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Earning your degree online

Small differences from being an on-campus student

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
STAFF WRITER

Earning a degree online is becoming more popular and has only minor differences from being an on-campus student.

Jeffery Alejandro, a visiting instructor for the continuing studies department, admitted that online courses are very similar to face-to-face classes and his students have to meet many of the same requirements and assignment deadlines.

When asked what the differences are between getting a degree online and physically attending a university, Alejandro responded, "There are none except you don't have to go to a classroom."

"The work is very much similar. The amount of time you have to put in is similar, the only difference is online, you have to be a little bit more organized and dedicated to the process."

Instead of communicating with students, professors use methods such as e-mail, virtual chats, streaming videos for lectures and discussion boards. A majority of these things are done on Blackboard.

Alejandro said some of his students still prefer to visit him during his office hours to talk about course work. These methods are more effective for students who need to talk to their professor right away and who feel more comfortable talking with their professor in person, rather than on a discussion board or by sending messages, according to Alejandro.



Students who strive toward an online degree handle the same workload, but can "go to school" anytime, anywhere - even in pajamas.

There are some advantages to taking classes online for younger undergraduate students, graduate students and older people who would like to pursue getting their degree for the first time.

"Online degrees allow people who normally wouldn't be able to get their education because they live too far away from the campus, they have other obligations to the home such as children, spouses, elderly family members that they care for, to get their degree," Alejandro said. "They may work night shifts

and sleep during the day or may work the day shift. Online degrees allow them to fit their education into their schedule."

Online classes offer many of the same classes that are available on campus. A total of 10 program options are available for an undergraduate degree, 11 for distance education and 29 for adult learners. They range from getting a bachelor of science in nursing to learning how to become a Web site developer.

One of the big differences between for getting a degree

online versus attending face-to-face classes is the cost. When you decide to be an on-campus student, you have to pay more fees than you would off campus.

On-campus students have to pay tuition, an education/technology fee, a health services fee, university fee, housing and a meal plan. Online students only have to pay for tuition and a technology fee.

Alejandro said there is a difference in prices within UNC system universities.

"It could cost almost three

times more to get the degree face-to-face. I feel online degrees from regionally accredited institutions are wonderful, but I'm a little leery of for-profit institutions that are solely online and don't have the proper accreditation," Alejandro said.

If students are considering attending classes online, they should be careful and be positive that the school they choose is well accredited.

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

Alumni Association looks to recognize students

CLAYTON BAUMAN
STAFF WRITER

The ECU Alumni Association is offering multiple scholarships to deserving students for the 2006 - 2007 year, as well as nominations for the Robert H. Wright Award.

The Robert H. Wright Alumni Leadership Award is an award that is to be presented to seniors during annual commencement exercises. This award is intended to recognize students' academic achievement. Services range from not only the university but to the community as well. Leadership qualities, both potential and exhibited, are examined as well.

In addition to these qualities, students should have an overall academic average of at least 3.5 through the first semester of the graduation year. Nominations are acceptable for students who have made extreme accomplishments, yet may be slightly under the 3.5 GPA mark. Nominations require one letter of recommendation from the academic unit.

There are also 12 Alumni Scholarships available. These scholarships are for deserving full-time undergraduate students.

"Our committee, which is

see ALUMNI page A2

Wrightsville restaurant reaches settlement with HIV-positive cook

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP) — A former cook at a Wrightsville Beach restaurant will receive an undisclosed amount of money because he was fired after the restaurant learned he had HIV, an advocacy group said Monday.

The attorney for the restaurant's owners said they could not get clearance from the local health department to employ Aron Pelela, 31, as a prep chef. The restaurant admitted no liability in the settlement, its attorney said.

Pelela was fired in October 2005 from The Causeway Cafe, Lambda Legal said in a news

release. Attorney Joyce L. Davis of Raleigh, with the help of Lambda Legal, then sued the restaurant under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Pelela has found another job and will not return to work at the restaurant, Davis said.

In addition to the monetary settlement, the restaurant will ensure it doesn't discriminate others with HIV and conduct training sessions about how the disease is transmitted, Lambda Legal said.

"There is no risk of transmission of HIV through the preparation of food, yet myths about transmission are clearly running

rampant," said Greg Nevins, senior staff attorney in Lambda Legal's Southern Regional Office in Atlanta. "We are happy to see the owners of this restaurant instituting a policy based on the facts and training their employees on the truth about HIV transmission."

Attorney Andrew Hanley of Wilmington, who represented the restaurant, said the owners thought they had a strong defense because a local health ordinance prohibits someone with a contagious disease from working in the food industry.

The department "refused to

give us a statement that it was not a violation to employ Mr. Pelela," Hanley said in a phone interview.

The restaurant could not afford to fight Lambda Legal in federal court, he said.

"It's just one of those issues when if you're a mom-and-pop business, it's hard to fight these national interest groups," he said.

The settlement was reached at the end of January, Hanley said.

Lambda Legal is a national organization that works for the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV.

Unions are driving U.S. automakers out of profitability

Motor companies deal with UAW

LEE SCHWARZ
STAFF WRITER

General Motors, the largest automaker in the U.S. and the world, has announced that it will cut its annual dividend of \$2 to \$1 per share. The CEO does not know when GM will return to profitability. Ford Motors has announced that it will cut 30,000 North American jobs. Why are the largest U.S. automakers struggling and having to downsize so much? The answer is because of the costs stipulated by labor unions.

A labor union is an organization of employees who band together in order to negotiate with the company they work for in order to secure higher wages and better working conditions. Labor unions then collect dues from the employees who are a member. If the company does not meet the union's demands, there may be strike.

Labor unions are bad for corporate earnings, stock prices and non-union workers. Non-union workers often cannot get certain jobs because of union influence. Usually, unions are good only for union workers, but only for a short period of time as the heavy costs of labor unions usually cause layoffs and, in some cases, bankruptcy, thereby causing union workers to lose their jobs.

The labor union that deals with U.S. automakers is called United Auto Workers. UAW President Ron Gettelinger said in a statement back in November, "Today's action by General Motors is not only extremely disappointing, unfair and unfortunate; it is devastating to many thousands of workers, their families and their communities. While GM's continuing decline in market share is not the fault of workers or our communities, it is these groups that will suffer because of the actions announced today. For the workers, their families and the thou-

sands of other people who work in the small businesses that supply these facilities, hope is diminished, the future is unclear and communities are less stable. We have said consistently that General Motors cannot shrink itself to prosperity. In fact, shrinking General Motors only exacerbates its problems."

While it is true that workers and families will lose their jobs because of GM's moves, which are necessary to survive against the onslaught of foreign automakers that do not have to deal with unions, it is not the fault of the families. It is the fault of the unions. As of the second quarter of 2003, a UAW-represented unskilled assembler earned \$25.63 per hour. A typical UAW-represented skilled-trades worker earns \$29.75 per hour. These are very high wage rates for blue-collar work. Younger employees now earn about half of that and because they are paid less, have much more job security.

GM, which currently employs 111,000 U.S. workers, suffers an annual cost disadvantage in North America - \$5 billion for health costs and wages that are union-stipulated. Harley Shaiken, a professor specializing on labor and the global economy at UC Berkeley, makes the point very clear.

"Take healthcare costs. U.S. automakers on average spend more than \$1,200 a vehicle on them - more than is spent on steel. Their competitors average about \$450 a car made in their U.S. plants. The difference reflects a much younger workforce. If Ford had Honda's healthcare costs, it would have turned a profit in the U.S. last year, rather than losing \$1.6 billion. Outside the U.S., automakers can rely on national health insurance, not collective bargaining, to cover their share of employee health benefits, dampening costs considerably."

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

Raising money in Wright Place



From left to right, Naona Wood, Amber Anthony and Yolanda Mitchell raise money for Alpha Kappa Alpha's fundraiser in Wright Place Tuesday afternoon. Candy grams, chocolate and teddy bears are part of their Valentine's Day sale.

My Random Column

Roommate revenge!

Nothing intriguing has happened to me in the past week that I wish to inform or rant about; therefore, I will again resort to one of the books my sister bought me. This one is titled *The Bad Girl's Guide to Getting What You Want*. It covers topics of work, dating and living arrangements. So today, I thought it would be humorous to include a section of ways to get back at your roommate. Whether it is in the dorms or off campus, first semester is over and with the spring in full effect, we are all ready to have a break from our roommates.

Here is a handy list of tactics to get even (or start a war) with your roommate.

- * Replace your roommate's powdered detergent with powdered bleach.
- * Fill out a change-of-address form and send his/her mail to Bolivia.
- * If your roommate borrows your car, call the police, report that your car has been stolen and give the cops your roommate's physical description.
- * Record over all of his/her favorite videos with "Larry King Live."
- * Use a razor blade to cut out the last 10 pages of the novel he/she is reading.
- * Replace creme rinse with Nair.
- * Call AA, Overeaters Anonymous, Planned Parenthood, the Forum and the Church of Scientology to request that information be sent to your roommate's work address.
- * Fill his/her Listerine with bourbon.

* All information from chart was taken directly from *The Bad Girl's Guide to Getting What You Want* by Cameron Tuttle.



Opinion Columnist

What are all these Pirate Rants About Pirate Rants

Student expression, or anonymous cruelty?

BENJAMIN CORMACK
CASUAL OBSERVER

I've always felt like people should feel free to express themselves, as long as they kept it to some degree of tastefulness. This is especially true when it comes to a public media like *TEC*. I think it is great that students have the chance to express themselves through Pirate Rants and most recently through Campus Confessions, but for the longest time I've felt like people have been using these as a means to be mean and/or disgusting without fear of being recognized.

Some of you may be thinking that this comes as a response to recent criticism about my column. Honestly, it isn't. I am, for lack of a better term, a public figure. At least my writing is open to the public, and therefore, open to criticism. So feel free to criticize... but, you know, feel free to say nice things too.

This is something that has been bugging me for a long time, and more recently was an issue raised during one of the classes I'm taking this semester. Pirate Rants have included nice things about services and people who work on campus and general complaints about dining hall food, school policies and writers for *TEC* (especially Tony McKee, who I have to say I miss). However, there have been some Pirate Rants, and recently, Campus Confessions that remind me of things I've read on public bathroom walls or something I'd overhear in my high school cafeteria.

These things all seem to start off in the same way - "To the person who," or "I am a" such and such or "I didn't mean to have sex with," etc. For the most part, these sound like things

people are too afraid to admit or say to people's faces; yet, they feel comfortable enough to say them when they can't be found out.

Sometimes Pirate Rants can even be downright nasty and make me question the sanity of the people here in Greenville, especially the ones I've read about people "accidentally" having sex and then trying to cover it up. Obviously the person who had the "accident" wasn't too upset about it if they're (1) willing to joke/talk about it in a public media and (2) not willing to do anything to regain the trust of the person they hurt. Also, aside from being completely plastered, there's no reason I can see for someone who truly cares about their significant other having trouble keeping their pants on. I'm sorry, it is just something that doesn't seem to be all that difficult to me. Why am I single, again?

The most annoying rants have to be these anonymous complaints to other people. First of all, how do you even know that the person you're talking about will even know that you're talking about them? Second of all, these sound like the kind of things that are heard when two people aren't talking to each other and are in the same room, "Would you please tell him that I'm not talking to him? Would you tell him to hand me that?" You know that kind of thing. Third, and this comes from my own personal experience, when you have a problem that haunts you to no end, nothing will change unless you say something to the person who caused it. That's not to say that you need to be mean or angry when you say it, but if you are angry to the point of yelling, it might be better to talk with friends or peers about what to do. Then again, if Pirate Rants help you to

deal with your feelings, maybe it's not such a bad thing. Just don't be afraid to take action. Hiding behind anonymity and letting the problem continue doesn't solve anything.

Finally, I want to talk about Campus Confessions. The last thing I want to know about anyone involves infections below the belt. While we're close to the subject, I really don't want to know people's preference between things and going commando. Also, does anyone feel ashamed of playing with people's emotions... the kind that people have when they really care about you... the kind of emotions some people would give anything to have someone else convey to them? Are there really that many mean-spirited, nasty, angry emotions built up on this campus? I guess it's good that Valentine's Day is next week, because it sounds like we need some love around here.

I'm not saying that people should stop expressing themselves through Pirate Rants or Campus Confessions. In fact, I highly encourage you to, even if it is anger directed at me for what I've said in this article. At least I know you're reading it. I just hope that those of you who have posted and will post in the future realize that people are reading these things. In fact, it is probably the most popular thing in the paper. Anonymity may prevent people from knowing it is you, but it won't stop them from forming an opinion about the person behind the post. To be honest, some of these rants and confessions have me more concerned about the well-being of my fellow Pirates rather than being impressed or laughing. Remember, there are some things better left unsaid, unknown and unposted in a paper for all to read.

Pirate Rant

To the students who keep complaining about not having a white history month, white entertainment television and other heritages not having a month, get your facts right and keep your ignorance to yourself. There is a month for both the Asian and Latino community. Did you know that the board members of BET, most record company owners and the writers of black television shows are white? Now what do you have to say?

I think you might be my straight best friend, and I am in love with you too.

ECU softball had a great season last year and is poised to have a repeat season. Why isn't their facility getting upgraded?

Thanks for informing us the day of an open mic that it would be occurring... in an hour. And since I'm not glued to my computer checking my e-mail every five minutes like a mouth-breathing leech, it was especially helpful.

What about a German American history month? Where do I start the petition?

It does not have to be 1951 for a guy to ask a girl out to dinner and a movie. It seems to me that a girl who likes intellectual intercourse would prefer this date to a date at a club where you cannot hear anything or at a party where the conversation usually falls to the lowest common denominator of intelligence because that is considered "cool." I will take a girl to dinner and a movie any time.

Why is ECU not putting on another Mardi Gras this year?

How does a \$1.99 sandwich and a bottle of water come out to equal \$4.99? Because Wright Place is charging more than they should. They are ripping us off.

Kanye West deserves respect? Didn't Jesus say there would be false prophets in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they were wolves? His "blatantly truthful" statement about Bush was ridiculous and false - and I don't even support Bush. Kanye just needs a warm glass of shut the heck up.

I'm from the South, and I think jean shorts are ridiculous. So to the ranter who says we don't care about fashion, please. We don't go hunting or play with Magic cards. 1991 called and they want their shorts back.

Stop calling out those poor girls with UGGs, bug-eyed sunglasses and diaper bag purses. If they want to walk around looking like that, they're allowed to. Just laugh about it with your friends in private like the rest of us.

I'm officially changing my major and going to medical school - all so that I can invent a procedure that will surgically attach a cell phone to a person's head. Might as well.

Hey, guy who listens to his iPod ridiculously loudly during class. Yeah you. I hate you.

If you're going to cancel an 8 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. class, have the decency to let the class know ahead of time. Jeez...

Whoever ignorantly claimed that no other minority groups had months set aside for them, check your facts before making such a claim. Hispanic American appreciation month is Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 and Asian-Pacific American appreciation month is in May. So next time you question the validity an integrity of an appreciation month, make sure you know what you're talking about.

Physics 1250 is not that difficult really. The problems lie with the professor and the students. Some of the professors, while brilliant themselves, forget that they are teaching less than brilliant novices. Some of the students come late or not at all. Others show up early but sit there in a stupor without asking a question, taking notes or doing homework. Others make all the right moves and still get a "D." That's OK though. "D" is for Diploma. So suck it up and drive on.

Out of the thousands of students who attend ECU, did no one have anything to say about Daniel Brock's BHM article last week? Is it usual student apathy or censored pirate rants?

Where have you been? There is a white entertainment television... It's called CMT!

To the Duke fan who wonders what ECU has ever won. Take a stroll through the Ward sports medicine building sometime and have a look at all the bowl game trophies in there. And while we're at it, when was the last time Duke was actually even in a bowl game?

I'm ready for Spring Break!

To the person who stated that the ROTC students dressing up everyday is overkill. News flash, it's part of their class. They get credit for dressing that way, and most of them are trying to proudly represent our country. Have some pride. There are bigger things going on in the world than what someone wears.

Girls who look malnourished because they weigh 100 pounds and have 10 percent body fat gross me out, especially when they're about to pass out from exhaustion because they've been on the stair climber for an hour straight. Eating disorders are not cool. Stop aspiring to be Lindsay Lohan and have a sandwich, please.

To the person who made the comment about white history month and white entertainment television, why would you need that? Every month besides February is white history month and every other channel besides BET is devoted to white people. Am I the only person who notices that?

I've been in school for four years and have had two classes talk/read about Marx/Engle and Communism, yet have never had a class mention Adam Smith and Capitalism. Am I completely paranoid or is it that four classes this semester to use the Communist Manifesto with no contradicting supplement?

I wish the weather would decide what it wants to be!

Textbook acquisition needs reform. The price of books rivals tuition and these books are used. And then at the end of the semester you usually get 10 percent of what you paid for them because a new edition has come out that changes maybe one word per chapter. Why is it that these criminals are allowed to operate when gas stations come under review for price gouging. What about book-gouging? Who has the number to the state Attorney General?

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

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,
To the author of "Drugs, violence permeate hip-hop," I agree with your article in part. The negative values portrayed in mainstream hip-hop are not good for any community or culture. But to attribute the negative stereotypes that African Americans face solely, or mainly, to mainstream hip-hop is ridiculous. If that were the case, we could attribute alcoholism and domestic violence to country or rock music or violence in general to video games and movies, which are patronized by people of all backgrounds. An attempt to blame the complex and convoluted problem African Americans face on mainstream hip-hop, and furthermore to say they are to blame for the negativity in mainstream hip-hop, is completely inaccurate. The major record labels, run by white Americans, are much more to blame. They force-feed America with a false sense of "street-cred" and "thug life," which many African Americans, if not the vast majority, see right through. Sure, they buy the records, but then again, so do a lot of whites. Look at any white ECU student's CD collection and you're bound to find dozens of mainstream "negative" hip-hop CDs. So my question to you is why aren't they viewed with the same negative attitudes as African Americans? The answer is not simple and can't be summed up by your grossly one-sided view. I understand the opinion factor of your article and this

is mine. Hip-hop is so big in all cultures (white included) because it appeals to some sense of excitement and fantasy in the human mind. The same applies to action movies and video games - they're an escape from reality. Most moviegoers aren't going to attempt a re-enactment of scenes from the latest action flick, same for video gamers. It's media; it's fantasy that most people realize is just an image and purely enjoy for its aesthetic value. To say that African Americans act the way they do because of hip-hop is crazy. People emulate celebrities across the board. Yes, a young black male might try to dress like 50 Cent, but he's not going to sell crack because 50 did. If he does sell crack, the answer to why is more than likely not going to be "because 50 did and rapped about it." The answer is tied up in so many ideological and sociological anomalies and socioeconomic factors that have nothing to do with mainstream hip-hop. And I say all this not as a white or African American but as a Hispanic American who has no ties or loyalties to either side and doesn't even like hip-hop, in case you were wondering.

Sincerely,
Orlando Rodriguez

Dear Editor,
I'm extremely disappointed in the lack of coverage of the death of Mrs. Coretta Scott King. On the eve of Black History

Month, an important American figure passed away, but there was no mention in *TEC*.

As was stated in Daniel Brock's article, it's everyone's history so everyone should feel cheated by *TEC*. If we are all equal Americans, then shouldn't we ALL (not just blacks) be working toward positive images and disproving stereotypes? One of the first steps would be equal news coverage in *TEC*.

This isn't the first time that *TEC* has failed to report current events that affected this campus as a whole. On MLK Day, the *TEC* simply published pictures instead of looking at the overall experiences that took place that day. When many African American leaders asked *TEC* why it did not publish an article, we were asked what they were supposed to report on. For me, this was like a slap in the face. If people can write an article on whether or not jean shorts are making a comeback or the editor's love of cell phones, then surely you can spare two lines for either Dr. King or Mrs. King, two leaders who greatly changed the world.

Maybe *TEC* should look at the articles in *USA Today* because their exhaustive coverage of Mrs. King's life and death not only brought tears to my eyes, but also educated me on the impact she had on the world. Step up *TEC*.

Thank you,
Regina Twine
Black Student Union President
Junior

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Serving ECU since 1925. *TEC* prints 9,000 copies every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the regular academic year and 5,000 on Wednesdays during the summer. "Our View" is the opinion of the editorial board and is written by editorial board members. *TEC* welcomes letters to the editor which are limited to 250 words (which may be edited for decency or brevity). We reserve the right to edit or reject letters and all letters must be signed and include a telephone number. Letters may be sent via e-mail to editor@theeastcarolinian.com or to *The East Carolinian*, Self-Help Building, Greenville, NC 27858-4353. Call 252-328-9238 for more information. One copy of *TEC* is free, each additional copy is \$1.

Mendenhall Movies:

North Country
Wednesday at 9:30 p.m.
Thursday at 7 p.m.
Friday at 9:30 p.m.
Saturday at 7 p.m.
Sunday at 3 p.m.

Proof
Wednesday at 7 p.m.
Thursday at 9:30 p.m.
Friday at 7 p.m.
Saturday at 9:30 p.m.
Sunday at 7 p.m.

Top 5s:

Top 5 Movies

1. *When a Stranger Calls*
2. *Big Momma's House 2*
3. *Nanny McPhee*
4. *Brokeback Mountain*
5. *Hoodwinked*

Top 5 Pop Albums

1. *Il Divo*
2. *Josh Turner*
3. *Jamie Foxx*
4. *Mary J. Blige*
5. *Yellowcard*

Top 5 TV Shows

1. *'American Idol' - Tuesday*
2. *'American Idol' - Wednesday*
3. *'CSI'*
4. *'Without a Trace'*
5. *'CSI: Miami'*

Top 5 DVD Rentals

1. *Lord of War*
2. *Two for the Money*
3. *Transporter 2*
4. *Wedding Crashers*
5. *Hustle and Flow*

Horoscope:

Aries - Don't procrastinate. It won't be long before other obligations interfere with your studies. By then, know as much as you can.

Taurus - Collect as many goodies as you can, while you can. Then, start to prepare for your next project.

Gemini - The next assignment is to make more money come in. You know you're smart, so go ahead and get wealthy. It's OK.

Cancer - You have some of the answers yourself in that stack of papers you've let pile up. Sort and file.

Leo - If you can't figure out what a stubborn person is talking about, get a friend to intervene. Maybe you need a translator.

Virgo - Conditions are unstable early, but the bumps smooth out. Don't get freaked and give up. Stay on course.

Libra - Your fantasies are about to encounter a reality check. The goal can be accomplished, but there's a lot of work involved.

Scorpio - Don't spend all your savings on fixing up your place. Some, but not all. Save enough to get out of town soon.

Sagittarius - Keep studying and practicing. You're about to make a jump up to the next level of understanding. What you've been doing starts getting easy.

Capricorn - Figure out ways to delegate more of your responsibilities. You can multiply your production and give yourself more free time.

Aquarius - As always, love is followed closely by more work. Don't complain, this is the natural order of things.

Pisces - The prevailing theme for the past few weeks was cleaning up old messes. That job should go more smoothly now since you've had lots of practice.

Fun Facts:

Got gas? 40 percent of all indigestion remedies sold in the world are bought by Americans.

Traces of cocaine were found on 99 percent of UK bank notes in a survey in London in 2000.

Senegalese women spend an average of 17.5 hours a week just collecting water.

Mushrooms are more closely related to humans and animals than to other plants!

During his lifetime, Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* sold only 50 copies.

According to legend, there's a Superwoman in every episode of *Seinfeld*.

In older people, memory is best early in the morning and then declines during the late afternoon.

Streets in Japan don't have names.

The short list

Nominees in major categories for the 48th annual Grammy Awards, which will be handed out in Los Angeles on Feb. 8, 2006:

Record of the year

"We Belong Together," **Mariah Carey**
"Feel Good Inc.," **Gorillaz**
"Boulevard of Broken Dreams," **Green Day**
"Hollaback Girl," **Gwen Stefani**
"Gold Digger," **Kanye West**

Song of the year

Songwriter (Performer)
"Bless the Broken Road," **Bobby Boyd, Jeff Hanna, Marcus Hummon (Rascal Flatts)**
"Devils & Dust," **Bruce Springsteen (Bruce Springsteen)**
"Ordinary People," **W. Adams, J. Stephens (John Legend)**
"Sometimes You Can't Make It On Your Own," **U2 (U2)**

Best new artist

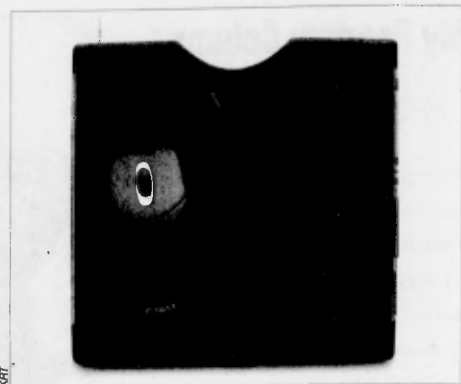
Ciara
Fall Out Boy
Keane
John Legend
SugarLand

Album of the year

"The Emancipation of Mimi," **Mariah Carey**
"Chaos and Creation in the Backyard," **Paul McCartney**
"Love. Angel. Music. Baby.," **Gwen Stefani**
"How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb," **U2**
"Late Registration," **Kanye West**

Source: National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (U.S.)

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Tablet computers have evolved since their release in the late 1990s.

Tablets: The next step in computers

New computers may soon replace laptops

MARK ROMANO
STAFF WRITER

Tablet computers are gaining rapid popularity as the successors to the laptop and are much more than day planners and organizers. While their screens can be up to 12 inches in length, they're rarely greater than 1 inch thick. As of now, companies such as Compaq, Fujitsu and Acer are producing tablets designed for Windows XP and capable of doing anything a desktop computer can handle. Some advantages tablets have over laptops include a longer battery life (up to nine hours), enhanced system navigation and bypassing hibernation modes with Instant-On features to save you time and battery life.

Best of all, you can write directly on the screen and have it transfer to text. Many personal digital assistants (PDAs) introduced this feature several years ago, but with limited capabilities when compared to tablets. Tablets are operated using a stylus,

which is an electromagnetic pen, and have no need for a keyboard, although it is possible to attach one. The pen is used directly on the screen, replacing both a mouse and a keyboard, and is fairly simple to use. Voice recognition allows you to command the computer to perform tasks and can also be used to dictate text.

Tablets come in two forms, slate and convertible. The slate form is a screen, as described above, and has simple docking capabilities that allow you to connect it to printers, monitors, keyboards and external hard drives. Convertibles are more like a transition between a laptop and a tablet, utilizing a built-in keyboard that can be folded under the tablet. It is similar to a laptop with the screen on the opposite side so you can still use it like a slate tablet while it's closed.

Now for the technical specifications, which are amazing. Keep in mind that these computers are about the same size of

see TABLET page A5

Not just a pretty face



Halle Berry has proven to be a real actress

MARIANNE BARROW
STAFF WRITER

Starlet Halle Berry is a classic beauty who has proven her ability to perform to audiences time and time again. Although she has been labeled one of *People's* "50 Most Beautiful People" nine times, Berry's real attributes exist in her acting.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Berry got her first taste of the spotlight when she won the Miss Teen All-American Pageant in 1985. From there she progressed to modeling, and in 1989, she was cast for a weekly television series called "The Living Dolls." It was during this comedic show that her potential started to become apparent to her directors and fellow actors. Berry began to be known for her on-set persistence - she chose to live through her characters and adopted their mannerisms with or without the cameras rolling.

In 1991 she played a crack addict in Spike Lee's *Jungle Fever*. To get into character, Berry reportedly would not bathe for several days before the start of filming. Her dedication paid off, and Berry became a more commonly known name in the film industry. After her first break, Berry acted in at least one movie every year, slowly constructing her creditability as an actress. She played across actor Eddie Murphy in *Boomerang*, and it was said for that performance that Murphy was "evenly matched on the screen." With *Introducing Dorothy Dan-*

dridge, Berry was first formally recognized for her talent. Berry won both a Golden Globe and an Emmy for the TV movie, and although it wasn't extremely popular, she got the appreciation she deserved. She was also the first African American woman to obtain one of the highest honors for an actress: an Oscar. Her worthy presentation landed her Best Actress in a Leading Role in the highly praised independent film *Monster's Ball*.

Her physical capabilities have been proven many times in features such as *X-Men*, *X-Men 2*, and *Catwoman*. She was even captivating enough to play a Bond girl in *Die Another Day*. Berry has been injured on the set several times. She was hit in the head with set lights during a stunt on *Catwoman* and received another injury during a scene when James Bond fired at an escaping helicopter during *Die Another Day*.

Bruises and all, Berry continues to give her best throughout filming. As for 2006, she has a role in *Perfect Stranger*, which is still being filmed. While her natural good looks may be the first thing you see, it's obvious Berry has a lot more to offer audiences. She has steadily climbed her way to the top of the acting world and has worked hard for the recognition she receives. Berry concludes everything by telling the press: "While being called beautiful is extremely flattering, I would much rather be noticed for my work as an actress."

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

Take the Quiz:

How well do you know Halle Berry? Take this quiz and find out:

- Question:
1. For what make-up line is Berry a spokesperson?
 2. What character did she play in *The Flintstones* in 1994?
 3. Who are her favorite actresses?

- Answers:
1. Revlon Cosmetics
 2. Sharon Stone
 3. Dorothy Dandridge, Jodie Foster and Whoopi Goldberg



Well-fitting jeans are often one of the hardest articles of clothing for both men and women to buy

Finding jeans for your body

Guide to buying for your body type

TOMEKA STEELE
SENIOR WRITER

It's a hard task to find the perfect pair of jeans, especially if your body type isn't what the designers of the moment are catering to. Jeans are an essential part of every wardrobe whether you are male or female. A few tips can put anyone on the path to finding the perfect pair of jeans - the ones you'll wear at least once a week.

When it comes to jeans, one can go very wrong by not knowing the difference between the many styles and cuts of jeans. There are five basic types of jeans for women: boot cut, skinny jeans, the classic five pocket jean, stretch denim and wide leg jeans. There are three basic cuts for men: baggy, close fit and straight cut.

All of these jeans can sit at a certain position on the hips. Some jeans are low-rise, super low rise, standard or high waist. All of the styles look different on different people; finding the best one for you requires knowing your body type.

To create the illusion of a taller figure for petite frames or short people, straight jeans with the standard waist cut are the best. The slimmer leg will clon-

gate the body. People who are short often have a difficult time finding jeans that aren't too long. Some stores, such as Gap, sell "short cut" jeans that are shorter in length with the same straight jean style. If the jeans fit great but are too long, they can always be altered with the help of a tailor. It will cost a few dollars extra, but a great pair of jeans is priceless. People with short legs should avoid cropped jeans, which make the legs look shorter.

"I hate shopping for jeans because it's so hard to find the right jeans for your height and size. A size five at one store could be a size three at another. L.E.I. jeans seem to fit me well though," said senior exercise physiology major Jenna Salter.

For the short-waisted person or person with a short torso, low rise jeans will help to lengthen the look of the torso and even out the upper and lower body proportions.

For taller people, boot cut jeans, skinny jeans and straight cut jeans are the best. Women with slender legs can accent them with a great pair of skinny leg jeans. These jeans are snug all over and taper all the way down to the ankle. These jeans are fabulous and are very hot in today's fashion. Tall men should go for the straight leg jean or slightly baggy jean.

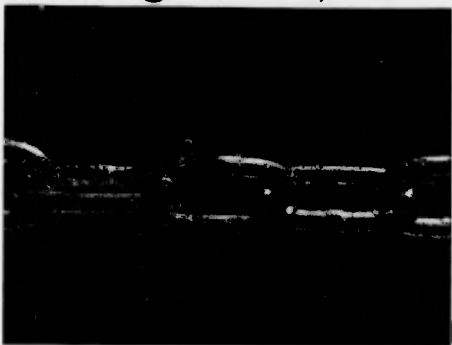
For those who are looking to create some booty, choose a jean with more structure in the waist area. A high smaller pocket with stitching detail on the back pockets can create the illusion of a meatier derriere. To minimize wide hips or a bigger bottom, avoid jeans with no back pockets. Wider legged jeans or a slightly flared jean will help to balance the top and bottom portion of the lower half of the body. This body type should look for good structured jeans with some stretch and avoid huge pockets that sit right on the hip.

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Tips for Buying Jeans

- The perfect jean stops at the midpoint of the foot or shoe and skims the floor
- If planning to wear the jeans mostly with high heels 2 inches or higher, it's best to buy long inseam jeans or "long jeans"
- All good jeans have a little stretch in them
- When sitting, the jean must fully cover your bottom
- Avoid fits that bunch at the back of your knees or leave stretched bunches under the bottom of the back of the thigh

Loving them, leaving them



Breaking the ties between you and a significant other can be hard.

Live, learn, then move on
MEREDITH STEWART
 SENIOR WRITER

When you are dating someone, the last thing you think about is not being together anymore. Some live for the moment and enjoy what life gives them, while others get very deep in relationships and begin making "future plans." Getting close to someone is always risky, but it is knowing that you have a life outside of your significant other that makes the end a little better.

Most of the time, both people can feel that things aren't how they use to be; you both get aggravated with one another, events become stressful and the little amount of time you spend together usually ends with fighting. You stop meeting each other randomly throughout the day (just for a few minutes), people start noticing that you just aren't happy anymore and you do not feel like you are fulfilling your goals in life. These are a few items some people tend to ignore just to remain in their comfort zone. When such signs occur, it is important to notice them and to remain true to your feelings. Trying to hold on to what you have has proven to be bad in the long run. It's up to one of you to call it quits—but what do you say? What if you can't keep yourself together? How do you talk to the other person face-to-face?

Whatever the reasons are—going different directions in life, you've met another person, you can't get along or any other circumstances that are causing the break-up—they should be thought out. If you care about the person, you should show some

but it's much easier said than done. Say the circumstances are different—only one person wants the relationship to end and the other thinks things are going well. Again, start with the same basis of honesty, but stay sincere and tolerant as long as possible. If you are past getting over them, remember ending things is new to the other person and they probably still have feelings for you. Everyone deserves some sort of explanation, and the person you are breaking up with will more than likely feel the same way.

"My girlfriend of a few months told me that she just didn't feel the same about me anymore. I had no idea she was doubting us, but at least she told me instead of wasting my time," said Jon Luoni, freshman criminal justice major.

There's always that rare case that your now "ex" will not leave you alone. They keep checking up on you, asking people about you, calling, showing up where you are and leaving you numerous voice mails even though you've yet to return their call. You know exactly what I'm talking about, and hopefully not everyone has encountered someone like this, but I'm sure you've heard about others who have. They can't accept the fact that it's over. This is why "clingy" people are a red flag in the beginning. Good luck if you find yourself there.

As unpredictable and random as life may get sometimes, remember that your feelings really matter and try not to stress over how the other person reacts. It takes two to make a relationship, but only one to end it. Even if you get sad, mad or frustrated with your "ex," it's always mind over matter. Keep in mind that we are all still young adults who are becoming independent and it does matter how you feel.

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Most Common Reasons for a Break-Up

- Distance
- Communication problems
- Met someone else
- Different needs/wants
- Stress
- School/job responsibilities
- Got drunk and cheated

respect and meet them somewhere. Choose a neutral location, which will make it much easier. Be sure the two of you will be alone and people won't be interrupting. Being sure of what the problems are will help you talk through everything.

The "talk" will probably not come as a surprise to the other person unless you have cheated and they don't know yet.

Being open and honest is the best way to go. It's not easy for some people to talk about their feelings, but this is a time to get over that and deal with your life. You can't control how you feel, so honesty won't get you in trouble—it just might hurt more. Although the truth hurts, time will heal.

"I was dating a guy for about five months. Our schedules began clashing, and the small amount of time we were able to spend together consisted of awkwardness. We both knew it was time to move on. Whenever we see each other, we still talk and get along," said Stephanie Marshall, freshman business major.

It's not easy to still be friends with someone you once dated, but it is possible. If neither of you cheated or went through some kind of life-altering change, then it is very possible. Seeing each other at first will be tense, uneasy and obviously awkward. You are now "just friends" with someone you've kissed, created a bond with, made mutual friends with and maybe even slept with. Only time will break the tension. It is better to have loved and lost than to have never loved at all, right? This is a timeless question that many ask themselves when dealing with break-ups.

All of this sounds simple,

Tablet from page A4

your laptop's screen with all the hardware magically compacted inside of it and typically weigh around 3 pounds (laptops weigh four at the least). With processors that reach up to 2.3 gigahertz and disk capacities reaching 100 gigabytes, tablets are leaving laptops in the dust and are only in the beginning of their run in the marketplace. High resolution screens make reading from the screen much easier than on most of today's laptops.

Since tablet PCs are so compact, you'll have to pay a lot more for the same features that you could find on a laptop, but that's how it goes with new technologies. Tablets are most suitable for people on the go and are great for situations where you have to take notes. Students would find them useful because they can write notes, have them transferred to text and use a search function to review them later. Tablets are far less cumbersome and conspicuous than laptops, which makes them great to use in class. Laptops are still developing, so if you're shopping for a new portable computer, make sure you get what best fits your situation, but keep in mind that tablets are not going to be a passing trend.

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More Information:

Tablet computers range in size from the size of a laptop monitor to a laptop.

There are two types: slate and convertible.

They run Windows XP and perform as well as desktop computers.

They are great for students and businesses.

Users can take handwritten notes and convert them instantly into text using a stylus.

There is no need for a keyboard or mouse; you can use the stylus for everything.

Can connect to external hard drives, printers, monitors and keyboards

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Sports Briefs

Tim Carter named to ECU football staff



Tim Carter has been named defensive staff assistant at ECU according to an announcement from head football coach Skip Holtz Tuesday. Prior to his appointment at ECU, Carter played with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in the Canadian Football League during the 2003 and 2004 seasons after opening his professional career with the New Orleans Saints and Berlin Thunder of NFL-Europe. Carter replaces Marc Yellock, who accepted a full-time defensive line position at Elon College in January. A mid-season signee for the Blue Bombers in 2003, he helped lead Winnipeg to the CFL Western Division Semifinals and equaled a club rookie record with seven pass breakups while tallying 15 tackles and one interception. He was selected as CJOB Radio's Player-of-the-Game for his efforts during his CFL debut against Ottawa Aug. 12. Upon the completion of a four-year collegiate career at Tulane, Carter signed a free agent contract with the New Orleans Saints and spent most of the 2001 season on the practice roster before being activated for the final two games where he recorded a stop against the San Francisco 49ers. Carter, whose younger brother Antonio Carter serves as offensive program coordinator at UTEP, earned his bachelor's degree in social sciences from Tulane in 2001.

Hendrick airplane crash caused by crew error

Flight crew errors probably caused a 2004 Hendrick Motorsports plane crash that killed 10 people with ties to one of NASCAR's top racing families, the National Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday. The crew improperly read instruments and missed a landing approach to Blue Ridge Airport in Martinsville, Va., the NTSB said in a report synopsis e-mailed to the Associated Press. The Beech King Air 200 crashed into fog-shrouded Bull Mountain in the foothills of the Appalachians on Oct. 24, 2004. The crash killed the son, brother and two nieces of Hendrick Motorsports owner Rick Hendrick. NTSB investigators said that the crew did not follow proper procedure in executing its approach to the airport and their actions following the missed approach. NTSB spokesman Terry Williams said because the plane did not have a cockpit voice recorder, it was "very difficult to tell what all was going on in the aircraft." Williams said there was no indication of faulty instruments. The final NTSB report will not be published for another three to four weeks. Hendrick did not join the flight from Concord, N.C. to a race at Martinsville Speedway because he wasn't feeling well.

Forsberg suffers setback in practice

Peter Forsberg's return to the Philadelphia Flyers' lineup is on hold and the Swedish center's status for the Winter Olympics remains uncertain. Forsberg, the Flyers' leading scorer, left practice early on Tuesday because of lightheadedness in his injured left groin. The former National Hockey League most valuable player award winner was hoping to play against the New York Islanders on Wednesday after missing the last five games and seven of the previous nine. Forsberg is still hoping to lead Sweden in the Olympics at Turin. He has missed 13 games because of nagging groin injuries in his first season with Philadelphia. Flyers chairman Ed Snider said last week he'd rather see his franchise player sit out the Olympics to be healthy for the playoffs. Struggling Philadelphia has won just four of its last 14 games after an 11-game unbeaten run including nine victories, and trails the New York Rangers by one point for first place in the Atlantic Division. Forsberg has 15 goals and 47 assists for 62 points in 42 games for the Flyers. He signed a two-year, \$11.5 million contract with Philadelphia after leading Colorado to two Stanley Cup championships during his nine years with the Avalanche.

Corey Rouse: Maturation process

Senior must be a role model on, off the court

ERIC GILMORE
SENIOR WRITER

Corey Rouse's right arm dons a tattoo of a basketball encircled with the phrase "hold my own." The picture serves as the senior's constant reminder to rule the paint and secure rebounds. But the accompanying phrase is what has helped Rouse develop both as a player and person.

While Rouse isn't swapping sweat with ogre-sized centers across the league, he can be seen literally holding his own in the form of his three-year-old daughter. Recently while walking toward his truck following yet another home conference defeat in what is his final hurrah, Rouse tucked his daughter gently inside his lanky arms amid coos from his impressionable girl.

"She's like a split image of me when I was younger," said 23-year-old Rouse.

"That's what my mom says. She acts the same way sometimes. She'll give me the same little faces that I used to make, like to get her way or get what she wants."

Making similar faces as daughter Zamiaya is six-year-old half-brother, Joseph, who also hinges in Rouse's every action and reaction.

"He tries to imitate most of the stuff that I do," Rouse said. "Even though he's not as tall as I am, he tries to do stuff like I do. He loves to come down to [Greenville] and hang out with us on the weekends."

Corey's mother Monica agrees. "He serves as a role model for those two. And the whole, I think, community."

But Rouse admits that early into his college career, he wasn't mature enough — especially on the court — to be considered anywhere near role model worthy. "I used to complain a lot," Rouse said.

"But now I've just learned

to accept the fact that you can't complain now. You've just got to play."

Like Moussa Badiane last season, Rouse is the lone survivor amid a graveyard of transfers among his recruiting class. During his first two seasons, the 195-pounder was frustrated, worn down from the mental strain of his former coach. But unlike many players who bolted, Rouse finally adhered to Bill Herrion's teaching.

"He saw that I could do more, like at times I could do a lot and then others times I wouldn't play up to my potential," Rouse said of Herrion, who resigned last season.

"He saw stuff in me where I didn't really see it. I thought I was pushing myself as hard as I could, but I was really short-changing myself."

Rouse's behavior boiled over during the Kinston product's sophomore season. Herrion suspended Rouse for what he termed "a mistake I shouldn't have made." Rouse was excluded from all team activities for two weeks, which was released as a violation of team policy.

"It made me realize that all of this can come to an end if you don't straighten up. It made me a better player and work harder. And it made me realize that I needed to grow up more. [Playing basketball] wasn't like a game; it was more like a job."

Rouse's basketball maturation process paralleled that of his personal life. An admitted momma's boy, Rouse was forced a right of passage while his mother served in the National Guard on an extended military stay in Iraq.

"When my mom was gone, that was one of the toughest parts of my life because she's all I depended on," Rouse said about his constant worry about whether his mother was OK.

"It was hard because I couldn't talk to her like I wanted to. I was just praying every night that my mom was OK."

But Rouse endured. And his

newfound maturity has led to increased results inside the paint. The communication major touts a career-high 14.2 points per game average, up 3.6 from his junior year, including a 35-point outburst against N.C. A&T.

As the premier player on a thin-deep frontcourt, Rouse is sometimes forced to match up with the opponents' center, often giving up as much as 60 pounds. Despite constantly being out matched, Rouse is eighth nationally and first in Conference USA in rebounding with 10.8 per contest.

"I hope people see me as a great player at the time I played," Rouse said about his Pirate legacy.

"Just that I always tried to get after it. I may have not done the right thing all the time. I just hope that people see that I gave it my all when I had my chance."

Outside of the box score, Rouse has his own legacy already formed in his daughter and half-brother. Though he doesn't get to spend time with either as much as he wishes, Rouse has promised full devotion once the season is completed. But for now, Rouse's full effort remains on raising the standards of Pirate basketball with six games left in the regular season.

"He always calls and I tell him, boy you just got to shake it off and bounce back," Monica said of the team's struggles.

"When you've done your best, there's nothing else you can do. Just got to look up, ya'll can't look down."

Despite the losses, Rouse knows that two youngsters are constantly looking up at the 6-foot-8-inch giant. And after four years of molding at ECU, fans have come to agree with his biased mother.

"[They've] got a pretty decent path in somebody they can look up to," quipped Monica proudly.

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



Photo by Rachael Laffer

Corey Rouse has just six games left in his ECU career.



Italian policemen stand on the stage where medals will be presented to winning athletes during the Turin 2006 Winter Olympics.

Turin welcomes the world for Olympics

(KRT) — First things first. For English speakers worldwide, a group that does not apparently include the National Broadcasting Company, the name of the city is Turin.

Doesn't sound as nice, doesn't roll off the tongue as mellifluously as Torino, however, so it has been relegated to the back pantry of the shiny Olympic kitchen that will be bubbling onto your television screen for most of the next three weeks.

This is fitting, because there are always two Olympics the one you see on TV and the one that takes place off-camera, where the spectators, athletes and media hordes scuttle about desperately trying to find the right bus, the rare, informed volunteer and the true meaning of all the fuss.

When the Olympics were in Rome, there was no need to call the city Roma.

Rome is Rome and doesn't need any prettying up. Turin, though. That's another story.

If you think it was silly for the NFL to hold the Super Bowl in Detroit, think how silly it was for the International Olympic Committee to award the Winter Games to Italy's version of the rusting industrial giant.

Turin is home to Fiat, the automotive company that defined the city and, now in decline, has left it looking for a new definition.

Someone thought the Olympics would help remake Turin's image and perhaps point it in the direction of becoming a tourist destination.

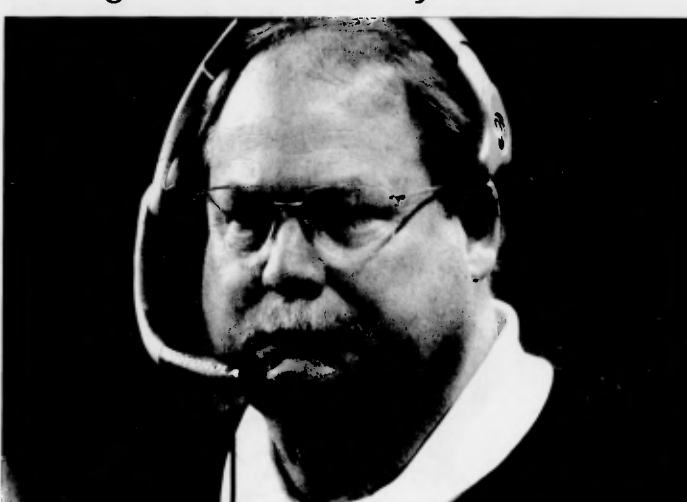
When you're competing against Florence, Venice, Milan and Rome, that's a tough lineup to break into, but the politicians pulled off landing the Games and are hopeful that people will notice the pleasant Baroque architecture and sweeping piazzas and not focus so much on the oppressive pollution, choking traffic and ubiquitous piles of dog poop that seem to mark every street and sidewalk.

Welcome to the Olympics. Watch your step.

Located in the northwestern corner of Italy, Turin is the largest city (population: 900,000) to ever host the Winter Games. It is at the foot of the Alps, although you can't usually see them. The Alps, by the way, have very big feet. Sestriere, the site of most of the mountain events, is more than 60 miles away from Turin and organizers are worried that transportation for fans will be a problem. That may become a blessing, however, since there is a shortage of rooms in Sestriere and if people can get there they might well be stranded in the

see TURIN page A7

Title game marred by blown calls



Holmgren and the Seahawks were defeated by the Steelers, in part, by themselves and by officiating.

Officiating was downright embarrassing for NFL

OPINION
TONY ZOPPO
SPORTS EDITOR

"We knew it was going to be tough going up against the Steelers. I didn't know we were going to have to play the guys in the striped shirts as well."

Touché, coach Holmgren. Those comments were from Seahawks' Head Coach Mike Holmgren to all the Seattle fans who showed up to welcome the team back at Qwest Field Monday afternoon. If the National Football League fines him for these comments, as they tend to do with coaches who criticize officiating, they are taking money out of his pocket for expressing no opinion, but fact. Seattle had more than one opponent on the field Sunday night, and they were wearing black as well, accompanied by white rather than gold.

And I am not saying this was intentional on the officials' part. No, I am not a conspiracy theorist nor do I have some warped idea that this crew was showing favoritism toward the Steelers or had some grudge against the Seahawks.

I am also not deluded enough to say the Seahawks didn't continually become their own worst enemy time and time again. Seattle wide receivers played as if they had Vaseline smeared all over their gloves; they wouldn't have been able to catch a Matt Hasselbeck pass during the game had the football grown teeth and forcibly attached itself to them.

But the fact of the matter is the zebras made a plethora of mistakes during the title game. Not to mention that every blown call Sunday night went against Seattle and these calls came at critical points — momentum shifting points — of the game. It almost made you wish for a make up call of two to even things out. Never in my life have I seen a game of that magnitude officiated so poorly and unevenly.

The performance from these guys was simply disgraceful.

Yes, I know, referees are human just like everyone else. Yes, they make mistakes. But these mistakes were ludicrous. I can almost forgive the pass interference call on Darrell Jackson that took away an early Seattle touchdown. It was a questionable and exceedingly soft call, and it took points away from the Seahawks, which is one

of two of the worst mental blows to a team during the course of a game. However, I have seen worse calls before, even the fact that this was the Super Bowl doesn't change that.

However, the next call absolutely stupefies me. It gives me a headache just thinking of how an official could possibly get this call wrong — the Roethlisberger "touchdown."

Not only did the crew get this one wrong the first time around, they had a second shot at it and still blew the call.

I'm at a complete loss. What happened? Did Bill Leavy go temporarily blind? What exactly was he watching in the play booth? Last week's "American Idol"? The new godaddy.com commercial?

He sure wasn't watching the game; it would be all but impossible to uphold the touchdown if he actually saw the replay. Roethlisberger was clearly down and did not break the plane of the goal line. This is the other worst mental blow for a team — your opponent receiving points via ineptitude on the officials' part. Those two calls changed the entire fabric of the game.

But the fiasco didn't stop there.

see OFFICIALS page A7

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Gretzky's wife, Coyotes assistant, NHL players cited in nationwide gambling ring

(AP) — Wayne Gretzky's wife and about a half-dozen NHL players placed bets — but not on hockey — with a nationwide sports gambling ring financed by Phoenix Coyotes assistant coach Rick Tocchet, authorities said Tuesday.

Gretzky, hockey's greatest player, is in his first season coaching the Coyotes and is a part-owner of the team.

Actress-wife Janet Jones was among those implicated, two law enforcement officials told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because no bettors have been publicly identified.

State police Col. Rick Fuentes said an investigation into the New Jersey-based ring discovered the processing of more than 1,000 wagers, exceeding \$1.7 million, on professional and college sports, mostly football and basketball.

The developments came at a sensitive time for the NHL, which is trying to win back fans after a season-long lockout and just days before many of its best players will showcase their talent at the Turin Olympics.

Tocchet was served with a criminal complaint Monday and was expected to travel from his Arizona home to answer charges of promoting gambling, money laundering and conspiracy, Fuentes said.

"It's not a hockey-related issue, it's a football thing. And at this time I can't comment any further," Tocchet said after the Coyotes practiced Tuesday.

Gretzky said Tocchet would be on the bench for Tuesday night's home game against Chicago, and it would be "business as usual."

"Everyone in the world is innocent until proven guilty," Gretzky said. "He's a great guy and a good friend. He's just going through a tough time right now, obviously, and we've got to let it run its course. It's a situation that's obviously a concern for the organization at this point."

Gretzky did not comment about his wife and did not return a call from the AP.

Tocchet acknowledged that a New Jersey state trooper arrested in connection with the gambling ring case is his friend. Tocchet said he would cooperate with the investigation but didn't answer when asked if he'd surrender to authorities.

"We understand that Mr. Tocchet's conduct in no way involved betting on hockey," NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly said. "And, while betting on football or other sports may be the pervasive issue, it in no way justifies poor judgment or otherwise alleged inappropriate conduct."

Authorities said Tocchet and state police Trooper James Harney were partners in the operation, with the ex-NHL forward providing the financing.

"Tocchet received illegal sports bets from wagers and funneled money back to New Jersey," Fuentes said.

Tocchet, one of three associate coaches on the Coyotes' staff, took over the head coaching duties for 10 days in December while Gretzky was with his dying mother.

The 41-year-old Tocchet played 18 years with six teams, including three seasons with the Coyotes from 1997-00. He is one of only two players in NHL history to collect 400 goals and 2,000 penalty minutes.

Tocchet was a fan favorite during his two stints with the Flyers (1984-92, 2000-02). Flyers star center Peter Forsberg on Tuesday described Tocchet as "a good guy, a funny guy."

"I think everybody is surprised," Forsberg said. "It's definitely not good for the sport to hear something like that."

Flyers forward Simon Gagne played briefly with Tocchet in Philadelphia and called him "one of the best guys I knew."

Harney, 40, was arrested Monday and has been suspended from the force. The eight-year police veteran was charged in an arrest warrant with official misconduct, promoting gambling, money laundering and conspiracy. Another man accused of

taking bets is James Ulmer, 40, who was charged with promoting gambling, money laundering and conspiracy.

Both men were free after posting 10 percent of their bail. Harney had \$100,000 bail; Ulmer had \$50,000 bail. The two men were expected to be arraigned in state Superior Court in Burlington County within two weeks.

Craig Mitnick, a lawyer representing Harney, said his client hadn't decided whether to contest the charges in court.

The police investigation into the ring started in October 2005 after authorities received a tip on Harney's sports wagering from his Marlton home, and taking phone calls during his patrol job based out of the agency's Moorestown station, Fuentes said.

Fuentes did not disclose the bettors' names and said charges against more individuals were possible. He described one of them as a "movie celebrity."

The gambling ring had a connection with organized crime in Philadelphia and southern New Jersey, Fuentes said.

Starting Monday night, authorities seized property from Harney and Ulmer. State police seized \$27,000 in currency, "voluminous" amounts of sports betting information and bank accounts worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, Fuentes said.

A search of Harney's house recovered more than \$250,000 worth of Rolex watches and nine plasma-screen televisions, including two from his bathroom.

In 1,144 NHL regular-season games, Tocchet had 440 goals, 512 assists and 2,972 penalty minutes with Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Boston, Washington and Phoenix. Tocchet won a Stanley Cup with the Pittsburgh Penguins in 1992 and appeared in the Stanley Cup finals with Philadelphia in 1987. He appeared in four NHL All-Star Games: 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1993.

The NHL veteran was also hired by the Colorado Avalanche as an assistant coach in 2003.



Apolo Anton Ohno from Seattle leans into a turn during the Elite Men's time trials at the U.S. National Short Track Speedskating Championships on Feb. 26, 2004.

Ohno's goal: "I want to grab some medals"

(KRT) — America got its first long look at short-track speedskating during the 2002 Winter Games.

What fans here saw was a sport with a roller-derby flavor. There were crashes and controversies. The strategies were inscrutable and so were the rules.

Even the competitors, as exemplified by the soulful-eyed, soul-patched American superstar Apolo Ohno, seemed a little more exotic than the average Olympic athlete.

Viewers and spectators quickly took a shine to the controlled mayhem of short-track and to the charismatic Ohno, who won a controversial gold and a silver medal at Salt Lake City and became an iconic winter-sports figure.

Four years later, Ohno and short-track will be back at the 2006 Turin Games with a much higher profile and a role in a compelling controversy that hasn't gone away in four years.

"I want to grab some medals," said Ohno, who became such a favorite at the 2002 Olympics that young female spectators began donning replicas of the wispy soul-patch he sports on his chin.

Ohno will be a threat in all

four men's events — the individual 500, 1,000 and 1,500 and the 5,000-meter relay. His chief rivals figure to come from short-track-mad South Korea, where Ohno, the target of death threats there, is the No. 1 sporting villain.

His victory in the 1,500 meters at Salt Lake City came about only after judges disqualified (for obstruction) the South Korean who had finished ahead of the American.

The decision touched off a firestorm of protest in South Korea. Fans bombarded the U.S. Olympic Committee with 15,000 angry e-mails. The death threats kept Ohno away from the Asian nation for more than three years.

When he finally competed there last October, 100 riot policemen met him at the airport. So look for the sparks to fly and the blades to flash when Ohno and South Korea's top skater, Ahn Hyun-Soo, compete in Turin — as they are likely to do in all four events.

Ahn, a three-time world champion, has been the best short-tracker on the planet since Salt Lake City. And he is on a mission.

"We think of Ohno as a big rival in Korea," he said. "All the Korean people want me to beat him."

Those two will provide much of the interest in the men's and women's competition that otherwise figures to be dominated by the powerful South Korean and Chinese teams.

Canada's Francois-Louis Trembley, the 2005 world champion at the distance, will be a threat in the 500 meters.

Allison Baver, a Sinking Spring, Pa., resident and Ohno's current girlfriend, and Hallie Kim, who was born in South Korea to American citizens, head the U.S. women.

Kim captured all three women's events at the 2005 U.S. Short-Track Championships. Baver, a 25-year-old former cheerleader, will be a threat in both the 500 and 1,500 meters. Both, though, will have to compete against the world's best female short-tracker, Jin Sun-Yu of South Korea and China's powerful Wang Meng.

In Italy, partly because of Ohno's growing international appeal, short-track skating has attracted considerable pre-Games buzz.

"I can't wait," said Ohno. "It (Italy) is so beautiful, the people, the culture. And we all love the food. It's going to be spectacular."

Turin from page A6

Aips in winter.

Valentino Castellani, former mayor of Turin and now president of the Olympic organizing committee (TOROC), said that Italians are traditionally "people of the last minute" and scoffs at the notion that the Games will not run properly once the time arrives.

"There will be a lot of things that don't work the first day," Castellani told the Associated Press. "We'll study how things go the first day. The second day will go better. And by the end, no one will remember that the first day there was any problem."

That's what Billy Payne and the good ol' boys who put on the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 thought, too, and all anyone

remembers is that the bus drivers quit because they were forced to stay eight to a room and bring their own toilet paper, and that the computer system was apparently programmed by Uncle Festus from Waycross.

Three Things to Know About Turin:

Fiat — It stands for Fabbrica Italiana di Automobili di Torino, not Fix It Again, Tony.

The Shroud Reputed and disputed to be the burial cloth of Jesus, the shroud is housed in the city's largest cathedral. It will be displayed again in 2025, so don't bother waiting. Recent carbon dating of the shroud indicated it was made circa the 12th century, which poked some holes in the Sacred Relic

theory. But Shroudites say the test was flawed and the arguments never end.

Juventus — The real sporting passion of Turin is its soccer team, which is currently in first place in Serie A, the Italian big league. When Juventus travels to San Siro stadium on Sunday to play second-place Inter Milan, there won't be a whole lot of locals fighting the roads to get to Sestriere for the men's downhill.

On The Other Hand: The food is great, the Piedmont region produces two wines, Barolo and Barbaresco, that hold their own against the French reds, and the Po River valley is picturesque if you can get to it.

Hannibal was the first outsider to find the little village on the river when he was joyriding around the Alps with his elephants around 200 B.C. He was charmed by the setting and the ancient Taurini tribe. He still burned it to the ground, but the thought was there.

Since then, Turin has built and rebuilt, been overrun, occupied and somehow survived in the shadow of both the mountains and the more legendary Italian cities. Chances are it will survive the Winter Olympics, too, and may even become the tourist magnet that the chamber of commerce would like it to be.

In Torino, after all, anything is possible.

Officials from page A6

An 18-yard completion to Jerramy Stevens was wiped out due to a phantom holding call on Sean Locklear. That completion would have put Seattle on the 1-yard line, ready to, in all likelihood, punch it in and take a 16-14 lead. Instead the play was negated and then another preposterous call followed it.

Hasselbeck threw an interception to Ike Taylor three plays later and was then called for a 15-yard low block penalty as he made the tackle on Taylor. Since when can a player on the defensive side of the ball make a low

block? This call didn't change the game as some of the others did, but it capped off the slew of ludicrous officiating throughout the game.

The Super Bowl isn't alone this year in being poorly officiated. Many of the playoff games and regular season match-ups this year were rife with questionable calls. I am not saying officials aren't allowed to make mistakes. Sometimes all of us do forget these people are human.

But this is a situation that can be made better and the NFL needs to make strides to do so,

such as making these guys full time and putting them through more rigorous training in knowing the rulebook back to front. It might also be good to get some fresh blood among the ranks, and maybe even more so, younger blood.

The bottom line is, until something is done to rectify the situation, more games are going to be influenced by the men in black and white rather than just officiated.

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

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