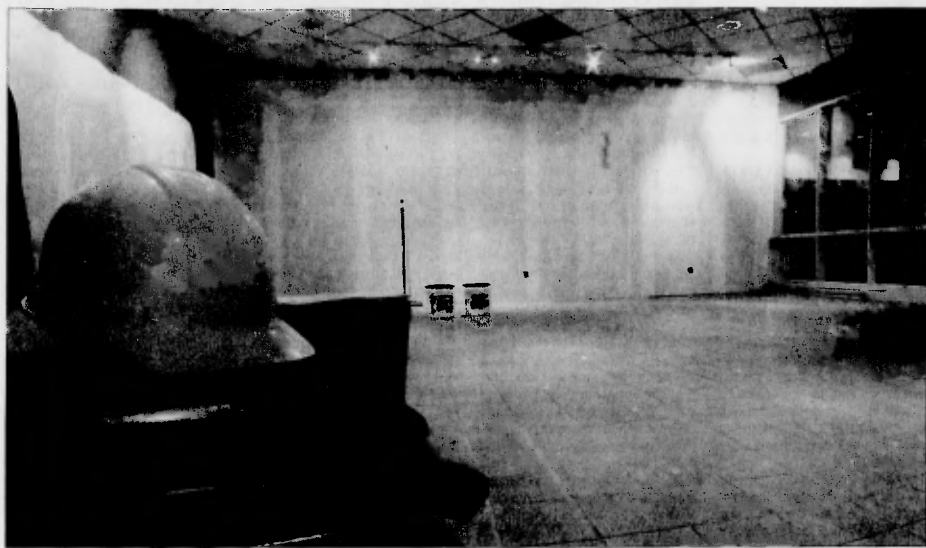


Renovations underway at Mendenhall Student Center



This room, where The Spot was formerly located, will be the Student Government Association's offices after remodeling is complete.

Former 'Spot' location will house SGA offices

ELISA BIZZOTTO
STAFF WRITER

Exciting new renovations have been underway at the Mendenhall Student Center for the past few months including changes to Destination 360 as well as to the former location of The Spot, which is in the process of becoming office space for ECU's student government.

The completion of the West End Dining Complex last year brought the emergence of a new option for students, faculty and staff with Destination 360 essentially replacing the Mendenhall dining hall. The convenient grab-and-go food court, which initially offered all that The Spot used to, has undergone further changes to adhere to growing customer preferences. Through surveys, focus groups and direct

feedback, administration was able to come up with new options that seem to have generated mixed results. Allison Metcalf Woodward, marketing program manager for campus dining, believes that the changes have produced favorable responses.

"As a result of these changes, we have received tons of positive feedback and customer traffic has increased over the fall semester and continues to increase daily," said Woodward.

A couple of the new options include Sushi with Gusto, which offers a variety of fresh-daily sushi, such as California sushi rolls and spicy tuna rolls, and Southern Express, which offers comfort foods like fried chicken and barbecue for those students who aren't so inclined to try new things.

Items that were replaced with these new options were a deli, pizzeria, tortilla grill, and a fresh salad bar. According to Wood-

ward, they were able to replace the salad bar with a variety of other healthy options that simply come pre-packaged.

Although 360 is able to offer many items that come readily available and comply with customers on the go, it seems as though some students who enjoyed the option of creating their own meals are not as pleased with the changes.

"The salad bar was one of my favorite things and they do not have that anymore," said Meghan Tally, freshman criminal justice major.

"It takes forever to get your food now."

While there may be students who are unhappy with the changes, there are also those who are pleased to see an increase in variety.

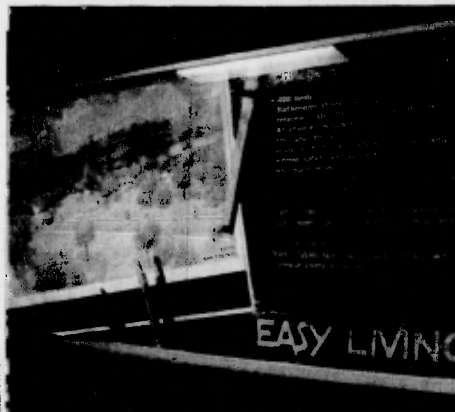
"I am a huge fan of sushi, so I was pretty excited when I found out they were offering it as a meal option. My friends and I now

come and eat here a few days a week," said Sean Dunbar, junior business major.

Also part of the gradual renovation of the student center is the expansion of the SGA offices, which used to be located solely on the second floor of the MSC, but are now expanding to the first floor, replacing what was formerly the location of The Spot. The current location is difficult to find; SGA members feel as though expanding to the first floor will benefit both the organization and students alike.

M. Cole Jones, SGA president, is extremely pleased that the organization was given the opportunity to occupy the vacant space. He feels that the expansion will increase awareness of the SGA within the student body and, in turn, become a better platform for the organization to serve the needs of students.

see MENDEHALL page A5



Staff Photo

Banners throughout campus let students know about registration.

Registration for Campus Living taking place now

Returning students are eligible to win prizes

ELISA BIZZOTTO
STAFF WRITER

Registration for Campus Living began on the first of the month and will continue through Feb. 23. This year, however, students are being offered slightly more than what they have been offered in the past.

In addition to being the first to receive the choice of living in the impressive new College Hill Suites, students are receiving the chance to win prizes such as an Xbox and even the new iPod Nano if they decide to live on campus next year. Eligibility for the prize sweepstakes requires that the student be returning to ECU and have previously lived in a residence hall for at least one full academic year.

Other prizes included in the sweepstakes are a \$750 travel gift card, a Sony PSP, a \$250 welcome-back pizza party and a variety of gift cards.

Other changes have also occurred concerning the new upper-division halls. College Hill

Suites, Fleming Hall and White Hall have replaced the previous upper-division halls and are now specifically designated for returning students only.

Aside from the sweepstakes, all students who live on campus next year will receive a number of rewards for doing so. Campus Living offers priority course registration, money toward textbooks purchases and dining, and several other bonuses.

The timeline for Campus Living registration is structured according to priority. Those students who currently live on campus have the first choice of remaining in the same hall and even the same room, and those who must choose another hall because of changes in hall priorities have second priority. Following these two groups, those students who choose to remain in the same hall but in a different room come next, followed by those who choose to live in a different hall entirely. Finally, registration opens to all other students at the end.

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

Student Foreign Exchange Program still going strong



Study Abroad meetings keep students informed about possibilities of learning all across the globe.

Security returns to pre-9/11 standards

CLAYTON BAUMAN
STAFF WRITER

Nationwide, colleges have to deal with tighter restrictions in regard to foreign exchange student selection. ECU doesn't escape this task either.

Before Sept. 11, it was usual business to obtain student visas. Afterward, the task became extremely difficult.

Application screening became a tedious task and there were many students who were flat out denied the opportunity. Training people to screen applications was just as time consuming.

"After 9-11, things got very tight," said Terry Rodenberg, assistant vice chancellor of inter-

national affairs.

"It became very difficult for students from some areas of the world, in particular, to get visas at all, or otherwise, there was a great time delay."

Rodenberg went on to say how the screening process looked closely at applications from those of Islamic persuasion, but did not dismiss the applications of other nationalities.

"There was a process by which the government would investigate a given student before they would allow visas to be granted," Rodenberg said. "And there is a certain amount of time which none of us could control. It was entirely at the whim of the U.S. government."

He also added that life does appear to be turning to normal for the foreign exchange student. With a system of checks

that works, now it is possible to eliminate much of the post 9-11 difficulty that was so apparent.

"Now things within the last year or so, things are beginning to turn back to the way they were before 9-11. Now there are still checks out there," Rodenberg said.

"They are particularly for individuals of certain countries that maybe weren't as strong before 9-11."

With more time and greater check security, foreign exchange programs, for both Americans and other nationalities, should continue to prosper. Sept. 11 created an understandable sense of panic in many people. Nevertheless, the benefit of foreign exchange programs will continue to exercise itself for some time.

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

New Readership program helps to broaden students' learning platform

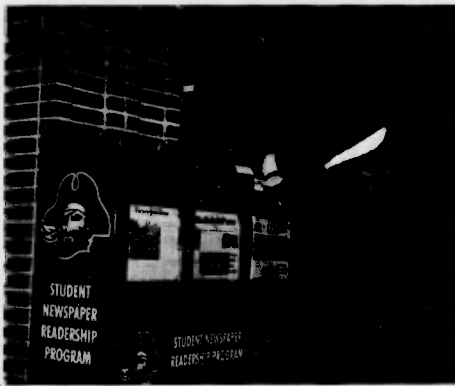


Photo by Zach Siskin

Students can now access publications for free with a OneCard.

ECU is one of 400 campuses involved

ELISA BIZZOTTO
STAFF WRITER

The Division of Student Life has partnered with two of the leading newspaper publications in the country, *USA Today* and *The New York Times*, to bring the Student Newspaper Readership Program to ECU. The Collegiate Readership Program, which is the platform from which ECU's program was established, is used at nearly 400 campuses nationwide and is designed to encourage students to take advantage of resources outside of the classroom by providing them with varying perspectives on current news issues.

In addition to the aforementioned publications, ECU has collaborated with the Raleigh

News and Observer and *The Daily Reflector* to obtain the ability to distribute regional and national news to its students free of charge.

The publications are available at five locations across campus including Mendenhall Student Center, Joyner East, the Bate building, Wright Place and the Croatan with the use of a student OneCard.

The program is also used by more than a dozen departments within the university as part of required coursework. Because of the program, professors now have the ability to integrate hypothetical examples from a textbook with real world issues.

Initially, the university distributed only *The Daily Reflector* and *USA Today* in the residence halls as an amenity to students living on campus. How-

ever, administration acknowledged the benefits of offering these publications and took further steps to involve all students.

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Development Dr. Al Smith, who is also the director of the program, is responsible for bringing this service to ECU under the instruction of Vice Chancellor for Student Life Dr. Garrie Moore. According to Smith, Moore had suggested that they take the previous distribution of the two publications even further, and thus, the Readership program has evolved.

"Research has shown that students who read the news on a regular basis score higher than their peers in areas such as critical thinking, knowledge of world events and ability to apply theory to practice. Further, students who read the newspaper are significantly more likely to be able to articulate their views on major issues and to be civically engaged than those who do not read the paper. These are the values/skills that we desire in our college graduates," said Smith.

The Collegiate Readership Program began at Penn State University in 1997 with the staple publication being *USA Today*. Feedback was so positive that *USA Today* has partnered with 300 local and national newspapers since and has taken on various forms across the nation's college campuses. The program is unique to each campus concerning which publications are involved but serves a similar purpose at each school.

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

Announcements

Contra Dance

The ECU Folk and Country Dancers are sponsoring a contra dance Saturday, Feb. 12 at the Willis Building located at First and Reade Streets. Potluck supper will begin at 6 p.m., concert at 7 p.m., beginners lesson at 7:30 p.m. and contra dance from 8 - 10:30 p.m. Live, old-time and Celtic music by a string band. Admission is \$3 for students, \$5 for FASG members and \$8 for the public. For more information, call 752-7350. This is a smoke and alcohol-free event.

Vagina Monologues

The Vagina Monologues will run from Friday, Feb. 10 - Sunday, Feb. 12 at 8 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. Proceeds will go to the Family Violence Program, Inc. of Pitt County. Co-sponsors are the Women's Studies Program and VOICE. For ticket information, call 1-800-ECU-ARTS. Tickets will also be sold outside the Wright Place the week of performances.

Elite Pirates

Applications are now being accepted for induction into this premiere recognition program designed to honor the top student leaders at ECU. Only 11 student leaders will be selected for this honor based on their academics, leadership and community service. "The Elite Pirates" selected will receive a university plaque, induction into "The Elite Pirates" Student Hall of Fame, a \$150 leadership honorarium and receive recognition with other campus/community leaders during ECU Founder's Week. Applications are available in 207 Mendenhall Student Center. The deadline to submit an application is Friday, Feb. 10 at 4:30 p.m. Interviews will be conducted Feb. 20 - 24. The Induction Program will take place on March 29 at 2:30 p.m. in MSC Hendrix Theatre. Founder's Week is March 27 - 31. For more information contact the Office of the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Experiences at 328-4702.

Criminal Justice Application Deadline

Students interested in applying for admission to the undergraduate criminal justice program need to submit applications by Wednesday, Feb. 15. Applications are available outside of Rivers 105. For more information call 328-4695.

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, manage a \$19,000 budget, process expenditures in a timely fashion and chair all student homecoming bi-weekly meetings. To apply for the position, all applicants must be full-time students in good standing with the university, have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 and have a class standing of sophomore or higher. This is a paid student position. All applications must include a letter of interest and resume of related experience and should be e-mailed no later than Feb. 10 to Adea Rogers at rogersa@ecu.edu. You may also drop off your letter of interest and resume to 218 Mendenhall Student Center, Monday - Friday, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

ASU Poet Visits ECU

Joseph Bathanti will give a lecture, "We the People" at 4 p.m. Feb. 13, in the Great Room in Mendenhall Student Center. Bathanti, a professor of creative writing at Appalachian State University, will discuss people, place, identity and culture. A reception is at 3:30 p.m. Sponsored by ECU Department of English, The Albemarle Literary Council and the N.C. Humanities Council. Contact Dana Hay at DJH0122@mail.ecu.edu.

SOAD Valentine's Sale

The School of Art and Design will hold their annual Valentine Sale on Monday and Tuesday beginning at 10 a.m. The small Metals Guild and the Painting Guilds will be displaying their jewelry, small metals and paintings in the front foyer of Jenkins Fine Arts Center.

News Briefs

State

Report: Chicken-maker to open restaurants in Mexico
CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) - Bojangles' has signed a deal with a North Carolina native living south of the border to open a chain of 10 restaurants in Mexico. *The Charlotte Observer* reported Wednesday. The fast-food company based in Charlotte, known for its spicy chicken and fresh biscuits, completed a deal last week with the Mexicajun investment group owned by Henry Gurganus, a native of Snow Hill. The stores are to be built over five years, with the first projected restaurant to open in Puebla, southeast of Mexico City, in three to five months. Bojangles' executive vice president Eric Newman told the newspaper. "We hope to expand this group's growth plans beyond the initial 10 as circumstances permit, and we may add to their development with others in different parts of the country," he said. Gurganus has been doing business for nine years in Mexico, where he moved his apparel business in search of cheaper labor. He has lived there for three years. Gurganus said he introduced his Mexican-born wife, Anacelia Cervantes Rabago, to Bojangles' chicken on a trip home last year. She liked it, and the couple also noticed the restaurants had a lot of Mexican customers. "The seed was planted," he said.

Affidavit: Ex-publisticist claimed sexual encounters with 50 kids
CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) - A teenage girl who allegedly had a lengthy sexual relationship with a former NASCAR publicist told authorities the man claimed to have victimized more than 50 children across the country, court documents indicate. Richard "Chip" Williams, 48, was charged last week with raping a child and soliciting a minor for sex over the Internet. He is being held on \$2 million bond. He is accused of raping a 14-year-old girl whom he met on the Internet when she was 11, and arranging to

meet what he believed was another teenage girl for sex. An affidavit filed in the case says the 14-year-old girl said she had sex with a man she knew as "John Wisam," which police say is the identity Williams used online. She said Wisam claimed "to have been with over 50 children in various forms of sexual exploitation." "Hogwash," responded Williams' attorney, Locke Clifford. The affidavit was part of a search warrant sought by a Guilford County sheriff's detective as officers prepared to search Williams' home and business in Mooresville. Williams was NASCAR's spokesman from 1982 to 1994 when he started his own business. The affidavit, filed by Detective George Moore, describes how the case against Williams developed, starting with the 14-year-old girl's claim that she began performing sex acts for Wisam when she was 11.

National

Presidents join mourners at King funeral
ATLANTA (AP) - Reunited with her husband at last in death, Coretta Scott King was laid to rest beside the tomb of her husband after a stirring funeral with 10,000 mourners that was both lyrical and mournful, and at times political. The interment Tuesday capped a day when four U.S. presidents and more than three dozen speakers took turns remembering King for her efforts to realize the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of equality for nearly 40 years after his assassination. "Coretta Scott King not only secured her husband's legacy, she built her own," President Bush said. "Having loved a leader, she became a leader, and when she spoke, Americans listened closely." The immense crowd filled the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, a modern, arena-style megachurch in a suburban Atlanta county that was once a stronghold of the Ku Klux Klan but today has one of the most affluent

black populations in the country. The funeral included numerous members of Congress, veterans of the civil rights movement and songs by Stevie Wonder and Michael Bolton through soaring, gospel-infused performances. King died Jan. 30 at age 78 after battling ovarian cancer and the effects of a stroke.

Bush calls for ending Social Security death benefit, cutting benefits to dropout survivors
WASHINGTON (AP) - If President Bush gets his way, the venerable \$255 Social Security death benefit will fade into history. And 16- and 17-year-old high school dropouts will lose their monthly survivor payments. Not however, if Democrats get their way. "The Republican Congress has given a whole new meaning to the term 'women and children first,'" Illinois Rep. Rahm Emanuel, chairman of the House Democratic White House officials defended the proposals, included in the budget that Bush submitted to Congress on Tuesday and estimated to trim costs by \$3.4 billion over the next decade. "Children who have lost a parent need every assistance and encouragement we can provide, and everything the federal government can do to encourage them to stay in school and get an education makes it that much more likely that they can succeed," said Scott Mibum, a spokesman at the Office of Management and Budget. Bush's budget includes a proposal to change the calculation made for Social Security disability payments for people who also receive worker compensation benefits. In addition, it calls for the Social Security Administration to implement a new system to obtain accurate information about the state and local pensions paid to retirees who also qualify for federal retirement benefits. Together, the proposals relating to disability payments and state and local retirees would save an estimated \$2.8 billion over the next decade, according to administration estimates. Unlike a year ago, Social Security did not figure prominently in Bush's

legislative agenda. Then, fresh off a re-election campaign, he urged lawmakers to overhaul the program to create personal savings accounts while cutting back on future benefits for workers who are younger than 55. Democrats rallied in opposition, and Republicans shrank from the political challenge of remaking a program that provides benefits to millions of elderly voters.

World

Nepalese vote marred by low turnout after rebel assault, boycott: 6 dead
KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) - A rebel attack and the Nepalese army's shooting of protesters marred the first elections in seven years, as few voters turned out at schools, shrines and temples for municipal balloting seen as a referendum on the king. At least six people were killed. Maoist rebels and nearly all the major political parties had pledged to disrupt the poll, calling it a sham intended to legitimize the rule of King Gyanendra, who seized power a year ago. The government warned it would shoot anyone trying to do so. Hours before polls closed in the southwestern town of Dang, the army said, "soldiers were compelled to open fire" on some 150 protesters trying to interfere with the vote. One was killed and one was injured. Attempts to reach Dang by telephone to verify the army's account were unsuccessful because phones there were not working. It was unclear why. Three communist rebels were killed in two separate clashes. The Defense Ministry said two rebels were killed when Maoist insurgents launched a major assault hours before polls opened on the eastern town of Dhankuta, where the guerrillas bombed at least 12 government buildings and destroyed the local bank. The insurgents also killed a policeman and a civilian, and took seven government officials and three policemen hostage during the assault, a police official said on condition of anonymity because he

was not authorized to talk to the media. Another rebel was killed in a clash with soldiers in the western town of Dhangadi, the ministry said in a statement without elaborating. The king seized power Feb. 1, 2005, claiming the move was necessary to defeat the Maoists, whose decade-long fight for a communist state has cost 12,000 lives. But fighting has persisted in the Himalayan land of 27 million people, and the economy has only worsened per capita income is less than \$25 a month.

Afghanistan welcomes debt cancellation by U.S., other creditors

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - Afghanistan on Wednesday welcomed a move by the United States, Russia and Germany to cancel all of the nation's debts. The Bush administration said Tuesday it will forgive the entire \$108 million that Afghanistan owes to the United States. The debt will be canceled through the procedures of the Paris Club, an informal group of creditor nations which also includes Russia and Germany. The announcement came a week after nearly 70 nations and international bodies pledged \$10.5 billion to help Afghanistan fight poverty, improve security and crack down on the drug trade. On Monday, Russia said it was ready to write off \$10 billion that Afghanistan borrowed from the Soviet Union. Russia assumed Soviet liabilities and credits after the Soviet system's collapse. Russia said the debt cancellation was contingent upon Afghanistan fulfilling the requirements of a World Bank program aimed at reducing poverty and taking steps to develop economic and trade ties with creditor nations. Germany has also announced its intention to forgive all of Afghanistan's debts. More than 1,600 people have died in the past year as militants have stepped up attacks. About 20 suicide attacks have been reported across Afghanistan in the past four months.

Horse slaughter to continue despite congressional attempt to halt it

(AP) WASHINGTON — Horse slaughter for meat will continue in the United States, despite votes in Congress to halt the practice, the Agriculture Department announced Tuesday. American horse meat is sold mostly for human consumption in Europe and Asia, although some goes to U.S. zoos. Congress didn't ban horse slaughter outright. Instead, lawmakers last year used a tactic that is common in spending legislation. Horses must pass inspection by department veterinarians before they are slaughtered, so lawmakers voted to yank the salaries and expenses of those inspectors. Department officials maintain the law requires inspections regardless. They announced Tuesday they will pay for live horse inspections by charging the slaughter plants for inspections. Rep. John Sweeney, R-N.Y., denounced the decision, saying, "Commerce and greed have ruled the day."

"To end this practice, Congress, with widespread public support, passed this amendment by a landslide vote in both the House and the Senate," said Sweeney, who serves on the House Appropriations Committee. "This action is a direct defiance of congressional intent." The department "is thumbing its nose at Congress," said Michael Markarian, an official of the Humane Society of the United States. "The lives of America's horses, which have served us faithfully and provided us with companionship, are at stake." The department acted on requests from slaughter plants, two in Texas and one in Illinois, which said their communities could be facing \$41 million in losses. Compared with the huge beef, pork and poultry industries, horse meat is a tiny business: Last year, plants slaughtered about 88,000 horses, mules and other equines, according to the USDA. Defenders say it's a low-cost,

humane way of ending a horse's life. By law, horses and other livestock must be unable to feel pain before they are killed. "We know there's not enough resources to care for these animals when they are no longer useful," said former Rep. Charles Stenholm, D-Texas, a consultant to the slaughter plants. "Without this option, it's more likely that these animals will be subject to inhumane treatment."

Even if horse slaughter ended in the U.S., plants in Canada and Mexico would take over some of the business, he added. In letters to Sweeney and other lawmakers last month, department lawyer James Michael Kelly pointed out Congress did not prevent other inspections, of carcasses and meat, that are part of the horse slaughter process. Fee-for-service inspections are currently done for more exotic animals, such as bison, deer, elk or rabbits.

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HANGOUT HEADQUARTERS

Disabled man appreciative of one-handed game controller

(KRT) SAN JOSE, Calif. — Nintendo has been in the technology spotlight since announcing plans for a video-game controller that can be used with only one hand.

But a disabled fan in Southern California took notice for reasons that had nothing to do with the excitement about the next generation of interactive entertainment.

To Travis Taft, 19, the controller was a stunning godsend in his fight against an injury that left him a quadriplegic.

Like many people with spinal-cord injuries that affect

all four limbs, Taft retains some use of his arms and hands. But it's not enough for effectively operating the typical, two-hand game device. He's confident his relatively strong right hand will be able to manipulate the new controller, which is part of the Revolution game system that's still under development by Nintendo.

"Video games have been a major factor in my life," said Taft, who has resolved to take the most optimistic approach possible to his rehabilitation. "I was eagerly hunting for some way to get back into it."

Marcie Roth, chief executive officer of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association, said Taft fits into a large category of injured people in their teens to 30s whose overall health is closely connected to resuming activities they love.

"Being able to restore normalcy is all the difference in the world in terms of the rest of their outcomes," Roth said. "People who believe they can do the things that were pleasurable to them before the injury are people who are going to seek positive outcomes in other ventures as well."

Nintendo is expected to make the Revolution game system and one-hand controller available this year.

Taft, who was injured while body surfing two days after arriving home from his freshman year at college, also tried to point out the controller's breakthrough value for the disabled by writing a letter published in Electronic Gaming Monthly magazine.

Taft, who lives in Pacific Palisades, Calif., has struggled to satisfy his game cravings while he waits for the Revolution's new controller.

Nintendo was focused on innovative game design when it decided on a one-hand controller. But Beth Liewelyn, senior director of public relations, said the Mercury News inquiries about Taft's reaction are "something we're looking into now."

By coincidence, Nintendo games also became a key ingredient in a recently developed exercise machine that was engineered for people who are either in wheelchairs or can't exercise with their legs.

The GameCycle, created by Three Rivers Holdings in Arizona, is an upper-body exer-

ciser. Basically, it is an arm cycle that lets the user control racing games through the exertion of turning handgrips.

The concept was worked up by the Human Engineering Research Laboratories in Pittsburgh, but with a monitor for playing computer games. Three Rivers wanted "exercise to be as addictive as gaming," noted company president Ron Boninger, so it licensed the Nintendo GameCube system as a substitute for the PC hookup.

For Taft, the upcoming Nintendo controller tops every other possible solution for him.

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Our View

Super Bowl commercials not all that funny

Did anyone else find the commercials during the Super Bowl this year, with the exception of a few, to be not only boring, but also lacking in quality? I don't know about you, but I was expecting a plethora of funny beer, car or Web site commercials, but all I saw were confusing concepts or just lame ideas. For example, there was a commercial for the H3 Hummer that completely boggled my little mind. If you weren't watching, the Hummer commercial revolved around two creatures, one looking like a cross between Godzilla and Swamp Thing, the other looking like Tin Man on creatine. These two creatures meet, fall in love and give birth to the H3 Hummer. Personally, I don't see an overpriced, gas-guzzling sports utility vehicle as the product of a giant lizard and a walking television antenna. I'd see it more as the red-headed step-child of a Hurvee and a Honda Element.

Another incredibly un-funny commercial was one of the many Diet Pepsi commercials, although I have to admit, I've disliked their commercials ever since the "Machine" was added as a member of the New England Patriots. Anyway, to sum it up, a Diet Pepsi can and his agent go into the artist formerly known as Puff Daddy, P. Diddy, whatever's office and Diddy makes this can of soda a musical sensation. Granted the repeated sound of a can opening is better than most of the music on the market right now, but the commercial still lacked the funny.

There were also a lot more local commercials aired than I had expected. I didn't imagine that I'd go from watching the Rolling Stones to watching some local law firm or car dealership commercial that looks like it was put together by a 12-year-old with a camcorder.

On the bright side, there were a few genius commercials. My favorite of the night was the Anheuser-Busch Junior Clydesdale commercial in which a little horse tried to pull the big Budweiser wagon, and with the help of some Clydesdale veterans pushing from behind, the little guy pulled the wagon out of the barn in which it was stored. Honestly, I was tearing up after watching this. He was like the little horse that could.

At TEC, we are supporters of good commercials, and I, for one, would like to lead a protest in support of funny commercials for 2007. Anyone want to join me?

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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.



Opinion Columnist

Seahawks were cheated from winning

Stupid referees ruin Super Bowl, my buzz

GARY MCCABE
BITTER BOULEVARD

It isn't often I feel grateful for being broke. On Sunday night, though, while sitting on the second floor of Buffalo Wild Wings - surrounded by big screen TVs, an empty basket of chicken tenders left on the table, five Miller Lites in my belly and half a pack of Marlboros left in my shirt pocket - I actually thought to myself, "Thank God I didn't have any extra cash to bet on the Super Bowl." Why? Because I was stupid enough to think that the Seahawks actually had a chance of winning.

And judging from the talking heads at ESPN, the overwhelming presence of "Terrible Towels" at Detroit's Ford Field and the eruption from those watching the game with me at Buffalo Wild Wings when the Steelers took the field, it didn't seem like anyone wanted to see the Seahawks bring the Lombardi Trophy home to Seattle - especially the refs officiating the game.

Now before I begin this rant, I'd like to make it clear that I am in no way a bitter Seahawks fan. For the record, I've been a Miami Dolphins fan so long that I'm not sure why I even began following them. My brother always says that it's because the first football game I ever watched was a contest between the Dolphins and the San Francisco 49ers and because my brother was already a huge 49ers fan, I started rooting for the Dolphins just to get under his skin.

So I could care less who won the Super Bowl because my team was out of the running in week four of the regular season. However, what I saw on Sunday night was ridiculous. The Seahawks were cheated out of a championship with horrendous calls and phantom penalties and if I worked for the organization, those referees would have to think twice before they started their cars. Of course, I don't, so there's no reason to worry.

Sure, the Steelers' victory was a storybook ending to the season. The hard-working squad who fought their way into the playoffs, defeated the number one,

two and three seeded teams in their conference and decimated the undisputed NFC champion Seahawks makes for a great story. The fact that future Hall of Famer Jerome Bettis retired with a long overdue championship ring almost makes the story sappy enough to make this a "Lifetime Movie of the Week."

Admittedly, the Steelers probably didn't need any help to win the game, but they sure got it. Early in the game, with the game still tied at zero, the Seahawks drove down the field effortlessly and lit up the scoreboard when quarterback Matt Hasselbeck found wide receiver Darrell Jackson wide open in the back of the end zone.

The touchdown pass was negated, however, by an official's ruling that Jackson "pushed off" of free safety Chris Hope, creating the necessary space to make the catch. "Pushing off" is a penalty, but what Jackson did, which replays showed to be little more than touching Hope on the shoulder, is not. The Seahawks had to settle for a field goal instead of the touchdown.

The devastating penalties kept coming. A huge punt return was taken away by a holding call. A pass which would have put the Seahawks deep into Steelers territory was reversed by a holding call (Hasselbeck threw an interception three plays later and was flagged for an "illegal" low tackle). In the fourth quarter, Steelers' quarterback Ben Roethlisberger attempted to call a timeout a full second after the play clock ran out. He was given the time out, however - not the penalty. And I won't even go into Roethlisberger's rushing touchdown where the ball never actually crossed the goal line.

Here are the facts. Roethlisberger had a horrendous game, completing only nine passes and throwing two interceptions. Aside from a 75-yard run in the third quarter, starting running back Willie Parker only ran for 18 yards. Basically, the Seahawks outplayed the Steelers in almost every way imaginable but somehow lost the game 21-10.

On Monday morning, Seahawk coach Mike Holmgren addressed some 15,000 fans who assembled at Qwest Field in

Seattle. "We knew it was going to be tough going up against the Pittsburgh Steelers," he said to the crowd.

"I didn't know we were going to have to play the guys in the striped shirts as well."

There's no doubt the Walrus (my pet name for Coach Holmgren) will be punished for that comment and will probably have to pay a hefty fine for criticizing officials, but he's got a legitimate gripe. The officials were directly responsible for, at the very least, an 11-point variance in the score and a shift in momentum whose effect can't be measured.

So they blew it. They're human and by nature, humans are imperfect and make mistakes. But why then are these officials above reproach, almost infallible? All the technology in the world means nothing when half of the penalties in the book are not subject for review during the game (such as the penalty for pushing off).

The Super Bowl means far too much for the current state of officiating and I'm not just talking about the millions of dollars in illegal bets. Referees are part-time employees of the NFL. There is almost no penalty for an official who makes a bad call that affects the result of a game. Head coaches, at the most, can only challenge three plays in a game and can only challenge the call on a very specific type of play. Things have to change.

How about this following the ACC's lead? After a Duke-Florida State basketball game, the league suspended the entire officiating crew for incorrectly handing out technical fouls to two players. The point was obviously well-taken by the rest of the officials in the league. During Tuesday's Duke-UNC game, the officials called very few penalties throughout the game and seemed hesitant to do so when they did.

That's how NFL officials should be from now on - afraid of something. The NFL needs to send a message to their officials right now. Instead of handing a \$50,000 fine to Coach Holmgren for speaking his mind about an injustice, the NFL should take a look at the game he's complaining about and if they see no problem, they're as blind as those referees.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

One of the greatest myths about black people is that we are a people without a past. Since this myth through time has been interwoven into the social construct of American culture, it is no wonder that white people think that black history can be condensed into one month. This myth is not true; we are a vital element of American history. Africans were the first people to explore the new world, and the first person killed in the American Revolution was Crispus Attucks, a black man who modeled the quote "give me liberty or give me death." However, blacks have still only earned the shortest month of the year to celebrate a country who helped build this country.

Why do we continue to support Black History Month? Why not abolish it? The truthful answer is things can only be omitted if you are sure they will not be forgotten. BHM is not a time of militancy and anger, it is a time of reflection. We reflect on the triumphs and accomplish-

ments of our past through the faces of adversity, and at the same time, use this month to teach others about our culture that has been abolished from the history books. I say when in history books, blacks and women are all incorporated on the same pages, only then can we even speak of abolishing BHM. Until that day, we will continue to use BHM as a time to not only celebrate, but to secretly educate.

Blacks are asked not to look back, but how can we not? History is cyclic - perpetual bound to resurface in the present. We are asked not to look back because white people are scared that if they look back with us, then they will have to admit that what was done to black people was wrong. Mr. Brock claims that if we look back then feelings of animosity will raise, but I ask you how can it not? When we celebrate our people, we are also celebrating their struggle. A past filled with rage, injustice, lynchings and lashes all because of the color of their skin. Looking back does not make us militant and hostile, it makes us

appreciate all that we have. We look back with a sense of pride for our ancestors who beat all the odds; whites look back on the past with shame because all your people did was to beat on us.

BHM has not distracted or deterred us from our prime objective - equality. If anything, it brings us back in focus. Equality will not come in the form of changing Columbus Day to Carver Day or singing the "National Negro Anthem" after the "Star Spangled Banner." Equality is simple; it is recognition for all that we have done. A conscious effort to eradicate the negative stereotypes which Mr. Brock believes are the doings of blacks; or I say that every ECU pop-up gives the same description; of a tall black man, wearing baggy clothing. That is not a fact; that is a racial profile. Equality is defining a woman or man not by the color of his/her skin, but by the content of his/her character.

Thank you,
Jessica Ledbetter

Pirate Rant

I think it is sexy when a girl shows initiative and asks a guy for his phone number. Society always puts pressure on the guy to make the first move. While I personally never shy away from asking a girl her number and nearly always get the number, I think that girls asking guys out would show more equality in the courting game.

Dude, do not listen to the person telling you to work at McDonald's and give up medical school. That person is apparently as bright as they are tactful. What the world really needs in a doctor is someone who is caring and listens.

Can someone please tell me what Hart and McNeil got suspended for? From one ECU athlete to another: way to go guys for screwing up or way to go Stokes and Holland for overreacting.

It's a shame that TEC can dig up info to write an article about someone being charged with murder (which didn't happen at ECU) but cannot write an article sending condolences to the family of the young lady who was killed in a car accident a few months ago.

Everyone should go watch a rugby game. They are free! They are also more exciting than football. The players don't wear pads and play with more heart and intensity. These players deserve the scholarships and respect. Go Pirate rugby!

Some people who live in the dorms need to stop taking showers at 2 or 3 a.m. My room is right next to the showers and it wakes me up all the time. Find a decent hour to take a shower. Don't bother everybody else because you all of a sudden needed to take a shower.

I am definitely agreeing with the "pick up your feet." I think it's the same person; he just walks around all day.

GO BLUE DEVILS! WAY TO SHUT EM OUT!

To the person who figured sororities out, I love you. But I have to be a neutral party here. Perhaps these sorority girls really do things for our community, and perhaps they do really have deep genuine connections. What they do for the community is make everyone else feel more unique. I know it raises my self-esteem.

Does Daniel Brock think that white kids are not affected by their pop culture icons?

Why are people ranting and raving about whether or not to save Black History Month when it really isn't going anywhere?

George Bush hates black people. That is why his Secretary of State is black. That is why his former Secretary of State was black. Kanye West is not, and never will be, Jesus. Maybe if he were, he would have been able to stop Hurricane Katrina. Bush is only a man; Kanye is a god.

My professor made my day by not having class today. Sorry he was sick, but it was a welcomed surprise.

You North Carolina folk fancy getting hitched young. You afraid them northern city slickers are going to steal your women folk? You reckon that?

When you let the pizza guy have the change from the dollar (i.e. giving the pizza guy \$18 when the pizza costs \$17.12), that is not a tip. If you are unable to afford to tip a person who brings a pizza to your house or dorm room, then you cannot afford pizza. Tip the pizza guy \$3 so he can afford gas.

Everyone needs to buy their tickets to see the *Vagina Monologues*. I've heard too many people whine and say "ew" because it's about women issues (that every woman wants to say but doesn't). It's a funny show with talented women performing and it's for a great cause. The show runs February 10 - 12 at 8 p.m. in the Wright Auditorium.

I love the editors of TEC. In the Seahawks article alone, there were six sentences starting with conjunctions.

Why are ECU cops so useless? They spend all their time accusing me of being a domestic terrorist for being in a group on Facebook, rather than eating donuts like real cops.

There is already White Entertainment Television. It's called ABC.

Can someone explain to me who needs Safe Ride at 11 a.m.? I see these vans riding around campus all day, usually empty, with the buses, of course, following behind. Another great way ECU spends those tuition dollars!

I'm so glad that our sports writers' research skills are so advanced that they can use such astute analyses as "it hurts," or "I can't really say much," or "We stubbed our (collective?) foot a couple of times" as references for their articles.

Was the guy who wrote the campus-dining article being serious or sarcastic? Um, he doesn't live on campus, so how would he know?

What is the sense in someone riding their bicycle in traffic when there is a perfectly good sidewalk three feet away. I mean, do these people have a death wish? Bicycles should stay clear of traffic.

To the person who thinks Kanye West is a very intelligent and well-informed individual who deserves a lot of respect. To get respect you have to give it and last time I checked, he was still an American citizen.

I am a third year African American student. I would like to send this rant to thank TEC for your great coverage of blacks including the Black History Month issue last year and the year before, the several Rosa Parks pictures and articles this year and the front page coverage of MLK day both last year and this year. I have all of these hung on my bedroom wall. While myself and most of my black friends have been completely satisfied with TEC's coverage of us, I have seen black students do nothing but complain when something doesn't go their way with TEC. I sincerely hope you people will realize that with newspapers, very rarely will everything be perfect to your liking.

OK, it's Black History Month, but can the opinion columnists be a little more creative and write about something else besides bashing hip-hop culture? It's getting old people!

To all the young women out there who are not blondes, I would pick a brunette or red head over a blonde any day.

Valentine's Day's coming? Aw crap! I forgot to get a girlfriend again!

To the girl who is angry about paying a fee for having pets in her apartment, why don't you buy your own house to keep these pets in? Once a pet has completely urinated all over carpet, it will smell like that for all time to come. I do not want to live in an apartment that smells like an outhouse because the former tenant had to have her pets that are her "family" live with her. So either pay the fee or don't bring your pets.

I think Kanye's statement was powerful. Yes, like Jesus, he was sacrificed to the media after his President Bush comments this summer, and like Jesus, he's here to save us from the current era of Rap. His lyrics and music are superior to most other rappers out there now.

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.

AΦΦ

6TH ANNUAL HEART THROB

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Help support Cardiac Care and help us
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All donations go to the Alpha Phi Foundation

Plans to roll out new GRE exam delayed

(AP) — Students worried about planned changes to the GRE graduate school entrance exam are getting a reprieve: the test's makeover is being pushed back a year — until October 2007. A new, longer and more expensive version of the GRE General Test, taken annually by 500,000 students applying to graduate school, was supposed to be rolled out this October. But the Educational Testing Service, which writes and administers the exam, said Wednesday that date

would be pushed back because of logistical problems. Most students already take the GRE on a computer, but ETS is switching to a more secure Internet-based system. The change is designed to expand access, but the new version will still be taken only at assigned locations on any one of about 30 test days per year. Mari Pearlman, senior vice president of the higher education division of ETS, said it wasn't clear there would be enough capacity to

accommodate all test-takers by this October. "There are some rather formidable scheduling complications," she said. "You need to be certain on all 30 days you have the seats you need." For students, the change simply means they will have another year to take the old version — something some experts say is an advantage. The new version of the test will last four hours instead of two-and-a-half, and eliminates

antonym and analogy questions to emphasize critical reasoning ones. In the math sections, it will focus less on geometry and more on data interpretation. The current price — \$115 for U.S. students — is expected to increase. "Based on the severity of the changes, we were recommending students take it before it changes," said Matt Fidler, GRE program manager at test-prep company Kaplan. "Get this GRE out of the way, crop it off your grad school to-do list."

Mendenhall from page A1

After questioning students, administration and staff about their opinions on the expansion, Jones said that two keys words continued to surface. "Visibility and accessibility; where we are currently is not very visible nor is it easily accessible," Jones said. Jones stated that once the SGA executive offices are relocated, students will be able to see the work of their student government. The space will be more open and students will have the opportunity to simply walk into the offices and express their concerns. "This is the student center, so why not have your student government in a location to which students can easily find them? There are always going to be issues and concerns that

come up during the school year or even ideas from students who may not be involved in SGA, and they need to be able to locate us," Jones concluded. The current location of the SGA executive offices will remain in use by the organization, simply replacing use for Senate and Cabinet space. The renovation of the new location from its former use as a student convenience store will remain the same in area due to fire codes and is expected to be completed by the end of the month. Jones encourages students to become involved with the SGA whether through active membership or simply pursuing the opportunity to have their voices heard.

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

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Several employees are needed to join our weekend cleaning team. Hatteras Realty offers competitive wages, "dorm-style" accommodations with kitchen facilities, and a fun environment in which to work.
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If you are interested, please email Mike Harrington, Property Manager, at mikeh@hatterasreality.com.

Interested in SGA?

Applications now available for 2006-2007 Elections Committee!

- Deadline to apply for Elections Chair:
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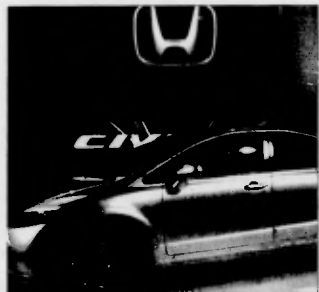
Questions?
Please call 328-4742

Applications available in the SGA office
255 Mendenhall Student Center

Auto show in Chicago brings fascination



Kermit the frog, the star of Ford Motor Company's Super Bowl ad, talks about Ford's Hybrid E 85 fueled Escape.



The 2007 Honda Civic Si is unveiled at the Chicago Auto Show Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006.



A lone spectator is silhouetted as he looks inside the Daimler Chrysler Imperial concept car on the floor of the Chicago Auto Show.

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"Even I worry. I watched Matlock in a bar last night. The sound wasn't on, but I think I got the gist of it."

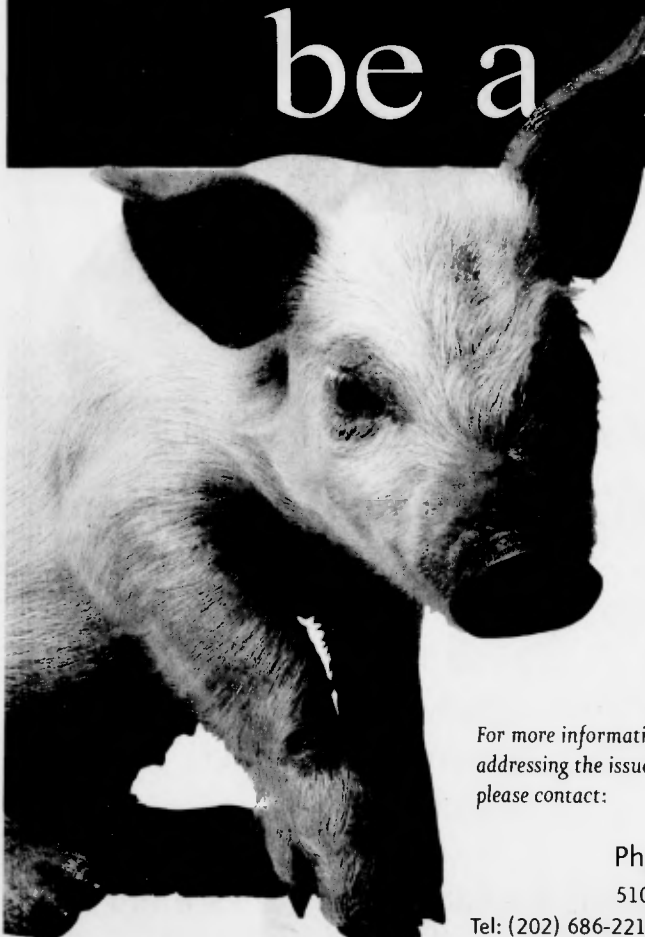
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For more information on alternatives to the use of live animals in medical school curricula, for help addressing the issue on your campus, or to invite a physician to speak about the topic at your school, please contact:

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CLASSIFIEDS

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THURSDAY February 9, 2006

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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 5pm 4-24-06

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Pool/Beach Managers in Pitt County and Atlantic Beach for summer. Call Bob 714-0576

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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.

Secure your summer job before you go on Spring Break Part-time positions available (water analysis sales, hours from 8AM-1:30PM or 12:30PM-6PM. Must be able to work weekends and Training will start after Spring Break Apply Immediately Apps and Resumes must be in by Feb 20th Greenville Pool & Supply Co, 3730 S. Charles Blvd Greenville, NC 27858 252-355-7121 Contact David Send Resume david@greenvillepool.com

GREEK PERSONALS

Congratulations to our beautiful new members! Ashley Bisette, Ashley Jordan, Sarah Smith, Julie Sebesta, Kristina Lane, Amanda Trent, Cassie Rupp, and Nikki Baker! -Delta Zeta

Delta Zeta would like to thank the cowboys of Phi Tau for a great western social!

Attention all Greeks: Dollar Night Every Thursday at Cafe Caribe \$3 Admission. Nicest Restrooms Downtown. Plenty of Room to Socialize. Come Check it Out!!

Delta Zeta would like to thank SAE for a great social!

Alpha Delta Pi would like to thank Lambda Chi for a great social! Can't wait to do it again!

The sisters of Kappa Delta would like to thank Laura Brown and Tricia Ross for being our sisters of the week. Thanks girls. We love you!

Thanks to Chi Phi for making our Pref Night so much fun! -Delta Zeta

OTHER

Spring Break Panama City From \$1991 Beachfront Rooms at Boardwalk, Holiday Inn! Free Party Package, Food at MTVU Party Tent! Bahamas Cruise \$299. Daytona \$179. Cancun, Acapulco, Nassau \$599! SpringBreakTravel.com 800-678-6386.

Don't forget! Senior yearbook photos will be taken on March 22-24. Call 328-9236 to schedule your appointment by 5pm on March 20 Walk ins welcome.

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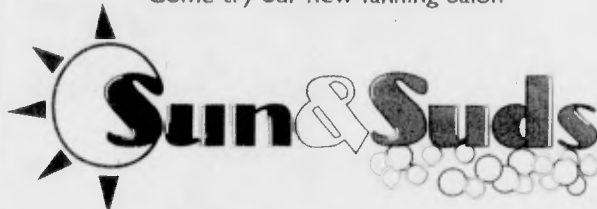
ANNOUNCEMENTS

May graduates: the time has come to schedule your senior yearbook pictures. Sessions will be held March 22 at Mendenhall Center and March 23-24 at Ledonia Wright Cultural Center from 9am-5pm. Make an appointment by 5 pm on March 20 to avoid a long absence. Walk ins are welcome.

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Campus

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Campus Confessions:

I purposely am very noisy in the morning to get back at my roommate for being so loud at night when I'm trying to sleep.

I don't exercise at all even though people think I do. Looking good is in my genes I guess.

I'm not going to the big graduation. The departmental one will do.

Yesterday I was caught watching porn by my girlfriend's mom.

Am I the only person who actually likes to eat all of their broccoli?

Butterflies' wings and overall appearance make me extremely angry. I'm not sure why, I guess I was born without that part of the brain.

The Snuggle bear upsets me. I mean, how do you get this all white bear with dark brown eyes? He is the bane of my existence! I will find a way to eradicate the Snuggle bear eventually ... stupid fluffy bear!

I love the taste of Pepto-Bismol. Wintergreen flavor rocks!

I am crazy about an ex-boss, now co-worker who has been a very good friend for a few years. My boyfriend doesn't know and probably never will!

I don't want to get married and have kids. I really want to call off the whole wedding thing and die an old maid.

I'm making up things to confess because I want my confession to be in TEC.

I confess that every time I walk across Wright Plaza, I pretend like I'm on a catwalk in Milan, so don't get in my way!

Even though I may be a man, I am scared to death of mice.

I fantasize about Jake Gyllenhaal making out with me on the Mall area on campus and all the girls and guys are just oozing with envy.

I like guys and their mesh shorts!

I got married last year and my parents don't even know about it. How does that work, you ask? I don't know.

I hooked up with your boyfriend while you were away because he was curious, if you know what I mean.

I eat the new crème and cocoa flavored Tums like they're candy.

I seriously want to punch my best friend in the face.

I'm a guy and I love wearing thongs.

I hate when people are late.

Recipes:

Truffle tarts with raspberries

1 1/2 cups chocolate wafer crumbs
6 tablespoons melted butter
1 recipe Dark Chocolate Truffles, recipe follows, whipped but not shaped into balls
6 fresh raspberries

Use a fork to mix together the chocolate wafer crumbs and butter. Spray the cups of a six-muffin tin with a vegetable spray. Line the cups with strips of parchment or waxed paper, cut so that they are as wide as the diameter of each cup and long enough to overhang the sides (you'll need this overhang to remove the tarts). Use the bottom of a small glass to press the crumbs over the bottom and sides of the muffin cups, building the sides up to only about 1/2 inches. Place a raspberry in the center of each crust and with a pastry bag or small plastic bag with the corner snipped off, fill the tarts with the truffle mixture. Smooth the tops and refrigerate until set, about two hours.

Dark Chocolate Truffles:

1/2 cup heavy cream
8 ounces good-quality (70 percent) bittersweet chocolate, chopped
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1 cup cocoa powder, for dusting

In a saucepan, bring the cream just to a simmer over low heat. Pour the cream over the chocolate in a bowl and let stand about 10 minutes to melt the chocolate. Add the vanilla and stir until smooth. Set aside to cool for 1 hour at room temperature. Then beat the chocolate at medium speed until it gets thick and light colored. Spread over the bottom of a baking dish and smooth the top. Refrigerate about two hours until firm. Pour the cocoa powder onto a deep plate or shallow bowl. Use a melon baller or small ice cream scoop to scoop out balls of chocolate; place them on the plate with the cocoa powder and roll between two forks to completely coat with the cocoa powder. Then use the forks to carefully transfer them to a parchment or waxed lined baking sheet.

New Orleans: Heart of American music

Jazz, ragtime and blues have influenced modern popular music

MARK ROMANO
STAFF WRITER

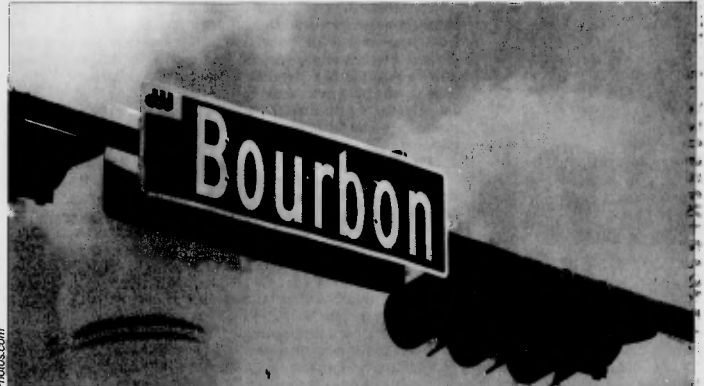
If there's one city that can be credited with the greatest influence on American music, it's New Orleans. In the early 20th century, a mix of cultures from Africa, Europe and Latin America convened in New Orleans, producing several new genres of music, mainly jazz, blues and ragtime. Vocal and melodic styles from Africa combined with the compositions and arrangement styles of European classical to form New Orleans' first original form of music, ragtime. Many African American musicians got their start playing in marching bands that were popular from 1900 until 1920, and ragtime became the first form of popular music.

The next time you're in the club and you're dancing to that infectious four-on-the-floor beat, thank ragtime, as that's where it originated. Jazz eventually evolved as it combined with blues styles and composition and is the most familiar music to modern day New Orleans along with blues. Jazz is truly American

music and is noted especially for its freedom of improvisation.

Improvisation is making up music on the spot and is at the heart of jazz music. Musicians can express themselves in the moment, injecting their soul into a song, making it different every time they play it. This is one of the reasons jazz is a popular form of live music. It's very much dependent on the mood of the musician as well as the energy of the crowd, creating a special bond between the audience and performer — and New Orleans, after a century of music, is still the best place to find quality jazz and blues music.

Contrary to popular belief, New Orleans does still exist. The 2006 Jazz Festival, which has been previously located in the French Quarter of the city, will still be held this year in the same location. This is not to say Hurricane Katrina wasn't devastating. Along with the lives and homes of the people of New Orleans, many antique and cherished instruments at jazz clubs were destroyed. The once rich music scene of Bourbon Street and the rest of the city are struggling to get back on their feet. Local musicians have scattered around the country, but New Orleans is making



Though Hurricane Katrina was devastating, Bourbon Street in New Orleans is still music central.

a slow return to its prior form. Local musicians are what make New Orleans' music scene so special. Musicians and bands such as Louis Armstrong, The Dirty Dozen Brass Band, Galactic, Sydney Bechet and Harry Connick Jr. span decades in their sound, but all have the spirit of New Orleans to thank for influencing their music. The party-like atmosphere of New Orleans was perfect for energetic jazz and

blues to originate and develop, with nightclubs and bars on every corner and hoards of party animals roaming the streets. The city became an epicenter of musical innovation and its influence has spread across the world.

As Louis Armstrong once said, "If it hadn't been for jazz, there wouldn't be rock and roll." New Orleans' native jazz and blues is responsible for spawning several different kinds of music

including rock, swing and bebop. American music started in New Orleans and is being preserved and developed there today by local musicians who house the soul of the city in their music, not in any building or instrument that can be destroyed by catastrophe, proving the enduring spirit of the music and its people.

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

Heavy Rotation



An inside look at WZMB from the music director

JOHN BOSCO
STAFF WRITER

There's something about the spirit of college radio that a lot of people just don't understand. Sometimes I think people don't realize how much effort goes on behind the scenes of a station and are a little too quick to criticize.

It's not nearly as easy as saying, "well I have a bunch of music and a microphone, let's broadcast!"

Something I have to do at the station, for example, is listen to all the CDs we receive each week, review them and put them in rotation (heavy, medium or light) based on a billion factors such as FCC compliance, genre, if it sucks ... you know, that kind of thing. Sure, I can imagine what you're thinking:

"Yeah, it's got to be real tough — the whole listening to music thing."

But when you have to endure 10 crappy, under-produced CDs that all sound the same just to find one decent enough to add to rotation, it can get tiring. On top of that, when label representatives really push a CD that you think is no good, it can be a real downer.

There's so much going on behind the scenes that it's impossible to cover it all right here in this column. The best I can do is confess my satisfaction with WZMB and the solid cast of people I get to call co-workers. What I love about the station are the people and the personalities on and off the air. You can never be sure what to expect when you tune in — the dull, monotone sound of a new DJ fumbling around the control board for the first time or the seasoned "real DJ-like" sound of the more experienced DJs getting into the show's vibe.

Outside the booth, even those finding their on-air voices have plenty of personality to back it up off-air. The stu-

dents at WZMB work hard to bring programming that will appeal to a wide range of listeners, and they try hard to constantly improve things that the listeners may not be satisfied with. But there's only so much they can do.

A lot of flack has been falling on WZMB's station manager. Hopefully in the next issue of Heavy Rotation I will get a chance to let her set the record straight and defend herself.

Personally, I couldn't imagine anyone thinking that WZMB isn't a better alternative to the other things on mainstream stations in Greenville.

I know for a fact that we bring a true alternative to local radio in the area. Based on the amount of new music I put into

rotation alone, we provide more underexposed and independent artists with airplay than pretty much every other station in Greenville.

The truth is that WZMB does a great job of providing an alternative to everything else that is broadcasting. If you disagree, maybe college radio isn't for you and maybe you just won't get it.

College radio is where commercial DJs start, it's where on-air personalities are developed and it is meant to be a training station for those who want to broadcast in the future.

Luckily, WZMB also showcases a wide range of programming and manages to broadcast a lot of genres for a lot of listeners.

Maybe it's not meant for you if you don't understand that, but for me, college radio is something unmatched by any other radio broadcast.

Until we meet again, be sure to listen to WZMB, 91.3 FM as we continue to put the "rad" back into radio.

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

First Violet Nine release walks line between mainstream, indie

Debut CD slightly bland

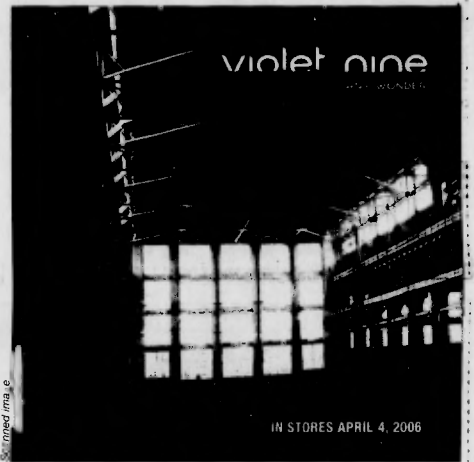
JOHN BOSCO
STAFF WRITER

The Boston-based Violet Nine have teamed up with producer Greg Archilla to complete their first full-length studio album. Due out April 4, *Any Wonder* is being released through PKG Entertainment, a company focused on distribution of independent music and movies.

Archilla, the producer behind albums from artists Matchbox 20, Collective Soul and Edwin McCain, is stepping outside of the sound you might normally expect him to produce. It seems odd that Archilla would step so far out of the styles he's been so successful producing and work with an independent band.

Violet Nine's sound is tough to describe even though it's not really uncommon or groundbreaking; it's just hard to put your finger on. Those familiar with the Richmond-based band Fairweather (now broken up) won't find the instrumentation and arrangements on *Any Wonder* very new or challenging. It is reminiscent of the pop-y yet vaguely punkish style most are familiar with from radio stations across the country.

Clean guitars are interwoven to make good textures, but the sounds are too familiar. There's no material here that you haven't



heard from any other modern punk-pop/emo band today (see: Armor For Sleep, Park, Taking Back Sunday). Interweave that with overdriven guitars for choruses and bridges and you're looking at a classic formula sure to appeal to ears looking for a familiar sound, but it offers the rest of us something to be bored with.

Vocally, however, I was surprised at first. The range of singer Ben Consoli is pretty good. At times, he can hit some notes

reminiscent of Jeff Buckley and he has a tone that rings eerily similar to the late Buckley's impressive voice.

Lyrical, however, Consoli falls a little short. It seems even words couldn't escape being played safe in *Any Wonder*'s formula. Lines like: "Warm and comfortable/With the sun/Will you miss me?/You're too strong

see V9 page B3

'The Sunny Side of the Moon'

Someone seriously 'cut the cheese' this time

AARON BORREGO
STAFF WRITER

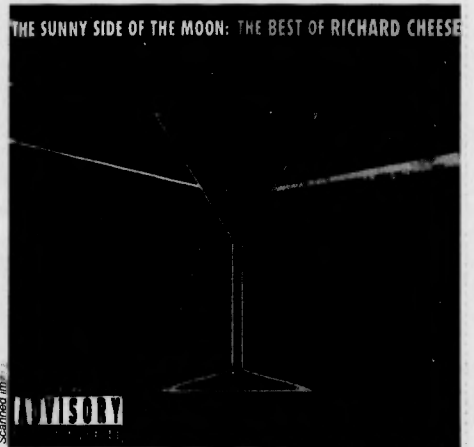
Well, one and all, it is time for another CD review. The CD I am focusing on this time is called *The Sunny Side of the Moon: The Best of Richard Cheese*. As you might have guessed, this album is a greatest hits collection of music from Richard Cheese.

What you might not have guessed is that this is an entire album of cover songs ranging from Sir-Mix-a-Lot to Nirvana. Another thing that you might not have guessed is the Vegas-lounge style of singing in which this CD is delivered.

I must honestly say that the singing style is probably the only funny thing about this CD. It is truly interesting to find "Baby Got Back" done by a strip club crooner and followed up with a rendition of "Girls, Girls, Girls." It is entertaining, but this type of thing seems hardly impressive.

There is absolutely no originality factor to speak of, not to mention artistic contribution in sight.

Gone are the arguments that Weird Al Yankovic is like this guy, maybe, but at least Weird Al can make up new words to the songs he chooses to butcher, and those songs are funny.



One of the only bright spots about this CD is the actual selection of tracks. Seriously, the bands range from Pink Floyd to the Beastie Boys.

If you like 1930s jazz with no words, the music will be to your liking. To tell you the truth, I kind of like the music. Jazz and lounge music really isn't all that bad — it at least gives you a good vibe. But even elevator music sounds better than this.

It does have one redeeming

factor, though. I love the fact that you can actually hear all the words to a song. Furthermore, you can actually hear how half-wit and "special" artists are.

I would hope that artists were on drugs if they were writing these songs, at least they would have a valid excuse as to why their lines are mindless and disposable.

Another thing that was quite entertaining was listening to

see CHEESE page B3

Now this is Meade Street music



Greenville's burgeoning music scene

DANIEL BROCK
STAFF WRITER

the edge houses sit waiting for the next party and cars with fraternity stickers line the streets.

However, Meade Street has a flourishing music scene not likely to be matched anywhere else in Greenville.

The Meade Street sound can't be pigeonholed, with everything from post wave to prog-metal on tap. Though musical styles differ, all the Meade Street musicians share a passion for making music, reviving the Greenville music scene and for other ... um, pastimes.

The Jam Band

Jay Diehl, lead guitarist and musical leader of the jam band Meade, is not happy. The last several rehearsals have been sloppy and he doesn't know what's wrong. He also has a dinner engagement that he's about to be late for, so the band runs through "Franklin's Tower" and calls it an evening.

Diehl heads out, drummer Nick Verdis steps outside for a cigarette and the rest of the band mulls around, still under the effects of some pre-rehearsal activities.

Meade has been playing together since the summer of 2005. A couple of lineup and name changes have led them to where they are now. The constant

has been their practice space at 300 Meade Street, or Club 300 as it's known to the people who frequent it. It's also Verdis' and bassist Don O'Gorman's house. Verdis and O'Gorman, both from Maryland, have been playing together since high school. They had been looking to get another band together since their last group, the Baltimore-based Hangin' Loose, broke up.

Enter Diehl. Verdis, O'Gorman and singer Adam Nye had been jamming for a while when Diehl's fiancée, an employee at Outback Steakhouse with Verdis and Nye, introduced Diehl to the group at a Fourth of July party.

Diehl, who at age 24 is older and more experienced musically than the rest of the band members, immediately provided the group with direction, leadership and a signature guitar sound. Verdis refers to Diehl as the "backbone of the band."

It's been an interesting road to Meade Street for Diehl. Originally from New Jersey, he's played such well known venues as the Stone Pony in Ashbury Park and New York City's Lions Den with his previous band, the punk outfit Sugru.

see MEADE page B3

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Location: Science & Tech. Building

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V9 from page B1

for that" aren't appalling, they're just not saying anything new. They may have a long way to go before I will give them credit, but that doesn't mean they don't have potential. If Consoli can take his lyrics somewhere new and the formulaic concept that follows song after song is dropped, I'm confident Violet Nine could produce better music. By emphasizing their strengths (and Consoli's voice is the big strength here) and building off of them, they might be able to put together some better tracks on future albums.

The problem with *Any Wonder* and albums like it is that they don't offer listeners anything new. It reads familiar ground, but when did that become the goal of music?

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

More Info:

Check the official band Web site at:

violetnine.net

or the band's myspace page at:

myspace.com/violetnine

Cheese from page B1

"Gin and Juice" which was basically read verbatim. These rappers are amazingly funny. I must say, I think this version is about as good as it gets. It is just that funny and vulgar. I think these guys are just angry and need a hug.

Even rap sounds better without demeaning and objectifying women all the time. At least, that's what I believe; I am not sure if it's been tried to date. So I guess you can call me old-fashioned about not treating women like poop.

I mean, even rappers can occasionally play their own music and even write their own words. This album is to music what Michael Jackson is to satisfactory daycare.

In summation: the album gets a C-. It's only saved by the actual music, which is written by other people, and by the fact it sounds like Vegas music.

Everyone loves to hear a song that is familiar, but sometimes it is just better to stick with the original.

It's really not even worth the time and space to download. Hopefully the next album will be a good one. I'll keep searching.

Grade: C-

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

Meade from page B2

He moved to North Carolina in 2003 to be with his girlfriend while she attended college.

Verdis has had some high-profile gigs as well. He's recently started playing drums full time. Previously, he was lead singer and guitarist in Hangin' Loose. He won a song writing contest in 2003 and appeared on stage with OAR at MTV's Spring Break. Meade also has local connections, as lead singer Adam Nye's brother is the bass player for Gouda.

Meade has played shows at Ham's Restaurant and at various fraternities. They have plans to cut a live demo at the Red Rooster and will be in the upcoming Battle of the Bands at Ham's.

They also hope to play some shows with other local bands such as Fifth Generation.

"We just want to get out and play. We want to play with other local bands with similar interest and try to revive the music scene in Greenville," said Diehl.

The Bonque House
William Cashion, mustache and all, lounges in his living room on Third and Meade Streets. He and some of his buddies and roommates are watching "Da Ali G Show" and enjoying it thoroughly. Cashion, formerly the bassist for Art Lord and the Self Portraits, has become something

of a promoter since that band called it quits. His residence, "The Bonque House," as it is known, is home to weekly parties featuring bands from as far away as New York.

"Bonque House" parties host upward of 80 people and is known for high energy shows that have left the place a little worse for the wear. The back yard is a collage of beer containers, overturned lawn chairs and tossed aside water hoses.

"The back yard is a place for a drunk good time," said Cashion, as we stood on his back porch.

Back inside, Kenny Creech, a "weekend fixture" at "The Bonque House" who bears a striking resemblance to the late Jerry Garcia, gleefully suggests that everyone get drunk. It is the middle of the afternoon, after all. That is the attitude at "The Bonque House" - one of a good time free for all.

"We like to sex it up and have a good time, but not in a downtown sort of way," says Cashion. "Downtown is a lust beast with the clubs. We want to provide a good time with good music that the artists really care about."

"The Bonque House" isn't discriminating about its acts as long as they have an independent spirit and passion for their music.

The parties have featured eclectic styles including hip-hop, indie and rock. Recent parties have seen out of state acts Quiet Life and Dan Denson perform.

Cashion sums it up well: "Everyone is welcome at the parties. We want to have a good time and help out the music scene in Greenville."

The Studio
In a room with a ceiling so low you have to stoop down to keep from hitting your head, Tony Chambers is setting up the studio that will be home to his production company, Dual Chambers.

A drum kit is on one end of the long, narrow loft and a Pro-Tools system is at the other end. In between are a couple of keyboards and a couch. Along the far wall, several guitars and a bass sit on a rack.

Chambers and his roommate Brian K. Price are Third and Meade newcomers, but they're jumping right into the scene. They've already discussed cutting a demo with Meade and are planning to host some band parties of their own.

Their musical tastes range from funk to reggae to metal, but they're open to anything. "Yeah, we'll work with anybody as long as they're original."

We've got a Pro-Tools set up and Brian is awesome with Reason 5.0 (electronic programming software)," said Chambers.

Other groups, such as Captain Snatch, a rock n' raunch band, play and practice on Meade Street as well. Captain Snatch drummer Dal Stephenson is happy to see the scene growing.

"It's nice to walk out of your house and hear a four piece band, as opposed to someone driving by with their windows down, blaring music."

Many people bemoan the state of live music in Greenville, but it is alive and well on Meade Street. Sometimes students overlook what is right beneath their nose. The artists living there hope that it will spread to the rest of the city.

"Promoters downtown need to know that if they book bands, they're going to make their money. We can guarantee a crowd, so they shouldn't worry about that," said Cashion.

Will the Meade Street scene explode on Greenville, or will the sounds of Sean Paul and Kanye West continue to dominate downtown? The answer to that is up to you.

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

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Baseball season Preview 2006

Terrapins are coming out of their shell

Terrapins poised for breakout season

BRENT WYNNE
SENIOR WRITER

When it comes to college athletics, baseball above the Mason-Dixon line and winning just don't go together. While there may be exceptions to the rule (see Notre Dame and St. John's), typically collegiate baseball teams in the northern regions of the United States tend to struggle year in and year out.

The Maryland Terrapins are no exception to that rule. With only one winning season in the past seven years, the men in red seem to be the blunt of a lot of jokes when baseball season rolls around.

The term "Mighty Turtles" may seem like an oxymoron now, but the 2006 Maryland squad has no intention of remaining punch lines and fodder for jesters alike.

Coming off of an average season that produced a record of 25-31, the Terrapins return one of their deepest lineups in the last decade. In an interview with umterps.com, Head Coach Terry Rupp talked about what he believes could be the best Maryland team he has had in his six years at the helm.

"Unlike in past years, we are deep at every position," said Rupp.

"We've got an opportunity to use a different combination of players to attack any situation."

"If an opponent doesn't catch-and-throw that well, we'll go with our speed. On the other hand, if they are a strong defensive team, then we may go with our best hitters."

Just how deep can they be? "I can see a lot of different guys making significant contributions this season."

Coming into this weekend's series against ECU, Rupp already has the luxury of having the top two spots in his pitching rotation set. Seniors Seth Overbey and Ben Pfingraff will be two of the three guys that the Diamond Bucs will face over the weekend. The third starter is likely still up for grabs.

Pfingraff returns as the undisputed ace of the staff. The smooth righty led the team with a 3.45 ERA and four wins during the 2005 season. In 10 of 11 outings, Pfingraff lasted at least 5.0 innings, so pitching a lot of innings this season will not be anything new to the veteran. Rupp believes that his senior go-to-guy is one of the best hurlers in all of college baseball.

"Ben is a proven pitcher who has shown he can beat anyone in the country," Rupp said.

"We're looking for him to be our number one guy and have a good season for us."

Overbey will be looking to make the tricky transition of relief pitcher to full-time starter for the 2006 campaign. Overbey was 3-1 in 17 appearances last season.

Maryland's middle relief during the weekend against the Pirates will come from lefties Brett Tidball and John Dischert. Right-hander Brad Taylor will also get some innings out of the bullpen.

Sophomore Brett Cecil has emerged as the closer for the turtles. In 43.0 innings last season, Cecil struck out 40 while only walking 13. He also was second on the team in appearances with 18.

The Terps depth at all positions can be both a blessing and a curse. While it is nice to have options everywhere, figuring out who will play where is another

battle all in itself. With that said, let's take a look at Maryland's potential infield lineup.

Perhaps the only sure thing of the bunch is the starting first baseman. Senior Jordan Wilson will play first for the Terps in 2006. In 2005 Wilson had a career season at the dish, hitting .301 with 11 doubles, 35 RBI and three home runs. Wilson is in his fifth season at College Park, so he will be the leader for the Terps on the infield.

Rupp will look to junior Dan Melvin and sophomore Joe Palumbo to split time at second base. Melvin led the squad last season with a .306 average, while Palumbo will provide versatility at the plate with his switch-hitting abilities.

Sophomore transfer Steve Braun, a 35th round pick by the Oakland Athletics in 2005, will likely play shortstop for the Terps in 2006. Early signs point to Braun as the leadoff hitter for Maryland.

At the hot corner, freshmen newcomers Mike Murphy and Dan Benick will share time there, although Murphy is the early favorite to start.

There is no question as to who will play catcher for the Terps. Sophomore Chad Durakis has solidified himself as the everyday guy. Last season, Durakis hit .286 with 27 RBI.

As far as the outfield goes for Maryland, senior Brian Jarosinski will hold down leftfield. During his sophomore season in 2004, Jarosinski hit 16 home runs, drove in 58 runners and recorded a slugging percentage of .571. Although the slugger had a down junior season, Rupp expects that just to be a bump in a great career for his leftfielder.

see TERPS page B6

A conversation with starting pitcher Dustin Sasser

BRENT WYNNE
SENIOR WRITER

Dustin Sasser played an instrumental role in the ECU baseball team's run to the super-regional and 51 win season in 2004. While the Pirates eventually bowed out to national runner-up South Carolina, the Diamond Bucs of 2004 were arguably the best team in the school's rich baseball history. Sasser had a lot to do with that. He led the team in appearances that season and was called upon repeatedly out of the bullpen to work out of tough jams.

After the season was over, Sasser underwent Tommy John Surgery, which effectively ended any chance he had to play during 2005.

I recently sat down with the red shirt, and we discussed many things from his rehab to the Mazy situation and his outlook for this team this season.

Brent Wynne: How does the arm feel?

Dustin Sasser: It feels good. I'm about 14 months into it and no pain whatsoever.

BW: Take me through the rehab process.

DS: After surgery, you're in a cast for a week. You can't move it or anything. After a week, you get put into a brace, which lets you move your arm a certain amount of degrees each week. Once you get your flexibility and extension back in your arm, then you can start doing 5 pound wrist curl weights. You keep moving up on weights and four months after surgery you start lightly tossing some.

BW: Are you where you need to be strength and endurance wise heading into a new season?

DS: I do. You won't be 100 percent until 14 to 18 months after the surgery. Now I'm at 14 months. My velocity is a mile or two faster than it was before.

BW: How fast?

DS: Eighty-eight, 89 and even 90 every once in a while.

BW: How does it feel knowing that you're finally about to get some real game experience again?

DS: It's unbelievable. Prior to my surgery, I had never been out of baseball for more than six weeks. I had the surgery, and now I've been out of

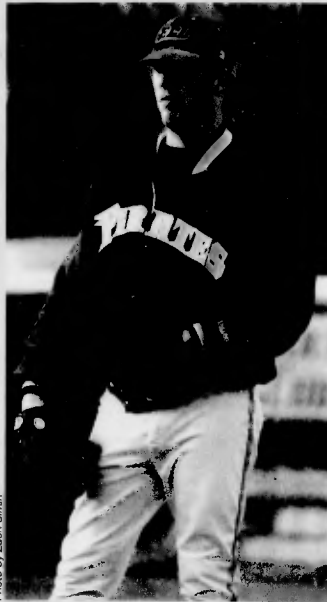


Photo by Zach Skiff
the game for a little over a year. I'm getting back into the swing of things and I just can't wait to start playing again.

BW: What kind of role do you think you'll play on this year's team?

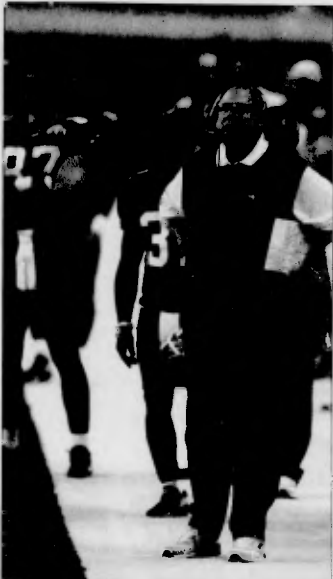
DS: I hope to be a starter. I think I'm a better pitcher as a starter. My whole life I've started up until my freshman year, and I kind of expected that and I was fine with it. But this year, I've been working hard and my arm's healthy, and I want to take our team to a championship.

BW: Why are you guys not ranked?

DS: I think it's disrespect. But we never really

see SASSER page B6

Seahawks' Holmgren should have accepted blame



Holmgren glances up at the scoreboard during Seattle's 21-10 loss in Super Bowl XL.

(KRT) — Seattle, once associated with coffee, should be better known now for the kind of fine wine derivative of sour grapes. You thought the Seahawks and their fans were beaten pretty soundly in the Super Bowl? They have been far bigger losers since.

Will you people shut up already? A couple of debatable penalty flags fall the wrong way and you're going to start wincing and weeping and limping around on that lame crutch?

Aside to Team Mocha Latte: Your Seahawks lost, 21-10, for lots of reasons primarily summarized in the technical phrase, "played lousy." You know how Steelers fans swarmed Detroit by about a 10-1 margin over Seattle fans? That mirrored the Seahawks' shrunken team effort on the big stage.

There was no shame in losing the game. There has been much shame since.

You expect it from fans, maybe, after they have waited 30 years for a Super Bowl and their team covers from the occasion and they're looking for a place for their disappointment. So they look for the easiest place.

You even expect the woodwork to emit a few token conspiracy theorists with their grainy home movie that purports to show a man in a striped shirt on a grassy knoll. Yeah the game was fixed. Oh yes. Everybody was in on it but the Seahawks! (The head referee is sitting on a mountain of cash in Monaco today. Paul Tagliabue and Dan Rooney are with him and the three are high-fiving amid gales of maniacal laughter).

You expect that desperate nonsense from losing fans.

But you expect more from the beaten head coach. From him you expect a measure of grace. Some class. An assumption, dare say, of personal responsibility.

Instead Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren told a crowd waiting for the team in Seattle: "I knew we were playing the Pittsburgh Steelers. I didn't know we were going to have to play the guys in the striped shirts as well."

That's an egregious statement that should earn Holmgren a six-figure league fine and stain him for as long as he coaches.

It is almost stunning, unprecedented, to hear after a title game. Not in Super Bowl history have the winning team and whining team separated so clearly.

Holmgren insults the integrity of the NFL, its officials, the championship game result itself and, mostly, the Steelers, who deserve better.

Worse in some ways, he is excusing himself and his team from culpability. He is shifting blame from where it belongs — in the mirror.

We've all heard the predictable jokes by now. Like, "Ninety million people watched the game. Too bad they didn't include the officials." And, "The Steelers had a victory parade. The grand marshal was referee Bill Leavy."

Meantime we're still waiting for Holmgren et al to man up.

Seattle was driving for a possible 17-14 lead until the most ill-timed, crucial interception imaginable. Matt Hasselbeck threw that ball, not the referee.

How about Holmgren managing the clock like a baboon trying to decipher a Rubik's cube? Are

we blaming the officials for that, too?

Who was covering Hines Ward? The back judge?

How about Pittsburgh's trick-play scoring pass or Willie Parker's Super Bowl-record run? Were the guys in the striped shirts blocking Seahawk defenders?

Thanks largely to Holmgren and his blamers, history won't look kindly upon this Super Bowl. In the days since, nobody was talking about the scintillating football or the might of the Steelers. People were talking about a streaking sheep, a censored halftime show and the yellow flags.

Then there was the brouhaha over the suspicious no-shows by Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw from the pregame Super Bowl MVPs ceremony.

Montana, for what it's worth, claims he missed to attend his sons' basketball games. Bradshaw also pulled a Van Gundy, saying he had family obligations.

Baloney. What a couple of ingrates. With five Super Bowl MVPs between them, this is the stage that allowed both men's fame, and they can't come back for a curtain call on the event's 40th anniversary?

The NFL gave its former MVPs first-class air fare for two, a Cadillac for the weekend, a hotel suite, two game tickets, tickets to the commissioner's party and two other private parties, plus \$1,000 for "incidentals."

If you believe their excuses, it's still lame. The family would understand their being in Detroit

see **BLAME** page B6

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Blame from page B5

an extra day. Both come off like guys protecting themselves from bullets with their families.

The only other living Super Bowl MVP to snub the ceremony was our own Jake Scott, the Dolphins' Super '70s safety, but he's in a whole different category.

Scott is a true iconoclast who has turned down every

Dolphins function. He is Bobby Fischer, J.D. Salinger. Scott supposedly couldn't attend because he was vacationing in Australia. Jake could have been visiting Flint and wouldn't have showed up.

Besides, nobody outside of a few venerable Dolfans missed Scott, while Montana and Bradshaw were conspicuous by their

absence, Montana as the most decorated, iconic Super Bowl star of all. Bradshaw for turning his back on his franchise.

Montana and Bradshaw should have been there, period.

But still not as much as Hojmgren should have stood up and shouldered the Seahawks' loss instead of weakly pandering to his fans' misplaced emotions.

Sasser from page B4

get respect preseason in any of the polls. That makes our team thrive. With us going into Cal. State Fullerton and Rice, if you can't get up for those games, you can't get up for any games. And with us not being in any of the polls this year, I think this team has more to prove than any other team that's ever been here.

BW: Were Holland's actions on the Mazy situation right?

DS: I think the decision that he made was right, and I think it was best for the rest of the team. I had no problem with coach Mazy and I think the world of him. He's a great guy and a great coach. The decision Holland made was the right decision, and we are all behind him. Coach (Billy) Godwin is a great guy.

BW: So the overall attitude toward Godwin and his new staff is positive so far?

DS: Yeah. He came in and he's all about respect. He said he wanted to earn our respect, and not necessarily that we have to earn his. He's coming into an entirely new program, and he really, really preaches team chemistry and working hard. He's done a really great job.

BW: How good can this pitching staff be?

DS: This pitching staff could be as good or better than the pitching staff was my freshman year.

BW: How do you pick starters out of this group?

DS: You really don't (chuckling). Coach Godwin said it like this. "I feel like this year with the staff we have, if everybody stays healthy, it's one of those things where you can go in and pick out of a hat and say yep you're starting today," and have no problem with it. I think we're that good.

BW: How good can this team be as a whole?

DS: I think if we execute, throw strikes and put the ball in play, I think our win total could be 50 to 55.

Fifty to 55. Looks like Sasser and the Pirates are thinking Omaha.

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

Terps from page B4

"Brian looks better than he ever has at the plate right now and I expect big things from him this year," Rupp said.

Centerfield will be played by speedy sophomore Nick Jowers. Jowers experienced limited action last season as a freshman, but is expected to deliver big as a starter this season.

Terp senior Matt Maropis, an infielder turned outfielder, will play right this season. In 2005, Maropis swiped a team leading 19 stolen bases along with scoring 34 runs. He will continually pose base running threats to opponents throughout the season.

Don't expect Maryland to

come into Clark-LeClair Stadium this weekend and be an easy foe. This is a new team, and the Terps will look to begin the 2006 season the right way - with a series win over the Pirates.

Game on.

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

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