, that Texas did not deserve to win the game because one of their touchdowns should not have counted. That is just a bunch of nonsense. Even if instant replay had overturned that call where Young pitched the ball to Selvin Young in the second quarter, Texas still probably would have scored on the subsequent plays to take the lead at that juncture of the game.

The number one reason USC lost, aside from Vince Young, was arrogance and greed. It was Bush not being content with a 40-yard run, trying to lateral the ball to an un-expecting teammate who couldn't handle the pitch. The incomplete pitch resulted in a fumble

which Texas recovered inside its own 20.

It was also Trojan coach Pete Carroll deciding to go for a fourth-and-two at midfield with the lead and just over two minutes remaining instead of punting and forcing Vince Young to drive the Longhorns offense the length of the field.

One could ask, "Why shouldn't USC have been arrogant?" The Trojans had won 34 straight games and were going for their third consecutive national championship and the first undisputed one. If Bush completes that lateral, it's one of the plays of the year. If USC converts that fourth-and-two, Pete Carroll is a genius with testicular fortitude. But things didn't turn out the way the folks in SoCal would have liked.

The game can be second-guessed to death, but the bottom line is that the night belonged to Vince Young.

When his team needed to make a play, he made it. Twice in the fourth quarter, he converted a fourth-down himself. He threw for 267 yards while completing 75 percent of his passes on the night. He ran for another 200 yards and three touchdowns, including the game-winner with 19 seconds remaining on the clock. He did not turn the ball over once, something both Leinart and Bush did.

After leading Texas to its first national championship in 36 years, Young recanted his declaration that he was going to remain in Austin for his senior year and announced he was going to enter the NFL Draft to capitalize on his great outing in Pasadena.

It is unlikely that Young will be the first pick in the draft. The Houston Texans have already told ESPN's Chris Mortensen that, assuming Bush foregoes his senior

see TEXAS VS USC page A9



Vince Young proved his case for the Heisman trophy even further after torching the Trojans in the title game last week.

Colts, Seahawks get four All-Pros – Gates unanimous choice

(AP) — San Diego's Antonio Gates was the only unanimous choice to The Associated Press 2005 All-Pro team featuring four players each from conference leaders Indianapolis and Seattle. The Chargers' brilliant tight end drew all 50 votes in balloting by a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters who cover the NFL. Gates also made the team last year, with 32 1/2 votes.

He's joined by NFL Most Valuable Player Shaun Alexander, The Seattle running back, who also won the AP Offensive Player of the Year award, received 49 votes. And Chicago linebacker Brian Urlacher, the Defensive Player of the Year, also was chosen on 49 ballots. "This whole season was a blessing," said Urlacher, who rebounded from leg injuries in 2004 to lead the Bears to the NFC

North crown. Alexander made the team for the first time, while Urlacher was chosen for the third. Peyton Manning was the All-Pro quarterback for the third straight time, getting 37 votes. He was joined by Colts center Jeff Saturday, defensive end Dwight Freeney and safety Bob Sanders. It was the first selection for Saturday and Sanders and the second for

Freeney. The other Seahawks were tackle Walter Jones, guard Steve Hutchinson and fullback Mack Strong. Jones made it for the third time, Hutchinson for the second, and Strong for the first. "I came in and I had a bunch of 100-yard games real quick," Alexander said. "I felt like, gosh, I didn't feel like I was really running that hard."

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Men from page A8

Hassan Robinson paced Saint Paul's with 21 points on 10-of-21 shooting. Since the Tigers were severely undersized, they were forced to play at a rigorous pace. The speed forced ECU to go with a smaller lineup to keep up. But the Pirates' size advantage began to wear down the smaller Tigers midway through the second-half. ECU out-rebounded Saint Paul's by a 28-15 margin in the second frame. "In the second-half, we had an opportunity to regroup," Stokes said. "We attacked a little more inside and were able to make some perimeter shots, but I thought defense was the difference. We were able to attack them defensively." Japhet McNeil notched a career-high in assists with 12 in 29 minutes. McNeil now has 305

for his career, 21 shy of third on the career assists list. The junior scored four points. The Saint Paul's contest was supposed to be a final tune-up before No. 4 Memphis travels to Greenville. Instead, it served as a sobering reminder of how much room the Pirates still have to progress. "I'm pleased with the win," Stokes said. "But I'm not pleased with how we played." Tom Hammonds, the son of a former NBA star, sprained his ankle at the 9:54 mark of the second half against Saint Paul's. The sophomore guard, fresh off an impressive six point outing at Wake Forest, did not return. Hammonds slammed the floor repeatedly in an immense amount of pain. Stokes stated

that Hammonds will not play against Memphis and is questionable for the Pirates game against UTEP. Jeremy Ingram and Quentin Goods experienced their first minutes against Winthrop on Dec. 17. Ingram, a Kinston, NC native, was mandated to sit out the first eight games due to eligibility issues surrounding his transfer from Wake Forest. Since becoming eligible, Ingram has been a spark plug averaging 12.2 points per game. Quentin Goods' redshirt bid was removed against Winthrop when he played 10 minutes. Goods' best outing was at Wake Forest when he notched two points and three rebounds in 16 minutes. What was most impressive was Goods' defense on Wake Forest's premier center

Eric Williams. With 16 players dressing for the team, Mike Castro has found himself regulated to the bench. The senior experienced an ankle injury in the preseason. Even so, the New York native logged 18 minutes against UNC Greensboro. Since then, Castro has played only one minute. According to Stokes, Castro is now practicing with the team. However, Stokes was unclear about whether the senior could see the floor versus Memphis. The latest on Castro is that he will be out indefinitely after suffering an injury to his right foot. Freshman Quinton Goods will fill in for the injured Castro. *This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.*

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Women from page A8

She also had four assists. Forwards LaToya Horton and Nicole Days dominated the boards with 22 combined rebounds, just under a quarter of the game's 89 total. The tandem also contributed 13 points and two blocks. Sunday's game was the first time the Lady Pirates scored at least 80 points in a contest since Jan. 28, 2005 versus Southern Miss. Other notable victories over the past few weeks such as a 61-55

win over Alabama and Friday's six-point win over C-USA rival UAB display the Lady Pirates' ability to win on the road. ECU is back at home Friday to take on Houston in C-USA play. After that, the Pirates are back on the road until a much-needed three-game-home stand against SMU, Tulsa and Marshall starting Jan. 27. *This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.*

Texas vs USC from page A8

year at USC, they will take him number one. The Texans just picked up an \$8 million option on their current quarterback. David Carr, who is in only his fourth year in the NFL with the four-year-old Texans. That being said, this is the right move for Young. What more can he do in college? He just turned in one of the best single-game bowl performances ever while leading his team to a national title, providing the icing on the cake for what was a Heis-

man-worthy year. What would he come back for – to win the Heisman? He already proved his point on the field last Wednesday night. Reggie Bush deserved to win the Heisman this past season, but for one night, and with all the marbles on the table, he was completely outshined by the Heisman runner-up and somewhere Matthew McConaughey is still smiling. *This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.*

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Page A10

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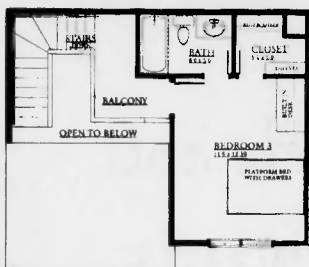
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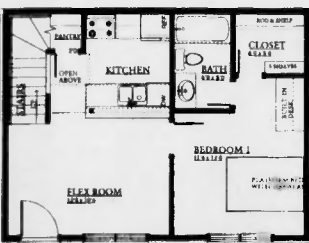
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