



ECU Folk and Country Dancers celebrate six more weeks of winter

Concert very lively, successful

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
STAFF WRITER

The ECU Folk and Country Dancers had a free concert at Mudslinger's Coffee Co. on Thursday, Groundhog Day.

Leanne Smith, English major graduate student and president of the group, explained that having the concert on Groundhog's Day wasn't for any special reason or to honor the holiday.

"We chose this date because it was the first holiday coming up after we began to plan for the event," said Smith.

Smith said the idea to have a concert like this one came from a similar concert they had about seven years ago called Dylan night, in which they danced and sang to Bob Dylan music.

The dance group had a variety of different performances that didn't just specifically include dancing.

Undergraduate students, graduate students and professors performed a variety of different styles that included playing the drums, fiddle, bass, guitar and Native American flutes. The Folk Arts Society of Greenville also participated in the concert.

Smith described the concert as having an "eclectic mixture of music." Roger Robbins, biology visiting assistant professor, played the Native American flutes at the concert.

When asked how he joined the ECU Folk and Country Dancers, Robbins said, "I belonged to a group in Beaufort before I moved here and then I just transferred to this group."

The group includes experienced performers like Robbins, who said he has been playing the Native American flutes for about eight years, but the group is also open to inexperienced performers.

"It's open to everyone, kind of the folk aspect to it. It's all about learning and we're very tolerant of beginners," Smith said.

"We have beginner lessons before every one of our dances, so it's not a progression or anything. Anyone can come to any of the events."

Smith said that they had the event at Mudslinger's to bring in a different kind of crowd and to get people to the downtown Greenville area.

This is the first time they had this concert, but they plan to have it again next year along with other performances based on the success of the Groundhog



The concert, hosted at Mudslinger's, was held on Groundhog Day because it was the nearest holiday to the pre-planned event date.

Day concert. The group has at least three performances each month according to Smith and encourages everyone to come and watch or perform in one of the events.

The dance group does contra, salsa, swing and, sometimes, disco dances. The next performances they have scheduled are Feb. 11 at 6 p.m. and Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at

the Willis Building at First and Reade Streets. The dance on Feb. 11 will be a contra dance and the dance on Feb. 17 will be a salsa dance. To learn more about the

ECU Folk and Country Dancers, visit their Web site at geocities.com/ecufolkandcountrydancers. This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

Where to go for good advice

Prioritizing comes first

BY CLAIRE MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

A seminar on marriage and relationships was held in the Brewster building Friday, led by Janie Sowers. Five females attended and were at all different ages and situations in life. All, however, seem to have the faith and power to follow their hearts when it seems nearly impossible. Sowers was a very attentive and truly interested listener when anyone spoke of their own experiences.

The main focus of the seminar was how to prioritize everything in life. Many people are balancing

school, jobs, financial situations, significant others and a social life.

"I haven't mastered how to get those extra five hours in my day," said Sowers.

She seemed to empathize with everyone in the room. Twenty-four hours is not always enough time, and you don't have to lose control if you can't finish everything.

On that level, it is important to focus on your day-to-day goals, and let the long term goals work themselves out as well. It feels good to finish everything you set out to do.

"Working smarter is better than working harder," Sowers said.

She also encourages every-

one to find their passion and follow it. It is crucial to know your job and not try to control everything. She is very eager to help anyone who could benefit from her empowering seminars and has realistic messages. When on the subject of not attending to everyone else when you need time for yourself, she said, "The sun comes up the next morning, and it's not my job to hang it."

Next time she gives one of these seminars, it would be a good idea to go. Sowers lets you know right off the bat that she is really there for you.

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

'Vagina Monologues' opens this Friday



The Vagina Monologues, featuring the powerful stories of women of all backgrounds and lifestyles, will be open from Friday, Feb. 10, to Sunday, Feb. 12 in Wright Auditorium. Tickets are available at ecuaris.com and will be sold outside of Wright Place this week.

Southern winters unfamiliar to many native Northerners

Unfamiliar but not unpleasant for most

BY CLAIRE MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

We long for those white winters and sly rides in the South, but is walking to class in miserably freezing weather really worth it? As it turns out, most ECU students who have come here from the northern states are glad to be away from the bitter cold of their hometowns.

"It's much warmer and it still hasn't snowed... The warmer winters are part of the reason why I went south for school," said Kate Chiquoine, a freshman from Delaware.

Sure it would be nice to have a snowball fight once in a while and maybe write your name

on the ground with your own urine, but with the reality of a winter wonderland comes a lot of responsibility. When there is tons of snow, shoveling paths and actually being a cautious driver are among the main safety precautions. When people aren't used to it, they think it is necessary to cancel school, appointments and many other important things when there is less than one inch on the ground. Most of the time, they are not seriously affected. In most cases, the snow sticks for maybe half a day.

"It snows an inch and everyone here runs to stock up on a month's worth of food," said Chris Grare, a New Jersey native.

On the other hand, is it worth bearing the cold months without seeing the beauty of the snowy ground even once?

"I miss the feeling of a white Christmas. Here, it kind of makes the season lose what's important to some of us," said Terence Murphy, a sophomore from New York.

"When I grew up on Long Island, I remember walking 12 blocks (or three) to school in 2 feet of snow (4 inches) and maybe I am a better person for it. It really just depends on your personal outlook of dealing with the burdensome weather patterns."

For the most part, the Northern students prefer wearing the comfortable winter clothes and skipping having to wear ski gear to class. Then again, even if it is just for a day, a lot of Southern students here are thinking "let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!"

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

SOAD Iron Pour



The School of Art and Design hosted an iron pour outside of the Jenkins Fine Arts building this past Saturday. The event lasted from 1 - 4 p.m. The hot iron was poured into molds to make creations for both class and enjoyment.

Announcements

Contra Dance

The ECU Folk and Country Dancers are sponsoring a contra dance Saturday, Feb. 12 at the Willis Building...

Romary Workshop

The Women's Studies Program is sponsoring a workshop entitled "Conflict Resolution: The Essential Skill of Leaders in Life, the Classroom, the Board Room and the International Halls of Power"...

Vagina Monologues

The Vagina Monologues will run from Friday, Feb. 10 through Sunday, Feb. 12 at 8 p.m. in Wright Auditorium...

Elite Pirates

Applications are now being accepted for induction into this premiere recognition program designed to honor the top student leaders at ECU...

Criminal Justice Application Deadline

Students interested in applying for admission to the undergraduate criminal justice program need to submit applications by Wednesday, Feb. 15...

Take My Picture

Joyner Library is looking for students who are interested in volunteering as models for photos to be used in library publications and other materials...

Student Homecoming Chair Applications

The Homecoming Committee is currently looking for a person to fill the 2006 position of Student Homecoming Chairperson. The position calls for the applicant to oversee seven subcommittees...

News Briefs

State

Body parts cache leads to arrest of Selma couple

SELMA, N.C. (AP) — Decomposing body parts of one or possibly two people were found near a Johnston County farmhouse...

Investigators were looking for a man named Ceasar Ruvalcava Ortiz, after receiving a tip Friday that someone had been killed on the farm property on Aug. 4, 1997...

Deputies searched the property Saturday and found plastic bags of decomposing body parts. A local medical examiner said the remains might be of two people.

Investigators suspect that at least some of the remains are those of Ruvalcava, Bizzell said Sunday.

Robert "Bobby" Bruce Pollard, 34, was charged Saturday with first-degree murder and his wife, Cecelia Louise Pollard, 34, was charged with being an accessory to murder.

Bobby Pollard was also charged with possessing marijuana and a weapon of mass destruction - a sawed-off shotgun. He was held without bond and Cecelia Pollard was held on \$500,000 bond.

Bizzell said Ruvalcava and his girlfriend, Robin Clark who was related to Louise Pollard often stayed with the Pollards in 1997, Bizzell said.

Relatives reported Clark missing on Aug. 9, 1997, when she was 17 years old, said Ronnie Stewart, chief of operations for the Wake County Sheriff's Department.

Last year, a Carboro police officer responding to a call at an apartment met a woman who identified herself as Robin Clark and said she simply had a falling out with her parents. Her name was removed from a statewide database of missing person's reports in January 2005.

Authorities now believe the woman was a relative of Clark's, Stewart said.

Bizzell said deputies are trying to track down Ruvalcava's family members in Texas and Mexico.

Troops returning from war zones dying on motorcycles

CAMP LEJUNE, N.C. (AP) — More troops have died in off-duty motorcycle accidents since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, than have been killed in combat in Afghanistan over that same time, according to safety records.

Military commanders in North Carolina say the deaths are largely the result of boredom, bonus pay, and adrenaline to burn off after troops return from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Nearly 350 troops have died on bikes since the 2001 terrorist attacks. That's compared to 259 killed while serving in Afghanistan.

Nearly 1,000 more troops have been injured on bikes.

The military has enough of a challenge maintaining a force that repeated deployments have left severely stretched, according to two reports released last month, one commissioned by the Pentagon, the other by Congressional Democrats.

Troops say the bikes fill the adrenaline void they left behind in the war zone.

"Riders who have been in accidents have told us that it's the legal crack cocaine," said J.T. Coleman, a civilian spokesman for the Army's Combat Readiness Center in Fort Rucker, Ala., which tracks accidents among soldiers. "They say it gives them the same adrenaline rush they get driving their tank through Baghdad or whatever."

owner of a tour company whose bus exploded and killed 23 nursing home residents as they fled Hurricane Rita pleaded not guilty Monday to conspiracy and safety violations.

Global Limo Inc. and its president and director, James H. Maples, are accused in a three-count federal indictment of conspiring to falsify driver time records and failing to inspect buses to ensure their safety.

Maples, 65, didn't comment as he left the courtroom. His attorney, Charles Banker III, has said the government was blaming Maples for "something that was really completely out of his control." Maples was arrested Wednesday and released on a \$75,000 bond.

The bus erupted into flames Sept. 23 on a freeway near Dallas while carrying evacuees from a Houston nursing home as Rita gathered strength in the Gulf of Mexico. The driver and some passengers escaped, but others were caught inside as patients' oxygen tanks exploded.

The accident accounted for almost one-fourth of the approximately 100 deaths linked to Hurricane Rita.

Federal regulators shut down Global Limo's bus operations after the fire, saying the conditions of its vehicles and drivers "are likely to result in serious injury or death." A grand jury declined to indict the driver.

The conspiracy charge, the most serious, carries up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. If the company is convicted on that charge, it could be fined \$500,000.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Dorina Ramos scheduled jury selection for early April.

seized a woman's home to help a religious group build a private school in a blighted Philadelphia neighborhood, a state appeals court ruled Monday.

In a 4-3 ruling, the Commonwealth Court said the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority should not have taken the property in 2003 to allow the Hope Partnership to build a middle school.

The court said the seizure by eminent domain ran afoul of a clause in the U.S. Constitution that keeps Congress from establishing religion or preventing its free exercise. The Hope Partnership is a venture of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus and the Sisters of Mercy.

"The evidence shows that the Hope Partnership designated the land that it wanted and requested the authority to acquire it, and the authority proceeded to do so," wrote Judge Doris A. Smith-Ribner, writing for the majority. "This joint effort demonstrates the entanglement between church and state."

The authority may not take private property, and then give it to a religious group for its private development purposes, the court ruled.

In a dissent, Judge Dan Pellegrini said there was no evidence that the project was designed to establish a religion, but rather was meant to serve residents of a poor neighborhood.

Last June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that New London, Conn., had the authority to take homes for a private development project. That ruling has been greeted with widespread criticism, and several states have been reviewing their laws related to eminent domain.

World

Face transplant patient says she looks 'like everyone else'

AMIENS, France (AP) — The Frenchwoman who made medical history as the recipient

of a partial face transplant gave the world its first look at the results on Monday.

"I now have a face like everyone else," Isabelle Dinoire said at her first news conference since the groundbreaking surgery in November.

In speech that was heavily slurred, she explained how she was mauled by a dog last year and thanked the family of the donor who gave her new lips, a chin and nose.

A circular scar was still visible where the face tissue was attached in the 15-hour operation in Amiens.

Dinoire appeared to still have great difficulty moving or even closing her mouth, which often hung open. But she said that she was regaining sensation.

"I can open my mouth and eat. I feel my lips, my nose and my mouth," she said. During the news conference, while one of her surgeons was speaking, she lifted a cup to her lips and appeared to drink.

In terms of coloring, the match between her own skin and the graft was remarkable.

"I expect to resume a normal life... I pay homage to the donor's family," she said.

"My operation could help others to live again."

Dinoire, a divorced mother of two teenage daughters, spoke frankly about the attack in May by her Labrador. She said she was passed out when the dog mauled her and that she did not immediately realize the extent of her disfigurement when she awoke.

"When I woke up, I tried to light a cigarette, and I didn't understand why I couldn't hold it between my lips," she said.

She added that she then went to look at herself in a mirror and was horrified by what she saw. She also explained the difficulties of life with disfigurement, saying she suffered stares when she went out.

"I understand all people who have a handicap," she said.

Robida left note planning violence

(AP) — Jacob D. Robida, 18, was fatally wounded Saturday when he opened fire on police at a roadblock following a high-speed chase in Arkansas. He was shot twice in the head and died at a hospital the following day.

In New Bedford, where police say Robida attacked patrons at Puzzles Lounge with a hatchet early Thursday and then opened fire with a handgun, detectives found what they considered a troubling message in Robida's room at his mother's home.

"We didn't interpret it necessarily as a suicide note, but it was certainly the note of a desperate man who had some plans to continue doing something violent," Bristol County District Attorney Paul Walsh Jr. said.

The contents of the note were not released. It was unclear whether Robida left the note before or after the nightclub attack.

Robida's mother told police her son had come home after the attack around 1 a.m. with his head bleeding, then left again.

Police searched his room, finding the message, an apparently homemade poster with a Nazi swastika and anti-Semitic writings, as well as a makeshift coffin, Walsh said.

The significance of the coffin was unknown, he said.

A police report released Monday said investigators also found weapons, including 85 rounds of ammunition, a Samurai sword, one knife and two knife sheaths in Robida's room. A knife without a sheath was found outside of Puzzles.

They also found two bumper stickers that read: "I dress this way to scare your kids" and "My day is not complete until I've terrified a complete stranger," the report said.

Police were trying to determine whether Robida had any accomplices in New Bedford or elsewhere, though evidence suggests he acted alone, Walsh said.

After the tavern attack, Robida surfaced Saturday in Arkansas, where he killed Gassville police officer Jim Sell at a traffic stop, setting off a 20-mile chase that ended in a gun battle when Robida allegedly shot and killed his passenger, 33-year-old Jennifer Rena Bailey.

Got something to say? Send us your Pirate Rants!

TANN BED advertisement for tanning sessions. Includes text: "FIVE TANNING SESSIONS \$5", "Regularly Priced \$30 Expires 2/14/06 CODE: 5VSTEC", and "www.tannbed.com".

Live Music advertisement. Text: "Live Music. Meet New People. Fellowship. Pure Fun. Campus Crusade for Christ www.ccc.edu".

Will Graham advertisement. Text: "Will Graham grandson of Christian evangelist Billy Graham will be speaking in Hendrix Theater on Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00 pm. Don't miss this FREE event!".

Plasma donation advertisement. Text: "\$180 Per Month. This coupon good for an extra \$5 on your 2nd and 4th donation. I'm a Student and a Plasma Donor. Names: Jennifer Majors: Nursing Hobbies: Swimming & going to the beach Why do I donate Plasma? Extra spending money for the beach. Earn up to \$170/mo. donating plasma in a friendly place. DCI Biologicals of Greenville • 252-757-0171 2727 E.10th Street • Down the Street from ECU • www.dciplasma.com".

Professional, Comprehensive EYE EXAMS advertisement. Text: "Mark Jacobs, O.D. P.A. Independent Doctor of Optometry 210 SW Greenville Blvd. (Inside Wal-Mart) 252-355-1613 Bring in this ad for \$10 off your next contact lens exam. (Good in combination with any other discount or promotion plus. Offer expires 2/28/06)".

Computer headaches? Need parts? Intrex has your fix! advertisement. Text: "Computer headaches? Need parts? Intrex has your fix! Hundreds of Parts in Stock Networking Supplies Cables & Accessories Customized PCs & Servers Customized Laptops Repairs & Upgrades Local Service & Great Rates 9 North Carolina Locations 17 Years in Business INTREX Computers Made Simple 1160 D Evans Road Computer Shopping Center next to BEST BUY (252) 321-1200 www.intrex.com".

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Names in the News:

Madonna opens event

Five-time Grammy winner Madonna will team up with virtual band Gorillaz to open the 48th annual Grammy Awards. The Recording Academy said Gorillaz will perform in 3-D color animation, a first for network TV. Billboard.com reported. Madonna has no nominations this year, but Gorillaz's *Feel Good Inc.*, featuring De La Soul, is nominated for record of the year, best pop collaboration with vocals and best short-form music video. The brainchild of Blur frontman Damon Albarn, the Gorillaz are a blending of rock and hip-hop that represents band members as cartoon alter egos created by animator Jamie Hewlett.

Manson hits the hookah

Brian Warner, better known as Marilyn Manson, will portray Alice in Wonderland author Lewis Carroll in a new movie. *Phantasmagoria: The Visions of Lewis Carroll* will also mark Manson's writing and directing debut. "It's a kind of art-house horror: what people expect from Manson, they're going to get here," said the film's producer, Alain de la Mata. Manson will head to the Berlin Film Festival's European Film Market to drum up financial support for the flick, which is budgeted at about \$4.2 million. The film is set to begin production in the summer.

Reunited and it feels so good

The three teenage stars of the *Harry Potter* films are gathering for the fifth film in the wizard saga, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. Filming begins next week with Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint reprising their roles as teenage wizards. Britain's David Yates will direct and *Vera Drake* star Imelda Staunton will star as the new "Defense Against the Dark Arts" teacher at Hogwarts school. *Phoenix* is expected to be released next year.

Broadway bound

The divine Martin Short is preparing to take on Broadway Aug. 10 in *Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me*, after stops in Los Angeles and Chicago. "It's kind of a loving satire of one-man shows and my struggle to open a vein and be forthright and pour out the angst of my life, even though I don't have any angst," he told the *New York Times*. "So I'm forced to make it up."

Boy George pleads not guilty

Ex-Culture Club diva Boy George protested his innocence of a cocaine possession charge Wednesday in Manhattan Criminal Court. George, 44, whose real name is George O'Dowd, was arrested in October of last year after police responding to a burglary call at his apartment in Manhattan found 13 plastic bags of cocaine. He could face up to five years in prison if convicted.

Local Concerts:

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.

Larry the Cable Guy will be performing at the RBC Center in Raleigh Saturday, 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.

The Jagermeister Music Tour with Disturbed, Nothingface and Bloodsimple will come to the House of Blues in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Sunday, Feb. 19.

INXS and special guest Marly Casey & The Lovehammers will be performing 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.

O.A.R. will be performing at Owens Auditorium in Charlotte Saturday, Feb. 25.

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

The Take Action Tour featuring Matchbook Romance, The Early November, Silverstein, Paromare and Amber Pacific will come to Myrtle Beach, S.C. Tuesday, March 7.

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

Circa Survive, Saves the Day and Moneen will be performing at the House of Blues in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Saturday, March 25.

Black History Month at ECU

Not just another month, celebrate with pride

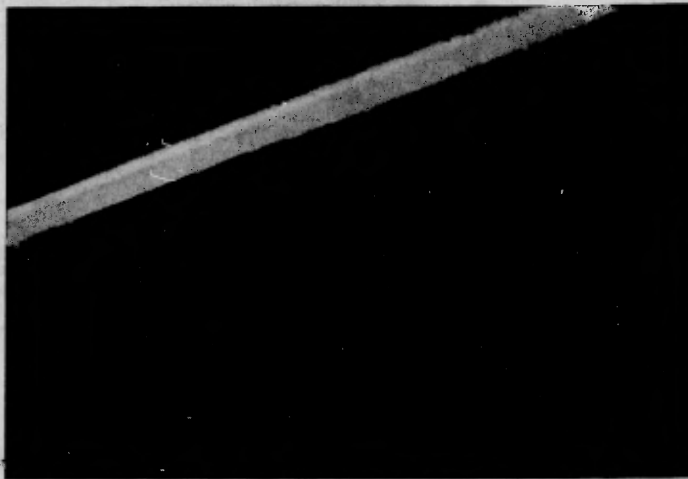
SARAH CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

In the fast paced world that we live in today, many people often take for granted the everyday luxuries and rights that we enjoy thanks to the people who came before us. For 80 years, the United States has celebrated Black History Month by honoring the many black inventors, writers, activists and leaders who have come before us.

The idea originated in 1926 as Negro History Week by Carter Woodson. Woodson was the son of former slaves, who while attending school, was stunned to find that blacks were generally forgotten in American history books and that when they were mentioned, it was in an inferior manner. From then on Woodson made it his goal to acknowledge the contributions to this country made by blacks.

He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, now known as the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, in 1915. This association charges blacks to become historians of their history by searching for and preserving their accomplishments.

Woodson decided that February was the appropriate time to celebrate black history because the birthdays of two individuals who greatly



Freedom's Journal was the first African American newspaper to be published in the United States. Copies of this paper are now on display for Black History Month at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

influenced the black population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, occurred in this month. However, February is also a significant month because it was in February that blacks were granted the right to vote due to the 15th Amendment and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was established.

"We should emphasize not negro history, but the negro in history. What we need is not

a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate and religious prejudice," said Woodson when speaking out about Negro History Week.

This month on campus there will be several events to honor Black History Month. Attending these events may prove to be not only enjoyable, but enlightening and educational as well.

A Black History Month Concert, "A Tribute to Motown," will

be held Saturday, Feb. 18 at 8 p.m. The concert is sponsored by the ECU Jazz Program and will feature "Alshah."

An African American Reading Circle will take place from 7 - 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 23. This event will take place in the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center Gallery.

"Unforgettable: The Nat King Cole Story" will be performed Saturday, Feb. 25 at 8 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. This production will feature an autobiographical

portrait of the American jazz legend as well as some of his most famous works. Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling 1-800-ECU-ARTS or by visiting ecuarts.com. Prices are \$30 for the general public, \$29 for ECU faculty/staff, \$15 for youth and \$10 for ECU students. All tickets purchased at the door will be sold for a flat rate of \$30.

Whatever your nationality, race or religion, remembering the contributions from our past can help us appreciate our present. By celebrating black history this month, we are celebrating a part of American history that was almost forgotten until one man decided to fight to bring it not only into our history books, but into our lives.

For more information about Black History Month, please visit blackhistory.com.

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

Did You Know?

African-Americans developed crop rotation, the traffic light, the mail box, the gas mask, the fountain pen, the typewriter, the telegraph, the golf tee, the automatic gear shift, the commode toilet, the method of dry cleaning clothes, the electric lamp, the automatic car coupler and the air brake for the railroad; however, only four are inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

V-DAY

UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS

'Vagina Monologues' will entertain, inform

Much more to this event than meets the eye

SARAH CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* is coming to ECU Feb. 10 - 12 as part of the V-Day College Campaign. *The Vagina Monologues* was written by Ensler to

convey women's sexuality and strength through humor and grace. Ensler wrote it after interviewing more than 200 women. The play has been translated into 35 different languages and runs in theatres all over the world.

While performing *The Vagina Monologues*, Ensler was inspired to create a global movement to stop violence against women,

hence the creation of V-Day.

"V-Day is a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. V-day is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations."

"Through benefit performances of *The Vagina Monologues*, unique documentary film projects and innovative gatherings designed to change social attitudes toward violence, V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to stop worldwide violence against women and girls including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual slavery,"

see V-DAY page A5

Did You Know?

- 33 percent of all women have been abused in their lifetime.
- In 2001 more than half a million women were victims of violence at the hands of an intimate partner.
- A convicted rapist is 50 percent more likely to receive probation than a convicted robber.

Valentine's Day Event from FRIENDS of S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts

Dinner and dance soiree to be held

AMANDA WINAR
SENIOR WRITER

Romantic outings for Valentine's Day are usually detrimental to one's nerves, patience and wallet. February comes along and suddenly questions of what, when, where and how much come bombarding in from all directions. If you are looking for an outing that is low in cost, high in quality and won't leave you waiting for a table, then the FRIENDS of the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series has an event for you.

As part of their annual fundraising event, the Valentine's Dinner Dance Soiree will be held at Rock Springs Center in Greenville on Valentine's Day from 6:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Mary Ruth Helms, marketing associate for the Cultural Arts Outreach program, said "This is the seventh year we've put on the dance, and it has always been very successful for both the guests and our program."

Helms said on average there are about 200 guests that attend the event, and they usually raise more than \$9,000 through auctions and drawings.

This year the theme of the event is "An Evening at Versailles." The event will offer a fantastically elegant dinner full of candlelight, champagne, dancing, music and mouth-watering cuisine. Cocktail hour begins this evening before guests are seated



Dance with the one you love on Valentine's Day through FRIENDS.

in a room surrounded in hues of pink, crème and champagne. Alison Bennett-James and Peggy C. Taylor, who are in charge of all decorative elements of the affair, promise that "The guests who find the centerpieces irresistible will be pleased to know they will

be available for purchase."

There are a variety of salads, main course meals and even vegetarian options for all guests, followed by a lovely dessert and champagne. Dancing follows

see FRIENDS page A5

ECU Campus Dining: Offering something for everyone

There are a lot of options, choose wisely

DANIEL BROCK
STAFF WRITER

I remember Campus Dining. When I lived on the Hill, I ate at Todd almost every day. That was before the dawn of time when West End was but a dream. Anyway, Todd offered a scintillating menu, and as a freshman I thought I would eat as a king during my time at ECU. My parents certainly paid a king's ransom for my meal plan. Once I sat down to eat with some of my buddies, however, I realized that the food was not always a treat to the palate. Indeed, many people faced races against time to make it back to their hall to... uh, take care of things. At any rate, Todd was there for some good times, and the Galley came through with some late night snacks. Since that time, Campus Dining

has made some improvements to the campus dining experience to help students feel like they have gotten more bang for their buck.

The Campus Dining Web site asks, "Who says you will miss mom and dad's cooking?"

Well, I will actually. Especially if you're from the South, no one cooks a meal like mama, and you know it. That being said, Campus Dining does offer some adequate services from which you can partake.

Campus Dining offers 12 sites across campus where students can use their meal plans. The big two, of course, are Todd and West End Dining Halls. Every day students are offered a smorgasbord of delights from which to choose. There is the old saying that preaches quality ahead of quantity, and it holds true here.

Wright Place and Destination 360 are convenience store type setups which are, true to the title, convenient. If you're on

your way to class, you can grab a drink and a sandwich and be about your business. You'll look supremely important barreling across campus with a bottle of water, and nothing says "I've got money" like chomping on a bagel while talking on a cell phone.

The Croatan is a popular choice for people to grab some food. Chick-Fil-A is featured there, and everyone knows it is delicious. There are also some other campus dining options offered, as well as a small convenience mart. More importantly, perhaps, the Croatan is a place to see and be seen. If you're going to pick up a biscuit there, be sure to bring a posse and/or a lady friend.

If you want to be really pretentious, you can pick up a latte or some other type of coffee drink at one of the Java City locations around campus. Be sure to be rude and huffy with the employees because that will



Todd Dining Hall on College Hill can offer many culinary delights.

surely make them work faster. (If you actually believe that, you are probably one of the rude ones.) If you're a "meathead type," you can get a little pick-me-up at the Center Court Juice Bar at the Student Recreation Center.

The Galley is the place to be on the Hill. You can get almost anything that you want there. With a convenience mart, Java

City and a lot of good hot food, the Freshman 15 will be an inevitability. The Reade Street Market and Subway are the Galley's counterparts on the West End. I always hope to see Jared from the Subway commercials when I go there, but it never happens. There is a guy in my history

see DINING page A5

Friends from page A4

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- Washer/Dryer Connections
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- Pets Allowed with Fee
- Energy Efficient
- On ECU Bus Route

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Pitt Property Management
 Apartments & Rental Houses

Friends from page A4

the dinner, live music provided by the Emerald City Big Band, a popular 20-piece band featuring three vocalists. They will play a mix of swing, pop, jazz, big-band and beach music. Melba Tripp, a member of the Valentine's committee overseeing the event, remarked the band is "a wonderful dance band, and [is] entertaining for those who prefer to relax at the table and listen."

There will be a live and silent auction at this event, and items include spa packages, home decor items, gourmet dinners, NASCAR tickets, local artist paintings, golf extravaganza, golf shirts and countless other items.

Another part of the fundraiser

is the selling of 75 hand-decorated champagne flutes, one of which will hold the winning ticket for a Lagos silver and gold diamond pendant, compliments of Laurtares Jewelers.

Helms said there will be a lot of French-inspired decorations, like a 10-foot Eiffel Tower that was constructed for the event, as well as a wall of mirrors and other quaint decorations to set the ambience of France for the guests.

"For those who can't make it to France for Valentine's Day, we have decided to do the next best thing - bring France to Greenville," Helms added laughing. It is an event of wonderful food, dancing and prizes, and should give every-

one a chance to have a great Valentine's Day. Couples and singles are encouraged to attend, and there will be special tables for those singles looking to find some love on Feb. 14 as well.

Tickets can be purchased at the Central Ticket Office located in Mendenhall. Tickets are priced at \$65 for individuals or \$130 per couple and are only available for a limited time. For tickets or additional information, interested parties can contact the Central Ticket Office at 1-800-ECU-ARTS or visit the Cultural Arts department Web site at ecu.edu/ecuarts.

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

V-Day from page A4

according to vday.org. V-Day strives to create a world where women can spend their lives thriving rather than surviving or recovering from terrible things they have experienced.

"By raising money and consciousness, it will unify and strengthen existing anti-violence efforts. Triggering far-reaching awareness, it will lay the groundwork for new educational, protective and legislative endeavors throughout the world," says the mission statement at vday.org. Since the creation of V-Day,

the organization has raised more than \$25 million. Tickets for *The Vagina Monologues* can be purchased online at ecuarts.com or by calling 1-800-ECU-ARTS. Student's prices are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. General admission tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. The performance will begin at 8 p.m. each night.

This event is sponsored by ECU Women's Studies Program, VOICE, the Office of Student Experiences and the ECU Student Union. All proceeds from the performance will go to the Family

Violence Program Inc. of Pitt County. The goal of the performance is to raise awareness to stop violence against women and girls.

Do your part by attending an upcoming performance of *The Vagina Monologues* and learning more about V-Day. Knowledge is power, so by learning more, you can help fight abuse against women and girls.

For more information about *The Vagina Monologues* and the V-Day College Campaign, visit vday.org.

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

NEED A LITTLE LOVE THIS VALENTINE'S DAY?
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Dining from page A4

class that looks a lot like him though. There's also Marie's, a snack bar, located at Minges.

For more information about Campus Dining and their services, you can visit their Web site at ecu.edu/dining.

Well, that's your Campus Dining overview. You could bring your lunch to campus ... if you want to get beat up. Prices are a little steep, but try to find a college that doesn't charge an arm and a leg for their food. It will all be water under the bridge soon enough, however. So eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we graduate.

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

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Student Homecoming Chair

The Homecoming Committee is currently looking for a person to fill the 2006 position of Student Homecoming Chairperson.

The position calls for the applicant to:

- Oversee seven (7) subcommittees
- Manage a \$19,000 budget and process expenditures in a timely fashion
- Chair all student Homecoming bi-weekly (Spring) and weekly Fall meetings

To apply for the position, all applicants must:

- Be a full-time student in good standing with the University
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5
- Have a class standing of sophomore or up

This is a paid student position. All applications must include a letter of interest and resume of related experience and emailed no later than February 10, 2006 to Charlie Brown, brownchar@ecu.edu. You may also drop off your letter of interest and resume to 239 Mendenhall Student Center, M-F, 8-5pm.

You can make a difference!

Sports Briefs

ECU's McNeil, Hart suspended

ECU junior guard Japhet McNeil and sophomore forward Jonathan Hart have been suspended indefinitely for conduct detrimental to the team, announced Head Coach Ricky Stokes on Monday. Neither will play in Saturday's game against UAB in Birmingham, Ala. McNeil leads Conference USA in assists with 6.65 per game and ranked fifth in the latest NCAA statistics published Jan. 31. He has distributed 133 assists this season, which is an ECU single season record. McNeil had started 15 games this season, while averaging 4.9 points in 27 minutes per game. Hart was averaging 4.2 points and 3.3 rebounds in 17 minutes of action per game this season and had started each of the past three games.

ACC suspends crew for tech call

Referees who worked Saturday's game between Florida State and Duke were given a one-game suspension for an unnecessary technical foul on a Seminoles player, the Atlantic Coast Conference said Monday. The crew of Mike Eades, Ray Natili and Ed Corbett shouldn't have assessed a technical foul to Florida State's Alexander Johnson in the second half of Duke's 97-96 overtime win Saturday, said John Clougherty, ACC coordinator of men's basketball officials. The technical was Johnson's fifth foul, and he left the game with 9:23 remaining. Johnson had 13 points and 11 rebounds before he went to the bench. Johnson picked up his fourth foul for an intentional foul on Duke center Shelden Williams, who quickly got to his feet and bumped into Johnson. Television replays showed Johnson attempting to back away from the altercation, which resulted in technicals for both players. Referees also whistled Johnson for an intentional foul against Williams in the first half.

Hedican replaces Miller on U.S. hockey team

Carolina Hurricanes defenseman Bret Hedican has a chance to match the gold medal his famous wife captured 14 years ago. Hedican, who is married to Olympic champion skater Kristi Yamaguchi, was selected Monday to the U.S. hockey team to replace injured Los Angeles Kings defenseman Aaron Miller. USA Hockey also announced the three-person taxi squad, whose members will be pressed into action in Turin, Italy, only if a player is knocked out of the tournament by injury. The additions were Carolina forward Matt Cutler, New Jersey defenseman Paul Martin and Buffalo goalie Ryan Miller. When the original 23-man roster was chosen in December, Ryan Miller was left off because he was recovering from a thumb injury. However, he has been in peak form since his return while team members Rick DiPietro (New York Islanders), Robert Esche (Philadelphia Flyers) and John Grahame (Tampa Bay Lightning) have struggled with injuries and inconsistent play. Hedican will be making his second Olympic appearance. He had no points in eight games during the 1992 Albertville Games, the same Olympics in which Yamaguchi won the women's figure skating gold medal. Yamaguchi, a two-time world champion, was inducted into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame in December, one month after giving birth to the couple's second daughter. Hedican has five goals and 13 assists in 51 games with Carolina this season while averaging more than 20 minutes played per game. With the additions of Hedican and Cutler, Carolina now has four players on the U.S. squad. Hurricanes right wing Eric Cole was an original pick as was Doug Weight, who was traded by St. Louis to Carolina last week.

Crisp gets deal from Sox

New Boston center fielder Coco Crisp avoided arbitration by agreeing to a \$2.75 million, one-year contract with the Red Sox Monday. The team also announced a \$3 million deal with free-agent shortstop Alex Gonzalez. The 26-year-old Crisp was traded to Boston last month after Johnny Damon agreed to sign with the New York Yankees. He inherits Damon's center field job and leadoff position in a lineup expected to include five new starters, four acquired after last season. Crisp hit .300 with 16 home runs and 69 RBI for Cleveland last year, while Damon batted .316 with 10 home runs and 75 RBI.

Steelers win the big one

Hines Ward MVP in Super Bowl XL

RON CLEMENTS
STAFF WRITER

All that talk between Joey Porter and Jerramy Stevens didn't amount to much. Porter had just three tackles in Super Bowl XL, while Stevens tallied three catches for 25 yards, but did score a touchdown following a Ben Roethlisberger interception.

Roethlisberger had a miserable night statistically. Big Ben was just 9-21 passing for only 123 yards and two interceptions. Jerome Bettis, playing in the final game of his career, was held to 43 yards rushing. Seattle quarterback Matt Hasselbeck threw for 273 yards and a touchdown to Stevens, while league MVP Shaun Alexander was only five yards shy of 100. All this means Seattle won, right? Wrong.

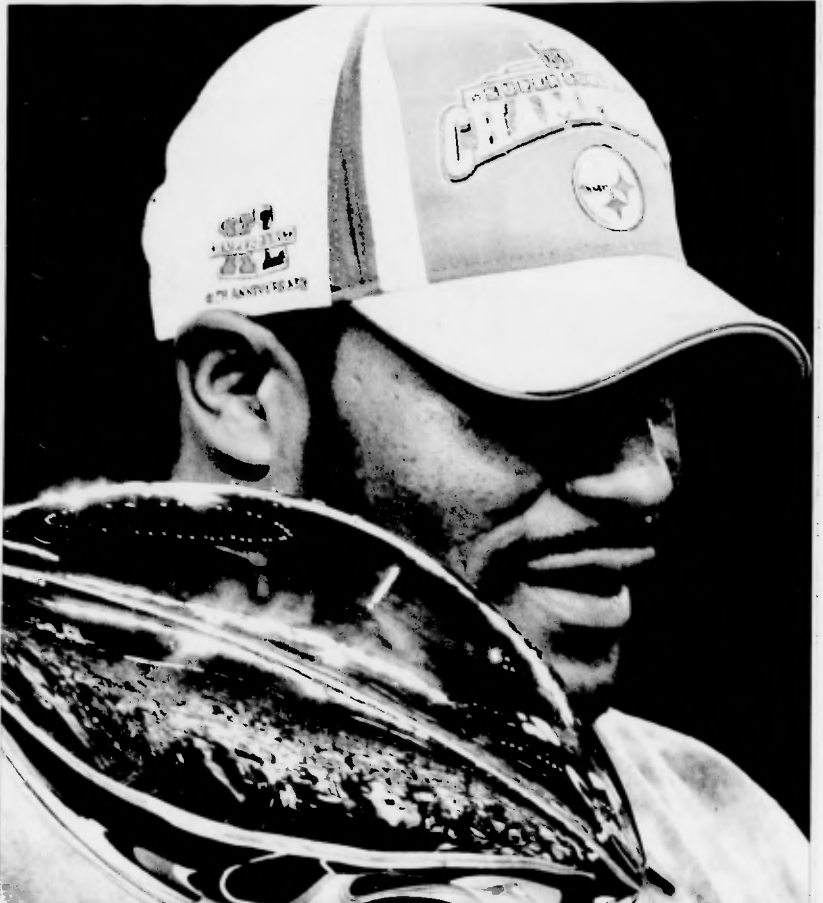
Pittsburgh's defense led the way and the offense made the plays it had to make to earn the Steelers a 21-10 victory over the Seahawks in Detroit Sunday for Pittsburgh's record-tying fifth Super Bowl title. Pittsburgh tied San Francisco and Dallas with its five Super Bowl titles.

Two big plays busted the game open for the Steelers. On the second play of the third quarter, former UNC Tar Heel Willie Parker followed a great lead block by pulling guard Alan Faneca and out-sprinted the Seattle defenders 75 yards for a touchdown and a 14-3 lead. The run was the longest rushing play in Super Bowl history, eclipsing Marcus Allen's 74-yard run in Super Bowl XVIII. An end-around pass from Antwaan Randle-El to game MVP Hines Ward for a 43-yard score sealed the win and the "One for the Thumb" for the city of Pittsburgh.

The Seahawks scored first, marching down the field before their drive stalled following a questionable offensive pass interference call on Darrell Jackson to negate a touchdown. Seattle settled for a 47-yard field goal. The Seahawks continued to move the ball up and down the field in the first half, only to have the Steelers defense force a field goal attempt. Seattle kicker Josh Brown missed a 50 and a 54-yard field goal.

Mistakes and questionable officiating plagued the Seahawks the entire game. Seattle receivers had several drops and bad footwork on two consecutive would-be completions near the sideline, one of which would have been a touchdown. Hasselbeck and Head Coach Mike Holmgren did a horrible job of clock management near the end of the game.

see STEELERS page A8



Pittsburgh Steelers running back Jerome Bettis holds up the Vince Lombardi Trophy after the Steelers' Super Bowl XL win over the Seattle Seahawks Feb. 5 in Detroit. The victory marked Bettis' last game.

Houston holds off ECU in overtime, 64-60



Head Coach Ricky Stokes stares out onto the court during the Pirates' heartbreaking overtime loss to Houston.

Questionable traveling call erases ECU last-ditch effort against Cougars

ERIC GILMORE
SENIOR WRITER

At the end of regulation, Houston point guard Lanny Smith sat in a rage, upset with a lack of a whistle during a last-second drive to the basket. But it was ECU and their respective fans that would leave in a firestorm following a referee's controversial overtime decision.

With the Cougars holding a two-point advantage with just 4.6 seconds remaining in overtime, Houston's Brian Latham missed both free throws. ECU's Taylor Gagnon corralled the rebound and sent a midcourt outlet pass to a streaking Jeremy Ingram. The sophomore guard received the ball and tried to dodge a Houston defender.

It was then—with 1.2 seconds left—that a referee issued Ingram for a traveling violation. After the turnover, Ramon Dyer sank two free throws with 0.2 remaining to seal the 64-60 Cougar road win.

"Oh, man, I thought it was legit play," said Ingram. "I was just trying to make a play, but I wasn't able to make a play. They made the call. I'm not going to bash the referees because that's not my style. They made the call, and I respect it."

Gagnon, visibly frustrated on the court, questioned the official after the call was made.

"When [the referee] first blew the whistle, I thought it was a blocking call," said Gagnon. "That's a tough call to call, but we shouldn't have been in that position in the first place and have to live with it."

"It was a dogfight," said Houston Head Coach Tom Penders.

"I thought they matched up very well with us, and I'm happy, and proud to come out of here with a win. I think both teams were exhausted at the end, and we made a couple more shots than

see PIRATES page A8

Lady Pirates victorious over Marshall

Three Pirates net double figures

JOSH FERNANDEZ
STAFF WRITER

For the first time this season, the Lady Pirates were involved in a finish that separated them from their opponent by only one point. Coming out as the victor in Saturday's contest versus conference foe Marshall (10-10, 5-4), ECU continued its long climb to the top of the Conference USA standings by beating the Thundering Herd 57-56.

In front of a home crowd of over 1,600, the Lady Pirates (13-7, 5-4) fell to an early 14-point deficit as the score sat at 17-3. ECU Head Coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener called a timeout to regroup her players. That move led to a 10-2 Pirate run, which cut Marshall's lead to six.

During the remaining 10 minutes in the half, the Lady Pirates had trouble gaining any ground in the scoring department, but succeeded in not allowing the Herd to pull away. However, the last three-and-a-half minutes saw ECU mount a 9-3

run headed by guards Impris Manning and LaCoya Terry, each of whom finished with 12 points.

The Lady Pirates continued to play catch-up in the second half and tenaciously held the Herd to a maximum lead of only six. Freshman guard Jasmine Young closed the gap to three with her first three-pointer of the game, shifting momentum to the Lady Pirates.

With 12:33 left in the game, ECU acquired its first lead of the contest as Young snatched the ball from Marshall-guard Bridget Chacon, setting up the easy basket.

This appeared to be the climax of the game as the Lady Pirates took over in the form of a 16-3 run. Up by nine with mere minutes left on the clock, all the Lady Pirates had to do was hold strong.

However, Herd juniors KaShawna Curry and Modupe Ishola led a Marshall rally and reclaimed the lead with 2:14 left on the game clock. Just 30 seconds later, Terry hit a mid-range jumper to put



The Lady Pirates broke .500 again in Conference USA.

see LADY PIRATES page A8

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Now accepting applications for summer and fall at Captains Quarters, University Terrace, Tower Village, The Trellis. Call Heartside Rentals 355-2112 or 355-5923. Visit our website at www.heartside.com

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FOR SALE

The Buccaneer is back! The ECU yearbook has returned so make sure to reserve your copy. Order online at www.yearbookupdates.ecu or call 1-888-298-3323 Hurry! Deadline to order

is Spm 4-24-06

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Greenville Recreation & Parks Department is recruiting part-time youth soccer coaches for the indoor soccer program. Applicants must possess a good knowledge of soccer skills and have the ability and patience to work with youth. Applicants must be able to coach young people ages 12-18 in soccer fundamentals. Hours are from 6:45 pm to 9:30 pm, Monday-Thursday with some weekend coaching. Flexible hours according to class schedules. This program will run from March 7 to mid May. Salaries start at \$6.25 per hour. Apply at the City of Greenville, Human Resources Department, 201 Martin L. King Jr. Dr., Greenville NC 27834. For more information, please contact the Athletic Office at 329-4550, Monday through Friday, 10 am until 7 pm.

Do You Need A Good Job?--The ECU Telefund is hiring students to contact alumni and parents for the ECU Annual Fund. \$6.25 hour plus cash bonuses. Make your own schedule. If interested, visit our website at www.ecu.edu/telefund and click on JOBS.

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like the job for you, please contact Jennifer Bonner at 737-4553 for further information.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

After a long absence, the East Carolina yearbook has returned. You can purchase your copy of Buccaneer by Calling 1-888-298-3323 or log on to www.yearbookupdates.com/ecu to create your personalized yearbook entry. Don't wait! Reserve your memos by April 24 at 5pm.

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Steelers from page A6

If Seahawk fans are griping about anything today, though, it is the officiating. There was the controversial dive into the end zone by Roethlisberger in which the ball never really appeared to be over the goal line, but was ruled a touchdown. There was a controversial call on Jackson's pass interference to negate a touchdown. There was a phantom holding call on Shawn Locklear to wipe out a huge pass completion inside the Pittsburgh three. In the next play, Hasselbeck made his only mistake - trying to throw over the top of Porter and, instead, overthrowing Jackson and having the ball picked off by Ike Taylor. Hasselbeck made the tackle, but was penalized on the tackle for a hit below the waist, even though he never touched anyone other than Taylor.

Pirates from page A6

they did." Houston's Dyer notched 17 points and added 18 rebounds during a game-long rebounding duel with ECU forward Corey Rouse. Dyer's biggest basket came from beyond-the-arc with 4:20 remaining in the extra frame that swung the momentum directly in Houston's favor.

"Ramon Dyer's three from the corner was huge," said Pender.

"It gave us a little separation." Dyer received an open look due to Smith's dribble penetration against ECU's zone defense. Smith tallied a game-high 20 points with six threes and distributed eight assists. The temperamental junior missed an opportunity to seal the game inside regulation, misfiring on an off balance shot in the lane.

But the Pirates' missed opportunities as well. Rouse's off-balance layup was errant on ECU's last possession inside regulation. The junior finished with nine points and 17 rebounds, but went 2-of-6 in overtime from the charity stripe. Courtney Captain's late turnover also erased a potential game-winning possession.

"I was pleased with our effort, but I was not pleased with our execution down the stretch," said ECU coach Ricky Stokes, alluding to ECU's 23 turnovers.

"We did have some opportunities to win the game."

Ingram led ECU in scoring, grabbing his second career double-double with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Freshman guard Sam Hinnant added 13 points.

ECU (7-14, 1-7 C-USA) stormed out of the gates to notch the game's first 12 points, igniting a crowd of 5,641 fans inside Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum. Houston (14-6, 5-3 C-USA) fought back, taking their first lead minutes later by scoring the next 14 straight points.

After the teams traded three point jabs, ECU reeled off a 16-0 run midway over a three minute, 32 seconds span. The Pirates' consecutive threes from the left corner by Ingram and Hinnant capped the scoring streak.

Officiating Problems

Neither head coach was happy with the three-man officiating crew of Bill Kennedy, Kyle Neve and Jeb Hartness.

"There were plays like the ball going out of bounds where an ECU player literally punched it out of bounds and [ECU] got the ball," Penders said of the officiating.

"It evened out, you know. The calls were like 'flip a coin,' get out the Oulja board,' for a good part of the night."

Stokes, a bit more reserved, declined to comment on the travel call or the entire crew.

"I thought the officiating was pretty consistent," Stokes said without offering the direction of the consistency.

"I think I'll leave it at that. I don't think you can get in trouble for saying that, can you?"

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

Lady Pirates from page A6

ECU back on top by one. The final 90 seconds saw no more scoring from either side as the Lady Pirates held on to claim the victory.

Junior Cherie Mills netted her eighth double-double of the season with a game-high 15 points and 10 boards. Jasmine Young also added her own game-high statistic as she contributed nine assists to the Lady Pirate victory.

Next weekend, the Lady Pirates will host Memphis and UAB at Williams Arena in Minges Coliseum, two must-wins if ECU desires to catch first and second place Tulsa and SMU in the C-USA standings.

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But in the end, it was all about "The Bus." Bettis announced prior to this season that it would be his last, and with the Lombardi Trophy in his hands, he confirmed his retirement on the podium following the game.

"I'm a champion. I think the Bus' last stop is here in Detroit," Bettis said.

"It's official, like the referee whistle."

It couldn't have been a better storybook ending for Bettis, playing in his hometown to cap a 13-year NFL career, in which the last 10 years have been with the Steelers. The future Hall-of-Famer finishes his career fifth on the NFL's all-time rushing list and as a Super Bowl champion.

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For Seahawks, it's Motor pity

(KRT) — This loss will gnaw at them the rest of this winter. It will follow them into off-season workouts. It will haunt their dreams.

The Seahawks will wake up out of a sound sleep in a cold sweat and remember the dropped passes, the missed field goals, the punt that rolled dead on their 2-yard line, the penalties.

They will look at the game film later this week and realize they should have been ahead about 24-0 at halftime. They will see that they kicked the Pittsburgh Steelers up and down Ford Field.

They will see Walter Jones burying Joey Porter deep into the artificial surface. They will see Jerramy Stevens running open in the middle of the field, time after time after time.

But they will also see the blizzard of mistakes and they will wince at what might have been.

"We stubbed our foot a couple of times," wide receiver Joe Jurevicius said.

"And that's all I have to say on that."

In a game that will be remembered for its lack of artistry, the better team didn't win Super Bowl XL. The Seahawks lost, 21-10.

"It hurts," center Robbie Tobeck said.

"It really, really hurts."

The Hawks outgained Pittsburgh by 57 yards. They held the ball six minutes longer. They had six more first downs.

Matt Hasselbeck, the losing quarterback, played well. Ben Roethlisberger, the winning quarterback, was awful. It was the worst performance by a winning quarterback in the 40-year history of this game.

Roethlisberger was 9-for-21 passing. His rating was 22.6. He threw two interceptions. But the Steelers are the world champions.

The Steelers made three plays. That's all. But that was enough.

"You can talk about X's and O's, this and that, story lines, all of that's well in good in the week leading up to it," Tobeck said.

"But on game day, it's who makes the most plays. We were prepared for what they showed us. But, you know, execution."

The Steelers' defense bent. The Seahawks' offense broke.

The Steelers couldn't cover Stevens, but he covered himself. He dropped three passes. If he had caught all three, the Seahawks would have won. Pittsburgh's Hines Ward was the game's MVP, but Stevens was as much of a factor in the Steelers' win as Ward.

It was the Seahawks' game to win. And they lost it. This was their chance to take a championship back to Seattle. And they dropped it.

Shoulda. Woulda. Coulda. Guard Chris Gray was flagged

for a drive-stalling hold on one possession. Wide receiver Darrell Jackson and tackle Sean Locklear were victimized by bad penalty calls that cost the Seahawks two touchdowns.

Josh Brown missed long, but makeable, field goals from 50 and 54 yards. Jackson didn't recognize a blitz, leading to an incompletion late in the first half. Peter Warrick failed to catch a punt and allowed the ball to roll dead on the 2. And Hasselbeck threw a fourth-quarter pick at the Steelers' 27, after the Hawks had driven 71 yards.

"I can't really say much," offensive coordinator Gil Haskell said.

"What can you say?" A loss like this can leave you speechless. It can make you grope for answers that don't exist. It can make you look at your perfect game plan and wonder how it could have unraveled so badly.

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