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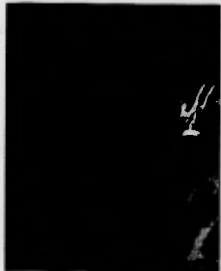
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### Warm NC winter pleases students



The heat is on for North America this winter.

Northern students enjoying warm weather

ELISA BIZZOTTO  
STAFF WRITER

ECU has seen some untraditional winter weather over the past two weeks.

The temperature highs in Greenville have been well into the 60s and occasionally even the 70s. Students are dressed in T-shirts and sandals rather than heavy jackets and boots, and although there may be students who are accustomed to such mild temperatures, those who are from northern states have been severely spoiled.

Mid-January brings forth some of the worst weather for the northern natives. Snow and ice are a constant burden and there certainly would not be anyone in sandals until late April at the earliest. Schools are only closed down in blizzard-like conditions and the northern winter seems as though it lasts half of the year. While there may still be those students who are nostalgic for the snowy days of January, it is unlikely that even the northernmost students cannot go without the days of scraping ice off of a car windshield with the wind chill well below freezing.

Several northern students flat out prefer winters at ECU over those at home. Cassandra Gilbert, freshman business major from Vermont, misses the convenience of being able to snowboard close to home, but is enjoying her four years of unusual winter weather.

"I like that I can drive with my windows open in the middle of January, but I just wish I didn't get so many winter clothes for Christmas because I haven't had to wear anything heavier than a long sleeve shirt," said Gilbert.

"I'm used to trudging around in boots in the winter so I can't get over the fact that I can wear sandals in the middle of January."

Beth Swan, sophomore recreation therapy major, absolutely prefers the warmer weather in North Carolina to that in Rhode Island. She does not remember last year being as warm at this time of year, but is thinking she might stay in the south once she graduates because of the warm weather.

"Winter at home was always my least favorite season," said Swan.

"I loved the snow the few times of year it would fall, but after Christmas, I always just wanted it to get warm again."

Although winter weather differs for those students who are, say from Maine, from those who are from the Central Atlantic states, all alike prefer the drastically warmer temperatures of eastern North Carolina.

Sarah Rodis, junior recreation management major, is originally from Delaware but moved to northern Virginia when she was in junior high. She remembers winter in Delaware being really cold when she was younger but still feels as though northern Virginia has much colder winters than Greenville. She said when she was a freshman, it snowed once or twice and school was shut down for almost an entire week because there were a few inches of snow on the ground.

"It was funny because I would talk to my friends who go to

see WEATHER page A2

### Blood drives save lives



Stephanie Schinaman, freshman nursing major, waits patiently as blood is extracted from her arm. The American Red Cross ran a blood drive yesterday from noon to 6 p.m. at Mendenhall Student Center. They announced that students could help them by either donating blood and saving three lives or helping with blood drive registration.

Photo by Zach Siskin

### Undergraduate research: a viable opportunity for students



Research can involve heavy reading and writing.

#### Requirements, advantages of undergraduate research

KIMBERLY BELLAMY  
STAFF WRITER

Undergraduate research is an option to basically all students but the requirements and advantages to participate in research has not been made clear.

The basic requirements may vary depending on the professor mentoring the student regardless of whether you are interested in doing research for a social science, natural science or another area of study.

Derek H. Alderman, associate professor of

geography, does not stress what classification the student is if they want to participate in undergraduate research.

"Undergrads can engage in research as soon as they get to college," said Alderman.

"It's not that important necessarily what year you are or what level you are."

David Knox, an ECU sociology professor, has different standards for choosing which students to allow partaking in research with him.

According to Knox, a student must be at least of sophomore status to be considered to participate in research.

Another major factor in deciding whether a student can do undergraduate research is grade point average, which also varies depending on the professor's requirements.

If a student decides to participate in research through the Undergraduate Research/Creative Activities committee, they must have a minimum GPA of 2.5. The program is managed by Michael Bassman, assistant vice chancellor of the honors program, EC Scholars and undergraduate research.

David Knowles, visiting instructor of biology, said he has no real requirements as far as classification or GPA as long as they have a desire for the topic they plan to research.

Students who want to participate in research should find a couple of professors that they possibly would want to mentor them in research and find out each professor's specific requirements.

Most professors agree that they will allow the student to choose a topic of which the student shows genuine interest.

"Students should select a topic which they have a personal, passionate interest in," said Knox.

Students can also apply to receive grant money to fund their research project in a number of ways.

The student may be able to receive funds from the department that their research is concentrated in or a university organization may help fund the research.

"In geography, we have an honors society called Gamma Theta Epsilon and that is a geography honors society that actually has competitions for applying for research money as well as awards for undergraduate research success," Alderman said.

A student who is a member of the honors program and decides to participate in an undergraduate assistantship can apply for a \$500 stipend to fund

see RESEARCH page A2

### Hold that steak: Tokyo's US beef halt sours efforts to win the return of Japanese palates

TOKYO (AP) — The first shipments of U.S. beef in two years had barely cleared customs last month when American officials were already cooking up their next project—loosening remaining restrictions on imports and winning back wary Japanese palates.

Both those goals became more elusive in the wake of last week's fresh Japanese halt to U.S. beef imports following the discovery of spine bones, material Tokyo has banned as risky for mad cow disease, in a package of American veal.

Now, instead of cajoling reluctant Japanese officials into widening the categories of beef eligible for import, visiting American officials are busy serving up apologies and getting met with

an unusual stream of public criticism from their Japanese counterparts.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe was typical on Monday in a statement ahead of a meeting with visiting U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick.

"The U.S. had a duty to firmly observe the conditions for resuming imports, and it is regrettable that this duty was not observed," Abe declared.

"The U.S. needs to firmly investigate into the cause of why this duty was not observed."

Abe emphasized his point by announcing that the government ordered inspections of all stocks of U.S. beef imported over the past month, and said imports would not



Shoppers buy meat in Japan.

resume until Washington had explained the mishap to Tokyo's satisfaction and came up with preventative steps.

Prospects weren't looking much better on the consumer front. Earlier polls suggested that most Japanese had deep reservations when the government partially lifted a year-old ban on American beef imports last month.

### Venezuela's Chavez, leftists unite against Bush policies



Chavez and Bolivian President Evo Morales are aligned against Bush.

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — President Hugo Chavez, reveling in his role as leftist icon, is bringing together tens of thousands of activists from across the world on Tuesday to promote Latin America's fast-growing anti-globalization movement.

Leftist leaders are increasingly popular across Latin America, while Chavez's own "revolution" for the poor has become an inspiration for like-minded activists everywhere.

More than 60,000 had signed up for this week's World Social Forum in Caracas as of Monday and tens of thousands more were expected, organizers said. They include campaigners against U.S.-style free trade, environmentalists, Indian leaders and human rights activists.

About half were expected to come from outside Venezuela.

Their views span a wide spectrum, but most participants appear united by strong opposition to the U.S. government and the war in Iraq. The forum will begin with an "anti-imperialist" march Tuesday through the streets of Caracas, with protesters likely to aim their chants against President Bush.

"Venezuela has become an epicenter of change on the world level," Chavez said Friday, referring to the event in a speech.

"That's why (U.S.) imperialism wants to sweep us away, of course ... because they say we are a bad example. But they haven't swept us away and they won't."

The Venezuelan leader is

expected to address activists on the sidelines of the gathering, soaking up the spotlight as a leading radical voice of the Latin American left.

Chavez has repeatedly accused U.S. officials of plotting to overthrow his "revolutionary" government and warned that Venezuela, the world's fifth-largest petroleum exporter, would cut off oil shipments to the United States if it ever invades his country.

Chavez has used a windfall in oil profits to funnel millions of dollars into programs for the poor while raising Venezuela's profile internationally by extending preferential oil deals to countries from China to Argentina in an effort to line up alternative trade partners to the United States, the No. 1 buyer of Venezuelan oil.

The World Social Forum was first held in Brazil in 2001 and coincides each year with the market-friendly World Economic Forum of political and business leaders in Davos, Switzerland.

Those at the social forum, in contrast, traditionally criticize free trade and denounce the evils of capitalism, stances that closely mirror Chavez's socialist views.

"The U.S. government, especially under the Bush administration, has been trying to force its own economic policies on developing countries, and I think all of us here agree that must stop,"

see CHAVEZ page A2



People go into debt and look for more of the above to pay it off.

### Earnings optimism beginning for 2006 with earnings, SEC decisions

#### Aircraft companies show improvement

LEE SCHWARZ  
STAFF WRITER

On Wall Street, traders await the reporting of earnings much like a student who constantly checks Blackboard and Onestop for grades after finals.

Earnings time, like finals time, is emotional for most observers who are directly or indirectly affected through feelings of either elation or dejection. While earnings are reported several times a year, generally every quarter, there is no lull in anticipation as Wall Street waits.

This past week, IBM surprised nearly everyone by posting an increase of 13 percent despite poor performances in a few departments. Unfortunately, this good news failed to spark the Dow, as it finished down 63.55 points that day.

"IBM found ways to really deliver strong cash flow and earnings growth," said Toni Sacconaghi, an analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein & Co.

Boeing aircraft, another Dow

Jones company, was beaten by European aircraft maker, Airbus, for new contracts in the busiest aircraft year since 1989. Both companies showed growth, a positive turn of events considering nearly everything aircraft-related has been negatively impacted since Sept. 11.

"The challenge for 2006 is to continue successfully in this ramp-up as we have done in 2005," said Airbus CEO Gustav Humbert. Another cause for optimism has been the unanimous vote reached by the SEC to change how executive pay packages are disclosed. At one time, there was mass disagreement over this issue because the method of expensing stock options has been in question. They change value very rapidly and the exact cost to the company is not easily determined since stock prices change every hour and sometimes every minute.

A stock option is a contract, which gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy a certain stock at a certain price regardless of the selling price. For instance, if a company's stock is selling for \$25 per share

see SEC page A2

## Announcements

### Dance 2006

The week of Jan. 22 - 28 will be the week of Dance 2006. Highlights include choreography by ECU School of Theatre and Dance faculty and guest artists. Sometimes serious, sometimes funny, sometimes lyrical and sometimes eccentric, this annual dance showcase has become an immensely popular event. Sure to have something for dance aficionados and newcomers alike, this is a fast-paced and unpredictable cornucopia of dance styles.

### Toying with Science

Dne-man marvel Garry Krinsky juggles, mimes, dances and even balances five ladders on his chin to bring the laws of science to life. Mr. Krinsky will be bringing his show "Garry Krinsky's Toying with Science" to ECU Saturday, Jan. 28 at 2 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. Non-stop energy and audience participation will keep all ages engaged in this inventive and informative show. Advance individual tickets are \$8 for ECU faculty and staff and \$6 for ECU students and youth. All tickets at the door are \$9. Better ticket options are available through subscriptions. For more information, contact the Central Ticket Office at 328-4788 or go to ecuart.com.

### RHA Winter Trip

The Resident Hall Association is sponsoring a Winter Trip to the Jan. 27 Charlotte Bobcats vs. Miami Heat basketball game. Attendance is open to all students. The cost to attend is \$27 for students who live on campus and \$40 for commuting students. The price includes the cost of the basketball ticket and transportation. If interested, contact the RHA office at rha@mail.ecu.edu or 328-1679. Dispersal of tickets will be based on a first come, first serve basis.

### Great Decisions 2006

The second in a series of discussions of major world political moves hits ECU Saturday, Jan. 28 at 10 a.m. in Rivers Auditorium. Professor Scott Sillman of Duke University will present his lecture entitled "Human Rights and the Age of Terrorism." The cost for attending this session or any individual session is \$15. The full eight-week program costs \$69, which includes the Great Decisions Book. Any full time student or teacher may attend free of charge. For more information, call 328-2349, or visit [ecu.edu/cs-acad/cpe/great\\_decisions.cfm](http://ecu.edu/cs-acad/cpe/great_decisions.cfm).

### Alumni Association Scholarships

The ECU Alumni Association annually awards scholarships funded by alumni contributions. Twelve \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to deserving ECU full-time undergraduate students for the following academic year. Applications for scholarships are due by Tuesday, Feb. 28. For more information and to download an application, visit [piratealumni.com](http://piratealumni.com) and click on "Awards and Scholarships" or call the Alumni Association at 328-6072.

### Mentors Needed for Elementary School

Mentors are needed to assist in the after-school program at Northwest Elementary. The program runs Monday through Friday from 2:20 - 5:30 p.m., but mentors do not have to be available for the entire week or during breaks. Persons are needed with experience coordinating physical activities for children and/or providing nutrition education. There will be a daily stipend to offset the cost of transportation. For more information, contact Corrae Moore at [mooreco@ecu.edu](mailto:mooreco@ecu.edu).

### Sojourner Truth performance

Sandra Jones will present her one-person show, "Sojourner Truth." Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. in Speight Auditorium, located in Jenkins Fine Arts Building. The event, sponsored by the Women's Studies Program, is free and open to the public.

## News Briefs

### State

**Greenville teacher gets suspended sentence for indecent liberties**  
GREENVILLE, NC (AP) - A former high school teacher was given a suspended prison sentence and two years of probation for taking indecent liberties with a student. Katherine B. Tew, 31, was cleared Monday by a Pitt County jury of a charge of having sexual relations with the male student, who was 17 at the time.

Judge William C. Griffin Jr. gave Tew a suspended sentence of six to eight months in prison and ordered her to perform 36 hours of community service along with a psychiatric examination. The student, now a college freshman, testified that Tew sent him notes and telephoned him repeatedly before they had a sexual encounter in a parking lot at South Central High School on a night in December 2004. He claimed Tew met him in the parking lot in her pajamas, carrying a bottle of tequila. She denied it, saying she left her home after an argument with her husband but did not go to the school. Tew resigned as a teacher and cheerleading coach after she was arrested almost a year ago. Neither Tew, her lawyer nor the student commented after her conviction and sentencing.

**Burr: Community colleges need to go harder after federal grants**  
RALEIGH, NC (AP) North Carolina community colleges need to follow the lead of the state's public universities in aggressively seeking more grants as more federal money is tied up in entitlement programs, Sen. Richard Burr said Monday. Fifty-three percent of the budget is now tied up in programs such as Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security, said Burr, R-NC. "We want to make sure that all of entities in North Carolina are truly plugged in to the competitive grant

process of federal money and in fact are players in that process," Burr told more than 200 people meeting at the Legislative Building who gathered for an "economic development summit" organized by Burr's office. The all-day event attracted officials from all 58 of the state's community colleges. Representatives from the U.S. Departments of Labor, Home and Community Development and Commerce joined state officials in describing grant programs and how to request money. More than 10 percent of the University of North Carolina system's total revenues of \$6.7 billion this past fiscal year came from federal grants, a UNC spokeswoman said. UNC-Chapel Hill's health schools rank among the nation's leaders in research money from the National Institutes of Health. The North Carolina Community College System, however, only received \$24.5 million, or 2.6 percent of its \$942 million budget this fiscal year, from federal sources, according to system records. Most of that money was spent on worker training.

### National

**Researcher finds size matters when it comes to bats' evolution**  
SYRACUSE, NY (AP) - For some male bats, sexual prowess comes with a price, smaller brains. A research team led by Syracuse University biologist Scott Pitnick found that in bat species where the females are promiscuous, the males boasting the largest testicles also had the smallest brains. Conversely, where the females were faithful, the males had smaller testes and larger brains. "It turns out size does matter," said Pitnick, whose findings were published in December in "Proceedings of the Royal Society, Biological Science," an online journal. The study offers evidence that males, at least in some species, make an evolutionary trade-off between intelligence and sexual prowess, said David Hoskins, a biologist at the Centre for Ecology and Conservation

at the University of Exeter in England and a leading authority on bats' mating behavior. "Bats invest an enormous amount in testis, and the investment has to come from somewhere. There are no free lunches," said Hoskins, who did not participate in the study. The relationship between the breeding system and relative brain size has received little investigation, said Pitnick, who teaches evolution and population biology and researches topics such as sexual selection and sexual conflict. Pitnick's team looked at 334 species of bats and found a convincing contrast in testes size. In species with monogamous females, males had testes starting at 0.11 percent of their body weight and ranging up to 1.4 percent. But in species where the females had a large number of mates, Pitnick found testes ranged from 0.6 percent to 8.5 percent of the males' mass (in the Rafinesque's big-eared bat).

The study found that in more monogamous species, the average male brain size was about 2.6 percent of body weight, while in promiscuous species, the average size dipped to 1.9 percent.

**Report: More than \$13 million spent on state fights over same-sex marriage in 2004**  
AP - The 2004 election campaigns that ultimately banned same-sex marriages in 13 states were funded by a mix of national groups, churches and individuals, with ban supporters narrowly out raising opponents and total contributions breaking \$13 million, according to a new analysis of state-level fundraising. Supporters of the state constitutional amendments raised \$6.8 million for ballot committees; opponents raised \$6.5 million, according to the study by The Institute on Money in State Politics, a nonpartisan research organization in Helena, Mont. The single largest block of givers were advocates of gay and lesbian rights, donating more than \$3 million.

Conservative organizations affiliated with a network called the Arlington Group gave nearly \$2 million, the report found. Churches also invested heavily, contributing \$1.9 million, overwhelmingly in favor of bans on same-sex marriage. Despite the nearly even split of the \$13.3 million raised by ballot committees, the amendments passed overwhelmingly, sometimes by as much as a 3-to-1 ratio. The closest vote, in Oregon, passed with 57 percent in favor of a ban and 43 percent against. In all, 19 states have passed constitutional amendments outlawing same-sex marriage. Only one state, Connecticut, has enacted a law legalizing civil unions without a court order.

### World

**Pakistani president: There are indications the al-Qaida members killed in U.S. airstrike**  
OSLO, Norway (AP) - Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said Tuesday there were indications that al-Qaida members were killed in a U.S. airstrike near the Afghan border on Jan. 13. "Investigations have found that there are foreigners there, that is for sure, in the general area," Musharraf said of the airstrike in Damadola, a village in northern Pakistan. "There is an indication that there were some people also, al-Qaida people, who have got killed and we need to ascertain that. I'm not 100 percent sure of that," he said. Pakistani government officials have said there were foreign militants in the area and that some were killed in the airstrike, but they have yet to find the bodies. Musharraf is a close ally in Washington's war on terror. The missile strike, which the Americans say targeted but missed Osama bin Laden's second-in-command, Ayman al-Zawahiri, has infuriated many Pakistanis.

**Seven Taliban rebels escape from Afghanistan's main prison**  
KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - Seven Taliban rebels have escaped from Afghanistan's main high-security prison, officials said Tuesday. The men broke out of Policharki Prison on the outskirts of the capital of Kabul on Sunday while relatives were visiting them, and 10 prison guards suspected of aiding the escape have been arrested, said Gen. Abdul Salam Bakshi. "We've launched a manhunt for these Taliban members, but there's no sign of them so far," said Bakshi, director of the country's prisons. "They were all caught fighting for the Taliban." He said the men were from the southern provinces of Helmand and Kandahar, a former Taliban stronghold. They had been sentenced to between 16 and 17 years in prison, but he had no other details about their convictions or identities. The breakout comes as authorities are refurbishing part of the prison to improve security ahead of the return of Afghan terror suspects being held in U.S. military custody at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The U.S. and the Afghan government said in August that Afghans held at Guantanamo and elsewhere would be sent back to Afghanistan, but didn't say when. American and allied Afghan forces captured thousands of suspected Taliban and al-Qaida members in Afghanistan after a U.S.-led invasion toppled the repressive Taliban government in late 2001. Hundreds of detainees were classified as "enemy combatants" and transferred to Guantanamo, while others were detained at Policharki, or at a large detention facility at Bagram, the U.S. military's headquarters north of Kabul. The escape is the second in six months. In July, four al-Qaida members, including one of Osama bin Laden's top lieutenants in Southeast Asia, broke out of Bagram, sparking a massive but unsuccessful manhunt.

## Research from page A1

their research. Students can also apply for up to \$2,500 in grant money through the Undergraduate Research/Creative Activities committee if they plan to participate in research and present their projects at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium. "We funded about \$18,000 last year for students to fund their research projects," Bassman said. The outcomes of participating in undergraduate research could provide students with a large amount of positive consequences and opportunities. It is possible for students to receive course credit for participating in undergraduate research in certain departments. "Course credit is offered for participating in undergraduate research for biology in classes 4S01 and 4S14," Knowles said. Participating in research can also have advantages such as getting your work published in profes-

sional journals and it can contribute to advancing at the university level and in a potential career. "Students can gain hands-on experience by having a mentorship with a professor and could get their work published in a professional publication," Alderman said. The experience could be even more rewarding depending on where a majority of the research takes place. "Research called service learning, that takes place in the community, can help the student and the community," said Alderman. Michelle Lieberman participated in research as an undergraduate at ECU and went on to graduate school and is now working at ECU in the conflict resolution department. ECU is looking to increase the involvement in research by the faculty, undergraduate and

graduate students. "We are looking towards having a research week that will be open to all faculty, students and graduate students," Bassman said. The first issue of the State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research Journal will be published this spring and students and faculty will be able to submit their work for possible publication. Bassman will be the editor of the journal. Students who would like to participate in undergraduate research can apply for a stipend until Feb. 1. Recipients of the stipends will be announced Feb. 15. This year's Undergraduate Research Symposium will be held April 21 for all students who would like to participate. This writer can be contacted at [news@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:news@theeastcarolinian.com).

## SEC from page A1

and that company chooses to reward its CEO with the option to buy 100,000 shares at \$10 per share, he could make \$1.5 million if he chose to immediately sell his shares for a \$15 per share profit. However, how to record the expense of these options at the time they are awarded is in question. In addition, some executives receive all kinds of perks like having large loans forgiven, access to corporate jets for personal use, or country club memberships and their income taxes paid for. There are many ways in which companies reward their executives and disclosing them has made some companies resentful and nervous. "We think the benefit of eliminating that possibility of abuse outweighs the cost to companies," said Alan Belier, SEC corporation finance chief. The SEC wants to make it clear that its mission is "wage clarity, not wage controls." While labor markets must be allowed to go as high as they need to in order to get top talent, some businesses worry that if their pay packages are published, it will encourage talent-needy companies to try and lure away talent with higher offers. This spawns bidding wars once a rival company knows what price it must meet to secure that executive and also the value the company places on that executive as well. This writer can be contacted at [news@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:news@theeastcarolinian.com).

## Weather from page A1

school up north and they would be walking to school in a snow storm while I had a week off for a few flurries," said Rodis. "I guess they don't have the means to get around down here when snow falls because the whole place was shut down." While all northern students may prefer the warm sunny days of Jan-

uary in North Carolina, many find it to be the perfect match to the start of another semester. The only downside is that students may be under the impression summer is just around the corner when in fact they could be in for some very familiar days of cold. This writer can be contacted at [news@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:news@theeastcarolinian.com).

## Chavez from page A1

said Jeff Monahan, a 32-year-old organic farmer from Battle Creek, Mich. "I'm sure there will be plenty of Bush-bashing when this gets under way," said Monahan, who arrived early and was helping put up canopies in a city park where thousands will camp out in tents. Some 2,000 events, including seminars, speeches, concerts and craft fairs, will be held across Caracas during this week's forum. Forum participants and curious locals flocked on Monday to a street fair in downtown Caracas, where they listened to South American folk music, took in exhibits praising achievements of Chavez's administration and purchased T-shirts embossed with images of Chavez and socialist revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara. "We have plenty of work to do, but we can make a difference in the world by doing it," Joshua Kabir, a 22-year-old student from

Poissy, France, said as he shuffled his feet to a lively salsa beat. Others expected to attend include Uruguayan writer Eduardo Galeano, Argentine Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel and U.S. anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan, whose son was killed in Iraq in 2004 and who set up a protest camp near Bush's Texas ranch last year. It was not clear whether other leftist leaders from Latin America would come. Some activists said they hoped to see Presidents Evo Morales of Bolivia or Fidel Castro of Cuba. Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva initially was expected, but then said he would not come. The recent rise of left-leaning governments in Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile makes the event a timely forum to exchange ideas, said Miguel Tinker Salas, a Latin American studies professor at Pomona College in Claremont, Calif.

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## My Random Column

### Things that amaze me

**Number One:** It truly alarms me how people dishonor the American Flag when the National Anthem is being played. I was always taught to be silent, still and have my hand over my heart. I was not to walk around or talk to my neighbor, but to salute the flag of our country. I don't wear hats so I never had to remove mine but I also know that it is proper to remove it before the music starts. There have been countless times that men and women alike have ignored all of these unsaid rules and wondered around with hats on talking or trying to find seats. It isn't a long song - please respect our country if only for a few moments.

**Number Two:** How the Pirate Rants have exploded into the rage they are today. It seems like it wasn't too long ago when a former editor introduced the idea to *TEC* and the staff was required to send them in to fill space. Now with over 20 to 30 of them coming in a day I can hardly keep up.

**Number Three:** Finally the other thing on my list for now is the decoration of hospital rooms. I understand how they want to keep them bleak and dreary but really, if I had to stay in a place that morbid for an extended period of time I would go crazy. There is usually nothing on the walls with the exception of maybe one picture that is pastel and boring and the lighting is usually pretty bad. An uncomfortable bed means they have to give you medication to help you sleep. Maybe better facilities would help healing.

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## Opinion Columnist

### Would a deal with the devil bring peace?

**Osama bin Laden asks for truce, but can we trust him?**

**BEN CORMACK**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

It's been more than four years since the attacks on Sept. 11, and the ensuing pursuit of the terrorist group Al-Qaeda and their leader Osama bin Laden. On Jan. 19, after nearly 13 months of silence, a new tape was broadcasted by al-Jazeera TV featuring bin Laden speaking of plans for attacks on America. Among this warning of violence, bin Laden implied the willingness to stop hostilities with America if troops were withdrawn from Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We do not mind offering a long-term truce based on just conditions that we will stick to," said Osama bin Laden.

Scott McClellan, a spokesman for the White House, said that, "We do not negotiate with terrorists. We put them out of business." In some ways, I agree with McClellan - I don't like the idea of negotiating with a terrorist. When I think about the issues of our government and our forces fighting, I think about all of the people who have died and the people that could die if this violence doesn't end. I think about the people who turn themselves into bombs for their cause, and I think about the people they kill and injure in the process. I think about the soldiers who have experienced such horrors and fears that would drive them to commit cruel and violent acts against other people. Frankly, the whole thing infuriates me. I am no stranger when it comes to anger. For the greater part of my years in high school, I was filled with anger. I was angry about the state of the world and the way my peers viewed life and essentially the value of life. I'll give you an example of what I'm talking about. My high school and another used to have a big football rivalry, so much so that

people were often injured because of pranks that people were pulling. As I recall one woman was driving down the road when her car was hit by eggs. She couldn't see and crashed into a telephone pole. She injured her arm to the point that it would never be the same. One of my peers, though I hesitate to use the word, described her and her situation as a "casualty of war." I wanted to punch him out until he became a "casualty" of my own war on his kind of ignorance.

Anger filled my mind and heart so much that I began to think a fight was the only thing that would satisfy it. I was at a point where if I was provoked enough, and believe me there were enough people who were willing to do this, that I would hurt a lot of people and I would have very little control over myself.

Now that high school is over I've realized that what I wanted in my life all that time and even to this very day was not violence, but peace. Now I would like to think peace is something of a universal concept, but I also think that it varies from person to person and from society to society. I think peace is when all basic needs are met, requiring no need to fight or be competitive for survival. I think peace is also about being able to understand and respect one another, and agreeing to disagree. I've always thought that with peace, we can see how similar we all are. Peace is basically about acceptance.

In order to achieve peace, however, we must be willing to forgive the past. If Osama bin Laden is serious enough about making peace, which I have to admit I have a significantly high level of doubt, I think we should still make an attempt for negotiating peace. As hard as the events of Sept. 11 are for someone like me to forget, I can only imagine how much harder it is for those who lost loved ones on that day.

Fighting these feelings is not an easy task, but if any kind of

peace is to be reached we must make an effort to make peace. It may mean that our government will have to make sacrifices that it was not initially willing to make - like oil contracts. If we do try to make peace, we should do it in the spirit of remembering those who have died. Not necessarily in the essence that they died fighting, but the memories of their deaths reminding us how important peace is.

The problem is that government officials may believe that they have too much to lose by making peace. That's why I think it would be better if a neutral party oversaw these peace negotiations. As much as their neutrality disgusts me sometimes, Switzerland may be the best suited for this. Then again, the United Nations may be a good choice. However, I doubt Osama bin Laden would agree to this. Not to mention that it generally takes the U.N., being the great Mexican stand-off they are, forever to accomplish anything. The best person to decide this would be someone who really has nothing to gain or lose by this peace. However, given the influence of the U.S. economy, I think they might be a hard person to find. It is just too bad that idea of gaining peace doesn't appear to be enough of an incentive for our own government.

We've flexed our muscles, we've shown we're serious and we've shown our fighting spirit. Now is the time to show we can also be peaceful. However, I don't think that means we should be willing to not fight as hard. In fact if the peace talks and requests of Osama bin Laden are extremely unreasonable, or if another attack occurs against us or any of our allies, I think we should be prepared to fight back even harder. Just because I'm for peace, doesn't mean I'm not willing to fight for it. With the lives of countless people at stake, we have to be willing to fight harder than those who fight against us.

## In My Opinion

(KRT) - Stanford University is one of the world's great research institutions, so when the school's president talks about American universities in the 21st century, it pays to listen. In a discussion about China and India outstripping the United States in math and science education, Stanford's John Hennessy was asked whether U.S. universities should give preferential admission to American students in those fields.

"Maybe so," said Hennessy, himself a distinguished engineering researcher, "if we could get these students in the first place."

The National Science Foundation warns that America is not producing enough researchers to maintain the country's leading role in science and technological

progress. As Hennessy indicated, U.S. graduate applications in the sciences and engineering are down. True, mediocre K-12 education plays a big role in this crisis, and, yes, there must be systemic reform.

But the Stanford president told us that there's a more fundamental problem the American people have yet to face: a widespread loss of faith in education's value. Immigrant communities used to be especially devoted to education, he said, but now you only really see it among immigrants from Asia.

He mentioned Condoleezza Rice's grandfather, a sharecropper who worked hard to get a college degree and who, by instilling in his descendants a deep belief in the transformative power of

education, produced within two generations one of the most powerful women in the world. This is what education can do for those who believe in hard work and scholarly self-discipline.

That used to be most Americans. What happened? How did we fall from a nation that respected teachers and treasured the gift of learning into one with an entitlement mentality? Lawmakers in Texas and Washington can tool with education policy all they like, but no tax will require lazy students to do their homework, and no law can make self-indulgent parents care deeply about their children's education.

Parents in China and India aren't making the same mistake.

## Pirate Rant

What's wrong with reading the paper in class? Maybe if you would show some enthusiasm or not talk about the most boring subjects Mr. Professor I wouldn't have to read the paper in your class. Would you rather me sleep? Cause that is the next option.

I'm a guy. I drink out of a straw. And I like it.

I think the entire Steelers team is on steroids. Those guys are crazy. Good luck to the Seahawks, I wouldn't want to play against those maniacs.

Why do guys from Jersey gel their hair to make it look like their head just got sucked into a black hole?

You know if J.J. Redick played for your team you would love him. You just hate him because he is the best player on the best team in college basketball.

Hey, Tony McKee is leaving and this is the last semester for Gary McCabe? Is that a light at the end of the tunnel?

I'm confused. People keep saying "Carolina." Are you talking about Carolina-Pembroke, Carolina-Greensboro, Carolina-Asheville, Carolina-Chapel Hill? I need some clarification.

Sororities are so overrated!

ECU has an Army and Air Force ROTC program. On certain days of the week these folks are required to wear their uniforms. It's a sign of professionalism. Eventually, everyone will wear a uniform here, whether it's a camouflage uniform now or a suit and tie later, we've all come here to become educated professionals. Grow up and do it. I highly commend our corps of cadets.

Kanye West posing as Jesus on *Rolling Stone* is just disgraceful... he shouldn't even begin to compare himself to someone like that.

Responding to the stereotype of ECU guys: It is just too bad we live in the south and that all the "true" southern guys know how to treat ladies. We can shoot deer and "Realtree" is a color! If your car breaks down don't look for our trucks, just call AAA. Good luck on finding a decent boyfriend. Yeeehaaww!

Articles written by Daniel Brock are my favorite, especially the one about Marcus Vick. What a waste of good talent he is.

OK, OK... I was one of those girls who complained about how awful our football team is but in reality, we were one win away from being bowl eligible. Maybe with a little student support we can ensure a bowl game and a victory next year. Have some faith!

If your goal is to get a rant in by the end of the semester, then you need to start practicing. I had one on Thursday, this one is in here, and I'll have a few in the coming weeks. Keep reading to catch on!

Would someone please tell the basketball team we're not in the lottery for Reggie Bush. Last place will not get us the #1 draft pick. Close a game for once!

Ya know what really grinds my gears, why is that although Scotty clearly knows, he still doesn't know!

This is for all the guys that make fun of girls when they say "like...really...omg" would you rather us be like you and say, "Dude...man...dude?"

I have solved the crime problem! Build more of the blue light emergency phones in areas that college students live, don't just have them on campus!

"Overkill!" It's a uniform hence it is required. P.S. some of us are Veterans or on active duty - we also wear it in honor because others have died to defend what it means to be an American. Show some respect.

Wear UGGs with mini skirts. Wear UGGs over/under jeans. Don't wear UGGs with the cuffs of your jeans rolled up. Where is your axe because you look like a lumberjack? So stop it.

Why is it that ECU advertises to all incoming students "internet in dorms" but they never mention that it works? Clement hall is the worst! I need internet to do my work. Can anyone tell me how an entire dorm loses internet? This needs to be fixed!

Don't ask me for a piece of paper or if I have a pencil. You knew you were going to class when you woke up, so come prepared. Why did you apply to a university anyway if you weren't going to do any work? Duh.

Why does this town kiss Matt Cohen's @ss?

Is it just me? Or did anyone else receive a 21st birthday card two weeks late? If your point is to remind me to be safe, how about getting it done a little earlier next time! Who sends these things anyway?

To the managers at 360, why do you guys look as if you are not happy to be here serving us? We are why you get that big money after each semester. I mean if the employees can pretend so can you.

Editor's Note: The Pirate Rant is an anonymous way for students and staff in the ECU community to vent 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.

**Mendenhall Movies:**

**Just Like Heaven**  
 Wednesday at 9:30 p.m.  
 Friday at 9:30 p.m.  
 Saturday at 7 p.m.  
 Sunday at 3 p.m.

**Shoppin'**

Wednesday at 7 p.m.  
 Thursday at 9:30 p.m.  
 Friday at 7 p.m. and midnight  
 Sunday at 7 p.m.

**Top 5s:**
**Top 5 Movies:**

1. *Underworld: Evolution*
2. *Hoodwinked*
3. *Glory Road*
4. *Last Holiday*
5. *Brokeback Mountain*

**Top 5 Pop Albums:**

1. *Mary J. Blige*
2. *Jamie Foxx*
3. *Camie Underwood*
4. *Eminem*
5. *The Notorious B.I.G.*

**Top 5 TV Shows:**

1. "AFC Divisional Playoffs"
2. "Desperate Housewives"
3. "CSI, Miami"
4. "Grey's Anatomy"
5. "Lost"

**Top 5 DVD Rentals:**

1. *Wedding Crashers*
2. *The Cave*
3. *The 40-year-old Virgin*
4. *The Gospel*
5. *American Pie Presents: Band Camp*

**Horoscopes:**

**Aries** - Sometimes it's hard to see where reality ends and fantasy begins. On the other hand, who cares? Push ahead, as far as you can go. The odds are in your favor.

**Taurus** - Important people are watching and they think you're looking good. Don't try to impress them, just do the best job you can.

**Gemini** - It's OK to admit that you can't do it all by yourself. Let somebody else do the part that's easier for them.

**Cancer** - Don't be afraid of trying something you've never done before. The odds are in your favor. You have natural talent.

**Leo** - You're lucky now and it seems like you're getting pretty good advice. Go ahead and make a choice that you'll be happy to live with.

**Virgo** - Frustrations at home have you wondering if it's time to make a big change. That's one option, but a renewal or renovation is also indicated.

**Libra** - You're a student and a teacher naturally, all the time. Continue to collect information so you'll have the answers when asked.

**Scorpio** - It's a good time to ask for a bonus, a raise or money somebody owes you. You might even get a surprise or find a few bucks under the couch cushions.

**Sagittarius** - You're intent on finding the truth and this is a good thing. Dig through the stacks of data and clues, and you will.

**Capricorn** - Keep digging around in your closets and attic. There's something important you've saved and forgotten about.

**Aquarius** - A friend comes up with a completely outrageous suggestion. Don't laugh - the odds are good that this will actually work.

**Places** - The lid is about to blast right off. You'll find you can climb higher than you ever imagined and it'll be fun.

**Fun Facts:**

7-11, the convenience store, sells 10,000 pots of coffee an hour, every hour, every day.

At horse race tracks, the favorite wins fewer than 30 percent of the time.

The average American uses eight times as much fuel energy as an average person anywhere else in the world.

**TIME Magazine's "Man of the Year"** in 1938 was Adolf Hitler.

When the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers play football at home, the stadium becomes the state's third largest city.

Women end up digesting most of the lipstick they apply.

In 1659, it was illegal to celebrate Christmas in Massachusetts.

Today's top fuel dragsters take off with more force than the space shuttle.

## Spraying spring scents sensibly

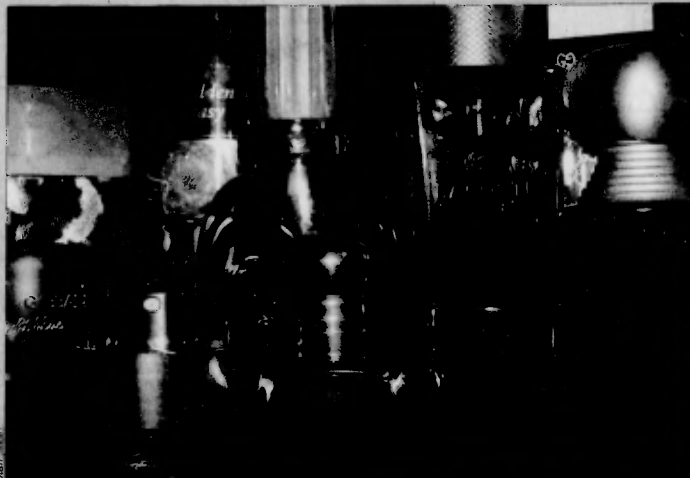
Find your perfect spring fragrance

MARIANNE BARRON  
 STAFF WRITER

Spring is surprisingly close and with the fresh new season comes some crisp, innovative fragrances. Scent is a vital accessory, so along with your new spring wardrobe, adopt a new fragrance. Depending on your individual style, there are perfumes out there for every woman and every occasion.

During the day, it's better to wear a light, barely-there scent. Victoria's Secret has a great line of body mists and lotions that give off the perfect hint of flowers just in time for the new season. Some favorites include Love Spell, Sweet Temptation and Endless Love. Also, a different version of Victoria's Secret classic scents are available in body mist and perfume. The new line, called Dream Angels, is rapidly becoming more popular and Heavenly is one of the top-selling Angel mists. It has a sweet, just-showered scent and is strong enough to wear out, yet subtle enough to wear to class or work.

If you prefer warmer scents, Bath and Body Works also has a great line of body mists and lotions. Some old favorites are Warm Vanilla Sugar and Country Apple. However, their new and highly recommended



There are many popular scents for girls that can keep someone special in your life longing for you.

smell is Brown Sugar and Fig. Although the combination may sound strange, the two ingredients compliment each other well and make for one warm, inviting product. The great thing about both Bath and Body Works and Victoria's Secret is if you are not a fan of sprays, nearly all of their scents come in lotions, creams and body scrubs as well.

There are times when a light body mist or lotion is not the kind of scent you're looking for.

Maybe there's a big party coming up, a hot Valentine's Day date, or just a night downtown with the girls. Whatever the occasion, you're looking to make a lasting impression on someone. There are three new perfumes that cover all of these bases, all of which can be picked up at most department stores.

First, there's Sarah Jessica Parker's new scent Lovely, which can be worn to any event. With this perfume's hint of mandarin,

orchid and amber, it definitely lives up to its name. It's perfectly suited for the classic glamour girl - quiet with an underlying sex appeal.

Next, we have Pacific Paradise by Escada. This bold scent is for the wild, carefree girls and has playful traces of banana, candy and coconut. Pacific Paradise is like a flashback of summer and although it's casual enough for a party, it's flirty enough for a date. Finally, for the more sultry

**Perfumes**

Who: Girls everywhere  
 What: New fragrances  
 When: The Spring season  
 Where: Department Stores, Bath and Body Works, Victoria's Secret, Hollister

**3 Step guide to shopping for a scent:**

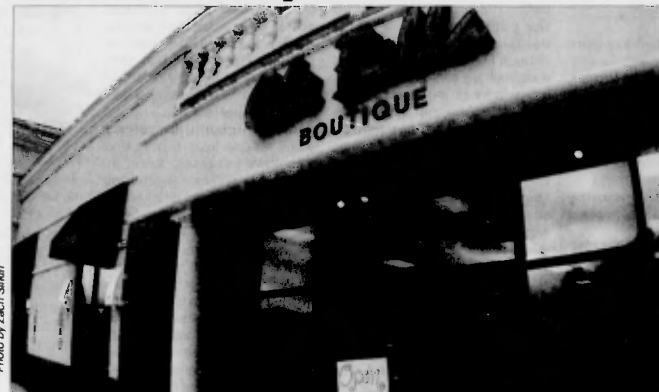
1. Shop at a store with many different scents. It's easier to compare them and find out which you prefer.
2. When tasting out different fragrances spray them separately onto different paper tabs (most stores provide them for you) this way you don't mix scents and alter the smell.
3. Check for longevity: Ask sales associates how long the scent will last once you apply it. (Hint: perfumes or eau de toilettes are more concentrated so they tend to last longer than body mists).

approach, there is Fantasy by Britney Spears. Her fragrance is compiled of a luscious mix of jasmine, white chocolate and exotic fruits. It's just the thing to give you an extra boost of confidence for a big date. This scent is sweet yet seductive, and should be worn with expectations of some attention.

For a more neutral approach, the popular clothing store Hol-

see SCENTS page A5

## Hot shops to visit in Greenville



Che Bella, located off of Greenville Boulevard behind Starbucks, carries unique clothing lines.

Photo by Zach Sieren

**Find even designer labels in Greenville**

TOMEKA STEELE  
 SENIOR WRITER

Greenville is a relatively small town and therefore it's extremely hard finding clothes that everybody at ECU doesn't already have. There are a few boutiques and places where you can find one of a kind fashions and even designer labels and it beats hitting Highway 264 to Raleigh and blowing 30 bucks on gas any day.

"I usually go to Raleigh to do my shopping because they have a variety of stores that I like," said Kyle Munday, senior exercise physiology major.

Seven jeans, True Religion jeans, Frankie B's and Joe's jeans are some of the hottest designer label jeans around. Not to mention they make women's tushies look splendid. I personally own a pair of True Religions and they changed my life. These jeans usually retail around \$200 but they can be bought at less than half that price at The Charmed Peacock. This boutique special-

izes in all of these jeans at an affordable rate. They also have an abundance of eccentric jewelry such as beaded necklaces and studded watches. They offer many ECU student specials and the owners of this quaint boutique, located on Evans Street, are very friendly and cater to their customers.

Another place to find beautiful blouses, designer jeans, BCBG dresses and the latest in boots, flats and pumps is Che Bella Boutique located on Arlington Boulevard. Che Bella has a wonderful décor and great

accessories too. The great thing about this boutique is that they stock a limited amount of each piece, so trendsetters can be just that - trendsetters, instead of having the same thing as everyone else's closets.

There are shops in Greenville for guys too. For guys who go for the prep look, Catalog Connection, located at 210 E. 5th St. in downtown Greenville is the best place to find collared shirts and a nice pair of khakis. They also have Rainbow sandals.

This place is awesome and very affordable. They run specials all the time and have an amazing collection of J. Crew cardigans, blazers and pencil skirts for women. Students can walk to Catalog Connection from campus, which is a huge plus.

Another place guys can find great clothes is Traffix at Colonial Mall. They stock loads of urban designer menswear such as Akademics and Sean Jean. Old Navy also has an affordable menswear section with all the latest clothing styles.

Some people overlook places where there are great fashion finds such as T.J. Maxx, Target and Wal-Mart. T.J. Maxx carries designer labels

at astonishingly low prices. They have a large selection of handbags that are rare finds even in major cities. They carry smaller designer labels too.

Target and Wal-Mart are great finds as well. Wal-Mart is the perfect place to buy those wife-beater undershirts that come in handy in men's and women's wardrobes. Target has

**Greenville Shopping:**

Che Bella Boutique 321-8864  
 - 698 E. Arlington Blvd.

Catalog Connection 756-8612  
 - 210 E. 5th St.

The Charmed Peacock 830-2625  
 - 408 S. Evans St.

great accessories such as patterned hosiery, which is very popular right now, and bohemian jewelry.

"I shop at Target a lot because it's cheap and the quality is just as good as anywhere else," said Sarah Terry, senior exercise sports science major.

These department stores also have the very best scarves to keep off the winter chill as well as comfy socks and undergarments.

Rugged Warehouse also has a wide range of designer label jeans and tops for guys and girls. The prices at this store are always low and they are always getting in new shipments. Now that you know where to go to find great fashion at affordable prices, start shopping!

## Dater's guide: How to avoid wandering eyes

**Don't get caught with wandering eyes**

MEREDITH STEWART  
 SENIOR WRITER

It doesn't matter if you've been dating for years or if you're in the first week - wandering eyes are a definite no-no. Some (mostly guys) believe that you can look, but not touch. If that's the case, then good luck finding a girl out there who will put up with you. Showing respect and courtesy are the best ways to show your girlfriend or boyfriend or the person you are out on a date with the best time.

Pretend you are downtown and the guy you are with keeps looking over at the long legged, top-heavy blonde who happens to be wearing a skirt so short that her cheeks hang out and a shirt so low and tight that she just keeps falling out of it. He thinks you don't notice, but in reality, you want to poke his eyes out. Everyone knows that a decent guy wouldn't date that girl, so always know that you are the one who is there with him.

"I was on a date with this hot

guy that I've had a crush on since high school - turns out every girl that walked by just had to look at him. Talk about making me feel awkward," said Deanna Belvins, sophomore art major.

On the other side, guys, you are in a club with your girl and her not-so-subtle glances at the tall, tan guy with dark hair and eyes, who looks like he just fell out of *GQ*, is driving you nuts. What do you say to her without looking jealous, insecure or overbearing?

Neither of you want to believe that the person they are with could possibly be checking out someone else right in front of you. So how do you say something without making a big scene or starting a fight when the night is suppose to be fun?

"I was downtown with my girl and she kept looking over at a guy who was definitely looking back. I just told her that if she wanted to talk to him, to go over. Turns out they went to grade school together and just recognized each other from a long time ago," said Rory Brown, freshman history major.

There's proof that not all looks, glances and stares are



It is common for both guys and girls to make the mistake of letting their eyes wander across the yard.

bad. But when guys check out other girls, it makes the ladies feel very insecure. It makes them feel less attractive to the guy she is with, especially if the girl he is checking out looks completely different. It's a borderline situation - what do you really say? Do you just let it slide

and hope it doesn't keep happening? Most would agree that's a bad idea because when it continues to drag out, it's only going to build up.

It's natural to feel a little down and unsure, but as always, communication is the key. When the two of you are

alone, casually bring it up. Or right when it happens, say something, but in a joking way.

Everyone has a different approach to things so go for what's best for you.

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



# ATTENTION: Undergraduate Students

Today is the ECU Graduate Health Programs Conference! Join us from 4:00-7:00 PM in Bate 1032.

A conference just for YOU!

- Are you interested in pursuing graduate school in a health related program?
- Are you looking to learn more about the graduate programs ECU offers?
- Do you need to learn some inside tips for getting ready for graduate school?

Please call the Academic Enrichment Center at 252.328.2645 for more information.

## Scents from page A4

lister also has a fragrance. This is an extremely versatile scent and can be worn by guys and girls. It's great because it responds to a girl's love of men's cologne (the Axe commercials don't lie) and also applies to a guy's need for a crisp, simple scent. Whether you're male or female this scent is clean and appeals to both sexes.

Kimberly Barnard, a sophomore Criminal Justice major, says "I get so many compliments from girls because it smells a little like cologne, but the guys love it too

because they familiarize it with their own cologne."

Once you have your new spring fragrance, it's crucial to know how to wear it. Mists can be sprayed over the entire body, but be careful not to do the same with perfumes. A signature scent should linger behind you, leaving a little mystery. Spraying too much of a perfume can have the opposite effect that you're looking for. You want a light aroma floating around you, not an intoxicating one that causes a headache.

Dab perfume on your pressure points (the inside of your wrists, behind your ears, etc.) right before you leave, and if the bottle is small enough, put it in your purse for a quick touch-up if necessary. The sense of smell has been said to be one of the most powerful ways to trigger memory and emotions, so pick out a hot new spring scent and choose how you want to be remembered.

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

## Celebrity Profile: Scarlett Johansson



Scarlett Johansson at the Golden Globe Awards.

### On the way to the top

SARAH CAMPBELL  
STAFF WRITER

Within the past five years, Scarlett Johansson has released 11 movies and been nominated for four Golden Globes - quite an accomplishment for an actress who just turned 21 last November. Unlike many other young actresses her age, Johansson has chosen a spectrum of different roles in which to immerse herself.

"I've been in this industry for 13 years and have learned that, for me, the best thing to do is draw on your instincts. I don't do a lot of research - I don't have any crazy method. I find my intuition, combined with being in the moment, works best... I rarely draw upon my own personal feelings," said Johansson in the *New York Daily News*.

Growing up in New York City, Johansson began her career at the age of eight opposite Ethan Hawke in the off-Broadway production of "Sophistry." In 1995 Johansson gained recognition for her portrayal as the daughter of Sean Connery and Kate Capshaw who is terrorized by Blair Underwood in *Just Cause*.

Despite early success, Johansson's big break didn't come until she played a youngster who had

suffered from a physically and emotionally debilitating riding accident in *The Horse Whisperer*. After this movie, it was as if Johansson had dropped off the face of the earth, considering she didn't release another movie until the indie favorite *Ghost World* in 2001, where she played alongside Thora Birch as the more sensible of two best friends who are struggling to find their place in the real world.

However, Johansson has become most recognized for her work opposite Bill Murray in 2003's *Lost in Translation*. Although she was only 17 at the time, Johansson delivered a realistic portrayal of a young married woman who forms a complex relationship with the older Murray. This film won her a nomination for Best Actress in a Motion Picture Musical or Comedy. Later that year she starred alongside Colin Firth in *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, as the girl who inspired the famous painting. This role landed her yet another Golden Globe nomination for Best Actress in a Motion Picture Drama.

Since then she has been in many successful movies including *In Good Company*, *The Perfect Score*, *The Island* and *A Love Song of Bobby Long*. She was nominated again for Best Actress in a Motion Picture Drama for her portrayal of a southern girl who moves back home after her mother's death, only to find two strangers living in her mother's house. This movie featured her beyond-her-years maturity and a vast sense of realism.

"I live and breathe New York. I am who I am partly because of the way I was raised, and partly because I was raised here. My parents told me and all my siblings that it was fine to express ourselves and whatever we were feeling and thinking, and that's a very New York mentality. There's a comfortable-in-your-own-skin quality that New York puts in you," Johansson said in the *New York Daily News*. No one can deny the obvious star power that Johansson possesses. Each of her roles are portrayed so well that viewers almost forget they are watching a film. Her acting is so dynamic and convincing that her characters don't just remain on the screen, people take pieces of them home.

Johansson has proven herself to be one of the best actresses in Hollywood by consistently delivering flawless performances. Check out her latest project, *Matchpoint*, which has earned her a Best Support Actress in a Motion Picture Drama nomination. Also look out for her upcoming film, *A Good Woman*, to be released sometime next month.

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



feast fit for pirates



hard times @ Apt. 206

## Campus Living Advantages:

- Great Dining and Snacking Locations
- Large Variety of Meals and Snacks
- No Monthly Bills
- Internet, Cable TV, Local Telephone Service Included
- Furnished Living Space
- Free Laundry Facilities
- Location, Location, Location

College Hill Suites Sign-Up:  
February 1 & 2 at Sweethearts

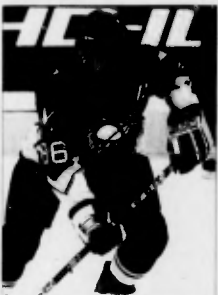
All Other Halls Online Sign-Up  
on OneStop in February

Campus Life is...

# EASY LIVING

## Sports Briefs

Lemieux calls it quits for second time



Penguins star and owner Mario Lemieux, one of hockey's greatest players, retired Tuesday for the second time. Lemieux, a Hall of Famer who won Stanley Cups and scoring titles and then battled through cancer and heart problems in a comeback, announced his decision at a news conference. The 40-year-old Lemieux learned in early December he has atrial fibrillation, an irregular heartbeat that can cause his pulse to flutter wildly and must be controlled by medication. Lemieux, the NHL's seventh-leading career scorer with 1,723 points, tried to return a week after being hospitalized with the problem, but it flared up again during a Dec. 16 game against Buffalo and he has not played since. Lemieux has been practicing the last several weeks with the intent on returning this season but, with the Penguins stuck in a 10-game losing streak and with no hope of them making the playoffs, decided to quit playing for a second time. He also retired after the 1996-97 season following years of back problems and a 1993 cancer scare in which he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease, but he returned midway through the 2000-01 season and has played since. However, he has again fought through injuries - including two major hip problems - that caused him to miss most of the 2001-02 and 2003-04 seasons. He had seven goals and 15 assists in 26 games this season. Lemieux, a first-ballot Hall of Fame inductee in 1997, led the Penguins - the NHL's worst team before he was drafted in 1984 - to successive Stanley Cup championships in 1991 and 1992. He won six NHL scoring titles, three MVP awards and two Conn Smythe awards as the Stanley Cup playoffs MVP. Lemieux, who wore No. 66 throughout his career, scored 690 goals and had 1,033 assists in 915 career games. He also became the first major pro sports star to buy the team for which he played, assembling a group that bought the team in federal bankruptcy court in 1999.

### Frasure Earns Weekly C-USA Honors

ECU junior thrower Eric Frasure was named Conference-USA Co-Indoor Track and Field Athlete-of-the-Week for his performance in last weekend's Gator Invitational according to a release from the league media relations office Tuesday afternoon. Frasure, who shared the honor with UTEP sprinter Daniel Ward, won his second consecutive weight throw title with a toss of 19.70 meters at the O'Connell Center in Gainesville, Fla. Saturday. The throw also marked the second straight week in which the junior provisionally qualified for the NCAA Indoor Championships after recording a season- and C-USA-best throw of 20.11 meters Jan. 14 at the Virginia Tech Invitational. In addition, the Hopewell (Charlotte) High School product turned in an eight-place standing in the shot put event with an effort of 15.70 meters last week. The weekly league honor marked the first of Frasure's career.

### All-stars Artest, Stojakovic to trade places

Ron Artest and the Indiana Pacers are about to part company - finally. A trade that would send the volatile star forward to the Sacramento Kings for forward Peja Stojakovic was imminent Tuesday, according to media reports. The deal would end a lengthy standoff between the Pacers and Artest, who was deactivated in December after requesting a trade and was suspended most of last season for his role in one of the worst brawls in U.S. sports history. Indiana spent several weeks searching for the right deal, nearly sending Artest to the Los Angeles Clippers for Corey Maggette before reviving talks with the Kings in recent days. This trade, reported Tuesday on the Indianapolis Star's Web site, has been long rumored, with the Kings thought to need Artest's defense just as much as the Pacers could use Stojakovic's offense. Artest's agent, Mark Stevens, would not confirm specifics of the trade, but told the Associated Press on Tuesday that a deal to move Artest "is imminent, almost as soon as possible." Stevens told the Star the deal is awaiting league approval.

# The tradition continues...

## Men and women's swim teams enjoying success

RON CLEMENTS  
SPORTS WRITER

The ECU swimming and diving team has enjoyed a lot of success in its storied history and the 2006 Pirates are no exception. In coach Rick Kobe's 24th year at the helm, the Pirate men and women swimmers are enjoying winning seasons yet again.

The women's team (8-1) can tie the all-time mark by winning the final two dual meets against in-state rivals Duke and UNC-Wilmington. The men's team, following a 5-0 start is hoping to get back on track after two straight losses to Virginia Tech and Maryland-Baltimore County.

"We've got a real young team, no seniors," said Kobe of the men's squad.

"We graduated a lot of seniors in the last two years. We're in the process of rebuilding, but we feel like we got a pretty good team."

Despite "rebuilding," the male swimmers have ensured their 23rd consecutive non-losing season - all under coach Kobe.

Kobe says the key to that long-term success is for him to "stay fresh and stay current" so that he can relate to athletes who weren't even born when he became the head swim coach in 1982.

"To keep the energy level up is pretty easy when you know what you're doing and like what you're doing," Kobe said.

Kobe likes what he sees from his team, especially the women in 2006. The Lady Pirate swimmers have suffered just one loss,



Holly Williams has been a large part of the ECU's success this season and has the opportunity to help the ladies collect 10 wins this year.

a nine-point setback to Virginia Tech on Jan. 15. They rebounded with a 15-point win last weekend at UMBC.

"The women are having a great year. They are swimming very well," Kobe said.

Led by seniors Keily Shinton, Adrienne Williams and Holly, the Lady Pirates hope for a strong showing at the Conference-USA Championships Feb. 22 - 25 in Houston and at the NCAA Championship Meet in March.

"It's been a great season and our one loss thus far was very

close and against a very good team," said junior Rebecca Perry, who won both the 100 and 200 meter freestyle last weekend at Baltimore County.

Adrienne and Holly Williams both had first place finishes at UMBC in the 50 Freestyle and 200 Butterfly, respectively while Adrienne was also part of the first-place relay team in the 400-meter medley, along with Shinton and a pair of freshman, Aili Miller and Amanda Duncan.

Sophomore diver Christie Icenhower, junior Bryan

Yasinsac and sophomore Greg Neville also recorded event victories last weekend.

Duncan, from Wake Forest-Roanoke High School, is also the top-ranked 100-meter fly sprinter in the conference and she is hopeful to qualify for the NCAA's in just her freshman year.

"I think we've done awesome and I'm happy where I am," Duncan, who recorded her fastest time of the year against Virginia Tech, is less than two seconds off from qualifying for the NCAA's, which Kobe called "the fastest

meet in the world."

"If you get there, you're a world-class athlete," Kobe said.

The Pirates have sent swimmers to the NCAA's in each of the last two years. Before they start worrying about that, the Pirates have to close out the season. Saturday, the Pirates will play host to Duke in the final home meet of the year before traveling to Wilmington to take on the Seahawks Feb. 4.

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

# Death to the blog

Blogging carries very little journalistic integrity

OPINION  
ERIC GILMORE  
SENIOR WRITER

When did jeans shorts become so 1990? My ego deflated when a sorority bionde muttered the words "fashion crime" as I leisurely walked through campus. Okay, maybe I'm exaggerating a smidge. But the point is that my lack of periphery either makes me uncool or just a ringer for being the last to find out juicy and sometimes vital information.

Yeah, that's a bad personality trait for an aspiring journalist. I'm supposed to be paid (should be more) to inform the public, on the brink of news worthy information at all times.

Another indication that my cool gauge is bordering on empty was when I somehow stumbled in the Rec last week. The Rec need not be confused with "the Ruck," a shortened version of the Rucker (of course, a reference to the infamous NYC park). Translation for the pre-1998 graduates and those living under a rock, the ECU Recreation Center is the pollen for the campus honeybees while also serving as the main gym. Speaking of, think of how packed Christenbury was.

But I digress. While keeping the girlfriend entertained through an adapted version of racquetball in "the Rec," I couldn't help but notice the droves of students bearing iPod armbands. I barely know two people with iPods. But it was then that I realized this whole iPod craze completely whizzed by me.

It's a stretch, but fast-forward to me searching for some pertinent information for this column. We in the sports jour-

nalism business have somehow convinced ourselves that reading espn.com and cbsportsline.com is "research." Pretty cool, huh? Anyway, I noticed that every freaking reporter on the web has a blog.

For those left in the dark like me (until a couple of months ago) who still confuse a blog and a blog, I feel for you. Nevertheless, a blog is basically an online journal. Unlike the strict guidelines of print and broadcast journalism, blogs literally have no rules.

Random John Does can create their own blog, very few in the industry know of a way to control the spread of mass information. In fact, experts aren't sure what quite to think. If the internet is young, calling the blog an infant would be a sort of flattery.

Reporters are losing credibility with blogs' increasing popularity. News reporters are held in extremely high regard, as people whom have the public's trust. In fact, reports show that news reporters are trusted more than elected leaders. Truthful at all times, the general public trusts the media to be unbiased and report only cold hard facts. Certain outlets are debatable, but the entire industry does their best to police themselves.

How can I trust blogs when the reporters and authors are faceless? Who ensures that the information was received in an ethical and proper manner? What agency is accountable to ensure that the information published is correct? The answer is simple, not a soul.

And who has time to read 146 blogs about Duke basketball? I barely have enough time in the day to browse the articles on ECU sports. Unless

the faculty went on a year-long strike, I would never have time to read 50 journal entries by random fans claiming themselves as so-called experts. Or even for that matter, 50 so-called reporters blogging themselves as experts.

Before that, professional blogs will eventually have to make money. Aside from news or sports corporations supporting them, how will these online journals solicit advertising dollars? I'm fairly certain that ECU won't advertise with an online version of my thoughts. If they would, I'm still available.

Blogs are the new face of message boards. It's empowering to the fans. And in sports, more message boards with faceless ranters slandering public figures is a true nightmare. The message boards have ignited this unrealistic "quick fix" atmosphere we now share in collegiate and pro athletics.

I agree that print journalism is on the ropes. I do realize that is what pays my bills (still not enough). Nevertheless, it's a simple mathematical equation. The internet has now scooped radio as the fastest medium for people to consume their information. And radio, because of its inaccessibility and diluted choices can't compete with the internet.

But are blogs truly the answer of the next decade? The media has survived for years without them. Saturating the net with journal entries wasn't exactly what I envisioned when I signed up for this journalism gig. And if this trend continues, I cringe to hear what will come next, even if it is five years too late.

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

## Mills impacting Lady Pirates in first year

Freshman center making a splash with ECU

JOSH FERNANDEZ  
STAFF WRITER

Throughout life, people are given all kinds of different advice. A common suggestion is that one stay determined and focused when faced with challenges or adversities. As the saying goes: "Keep your eye on the prize."

Cherie Mills has been committed to improving her game in every aspect she can since she started playing basketball at age seven. She's made it her personal goal to help her team win and represent ECU to the best of her ability.

"Cherie has put a lot of pride in getting in better shape to be

more competitive at this level," said Lady Pirates Head Coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener.

"Her presence on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball has improved just within this season."

Mills, a 6-foot-4-inch junior center, has been a big part of the Lady Pirates' success so far this year. Up until today, their 10-5 record earns them the second best overall record in Conference-USA, even with over half the team being freshmen. But Mills is not a veteran-Pirate - in fact, the 2005-06 season is her first at ECU.

The 21-year-old Mills spent her first two collegiate seasons at Louisiana Junior College. There she received many individual

## What will Bryant do next?

[KRT] — Now that he's flouted the laws of physics and NBA box scores, it's only natural to wonder if he can do more.

Kobe Bryant isn't constrained by the mundane boundaries of reality and history. He's one of those rare athletes who tempt you to believe the impossible may now be possible.

This is what Bryant has done with his 81-point game. He's forced us to examine the assumption that Wilt Chamberlain's record will never be broken.

The 100 points the Big Dipper scored March 2, 1962, are the

product of a bygone era when Chamberlain was bigger and stronger than anyone he faced and defenses weren't nearly as sophisticated. It's one of those athletic feats, along with Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak in baseball, revered as untouchable.

"If one person did it, it's possible that someone else can accomplish the same feat," argued George Gervin, who once scored 63 points in a game and now works in community relations for the San Antonio Spurs.

"All the young kids who have people tell them you can't do

this, you can't do that, those who hear Wilt's record will never be broken..."

"Kobe has proven things like that can happen."

Maybe it can. But it's not likely. That's the difference OK, one of many differences between a four-time NBA scoring champion and a jaded journalist. Gervin looks at the highest scoring game in nearly 44 years and sees more.

I look at Bryant's brilliant performance and see why Chamberlain's record is safe.

see BRYANT page A7

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**Mills** from page A6

accolades such as First-team NJCAA All-America honors as a sophomore and second-team as a freshman, Region X Player-of-the-Year, Region X Tournament and Team MVP, and 2005 Junior College Kodak/WBCA All-American. She was named "Best JuCo Player" and "Top JuCo Center" by All-Star Girls Report as a sophomore.

Mills averaged 18.1 points and 9.1 rebounds, while shooting 56 percent from the floor and 76 percent from the line during her freshman campaign. Keep in mind, these shooting percentages come from a center, not the position one would expect that kind of production to come from.

"I just want to win. I've tried hard to keep producing for my team," Mills said.

"[In regards to basketball] I don't think anything else matters but wins."

And that is exactly what Mills has been doing for the past seven years - winning. At Louisburg, Mills led the Hurricanes (20-4) to the Region X title and National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 17 District Finals including a berth in NJCAA National Tournament.

And just about 12 miles south of Greenville is where it all began. Mills, a native of Ayden, NC, says she picked up the game of basketball on her own.

"As a kid, just hanging around the guys all the time made me want to play," Mills said.

"No one really got me in to the sport but myself."

It's a good thing she decided to play basketball because it seems as if the sport comes naturally to her. And once she reached high school, the numbers she put up backed that claim up.

At Ayden Grifton High School, Mills averaged nearly a triple-double for her career. Yes, you read that right. Averaging 27.6 points, 14.7 boards and 7.4 blocks per game, Mills dominated for four years in a row.

The four-year letter winner finished her high school career with 1,278 rebounds making her the all-time leader for boards at Ayden Grifton High. She also holds the school records in points and blocked shots for a career. Coming out of high school, she was regarded by Hoops & Dreams Scouting as the

top senior in North Carolina and was named 2003 *Daily Reflector* Player of the Year.

But the soft-spoken Mills doesn't dwell on her past achievements and tries to stay humble.

"I care more about the present than the past or future," Mills said.

"Winning the conference title and getting to the NCAA tournament is all I care about. We'll talk about next season when it comes because this season is what matters."

In the short time that Mills has been at ECU, she's made strong friendships with her teammates.

"They're like my sisters," Mills said.

"And we all expect a lot out of each other. We go to every game thinking we're going to win it."

Coach Baldwin-Tener has also played a significant role in Mills' development as a player.

"Coach always explains everything clearly and if one of us doesn't understand something, she'll stop and make sure we get it," Mills said.

"Individually, she's helped me a whole lot. She just gives us confidence to go out on the court and win."

Mills, a criminal justice major, wants to be a probation officer after graduating. After growing up around drugs and violence in a rough community, she's come to realize over the course of her life that she wants to help people instead of punishing people.

"I definitely don't want to be a cop. I don't want to arrest people," Mills said.

"I'd rather be face-to-face with people in a position to help them improve their lives. It's something I'm passionate about pursuing."

Whether she's studying for a forensics test, dealing with criminals, or dominating on the basketball court, Cherie Mills will do it determined to give her best effort. Her coaches know it and her teammates know it. Not much can stand in your way with an attitude like Mills'. Pride, dedication, and her passion to win describe her quite well and anyone lucky enough to have those characteristics will go far in life.

But for now, Mills just wants to win.

This writer can be contacted at [sports@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:sports@theeastcarolinian.com).

**Bryant** from page A6



Kobe popped off for 81 points Sunday, but will he ever touch Witt?

I'm not alone. After the Los Angeles Lakers star autographed copies of the box score for teammates and staff, he was asked about Chamberlain's record.

"That's unthinkable," Bryant said. "It's pretty exhausting to think about."

He wasn't being gracious. Breaking 100 in today's game is unthinkable.

Chamberlain scored 100 points in a season in which the league average was 118.8 points. Only five teams are above 100 in the NBA this season, and the average is 96.7 points.

The possibility of Bryant, or any player, scoring more than the league average is absurd.

Another crucial consideration is the number of possessions.

The Lakers average 80.8 shots a game. That's 27 less than teams averaged during the 1961-62 season. It's part of the reason seven of the 10 highest scoring games in league history came between 1960 and '63.

Not everything about this era puts Bryant and others at a disadvantage. The Lakers guard picked up seven additional points behind the 3-point arch that wasn't available when Chamberlain played. Rule changes that prevent defenders from hand-checking an opponent have opened up the game on the perimeter.

Chicago's Michael Jordan never scored more than 69 points in a game. Portland coach Nate McMillan is one who believes Jordan would have scored 100

points under the current rules.

"You better believe it makes a difference," said Gervin, who holds the record for most points in a quarter with 33.

"Back in the day, you could be held. A defender used to be able to put a hand on your side or an arm in your back. I was 185 pounds and had guys at 225 pounds putting their hands on me. It was like trying to move a stump."

"I'm not saying it's easier now, but it's different."

Very different. And that makes for a spirited debate.

The Lakers' Phil Jackson said he's never witnessed anything like what Bryant did to Toronto, which is pretty heady stuff when you consider he coached Jordan. Gervin considers Bryant's 81 as impressive as Chamberlain's 100.

Bryant did shoot better and score a greater percentage of his team's points (66.4 percent to 59.2 percent) than Chamberlain did in his 100-point effort.

"To compare it to anybody would be useless," Gervin said. "He set himself apart from everyone else. Everyone looks for another Michael Jordan, and there probably won't be one."

"What Kobe did was establish himself as one of the greatest scorers of all time at an early age. He's a phenom. I'm a believer, man."

"Now we've got to sit back and wait and see if anyone scores 82."

Notice he said 82.

Not 101.

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page A7

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## OTHER

Bahamas Spring Break Celebrity Cruise! 5 Days From \$299! Includes Meals, Taxes, Entry To Exclusive MTVu Events, Beach Parties With Celebrities As Seen on Real World, Road Rules! On Campus Reps Needed! www.SpringBreakTravel.com Promo code: 34 1-800-678-6386

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#1 Spring Break Website! Low prices guaranteed. Free Meals & Free Drinks. Book 11 people, get 12th trip free! Group discounts for 6+ www.SpringBreakDiscounts.com or www.LeisureTours.com or 800-838-8202.

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Spring Break 2006 with Student Travel Services to Jamaica, Mexico, Bahamas and Florida. Don't get left behind! Book now, limited space available. Call for group discounts. Info/Reservations 800-648-4849 www.ststravel.com http://www.ststravel.com

All Psychology Majors and Minors! Come to Psi Chi's First meeting Wed. 25th @ 5pm in Rawl 302 Refreshments provided.

Spring Break Ski Trip - Killington VT for only \$699! Includes transportation, condo, lift tickets. March 11-18. For more info go to www.skiouting.com or call 327-8101.

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# HAIKEKE

## 80's Metal Karoke Contest

So, you want to be a rockstar? Get a chance to sing with members of Jump Little Children Live!

Thursday, January 26th 8pm  
In Mendenhall's Pirate Underground  
Have a chance to win \$200 in cash and prizes!

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