

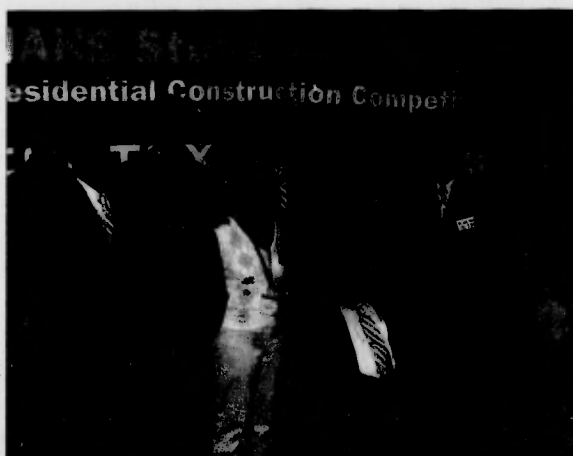
ECU earns Honorable Mention in Residential Construction Competition

2006 ECU Competition Team Member

STEVEN G. BEATTY
CONTRIBUTED WRITER

ECU earned Honorable Mention in the NAHB Student Chapter Residential Construction Competition that took place during the 2006 International Builders Show in Orlando, Fla. ECU's team took sixth place out of 36 four-year colleges and universities. Last year ECU ranked 16th, so this year's move to sixth place is a gain of 10 positions in one year. This is an amazing accomplishment.

NAHB's student competitions are beneficial to students, their universities and the industry at large. By participating, students integrate their educational preparation into real world applications. Individuals push beyond their perceived inadequacies, increase their appreciation of effective teamwork and learn to promote their efforts. Their self-satisfaction of having risen to the challenge and accomplishing their goals culminates this process, and then they get the opportunity to attend the International Builders Show. Students can observe how others dealt with the same problem, providing an important "debriefing" process to their efforts. Universities benefit from the students' exposure to industry representatives. A relatively



(From Left): 2006 ECU Delegation: Baxter Matthews, Matt Hill, Donna Hollar (coach), Ray Garris, Tia Hudson, Andrew Rowley, Steven Beatty (front), Grant Lockhart (back), Jeremy Morrison, John Rappoport, Scott Seaman.



(From Left): 2005 ECU Competition Team: Scott Seaman, Bryan Allen, Baxter Matthews, David Price, Ryan Wood, Kevin Bowman.

small but energized group of students can spark a firestorm of interest in residential construction through their peer-to-peer interactions upon return to their home institutions. Reward to the industry is also evidenced by corporate exposure, recruiting of the best students and creating ambassadors to the next generation of residential constructors. These competitions form a link

between the student, the university and the industry, thereby culturing future success for all partners involved. "Until tonight, there were very few people in that room [where the awards were given] that knew ECU's name. Now they all know who we are," said Dr. Douglas Kruger, chairperson of the Department of Construction Management.

Every year at the NAHB International Builders Show, student chapters from two- and four-year colleges and universities are invited to participate in the NAHB Student Chapter Residential Construction Competition during the IBS. The IBS is the second largest trade show in the United States, surpassed only recently by the Consumer Electronics Show

in Las Vegas, Nev. The IBS is Orlando's largest trade-show with more than 135,000 people believed to have attended. The student competition is an event that simulates a real-world scenario. Teams compete for project approval and funding as though they were a local operating division of a large national home building company. This competition gives students the

opportunity to apply academic studies and classroom work to an actual construction project. There are separate events for four-year colleges and for two-year colleges. Last year, 29 chapters participated. ECU has been the only N.C. undergraduate institution to field a competition team since 2004.

see NAHB page A6



The driver of the vehicle that killed Kyle Niccum, left, is unknown.

Young man killed in hit-and-run accident

Family asks for students' help as they search for answers

BENJAMIN CORMACK
STAFF WRITER

During the early morning hours on the morning of Jan. 29, 2006, Kyle Niccum, 22, of Raleigh was killed in a hit-and-run accident on Green Street in Greenville. While police are still investigating the incident, Kyle's father, Jeff Niccum, asked TEC to publish an article about the accident in the hopes that ECU students may provide some answers about what happened. Kyle Niccum and his friend Brandon Price traveled to Greenville to visit their friend William Cannady. The three friends were downtown when Price became involved in a fight, which led him to be taken to the hospital. Niccum and Cannady, believing that Price had been taken to the Pitt County Detention Center, hailed a cab to find their friend. When they learned he had been taken to the hospital, Niccum and Cannady opted to walk back to Cannady's apartment after unsuccessful attempts to reach friends and taxis. According to a police report provided by the Greenville Police Department, Niccum and Price somehow went in the wrong direction, arriving at Green Street near Industrial Boulevard and New Hope Drive. An unidentified motorist traveling North on Green Street hit Niccum, throwing him approximately 102 feet from the point of impact.

"The driver apparently stopped," stated Sergeant R. W.

Worthington of the Greenville Police Department.

"The driver then said that they would go for medical help, but they never returned."

According to Sgt. Worthington, the car that hit Kyle Niccum could have sustained damage to its front end, hood and/or the right side of its windshield. Molding recovered at the scene of the accident suggests the car may have been white or light colored.

Several motorists stopped to help, and police are hoping that they will be able to provide any information they can about the night of the accident.

Jeff Niccum described his son Kyle as a good kid and as the kind of guy who would do anything for his buddies. Kyle wrestled and played football for Garner High School in Raleigh. Kyle moved back to Raleigh from Boone, where he attended Appalachian State University. He stopped going after he found out he was going to be a father. While working to support his child, he continued to follow his dream of becoming an engineer. He attended classes at Wake Technical Community College to try to reach this goal.

Kyle's family is deeply saddened by their loss. Kyle's parents, Jeff and Debbie, have lost a son. Kyle's sister Danielle, 24, has lost her little brother. Kyle's brother Christopher, 17, has lost his big brother and hunting partner. Probably most heart breaking of all is that three-year-old Cole Jacques has lost his father. Yet, it is through Cole that the family says they find strength.

see HIT & RUN page A3

Memorial service held for Gay Wilentz

Remembering one English professor's legacy

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
STAFF WRITER

A memorial service for Dr. Gay Wilentz, professor of English, was held Wednesday in the Science and Technology building at 3 p.m. to remember her life and many contributions to the university.

Wilentz passed away on Feb. 6 from an illness called AOS. She had her actual funeral service in Belize, where she spent much of her life for research and educational purposes.

The memorial was titled, "A Celebration of Life." There was a large turnout of her colleagues, students, family and friends.

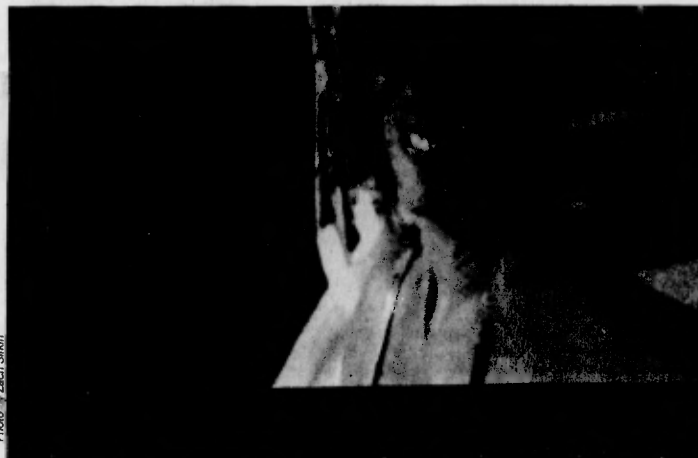
A total of 10 people spoke about their experiences with Wilentz and what type of person she was.

Many of the speakers couldn't fight back tears but still smiled as they mentioned how full of life she seemed, even during the last stages of life.

Julie Fay, professor of English, recalled Wilentz saying, "It's life, what can you do?" when speaking optimistically of her life and illness.

Fay said that she and Wilentz met each other in college and ended up becoming colleagues and friends for 20 years.

Fay recited verses from the musical collection Wilentz listened to before her death. The song was titled "Warrior" and illustrated the types of things Wilentz enjoyed.



Many ECU professors, friends and colleagues were on hand yesterday to honor Gay Wilentz.

Wilentz was very dedicated to teaching and to her students. According to Fay, Wilentz made a commitment to herself a few days before her death that she would e-mail her students.

Seodila Deena, associate professor of English, was among the group of speakers who talked about Wilentz's commitment to education. Deena spoke about the study abroad trips they had to Belize.

Wilentz devoted much of her time to educational endeavors in Belize.

Her last trip to Belize was in the summer of 2005, according to one of the speakers. She was ill at the time but still managed

to make the trip there.

Carla Pastor, professor of English and Wilentz's surrogate daughter, spoke at the memorial.

Pastor talked about how much she valued Wilentz's company and how much the Belizean people loved Wilentz.

Michael Bassman, assistant vice chancellor of the honors program, lead a blessing in Hebrew called Kaddish, which means sanctification.

Everyone said a blessing at the end of the memorial.

Dr. Bruce Southard, Robert Siegel, Dr. Deirdre Mageean, Dr. Jane Marcus, Dr. Lillian Robinson and Dr. James Smith also spoke at

the memorial.

Mike Hamer and Susan Luddeke did the musical selection for the memorial.

Luddeke sang while Hamer play a stringed musical instrument. Luddeke was in tears throughout the song and said, "That was too hard," as she went to her seat after the song.

During the memorial, pictures of Wilentz on vacations, study abroad trips, and interacting with students and family flashed on a large projector screen.

Purple and gold bouquets of flowers, photo albums, certi-

see MEMORIAL page A3

Military takes advantage of online programs

Men and women in uniform attend class

CLAYTON BAUMAN
STAFF WRITER

ECU is working closely with the armed forces to provide distance education to hundreds of men and women in uniform.

In conjunction with the established distance program provided already, men and women in every branch are working toward associate, bachelor's and master's degrees in locations as far away as Iraq and beyond.

"We have a very strong distance education program at the university," said Steve Duncan, director of the Office of Military

Programs. "More than 4,000 students are signed up."

Duncan went on to talk about how members of the military, as a part of their own self development, seek distance education.

"Officers seek master's degrees, enlisted people seek associate degrees, bachelor's degrees and some master's degrees," Duncan said.

The distance program is a valuable tool considering the current situation in American affairs. With some men and women looking at their second and third six-month deployments to places such as Iraq and Afghanistan, traditional in-classroom learning is a great deal

more difficult.

The opportunity for ECU education is also available to dependents or family of the serviceman or woman.

Fort Bragg is one of ECU's biggest customers in the distance education program. With more than 70 percent of Fort Bragg's members deployed overseas, the program is a way of allowing servicemen and women a way to continue their studies.

Currently, ECU is serving 172 students that are considered military. Other colleges that are contributing to the distance education program are Campbell University, Central Texas College and UNC-Pembroke among others.

ECU expects to enroll several hundred more men and women in uniform into the distance education program.

Playing a pivotal role in higher enrollment rate is the BRAC, or Base Realignment and Closure. According to Duncan, N.C. gained a number of military people.

"The impact on the Fayetteville community will be in the neighborhood of 20,000, both military and civilian," Duncan said.

Other bases taking part in the program are Camp Lejeune and Seymour Johnson.

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

Announcements

Discussions on naming of streets in honor of MLK

Monday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. in Willis building auditorium
ECU will hold two moderated forums to provide public discussion on the naming of streets in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The forums, sponsored by the Chancellor's Community Advisory Council, will be held Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Willis Building Auditorium and March 27 at 7 p.m. at the Eppes Recreation Center at 400 Nash St. in Greenville. Among the participants in the first forum will be ECU geography professor Derek Alderman who will discuss his research on the naming of streets after the civil rights leader. Co-chairs of the ad hoc committee are: City Council member Rose Glover and Don Enslin, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Community Engagement. Other members of the ad hoc committee are ECU geography professor Rebecca Torres, Michelle Lieberman, ECU's Student Neighborhood Relations Facilitator and Austin Bunch, Chief of Staff.
For more information, contact 328-0607 or Rose Glover, 752-1113; Derek Alderman, 328-4013 or aldemand@ecu.edu.

Greenville Theater Project auditions

Friday, Feb. 24 from 4 - 8 p.m. in Bate 2021
Auditions for The Greenville Theater Project's Ooops! Squad. Improvisational comedy shows beginning in April. Those with previous improvisational experience are greatly encouraged to come out, as are those who have always wanted to give improv a try. For more information about the GTP Ooops! Squad, visit greenvilletheaterproject.com. For more information, call Anthony Holsten, 758-4190.

Unforgettable: The Nat King Cole Story

Saturday, Feb. 25 at 8 p.m. in Wright Auditorium
An engaging production of the man, the myth and the music of the legendary Nat King Cole. Comedy, drama, twenty finely delivered songs and a sparkling trio paint a riveting portrait of the American jazz legend.
For more information: Central Ticket Office, 328-4788, 1-800-ECU-ARTS, ecurts.com.

ECU Spring Graduation Expo

The final day for the Spring Graduation Expo is today, Feb. 23, 2006. The expo is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Wright Place Rear Dining Room. Students graduating in May are invited to a special expo featuring representatives from a variety of vendors and campus departments available to help with graduation needs. May grads may pick up caps and gowns, and important information about commencement. For more information, call Dowdy Student Stores at 328-6731 or visit online at studentstores.ecu.edu.

Open mic night

Open mic night will take place at the Pirate Underground at 7 p.m. March 8. Come out for some free food and express yourself.

Sophomore Survey

ECU will again conduct a sophomore survey to help evaluate its institutional performance. This survey is mandatory of all the selected sophomores (45-60 credit hours, 30 hours completed at ECU) and the records of these sophomores will be tagged March 2 if it is not completed. Students may check with the registration staff at 328-6747 to see whether or not they have a tag and/or if it has been removed. Students may opt out of the survey by simply submitting a blank form. This will also remove the tag. Sophomore surveys may be taken at onestop.ecu.edu.

Contra dance

The ECU Folk and Country Dancers are sponsoring a Contra dance on Friday, Feb. 24 at the Willis Building on First and Reade Streets downtown. Beginner lesson begins at 7:30 p.m. and the dance will be from 8 - 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3 for students, \$5 for FASG members and \$8 for the public. This is a smoke-and-alcohol-free event.

News Briefs

State

NC Eye Exams

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) - Nearly a dozen local school boards sued the state Tuesday over a new law requiring comprehensive eye exams for children entering kindergarten, arguing it violates the U.S. constitution and the state constitution's mandate for free public education.
Flanked by a pediatrician, eye doctor and others opposed to the exam, local schools representatives said the examinations, which cost from \$65 to more than \$120, are too expensive and unnecessary since children already must receive vision screenings before entering school. The law set aside \$2 million to help parents pay for exams uncovered by Medicaid or other government programs.
The exam would be conducted by an optometrist or ophthalmologist to check for seven different disorders. As justification for the requirement, Black, D-Mecklenburg, cited a National Institutes for Health study that found that vision problems weren't caught in at least 10 percent of children who received basic screenings.

SUPCO store shooting

CDLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) - A convicted murderer who was eligible to be resentenced when the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed capital punishment

for youthful offenders can get less than life in prison, the state Supreme Court ruled Tuesday.
Eric Dale Morgan was about two weeks shy of his 18th birthday when he shot and killed a Spartanburg convenience store owner in 2000. He was convicted and sentenced to die in March 2004. That sentence was invalidated last year when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the death penalty for juveniles was unconstitutional.
The state argued that the only option was a life sentence without parole because the jury found armed robbery to be an "aggravating circumstance" in the case.
"Whether the jury found certain aggravating circumstances at his sentencing proceeding is irrelevant because the discussion of aggravators arises only when the state seeks the death penalty, which the state cannot do in this case," Justice James E. Moore wrote in the unanimous opinion.

National:

California Death Penalty delayed

SAN QUENTIN, Calif. (AP) - The execution of a condemned killer was postponed early Tuesday after two anesthesiologists refused for ethical reasons to take part, and attorneys pursued a new round of

court challenges that could delay the execution indefinitely.
Michael Morales, 46, was supposed to die by lethal injection at 12:01 a.m. But the execution was put off until at least Tuesday night after the anesthesiologists objected that they might have to advise the executioner if the inmate woke up or appeared to suffer pain. "Any such intervention would clearly be medically unethical," the doctors, whose identities were not released, said in a statement. "As a result, we have withdrawn from participation in this current process."
The judge's ruling renewed an ethical debate that has persisted for many years about the proper role of doctors in executions and the suitability of the lethal injection method used in California and 35 other states.

Star Wars video games

(AP) - If you thought Star Wars finally ended last year with *Episode III: Revenge of the Sith*, think again. The space opera appears destined to live longer than Jedi Master Yoda as a series of video game spinoffs.
After the familiar music score and scrolling text kick things off, you lead either the Rebel Alliance or the Empire in the ongoing turf war for control of the galaxy.
You don't get to be ruler of the universe without a fight. Conquering a planet involves amassing large fleets of space

cruisers, soldiers and armored vehicles. Usually, you'll have to assault opposing space defenses, then conduct a ground assault.
You'll have to always be thinking about your ability to spread forces evenly to continually gain territory and prevent losing it again.
A lack of variety limits the longevity of "Empire at War." With only two sides to fight for, the very thing that makes Star Wars such an enduring tale of good versus evil ultimately prevents gamers from enjoying a richer, more engaging experience.

International:

Tainted blood

TORONTO (AP) - Three Canadian health officials, a U.S. pharmaceutical company and one of its senior American executives pleaded not guilty Tuesday to charges that their neglect allowed thousands of Canadians to contract HIV through tainted blood.
After weeks of delay and initial fears that some charges would be thrown out, hemophiliacs who received the tainted blood and relatives of those too ill to come to court, or who have already died, were relieved when the trial finally got under way.
The courtroom was filled with victims and family members of those who

received the contaminated blood products from Bridgewater, N.J.-based Armour Pharmaceutical Co. One HIV-positive woman sat with her husband and two daughters, a toilet paper roll at her side as she repeatedly dabbed at her eyes and glared at the defendants.
"I think the victims want to see justice done," said James Kreppner, a hemophiliac who received tainted blood in the 1980s and is now gravely ill with HIV and hepatitis C.

Car bomb in Baghdad fatal

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - A car bomb exploded Tuesday on a street packed with shoppers in a Shiite area of Baghdad, killing 22 people and wounding 28, police said. It was the deadliest bomb attack in the Iraqi capital in a month.
At least eight other people were killed and more than 30 injured Tuesday in bombings and shootings elsewhere in Baghdad and in attacks on beauty parlors and liquor stores, symbols of Western influence, in Baqouba northeast of the capital.
The car bombing occurred shortly before 5 p.m. in a Shiite corner of Dora, a predominantly Sunni Arab district of Baghdad and one of the most dangerous parts of the city, rocked almost daily by bombings, ambushes and assassinations.
It was the deadliest bombing in Baghdad since Jan. 19.

Blood Drive in Mendenhall



Pictured above is Amanda Upchurch, sophomore athletic training major, and a nurse from the Red Cross monitoring her progress. The blood drive, which incorporated a friendly donating competition, was called "Scholars vs. Statesmen" and was sponsored by Omicron Delta Kappa and the SGA.

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Hit & Run from page A1

"Daddy's not in there," said Cole when he saw the casket on the day of Kyle's funeral. "He's in Heaven," Cole said while pointing his tiny finger skyward while his grandmother held him close.

Later, Cole released some balloons into the sky as a gift for his dad.

While Jeff Niccum wants the help of ECU students in finding who killed his son, he also wants students to see his son as an example.

When asked about what he wanted others to learn from his son's death, Jeff Niccum's response was, "Nobody is invincible."

"People need to be careful when they decide to go drinking," Sgt. Worthington said.

"Especially if it's in an area they're unfamiliar with. If you're going to drink, you need to have a designated driver or a designated walker."

Jeff Niccum is asking for students to, "Keep their eyes and ears open. The best way to solve this crime is for someone to come forward with more information. Please help in any way possible. We'd be eternally grateful. We just want some closure."

The accident is still under investigation by the Greenville Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit. Anyone with additional information about the accident should contact Officer J. R. Cobb at 329-4146 or Officer B. C. Hill at either 329-4145 or 329-4315. People should also feel free to contact Pitt-Greenville

CrimeStoppers at 758-7777.

The Niccum family has set up a trust fund to help pay for Cole's education. Donations can be sent to:

1108 Country Brooke Drive
 Raleigh, N.C. 27603.

Checks should be made to Jeff Niccum in care of Cole Jacques.

Information for this article provided by:
 Original article published by *The Daily Reflector*, written by Erin Rickert.

Article provided courtesy of Bobby A. Burns, News Editor, *The Daily Reflector*.

Police Report from the Greenville Police Department.

Memorial from page A1

cates and plaques that Wilentz received were on display.

Books Wilentz had written, including *She, Belizean Women Books and Healing Narratives, Women Writers Curing Cultural Disease*, were on display along with others.

The memorial was a true celebration and reminder of the many accomplishments and contributions Wilentz made for both the university and her life.


The incredible turnout at her memorial in itself speaks for the amazing life of a truly unique, special individual. There can be no doubt Wilentz will be missed.

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

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The Sandpiper is never short on big-time entertainment, hosting such acts as Bob Marley's Waiters, Tone Loc and other major acts. Tentatively scheduled for this year are the Black Eyed Peas performing on the beach behind the Sandpiper Beacon during the Spring Break swimwear and the Corona Beach Volleyball Tournament is scheduled to take place behind the Sandpiper this year. There will be entertainment all day and all night at the hotel throughout spring break.

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Our View

Pirate Baseball

The ECU baseball team has gotten off to an impressive start in the 2006 season under first year coach Billy Godwin. The Pirates have series victories over Maryland and College of Charleston and an overall record of 5-2 thanks in large part to a solid pitching staff.

Two years ago when the Pirates made a run to the College World Series, they boasted one of the most dynamic offenses in the country only to have pitching fail them with the game on the line.

Now with a shored up staff that includes the likes of starters Dustin Sasser and T.J. Hose, who both have a 0.75 ERA in two starts each, along with an experienced bullpen, Godwin can comfortably send a number of hurlers to the mound in the clutch, something the Pirates arguably lacked in years past.

That isn't to say the Pirates' offense is less than formidable. ECU is hitting over .300 as a team and while they may be absent home run threats up and down the lineup, the Pirates are talented enough to light up the scoreboard, as evidenced by a 19-5 rout against Duke on Tuesday.

ECU has a nice blend of veteran leadership and youth as seniors Jay Mattox, Jake Smith and Adam Witter have been hot at the plate.

Mattox leads the team with a .429 batting average and Smith and Witter are hitting well over .300 with a homer each. Smith has a team high nine RBI.

We're only weeks into the season, but so far it seems ECU is back on track to make a run deep into the post season with a complete squad, both offensively and defensively. They will face a true test of their talent with an upcoming road series against national powerhouse Cal. St. Fullerton March 10 - 12.

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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.

PARAMOUNT TO RELEASE AL GORE MOVIE



Opinion Columnist

System works in Haiti... but U.S. doesn't like it

Foreign election showcases hypocrisy of the Bush administration

GARY MCCABE
BITTER BOULEVARD

In my mind, there are two kinds of countries that make up this world we live in: brand name countries and generic countries. The brand name countries of the world are pretty obvious. Let's just say that if the planet Earth were one giant clothing store, the brand name countries would be the clothes in the storefront window, showing those who walk past the very best the store has to offer. These countries are rich, powerful and immensely successful.

The Republic of Haiti is clearly the latter kind of country. To put it bluntly, if the United States is the Armani suit of the world, Haiti is little more than a soiled pair of purple sweatpants in a dumpster behind K-Mart.

Destitute and rife with gang warfare, Haiti has been on the verge of anarchy for years. The past two years have been especially difficult, following a 2004 political coup d'état which unseated Haiti's elected leader, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Although the rebellion was a clear attack on democracy, the Bush administration was ambiguous in their response, publicly denouncing the actions of the rebels (the Haitian elite) while somewhat suggesting that Aristide's removal may actually be the first steps toward stability in the nation. It should also be pointed out that the United States had no problem interjecting itself into the rebellion that brought Aristide to power in 1994.

So as you can imagine, it's not often that good news actually comes out of what has become the most impoverished nation in the Western Hemisphere. However, when I opened the paper Feb. 10, that's exactly what I found.

The good news was this: Haiti had just run presidential elections and early electoral results showed that candidate René Préal was poised to win the contest. The significance of Préal's impending win was tied to whom he represented, the nation's overwhelming majority of Haiti's 8.5 million people living in extreme poverty.

Préal ran for office on a very ambitious platform, calling for public schools, increased foreign investments, the use of negotiations rather than force to end gang warfare and a complete overhaul of the nation's flawed government. In a magnanimous gesture, Préal even pledged to appoint a prime minister from whichever political party won control of Parliament in this year's elections knowing perfectly well that it would not be his own.

On paper, Préal certainly seems to be the perfect leader for Haiti at this point in time. As President Bush might say, he's a "uniter," not a "divider." He has clear goals for the nation and if successful, Haiti could very well make some positive strides and eventually be in a position to crawl out of that metaphorical dumpster behind K-Mart. So if this is such a positive event for Haiti, why has the United States done everything in its power to keep Préal from actually taking office?

I won't go so far as to say that the United States was responsible for Aristide's removal in 2004 - enough Haitians have said it that it's almost unnecessary. Besides, that's all in the past. It's quite clear that the traditional Haitian elite who took control in 2004 - later put under the control of a U.S.-installed interim government - attempted to rig this election.

I'm not just speculating either. Patrick Féquiere, a member of Haiti's election council, said it himself. When Préal came up short of the 50 percent vote needed for an instant victory, the council voted him in anyway to avoid the backlash that would surely come from a subsequent run-off, which could very well rob Préal of his victory.

"We had to do something," said Féquiere. "We could have just told Préal he got 48.76 percent, but when he contests the results, all of this mess is going to come out - the blank votes, the missing votes."

Even after his confirmation, President Bush and his administration are insisting that Préal share power with the traditional elite after begrudgingly accepting him as Haiti's presidential-elect. Share power? If that's the way the world is supposed to handle disputed elections, Al Gore would be co-president right now and we'd probably all be better off.

So to answer my earlier question, the United States government doesn't want Préal in office simply because the United States is better off having Haitians starving to death and killing each other. What does the United States have to gain from a strong, independent Haiti when a country run by like-minded elites is so much easier to manipulate? They don't care about Haiti or any other country, for that matter.

Maybe if the Bush administration were up front about that attitude, it would be a bit easier to swallow. Instead, our government runs around the world pretending to be this high-minded nation that wants to "liberate the oppressed" and "spread democracy" - only we've seen too many times what happens to those oppressed peoples when they democratically elect someone who doesn't suit the U.S. government's agenda.

The United States has been telling the Palestinians to conduct democratic elections for years now. Earlier this year, the Palestinians held the elections and voted in candidates representing the terrorist group Hamas.

How do you think President Bush felt the day after those elections? Do you honestly believe he was sitting the Oval Office thinking, "I sure am glad we brought democracy to the Palestinians." Or do you think he's on the phone to Cheney asking, "What the hell are we going to do about this?"

The United States is obviously one brand name country that will not be satisfied until they have a monopoly on the entire world... and seemingly will do anything to reach that end. But is that such a good thing?

In My Opinion

(KRT) - If unmarried women turned out in force for elections, they could shape the results. But they don't.

It's a tantalizing problem, especially for Democrats, whom unmarried women tend to favor. If the 20 million who didn't vote in 2004 had turned out, John Kerry would be in the White House, based on figures released Wednesday by a liberal get-out-the-vote group that specializes in women. If they'd even turned out at the same rate as married women, Kerry probably would've won.

Unmarried women are "by far the most Democratic base, except for African-Americans," said Democratic pollster Stanley Greenberg, the chief executive officer of Greenberg Quinlan Rosner, which conducted the survey. "We ought to be looking at this" as a political opportunity, he added.

About 54 million women in America aren't married, nearly half of all voting-age women, according to Greenberg. His survey, sponsored by the "Women's Voices. Women Vote. Action Fund," explored the reasons that 20 million single women elected not to vote in 2004.

Greenberg concluded from a survey of 1,509 unmarried women that they:

- Are more likely than unmarried men to think that politics is too complicated to understand.
- Doubt that their votes would make a difference.
- Worry most about the war in Iraq, followed by health care, then the economy and jobs.
- Earn much less than men or married women. Half of unmarried women are in households that earn less than \$30,000 a year, about twice the fraction of married women.
- Disapprove of President Bush by a 2-to-1 ratio.
- Move more often than married women and are less likely to own their homes.
- Ignore mainstream media, so they're harder to reach through TV ads.
- Respond better to political ads that are framed in terms of issues and facts than to negative ads or ads that stress political party identity.
- "They just sort of feel uninformed and not politically powerful," said Greenberg's daughter, Anna, the vice president of Greenberg Quinlan Rosner and a researcher for the study. "So they don't want to participate."

The ranks of unmarried women are growing faster than most other groups because women today wait longer before marrying for the first time and remain unmarried longer after divorce. They also are more likely to live with their partners before marrying and to live with them longer.

African-American women often are unmarried partly because they find it difficult to marry outside their race. Due to high mortality and incarceration rates, there are 86 African-American men for every 100 women, said Avis Jones-DeWeever, a researcher for the Institute for Women's Policy Research, a nonprofit that studies income security for women.

Low wages for single women make them feel marginalized, she added. "Unmarried women don't vote because the government doesn't pay attention to them."

Stanley Greenberg said the findings showed the potential for recruiting unmarried women to vote. To get through to a group that shuns mainstream media, he suggested using cell phones, e-mails and door-to-door campaigns, especially in swing states or districts in which the vote is likely to be close.

Pirate Rant

Too many of you people try to be Dr. Phil. You should just settle your disputes with a fight instead of arguing back and forth through Pirate Rant.

Jack Johnson did the *Curious George* soundtrack. That rocks so much! We should get him to come play here! Forget Kanye!

OMG! This is college, not kindergarten! The barely there "snow" was not an adverse weather condition. It was a minor inconvenience maybe. If you want to know the weather, get up five minutes early and watch the Weather Channel, local news or (dare I say it?) stick your head outside. If it's cold or snow is on the ground, wear appropriate clothing. Do not depend on ECU or anyone else to have to baby-sit you and tell you what it's like outside! Grow up. If there was considerable accumulation, ECU would have cancelled classes because of hazardous conditions, which was not the case.

Winter: If you're not going to snow and close things, then you need to leave!

To the person who ranted about "Fraggle Rock," yes, "Fraggle Rock" was a great show indeed. Kind of like *Coldstone* is great, but only in puppet form.

Vixen, girl, you need some serious help. Please stop wasting TEC space to cry and moan about breaking up. You did it because you wanted to live it up and party, etc. Fate? Please. That's just your way of trying to justify your stupidity.

My roommate is a hippie and yeah, all the stereotypes are true.

My friend (probably in third trimester) has been craving a pastrami sandwich. Why is it so hard for a pregnant woman to get the sandwich she craves?

Shhh! Don't blow our cover! We Southerners aren't idiots you know. A little snow, get out of school and off work! What's so wrong with that? We do the same thing with hurricanes. (Note: Earlier this year, we've had rain showers worse than that thing!) We know what we're doing!

Don't you hate it when people support sports teams from a city that they have absolutely no connection to? I don't care if you hate it or not. I hate it, and I'm telling you.

The "loan a book" program as you call it is one little "perk" for staff and faculty and their kids attending ECU. Give us state employees a break! Have you seen our paychecks?

Sucking up to the professor is the best thing I have going for me in one of my classes. I mean, doing it last semester got me an A when everyone else got Bs and Cs. Why stop now?

To the guy in the yellow/orange hoodie singing "Baby I Love Your Way" in Wright on Wednesday around 10 a.m., you are beautiful. That is my favorite song and you made shopping for a bagel and a diet Pepsi so enjoyable. Hope to see you in there again soon!

We fired Bill Herrion for this? Good talent + horrible coaching = ECU Basketball.

It's not North Carolina that smells bad, it's just you.

About the "Our Confederate Dead" monument: I've grown up in Greenville, and my family has always been southern. Almost all the men in my family at the time if the Civil War fought for the Confederacy, and many died. That statue means a lot to me. And remember, the winners get to write the history books! The Civil War was not about slavery. The issue of slavery was kind of the popularity booster toward the end of the war. Those men gave their lives for freedom.

Some of us do feel an enormous pressure to go Greek. I hate Greek life and I've almost joined two frats this semester. Peer pressure exists in college too!

Why does the brewed coffee at Java City taste like bitter swill? Seriously, my cat can brew a better cup of coffee!

I... pulled... up to the house about seven or eight and I yelled to the cabbie "Yo, homes, smell 'ya lata!" Looked at my kingdom, I was finally there, to sit on my throne, as the prince of Bel-Air. Sorry, I just needed to let that out.

So my sorority says it's all about sisterhood, but then they go around talking about each other every chance they get? I just don't understand.

What happened to the gentlemen at ECU? I would for once just love to go out on a date and have a guy treat me like I am a princess.

My friend thinks he was a cockroach in another life and earlier today I killed a cockroach that was in our pantry, and he's giving me the "silent treatment" because he thinks that I killed his great aunt.

If you are a guy out there and have anything at all going on with a special lady friend, quit playing games, grow some balls and let her know how you feel or at least what you want out of it - even if you are just in it for "getting some." At least tell her so she doesn't waste her time.

To my roommate who obviously doesn't realize the reason why our heating bill is so high: it is because of you making the thermostat cooler when you "get hot at night" or making it warmer because your little precious "feet are cold." Take off your sleep pants or put on some socks!

How can people sleep with their socks on?

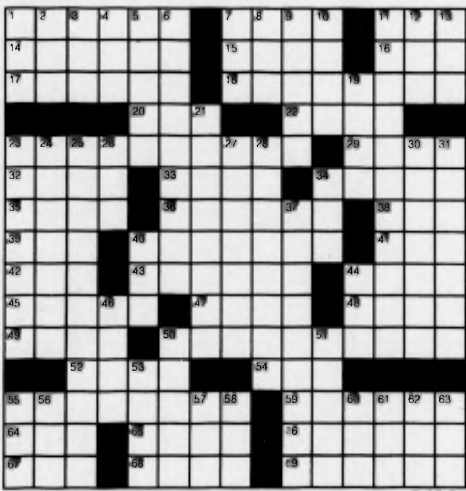
Is it normal to be 20 years old and have a few stray grey hairs and already have extremely wrinkled skin?

Why are there girls working out in the Rec Center with makeup on? I am definitely not going to be interested when I look at your sweaty towel with mascara and foundation all over it.

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.

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- A-test atoll
 - Determine weight by lifting
 - Exclamation of disgust
 - Ducks and dodges
 - Bamako's land
 - Brock or Reed
 - Fine point
 - City on the San Joaquin
 - H.S. cert.
 - Cable subscriber
 - "Poltergeist" director
 - Cloverleaf part
 - Hearty partner
 - Custard treat
 - Knight's outfit
 - Latin & others
 - Samuel and Robert
 - Fuss
 - Eng. channel
 - Rabbit colonies
 - Gridiron zebra
 - Noah's vessel
 - Consecrate
 - Get one's goat
 - Part of BLT
 - Char slightly
 - Pismires
 - Cain's nephew
 - Very wet state
 - Coll. entrance exams
 - Nat'l driver's aid
 - Part of a phone number
 - Dead turf
 - Was in first
 - Walked heavily
 - Satellite of Jupiter
 - Leafy climber
 - Understands
 - Composer Shostakovich



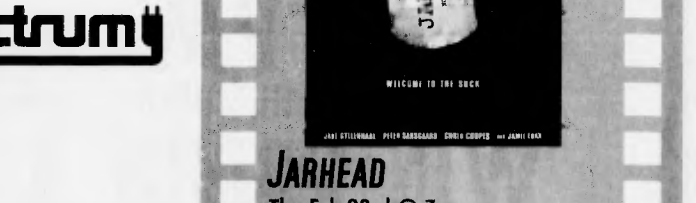
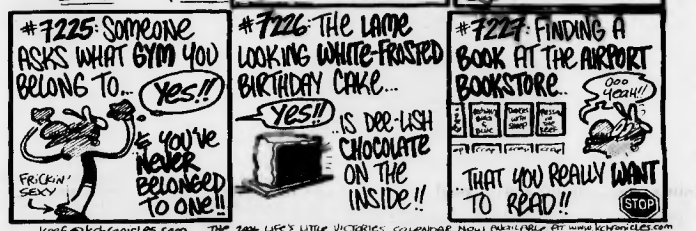
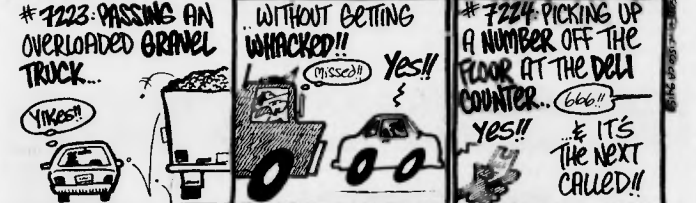
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- DOWN**
- Oyster farm
 - ... been had!
 - Krazy Kartoon Karacter
 - Actress Lupino
 - Stable sound
 - Land in the Irish Sea
 - " Pinafore"
 - Devour
 - Bread ingredient
 - Spasmodic contractions
 - Deep blue color
 - Moo __ gai pan
 - Attilla the
 - Actress Deborah
 - Mournful, musicaly
 - George Herman Ruth
 - High-fiber ingredient
 - Dramatic genre
 - Sushi delicacy
 - Warded off
 - Baja California seaport
 - Lettered Fords
 - Declare
 - Mooncalf
 - Begged
 - Ashen
 - Made tracks
 - Greek peak
 - Shopper's stop
 - Micah follower
 - Play divisions
 - "Float like a butterfly" boxer
 - Gun the engine
 - Female rabbit
 - Asner and Sullivan
 - Jackie's Onassis
 - Little 'un
 - Class for EMTs
 - Yokohama yes

Solutions



A College Girl Named Joe



Student Union Events

Artwork of Diane Banks
Feb 6th-Mar 3rd
In Mendenhall's 2nd floor gallery
This is your chance to see a great exhibition of interesting work that has an extraordinary organic quality.



Comedian Alexandra McHale
Wednesday, Feb 23rd @ 8pm
In Mendenhall's Multipurpose Room
This rising entertainer has been featured on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, The Late Late Show with Craig Kilborn and on Comedy Central's Premium Blend.

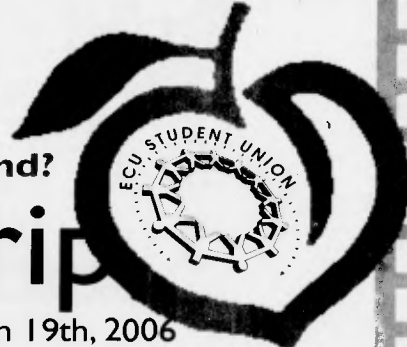


Bingo
Wednesday, March 1st @ 9pm
In Mendenhall's Destination 360
\$500 in prize money will be up for grabs.



Questions? Call 328-4715
Visit www.ecu.edu/student_union
Email STUDENTUNION@ECU.EDU

Is Georgia on your mind? Atlanta Trip



Tuesday, March 14th—Sunday, March 19th, 2006
Tickets start at \$150
Purchase a ticket at Mendenhall's Central Ticket Office
or for more information call 328-4715.

films

All movies are shown in Mendenhall's Hendrix Theatre.



JARHEAD
Thu Feb 23rd @ 7pm
Fri Feb 24th @ 9:30pm
Sat Feb 25th @ 7pm & Midnight
Sun Feb 26th @ 3pm



A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
Thu Feb 23rd @ 9:30pm
Fri Feb 24th @ 7pm & Midnight
Sat Feb 25th @ 9:30pm
Sun Feb 26th @ 7pm

NAHB from page A1

Teams are comprised of dedicated students and faculty coaches. Each team is given plans, specifications, HOA documents and other pertinent documents from a real-world project that has been recently completed or is under construction.

Over approximately six weeks, teams prepare written proposal packages that are submitted to a panel of construction industry judges. The proposal is comprised of estimates, schedules, financials, marketing research, marketing plans and many other components.

The written proposal comprises 80 percent of each team's score. The remaining 20 percent comes from the team's oral presentation at the International Builders Show.

At the presentation portion of the competition each team is allowed to present for 15 minutes. Then the judges question the team members for 10 minutes. Each team member is expected to be fully knowledgeable of all aspects of the project and the proposal.

After the conclusion of team presentations, the NAHB Student Chapters Awards Ceremony is held. This is when teams learn the results of a near six-month effort. Following the ceremony, the teams are treated to the NAHB Student Chapters Awards Reception.

"Being in the competition, I feel like I received a better understanding of how everything comes together to complete a land acquisition package," said Aubrey B. Taylor, a 2005 team member and ECU graduate of May 2005.

"Everything from marketing research to estimating land development and construction

costs to creating an exit strategy and maintaining even flow. Having to participate in all the tasks involved [in the competition] helped to tie all my classes from school together into one 'capstone' course. I also received a better understanding of how the land development process works."

Taylor is now a Field Manager for Centex Homes in their Myrtle Beach Division.

Participation in the competition is an excellent avenue for students to obtain internships and jobs from industry leading residential construction companies. There is a job fair held in conjunction with the International Builders Show.

Some students receive invitations to exclusive events held by employers. Many students make contacts that lead to future job offers, while others leave the job fair with firm offers.

This year, the team is comprised of 10 students representing a cross-section of its Construction Management student body. This cross-section reflects the diversity of the campus and the workplace. Some are traditional students, while others are non-traditional students with job experience who are formalizing their education or retraining to change careers after being dismissed.

The 2006 ECU Competition Team included Steven Beatty, Raymond Garris, Matthew Hill, Tia Hudson, Grant Lockhart, John "Baxter" Matthews, Jeremy Morrison, John Rappoport, Andrew Rowley and Scott Seaman.

The 2006 Presentation Team members were Steven Beatty, Raymond Garris, Matthew Hill, Jeremy Morrison, John Rappoport and Andrew Rowley. Donna

Hollar, a member of the faculty of the Department of Construction Management, functions as the Competition Team Coach.

There are nearly 600 students enrolled in Construction Management. These students are working to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management. Many also obtain a minor in Business Administration. The degree emphasizes commercial and general construction. However, about 40 percent of ECU's graduates enter the residential construction sector.

The trend toward residential construction is increasing. Because of this, the department is in the process of adding a residential construction track to its curriculum. The department also intends to add a heavy construction track in the future.

The 2006 team wishes to acknowledge the support of many individuals and companies who assisted in making participation possible.

Special recognition goes to our financial sponsors: East Carolina Construction Association, KB Home, Raleigh Division and Professional Construction Estimators Association Coastal Plains Chapter.

If you are seeking some highly qualified employees, contact the Construction Management Department.

"We now have first-name relationships with key members of the industry and these persons know that ECU is going to be a long-term partner in developing tomorrow's residential professionals," said Hollar.

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

ART. ASK FOR MORE.

For more information about the importance of arts education, please contact www.AmericanArtsForTheArts.org

Get caught reading.

MOBILE MADNESS

U.S. Cellular

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IT'S MOBILE MADNESS TIME, BABY!

U.S. Cellular's Mobile Madness tour is coming to your school!

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February 25, 6pm-10pm

Got game? Bring it on at the U.S. Cellular Mobile Madness challenge! Dominate your friends in this mobile phone basketball competition and win cash prizes!

High scorer wins \$500! Second place gets \$250 and third place picks up \$100!
(Talk about making a quick buck!)

Register as a **VIP** for the event right now and get front-of-the-line treatment at the event! Text the word "madness" to **82783** or visit www.getusc.com

THINK YOU'RE THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS CAROLINA FAN?

Prove it by uploading your picture, full name, school name and a phone number where you can be reached to info@mobilemadness.getusc.com - if you peers agree, you could win a **new digital camera!**
Note: photo must be of yourself. For official game rules visit www.getusc.com

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- *DIGITAL CAMERA

*TEXAS HOLD EM, ROULETTE WHEEL, BLACK JACK
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*FREE FOOD

COME HANG OUT WITH THE STUDENT UNION

Page A7

FD

Walk to Cam campus. 2 b with hard wo heat/air. Wash high-speed in water & sewer April/May 1st

2 BD 2 Bath Duplex Avail. 1 \$625.00 mo deco_rat_ed Nice Land. Jo

Riverwalk ho August 2006 Three Bedro ECU bus route 714-2199 or

Walk to Cam bedroom ho from campu Large bedro high-speed in alarm system Several units August 1st. Cl

For Rent 2 B Duplex Cen Walking Dist month Pets 2717.

Now accept summer an Quarters, U Tower Villag Hearthsid 355-5923. Vis hearthsidvis

One two Brs. maintenance month leases ECU bus Wi dishwasher d (252) 758-40

For Rent: Ver house with 2 off street park ECU campus. 25% rent disc 25% rent disc Call 752-1000

University Co renovated 1 blocks from E rent water inc

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT

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2 BD 2 Bath Wynd_ham Cir_cle Duplex Avail_able June 1 and Aug 1 \$625.00 month 321-4802 New_ly deco_rat_ed Cathe_dral Ceil_ing Nice Land_lord Great Price!

Riverwalk homes! Pre-leasing for August 2006 Rent \$895 per month. Three Bedrooms, three baths, on ECU bus route. Call CP Management 714-2199 or 756-8690

Walk to Campus! 6, 5, 4, 3 & 2 bedroom houses all 1-2 blocks from campus. Central Heat/Air. Large bedrooms. Washer, dryer, high-speed internet, basic cable and alarm system all included in rent. Several units available June 1st and August 1st. Call Mike 439-0285.

For Rent 2 Bedroom 1 Bath Brick Duplex Central Air, Stencil Dr. Walking Distance to ECU \$540/month Pets ok w/ fee. Call 353-2717.

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

One two Brs. on-site management maintenance Central heat air 6, 9, 12 month leases Water Cable included ECU bus Wireless Internet pets dishwasher disposals pool laundry (252) 758-4015

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University Court Apartments Newly renovated 1 BR Student Apts. 5 blocks from ECU campus \$365/mo. rent water included call 752-6425

FOR SALE

The Buccaneer is back! The ECU yearbook has returned so make sure to reserve your copy. Order online at www.yearbookupdates/ecu or call 1-888-298-3323 Hurry! Deadline to order is 5pm 4-24-06

HELP WANTED

Greenville Recreation & Parks Department is recruiting Soccer Referees for our upcoming spring Futures Stars Soccer League. Referees must be able to work Saturday mornings and some weeknights. A training clinic will be held on Wednesday, March 8 at 7:30 pm at H. Boyd Lee Park. For additional information about becoming a Soccer Referee or directions to the training clinic, please contact the Athletic Office at 329-4550, Monday-Friday 10 am - 7 pm.

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

Tiara Too Jewelry Colonial Mall Part-time Retail Sales Associate Available year round! Day and Night hours Apply in Person

Bartenders wanted! Up to \$250/day. No experience necessary. Training provided. Call (800) 965-6520, ext. 202

Childcare - Need reliable, fun sitter for one or two children ; Monday - Friday 3-6 PM. Must have own transportation. Please contact Stacey at sbryum@cox.net

ECU Recreational Services is seeking motivated counselors for its Summer Camps. This six-week program offers competitive wages for 35-40 hours per week. Contact Mark Parker at 328-1565 or parkerma@ecu.edu

Wanted: Student to help three kids ages 14, 13, and 9 with homework. Must have GPA of 3.4 or better and be strong in math and science. Must be non-smoker, flexible hours, transportation, available to work afternoons, nights, and some weekends. Call 252-917-6787 for interview.

Food Delivery Drivers wanted for Restaurant Runners. Part-time positions 100-150/week. Perfect for college student!! Some Lunch Time (11a-2p) M-F and weekend availability required. 2-way radios allow you to be anywhere in Greenville when not on a delivery. Reliable transportation a must. Call 551-3279 between 2-5 only. Sorry Greenville residents and year around dorm residents only.

GREEK PERSONALS

Kappa Delta would like to thank Sig Ep for a great social. Can't wait to do it again!

Gamma Sigma Sigma would like to welcome the following girls to the Alpha Beta Pledge Class! Farah A., Jacqueline B., Cara B., Cristin C., Emily C., Alice C., Kendall C., Dale P., Ashley F., Autumn H., Jessica H., Ashley H., Jenna H., Sheena L., Allison M., Emily M., Lauren O., Amy S., Kimberly S., Ashley T., and Whitney W. Welcome girls!

Thanks to PIKA for a great social! - Delta Zeta

Thanks to KA for a fun graffiti social! - Delta Zeta

OTHER

Attn All Vegetarians: New Veggie Wrap: Black Beans, Rice, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese (or Not), Sauteed Mushrooms, Onions, and Peppers. Now Available at Cafe Caribe.

Retreatmyrtlebeach.com Spring Break/Grad Week 1-800-645-3618 We Have What You're Looking For! \$100 Per Person & Up!

The Greenville Greens, an affiliate of the NC Green Party, meets monthly on the first Thursday of each month. Next meeting is Thursday, March 2, at 7pm, Sheppard Memorial Library, Room B. A true progressive voice in NC politics! Contact us at ncgp.gvillelocal@yahoo.com

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 wait. Walk ins are welcome.

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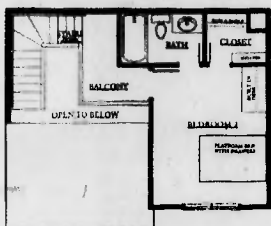
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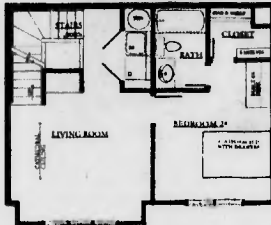
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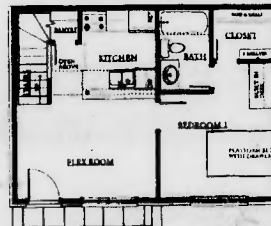
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Summer School 2006

Page 8
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Campus Confessions:

I have mastered the art of sleeping with my eyes open, so if you see me staring into space during class... don't bother me, I'm sleeping.

I've taken two exams this semester when I was still a little drunk from the night before, and I did better on both of them than any others.

Is it bad that I could care less about the stupid winter Olympics?

I like to smell the underside of my nail because it always smells weird if my nail is long.

I hate my roommate because he is part of my race and he is a self-hater.

When my roommate goes home for the weekend, I wear her clothes and hang them back in her closet without washing them.

I dream about making out with my lab partner on one of the lab tables. He's kind of dorky, but in a sexy Clark Kent/Superman sort of way.

I have been having a sexual relationship with an instructor.

I make a big deal about being lactose intolerant, but I am not. I grew out of that allergy a decade ago.

I'd like to mandate that everyone who still thinks it's funny to scream out trademark Lil' Jon phrases should have steel plates bolted to their mouth, Beetjuice style. Seriously, the horse is dead.

I am terribly ashamed to take a poo in a public bathroom. I mean, the toilets are there, but the entire nature of handling your business makes it somewhat undesirable to expose passing strangers to. After all, if you happen to venture into a public bathroom, you might know what someone's fecal matter smells like before you even know their name. That's just not right.

I am totally incapable of seeing the difference between Kentucky and Tennessee. They're the same state, right?

I signed the roll for my roommate in ethics class.

I go the men's restroom when the line is too long for the girls' restroom.

Due to the anonymous nature of the Campus Confessions, the authenticity of the Campus Confessions cannot be verified by The East Carolinian Staff.

Recipe:

Chocolate Ricotta Pie

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons cornmeal
- 3/4 cup pine nuts, plus 3/4 cup, toasted (about 8 ounces in total)
- 1/4 cup sugar, plus 3/4 cup
- Pinch salt
- 1 stick (4 ounces) unsalted butter, melted and cooled slightly
- 1/2 cup water
- 8 ounces semisweet chocolate chips (about 1 1/3 cups)
- 3/4 cup ricotta cheese
- 3 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1 large egg
- 3 large egg yolks

Blend the flour, cornmeal, 3/4 cup pine nuts, 1/4 cup sugar and salt in a food processor until finely ground. Add the butter and pulse, just until the dough forms. Press the dough over the bottom and about 2 inches up the sides of an 11-inch-diameter tart pan with a removable bottom. Refrigerate until the dough is firm, about 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line the tart dough with aluminum foil and fill with pie weights or dried beans. Bake the tart shell in the lower third of the oven until just set, about 25 minutes. Carefully remove the foil and pie weights. Bake the shell until golden, about 10 minutes longer. Cool completely.

Combine the remaining 3/4 cup of sugar with 1/2 cup water in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring until the sugar dissolves. Cool the sugar syrup slightly.

In a double boiler, melt the chocolate over very softly simmering water. Pulse the ricotta cheese and cream cheese in a food processor until smooth. Add the egg and egg yolks, one at a time, and process until smooth. Add the melted chocolate and process until combined. With the machine running, add the sugar syrup in a thin steady stream and process until smooth.

Pour the custard into the tart shell and bake until the filling is almost set, about 30 minutes or until the custard has set. Scatter the remaining 3/4 cup toasted pine nuts on top of the filling. Let the tart cool completely before serving. The tart can be wrapped in plastic and refrigerated for up to three days. Return the tart to room temperature before serving.

'Date Movie' proves to be just that

Collection of parodies is sure to please

SCOTTY WILLIAMS
SENIOR WRITER

First off, let's all thank the Wayans brothers for bringing us *Scary Movie*, the franchise that has so far squeezed out three movies worth of poking fun. Actually, *Scary Movie* has a fourth installment in post production. Until recently, however, this franchise was the only notable dip into the spoof pool, an aberration in Hollywood.

Now we might have a justifiable genre on our hands.

Date Movie is a spoof of epic proportions. It's clear from the trailer that you're coming to see a movie that makes fun of other current movies. The pleasant surprise of this movie is that even though you enter expecting low-brow toilet humor, you get something much more.

The draw of spoof-type movies is that they make fun of things with the sort of venom that you would expect to see on the Internet (in the 18-plus category of course). For a perfect example of the draw, check out the TV show "Family Guy."

Date Movie has this sort of draw written all over it. Nothing

is safe from the scripted ire of this movie, from movies to current events to ... animals? The movie is a parade of laughs from start to finish.

The theme of this movie is somewhat generic for the romantic comedy — a woman deeply desires romance and her "prince charming" and seeks to find a man who will see past a few imperfections.

There are a few obstacles along the way, and these obstacles themselves are the combined plots of a few popular date movies like a wacky family (a la *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*) or neurotic parents (*Meet the Parents*, you got it). Through the course of the movie, the happy couple traverses these obstacles to end up together, happily ever after.

The part of this movie you will enjoy is that you come to see current spoofing, but if you're a little older, you will appreciate the spoofing of movies like *Pretty Woman*. You will be grossed out and it will make you laugh, but you'll also notice some visual humor and higher-order jokes. They're in the movie; you've just got to look for them.

I will comment on one problem with this movie. There's a scene where the whole family is at dinner and the humor seems to be dragging. The whole audi-



In a dangerous venue, a bridal shop, Julia (Alyson Hannigan) and Andy (Sophie Monk) spoof 'Kill Bill'!

ence is waiting for their next roll moment, the next thing that's going to put them in the aisles in stitches, and what do we get? Lil' Jon. The hilarity of the movie at this juncture has been put in the hands of a man who can't put a whole sentence together and whose comedic draw has been exhausted, overplayed and beaten to death for

months. (Yes, this is a note to all who want to be funny, "yeaaaaaaah!" and "whaaaaaaah!" just aren't funny anymore. Drop it and let it die.)

Other than that, I must say this movie is so funny and is so many different kinds of funny that it's a clinic in laughter. You'd have to take a pencil and paper to the movie with you to

keep track of every movie, TV show and current event that gets spoofed in the entire running time, but you won't care, you'll be laughing too hard to really notice.

Grade: A

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

ECU student: Her "American Idol" story

Sitting down with Jennifer Sieminski

KRISTIN MURNANE
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

Jennifer Sieminski used to be your typical ECU student. This blonde-haired New Jersey native is a Communication major and describes herself as a "normal kid." But there is something not so normal about this girl, something that the majority of us Pirates will never experience. Sieminski was recently on the number one rated television show "American Idol." After a stellar audition at Soldier Field in Chicago, Sieminski was invited to travel across the country to the show's Hollywood auditions, taking the next step to "Idol" fame. This is her story.

TEC: First, can you take us through the audition process? **Sieminski:** I first auditioned at Soldier Field. I think the final head count was something around 15,000. Everybody got a ticket when you entered and you had an assigned seat, so you could leave the stadium, but there were people who didn't have money for a hotel overnight. They stayed in the stadium, outdoors, for two days; they had 12 tents on the field with lower level producers. They funnel us down and we sing in groups of four and we go before these judges. I ended up singing "Something to Talk About" by Bonnie Raitt and the producers liked it and they said "Can you sing another song?" and I said "sure," so I sang "Bless the Broken Road" by Rascal Flatts. I was the only one in my group to go through. I was probably only like the 40th person to get through that day. So I was pretty psyched because I knew that the next audition was the



Jennifer Sieminski holds her 'Golden Ticket' to the next round.

most important. It was in front of the executive producers, Ken Warwick and Nigel Lythgoe. This is where they decide who they want in their top 24. I didn't know that at the time, but now I know it, so I went and I waited for hours for these producers and they made us memorize that "Lady Marmalade" song because that was our city's song.

TEC: That leads me into another question. I've read online about how you and a few other people had talked about how everything was edited too much and nothing was how it seemed on TV, and that the judges (Randy, Paula and Simon) didn't really see everyone. Is that true?

Sieminski: Yes, that's partly true. When we went to the executive producers, only 300 people from the 15,000 got to see them, and I'd say about 200 of them were genuinely bad. [The producers] know the difference between people who are trying to fake it and people who genuinely think

that they are God's great gift. It's sad, because I witnessed this. I tried to teach these kids "Lady Marmalade" and I heard them sing. The whole time I was just thinking "these are those people that they're going to parade on TV." Funny thing was, Crazy Dave, I taught him the song and I'm like "Oh my God, this guy is so bad." I felt so bad for him. They didn't ask me to sing "Lady Marmalade" because, I then realized, they only had the bad people sing it.

TEC: So how did your audition with Simon, Paula and Randy go? **Sieminski:** Simon was so nice to me. I was very surprised. He said "I love you. You're a natural. You know what you want, you know what you're doing. So it's a definite 'yes' for me." Paula was like "yeah, great tone," but she doesn't like girls, as we all know. So I didn't really pay attention to her. It was actually Randy who didn't like me. He was like "yeah, that was good dawg; it didn't blow

me away, but good audition." They were unanimous on sending me through, so I was excited.

TEC: Well then, can you walk us through the Hollywood auditions? **Sieminski:** I got there and the first night we had an orientation where we were told that we can't have personal web pages and we can't have stuff about us online singing. You can't do this, you can't do that. Anyway, they had given us two weeks [in between the Chicago audition and Hollywood], and we had a list of 12 songs to pick from for the first round. I was thrilled because "Bless the Broken Road" was on there, so I didn't have to learn a new song ... so I just wanted to stick with what I knew. I was going to be safe.

Our calls were at 7:30 in the morning. The first day, they had group one audition, which was Las Vegas auditions, Austin auditions. I was thrilled I wasn't on day one. I had a day to relax. So we went on a field trip and we went to the Hollywood Bowl, the Santa Monica Pier, the Hollywood Walk of Fame and the Kodak Theatre, where the finale is held. When I auditioned, my number was 72 and there were 75 people auditioning that day, so I was at the very end ... and luckily, I moved on from that point. So here's where things start to fall apart. Auditions ended that day around 11:30 p.m. and we were exhausted. I just wanted to go to sleep, but no ... we have to get into groups of three or four. My group consisted of myself, the oh-so-humble Katherine McPhee and Crystal Stark. We picked "I Can't Help Myself" (sugarplum honeybunch), and we picked it because it had easy words and we knew the melody. It's now 11:30

see IDOL page B2

Fiery Furnaces live at Cat's Cradle

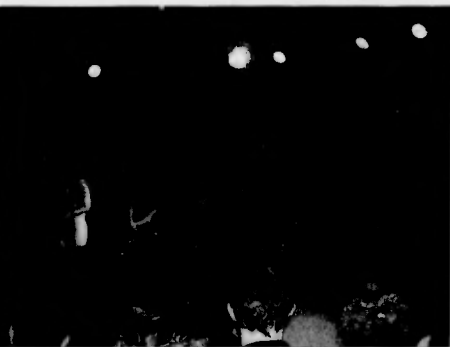
Matt Friedberger discusses tea, choirs and music

JOHN BOSCO
STAFF WRITER

For those out of the loop, the Fiery Furnaces are the brother/sister duo of Matt and Eleanor Friedberger. It wouldn't be a stretch to say they're one of the most critically acclaimed and highly praised rock bands playing today. Last year, their two releases, *EP* and *Rehearsing My Choir*, made them the only artists on the *College Music Journal's* year-end chart with multiple records, at numbers 22 and 191, respectively.

With two red cats stamped on my hands (the mark of being under 21 at the Cat's Cradle), a digital camera and a spot to sit close to the stage against a graffiti-tagged wall, I was ready for the show to start.

Eleanor Friedberger, the main vocalist, showed up on stage in an all white outfit with a very ener-



Band members playing at Cat's Cradle on Saturday, Feb. 13.

getic start to the show. The man behind the music, Matt Friedberger, was playing only guitar this time around (no keyboards like on the albums), and a bassist and drummer who were both very impressive backed them.

The mood was established early with the familiar tune "Asthma Attack" and an impres-

sive up tempo version of "Straight Street" before diving into songs from their newest record, *Rehearsing My Choir*.

It was in those songs that the Furnaces were most remarkable. Album versions of the songs feature their grandmother on vocals alongside Eleanor and are accompanied by pianos and synthesiz-

ers; live, however, the mood was much more rock 'n' roll.

Matt showcased a blues/rock guitar approach that has been relatively sparse since their first release, *Gallowsbird's Bark*. Guitar solos were thrown left and right, and rhythmically, the beats were tight and exciting. Eleanor's vocals were virtually flawless and her delivery of lines like, "Zap-zapped by the zombie in the two-door Dodge" were a treat to watch. The crowd seemed to be very into it and the atmosphere was attentive yet relaxed. Overall, the set was extraordinary and the encore was wonderful.

While the show wasn't the pyrotechnic phenomenon that is a Kiss show, it wasn't supposed to be. They proved that they have even more depth than their albums show and bring something more to the table live than just carbon copies of their songs. Luckily, I was able to talk to Matt Friedberger on

see FURNACES page B3



Washington D.C.: Playground of 'punks'

Fast, loud, strange looking musicians

MARK ROMANO
STAFF WRITER

The word "punk" carries many connotations — most people associate the word with trouble causing teens with black leather jackets and Mohawks. Well, that's pretty much right, but it's what bands like Bad Brains and Minor Threat (from which Fugazi later evolved) contributed to the world of music: freedom.

Punk was born, evolved and perpetuated in America, and the people who created it wanted nothing to do with what everyone else was doing. Punk, for those of you unfamiliar with it, is basically really fast and loud guitar driven rock music, but that's barely scratching the surface and undermining the huge influence that punk had in the late 1970s and on future generations of rock music.

Punk has its roots in later classic rock acts such as Alice Cooper and Iggy Pop, who pushed the limits of stage performance and began playing faster and more intense rock music, straying away from formulaic and ostentatious hair metal. In 1976, The Ramones from New York released the first punk album that really attracted widespread attention and marked the beginning of punk popularity.

Punk had been brewing in L.A., New York and especially Washington, D.C., for years in small nightclubs, such as the still popular 911 Club in D.C. Punk musicians and followers had a great sense of independence, creating almost a brotherly attitude toward the D.C. scene, which became known as hardCore, and setting themselves apart with spike studded leather jackets, Mohawks, makeup and body piercings.

What better place for punk to emerge than the capital of "the land of the free"? The do-it-yourself, independent attitude kept punk alive. By not giving into major record labels that would overcharge for records and tickets, punk bands were self sufficient and proud. They cared

see PUNK page B3

Idol from page B1

and the last thing we wanted to do was sing more. At this point, I started to break down. I was so tired and this was so stressful ... it was 2:30 in the morning before they let us go back to the hotel and then 7:30 call, everyone was a bit tired and it was a little rough. The group day went well. We got group 22, and we had plenty of time to practice. We did well, and guess who forgot all the words? Katherine ... but that was the toughest part, the group part. Anyway, around 3 a.m. they made us pick from 95 songs, and my first audition song was on that list too. So I was just like "why bother learning a new song and killing myself over it? I'll just sing 'Something to Talk About.'" I did really well. I got great feedback. I never got a negative remark from the judges. That's why I was so confused when I was put in the room [with the soon to be eliminated contestants], and I looked around before [the judges] even came in there and I knew I was cut. I just knew it. I wanted to be in Ace's room.

TEC: Speaking of which, who were the hottest guys there?

Sieminski: I'm in love with Ace. I picked him from the beginning to win. He didn't sound very good on the Denver audition when they showed him, but he was amazing in Hollywood.

TEC: How do you feel about the Brittenum twins? Are they really as obnoxious as they came off as on TV?

Sieminski: Yes, even more so. We hated them. Everyone was like, "I can't stand them." They were very obnoxious and it was not surprising that they were held on forgery and theft.

TEC: Most important question of all. Is Ryan Seacrest as corny off camera as he is on camera?

Sieminski: "laughs" No. I had a chance to talk to Ryan a lot. He's an extremely nice guy, very down to earth, not corny at all. He's a cool guy, he's nice. He interacted with the contestants. I liked him a lot.

TEC: Has anyone ever recognized you from the show?

Sieminski: Yes. Last night when I was working [at Chico's] these girls were talking to the waiter and the waiter came up to me and was like "those girls think they know you. They saw you

on 'American Idol' last night." "laughs" Some girl on the bus the other day asked me if I was on there.

TEC: What advice do you have for anyone interested in auditioning for the show?

Sieminski: Go in there with an open mind and be ready for anything. Know that it's a hit or miss thing. You don't know what the producers are looking for. They have a preconceived thing that they're looking for every season before you get there. If you don't make it past that first round, don't give up. It's not you, it's them. It's a very difficult process; people always ask me if I'd do it again and it's a long exhausting process. You have to have a very strong passion for this business.

To read the complete version of this interview, including how Jennifer Sieminski really feels about her fellow contestants, the drama in Hollywood and how she was portrayed on camera, log on to theeastcarolinian.com to read the entire six-page interview.

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

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Movie picks ▶ New

- ★ Outstanding
- Worthy effort
- So-so

Local critic	Chicago Tribune	Dallas Morning News	Detroit Free Press	Miami Herald	N.Y. Daily News	Philadelphia Inquirer	San Jose Mercury
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Curious George (G)	▼	■	■	▼	■	▼	▼
▶ Date Movie (PG-13)	●	▼	●	●	●	▼	▼
▶ Eight Below (PG)	▼	■	▼	▼	▼	★	■
Final Destination 3 (R)	●	■	■	▼	▼	▼	▼
Firewall (PG-13)	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
▶ Freedomland (R)	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
The Pink Panther (PG)	▼	▼	▼	●	●	●	●
Three Burials ... (R)	★	■	▼	■	★	■	★

G All ages admitted
PG All ages admitted, parental guidance suggested
PG-13 Parents strongly cautioned, some material may be inappropriate for children under 13
R Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or guardian
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Attention ECU Sophomores

If you have earned 45-60 hours and at least 30 of them were completed at ECU (not counting Math 0001 or 0045), you are required to respond to the

Sophomore Survey

before you can pre-register for either Summer or Fall 2006 courses.

If your earned credit hours fall within these limits you will receive a message at your ECU Exchange email address asking you to participate in the survey, and your record will be "tagged" so that you cannot register until you have responded to it. If you do not receive the email notice, it means that the survey and registration restriction does not apply to you.

When you are taking the survey, as soon as you submit your responses the "tag" will be removed from your record so that you can pre-register. Registration staff can verify that your responses were received and that the tag was removed.

Note: Although we really want your feedback to the survey questions, you may choose to opt out by submitting a blank form. Opting out will also remove the sophomore survey tag that would prevent you from pre-registering.

The survey period is March 2 – April 24. During that period you can complete the survey by going to the ECU "One-Stop" web site, entering your ECU Exchange email userid and password to sign on, and clicking on "Sophomore Survey" in the box labeled "Surveys." You can also access the "One-Stop" from:

Mendenhall Computer Lab, Wright Place Cafeteria, the Austin Building, and Joyner Library East.

For this survey you are emailed an announcement on March 2. Later you are sent an email reminder, and then a postcard, if you have not responded to the survey.

Please respond to the survey as soon as possible after the survey opens on March 2 and certainly before sophomore pre-registration begins on March 23. This will also help you avoid delays during pre-registration when the workload on ECU computers is at a peak. All remaining tags for this survey will be removed from student records on April 25, the day after the survey closes.

Got something to say? Send us your **Pirate Rants!**



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Furnaces from page B1

the phone about the tour and upcoming albums.

TEC: I know it's early in the tour, but does it feel any different from past tours?

Furnaces: Well, we played Charlotte and we're in Florida now. We haven't played any shows here yet, but we're playing different places this tour. Besides that, you know, it's not much different. It feels different for me because I'm not carrying around a keyboard with me.

TEC: Yeah, I noticed that. The last time I saw you, about a year ago, you played a lot more keyboard and the bassist was playing a synthesizer, so it was sort of a different feel. Is there any reason you're not playing any keyboard?

Furnaces: No big reasons. It's a way to make it a different experience. We're sort of in-between records, I mean even though *Rehearsing My Choir* isn't that old, we're in-between that and *Bitter Tea*. It seemed more appropriate to me to just play guitar.

TEC: Is *Bitter Tea* going to be more guitar-based like what you're doing with the guitar live, or is that just something you're doing on tour?

Furnaces: Oh no, it's all keyboards, a lot of pianos, organs and synthesizers. Well, some guitar, but heavier on the others.

TEC: Similar to what you did on *Rehearsing My Choir*?

Furnaces: This record has

drums and drum machines, unlike *Rehearsing My Choir*. And the songs have choruses and it's not really narration like the last album was, but more songs with repeating choruses, the same lyrics and what not. Does that make sense?

TEC: Yeah, definitely. Did you know when you were recording *Rehearsing My Choir* that the versions you were going to be playing live were going to be so different than the way they were in the studio? They seem much more consciously rock.

Furnaces: Live, you have the drums so it's natural to make them louder. You know, we try to make them into rock songs. I thought that would be fun. Live, there are drums and no Grandmother, so you've got those differences and so that was fun to change them live.

TEC: When you sit down to write a song, what are your personal goals? Is it to write something people will like or something they'll think is weird or unique?

Furnaces: [laughs] I think you just have to try to feel fulfilled, personally. It's not like writing for a goal, but you just have to try to satisfy yourself. So, no I don't write for someone to listen and think it's good or bad, but just that it is for me, if that makes sense.

TEC: This summer you have some solo albums coming out; are they going to be a lot different

from the music you write for the Fiery Furnaces or is it similar?

Furnaces: To me, they sound completely different because I wound up singing. One record is all songs and one record is a story record. On the story one I sort of have this ghost language which is something that happened because I wanted an excuse to use a lot of backwards vocals [laughs]. It's more like *Rehearsing My Choir* in that there's a story but no narrating. The other is just songs. It's a much louder rock record.

TEC: Finally, I guess I was just wondering if the band name, The Fiery Furnaces, comes from the Bob Dylan song "Jokerman."

Furnaces: Oh "Jokerman." No, the name comes from *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. I was watching and the dad says he's going to put the car in the Fiery Furnace, and I knew it was a biblical reference. The idea of fire and brimstone I just thought sort of just fit for a rock band, plus my last name is Friedberger and there are two of us [in the band] so you have the two Fs. And the plural of Furnace just when you say it seems sort of hard and tongue-twisting.

Stay tuned to TEC and WZMB for more information about any upcoming shows from The Fiery Furnaces.

Grade: A+

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

Punk from page B1

about their fans and remembered the times when they were in the crowd, paying for tickets and albums.

Punk itself has carried different themes through different bands: some were anti-establishment, some were anti-drug, and many focused on the problems of the young performers' lives, which allowed them to connect with a large group of young adults in the area. Whatever message they carried, it was a high energy expression of life,

often focusing on being tired of a repressive government and the toils of life, but in a completely proactive way. Songs typically lasted two to three minutes, since they were played so fervently, and also reflected the attitude of the scene in the sense that they wanted to get things done as loud, fast and straightforward as they could.

Punk would later fizzle out in the late 1980s and become a huge influence on grunge and later rock music. Punk has had a

series of submissions and revivals in the music world, most recently resurfacing in an unfortunately mainstream form.

Punk bands from D.C. embraced their vision, and unlike many political and social movements, they focused on the fact that they have already become outspoken social rebels and gained a massive following that is still predominant today.

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

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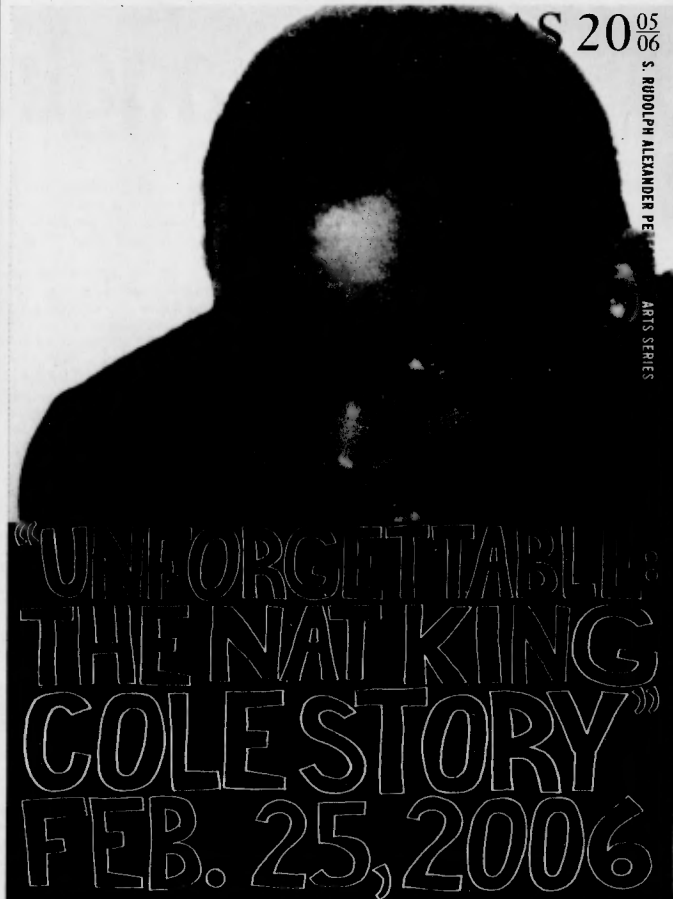


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(76)



Keith LeClair Classic 2006



In-state rivals NCSU, UNC-W come to Greenville

BRENT WYNNE
SENIOR WRITER

ECU will host the third annual Keith LeClair Classic beginning Friday morning, as teams pay tribute to the man who put ECU baseball on the map and in the minds of people throughout the country. While LeClair continues his fight with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), the Pirates and five other teams will

hopefully give the former skipper the best three days he's had in quite some time.

The Diamond Bucs welcome opponents Penn State, UNC-Wilmington and Virginia Tech, as well as West Virginia and N.C. State. Teams will play three games against a combination of three of the five other teams in a round robin type format.

ECU gets under way Friday at 5 p.m. as they battle Penn State. They will then play UNC-W at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, followed by Virginia Tech Sunday at 1 p.m.

The tournament as a whole gets under way bright and early

Friday, as the Hokies square off against the Seahawks at 10 a.m.

Let's take a look at the Pirates' opponents.

PENN STATE: The Nittany Lions don't quite pack the same punch as Joe Paterno's Orange Bowl champs. Penn State opened the 2006 baseball season dropping all three games at perennial power Tulane. The Green Wave dominated their inferior opponents 9-3, 12-0 and 9-4. I wouldn't expect Penn State to put up much of a fight against the Pirates, but nothing is a sure thing. With that in mind, here are some players who

could have an Impact in Friday's game against ECU.

Key Hitters: Lance Thompson - the senior outfielder was named the Big Ten Player of the Week after he hit .417 during a three game series against Tulane. Thompson was 5-12 for the set, including a home run, a double and four RBI. The Lion slugger also recorded nine total bases, as well as two runs scored while slugging .750. This is the first time a Penn State hitter has received this honor since Matt Harter did for the week of Feb. 24, 2004. Brian Ernst - In two

games started, the 5-foot-11-inch switch hitter was 4-for-8 at the plate, with four total bases and one run scored. He also slugged .500 for the series.

As a team, the Nittany Lions only have three players batting over .250 after three games of play. The other one to do this besides Thompson and Ernst was James Spinelli, who only played in one game, going 2-for-2 at the plate.

Key Pitchers: Scott Kelley - the freshman right-hander made two relief appearances against the Green Wave. In his two innings of work, he surrendered only one hit and one run. His ERA for the young season is 4.50.

Aaron Markowitz - the junior reliever was the workhorse of the staff over the weekend, leading the team in innings pitched with 5.1. In his two appearances, he gave up five hits and three earned runs. He, along with Kelley, may get some work against the Pirates if the Nittany Lion starter is chased early, as has been the case in all three games this season.

UNC-WILMINGTON: The Seahawks likely represent ECU's most formidable opponent for the weekend. They bring a 5-1 record to Greenville along with a chip on their shoulder as they had to watch their bitter rivals go to their seventh straight NCAA tournament last season, while they were one of only three teams in the country with 40 or more wins not to make the field of 64. Wilmington absolutely embarrassed Maryland-Eastern Shore in a three game series 19-2, 18-0 and 20-1 before dropping the opening game against Wake Forest 7-9. The Seahawks bounced back against the Deacons, taking the last two games 10-8 and 10-5. Sat-

urday afternoon's game against the Pirates could be an offensive exhibition. Here are the key players for UNC-W.

Key Hitters: John Raynor - The Colonial Athletic Association named Raynor the Player of the Week after the senior outfielder hit .613 in a three game series against Wake Forest. For the season, Raynor has a six game hitting streak with a .652 batting average and currently ranks second on Wilmington's all-time batting average list with a career .352 average. For the season, Raynor has belted two home runs with nine RBI and seven runs scored.

Chris Hatcher - The junior outfielder is batting .619 with one home run, five RBI, four doubles and a team leading 15 runs.

Matt Poulk - leads the team in RBI with 11. He is also tied for the team lead with three round trippers. The senior infielder is slugging 1.056 and has scored nine times.

Justin Barefoot - Tied with Poulk for team lead in homers with three. The redshirt sophomore is batting .450 with seven RBI and nine runs scored.

Daniel Hargrave (.538, 2 HRs, 9 RBI, 1.154 slugging percentage), Steve Halford (.474, HR, 7 RBI) and Jonathan Batts (.300, HR, 8 RBI) are also major contributors to this loaded Wilmington offense.

Key Pitchers: Zach Booker - In two starts this season, the junior is 2-0 with a 2.84 ERA in 12.2 innings. Booker has recorded 12 strikeouts, and opponents are hitting .271 against him. Allen Flood - Flood is 1-0 with a 2.61 ERA in two starts. He has only given up five hits in 10.1 innings

see LECLAIR page B6



Photo by Zach Siskin

The Pirates will face off against non-conference rival UNC-Wilmington, along with Virginia Tech and Penn State.

Ten Nagging Questions

Gilmore sounds off on hot button sports topics

BRENT WYNNE
SENIOR WRITER

First of all, whoever unscrewed my car antenna on Saturday night, I want it back. Do you see me laughing now that my coveted AM dial has been erased, limiting me to two garbage FM choices? No. If it gets returned in its proper place, no questions will be asked.

Luckily, digital/wireless technological advances allowed me to still stay informed during a busy sports week. Just think - if Al Gore hadn't invented the Internet, I would have spent all week positioning the aluminum foil covered bunny ears amid plumes of static. Instead, I took a two-hour nap and didn't miss a lick of the Daytona 500. Halalujah DVR.

So during a weekend chalked full of Olympic, NASCAR and men's basketball coverage, I found myself perplexed by 10 questions meant for a higher power. Not as in God, but just a reasonable fellow smarter than myself.

Five to Ponder

What are the chances that the ECU ice hockey team is a varsity sport in 10 years?

Hey, never say never. However, never might be the closest right answer. The days of ECU facing Maine in the Frozen Four are somewhere this side of an eastern North Carolina glacier. I'm on the bandwagon with the next 700 fans packed in Bladez on ice on Friday, but too many logistical hurdles loom for the upstart squad beginning with the athletic administration.

Athletic director Terry Holland said in an interview with TBC released Dec. 8 that "since ECU has 19 sports that means

we support more sports than other Conference USA schools and more than many of our competitors from BCS conferences with much larger budgets."

When asked about adding an additional sport, Holland added that "unless someone knows something that I don't know, I believe that until ECU's athletic budget is comparable to those of schools with 20 or more sports playing Division I-A football, ECU will not add a sport.

Sorry to be the bearer of bad news. Consider the financial ramifications of an already drowning financial budget. Supplying equipment, possibly converting Minges into an ice rink and adding women's sports or contracting another men's sport to comply with Title IX would be the tip of the iceberg, I know, bad pun.

If any sports will be added, why not lacrosse or crew? At least lacrosse with its increasing popularity would draw more fans than a men's or women's tennis match. Tennis channel watchers, the truth hurts.

As the sectionals began Tuesday, are the high school basketball playoffs still relevant?

The national media drooled over the top ranked Oak Hill Academy's 88-74 Saturday win over then-No. 2 North College Hill. Both schools may hand out high school diplomas, but these basketball factories put education a distant second. The premier high school teams recruit from AAU summer squads making public high school basketball almost obsolete.

I'm tired of newspapers being saturated about prep athletes being groomed to make qualifying scores on the SAT. In this me-first sports world we live in, how about some team-oriented stories from the state playoffs? Fewer than 10 people probably caught wind of the first round barnburner when a

Washington Pam Pack player sank two free throws with 0.05 seconds left to edge Nash Central on Tuesday. That's at least newsworthy.

Call me stupid, but does anyone know where Andorra, Liechtenstein or Moldova is?

I don't claim myself to be a geographical buff, but I'm no slouch either. I could name my state capitals by the third grade. But watching the theatrical waste of millions that was the Olympic opening ceremonies, I realized that I need to touch up on my map skills. Certainly none of these countries have a chance to medal, but shouldn't it be a prerequisite that American fans have been taught of the country's existence? By the way, what is the difference between Slovenia and Slovakia? And NBC wonders why they can't garner ratings. Either Americans need to dust off their Geographics or the IOC needs to provide more extensive entrance requirements.

Is SIOnCampus.com every naming UNC among the Top 10 College Basketball Student Sections?

David Letterman and I love top 10 lists. I don't love hits, mainly because that dweeby sunglasses-wearing fool always spazzes out. Nevertheless, in order of the most raucous crowd to the sedate, Sports Illustrated listed Duke, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan State and Florida in the top five. No arguments there. Rounding out the top ten was Kansas, Rutgers, Washington, Gonzaga and UNC. Cue the funny accented cowboy in disbelief that Pace Picante Sauce was from New York City. Only exchange the New York City with UNC.

How on earth has Sam Casell's proclaimed "wine and cheese crowd" emerged to become a top 10 student section? It must be a Stuart Scott conspiracy. Apparently the writers from Sports



Ian Falcon scores one of the Pirates' 14 goals against UNC-Wilmington last Friday, but will an ECU ice hockey player ever have the chance to score as a varsity sport?

see GILMORE page B6

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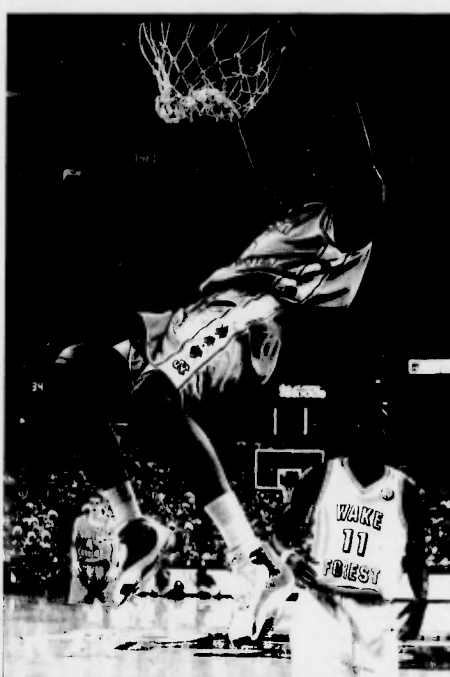
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Go Pirates!

Reyshawn Terry throws down in the first half against Wake Forest.

Gilmore from page B4
Illustrated didn't go 'on campus' very often because this ranking is downright laughable.

What about Michigan's Crisler Arena or Iowa State's sea of red at Hilton Coliseum? How can the U.C. Santa Barbara Guacos' Thunderdome or even the Pit at New Mexico be omitted? Heck, Clemson, N.C. State, Virginia, Virginia Tech and for sure Maryland all have better student environments than the Tar Heels. Packing a small faction of students on two risers tucked neatly in one corner doesn't exactly constitute a rabid distraction. Apparently it didn't have to sit in the Dean Dome rafters where even Tyler Hansbrough looks like an ant.

Does SMU need to be spanked again by the NCAA after possibly committing more NCAA violations?

The only team to ever suffer the Death Penalty from the NCAA could be in trouble again for committing violations. The only comfort is that this time the basketball team is in trouble instead of the fledgling football team. According to the Dallas Morning News, the NCAA is investigating whether men's Head Coach Jimmy Tubbs com-

mitted an NCAA rules violation by accepting money from a relative of one of his players. The paper went on to report that Tubbs is alleged of accepting money to pay for meals of several players.

Conveniently, SMU athletic director Jim Copeland announced Feb. 2 that he will retire at the end of May. In the meantime, Copeland is taking a medical leave of absence to undergo kidney surgery that will keep from the office for four to six weeks. He let his colleagues know about his surgery via e-mail.

Wasn't the Death Penalty incentive enough to walk the straight and narrow? Welcome to C-USA. Forgive us if it makes us wonder whether the recent men's soccer Final Four team was cheating too.

Rapid Fire

Would I wet myself if Bob Knight yelled at me had he filmed his ESPN reality show "Knight School" at ECU?

Thankfully for myself, my lack of basketball talent would leave me still watching "Knight School" at home. But if for some reason, I started

see GILMORE page B6

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Gilmore from page B5
throwing around a flaming ball a la NBA Jam causing me not to miss, I'd bring another pair of britches just in case. I'd cover like a submissive puppy.

When will the SEC overturn this stupid rule of charging a university \$5,000 every time students rush the court?
The real question is when the SEC will be good again in basketball. Just think that if C-USA had this rule, maybe ECU would save money by not having to pay the green-coated foot soldiers (Event Staff) to guard Minges Coliseum like it's the last stand at the Alamo. What's next, equipping

them with riot gear in case anyone goes bonkers and shoots an imaginary 3-pointer?

Is a California cult going to perceive the Missouri Valley getting more NCAA tournament bids than the ACC as some sort of sign?

I thought analysts were just kidding saying that the ACC is down this year. But having a conference with teams' mascots that include the Bluejays, Shockers and Salukis get more tournament bids than the ACC is just downright embarrassing. I laugh at you ACC.

If 2008's college baseball opening date (Feb. 22) was in effect this year, would I still have frozen to death watching ECU baseball in February?

Baseball in early February is like curling in mid-May. Playing a spring sport in mid-winter is silly and vice versa. Just think if the players acted on an impulse to lick their aluminum bats. What is the chance that their tongues would be stuck? How awkward would an Adam Witter at-bat be with his mouth frozen to a bat?

Since Al Davis and Ricky Williams are both bad at

following directions, would an SJ marriage dress spread solve their troubles?

Oakland Raider Head Coach Art Shell needs a running game. Williams now needs a place to run. Why not form the perfect marriage? Ha. Seriously, a Williams/Randy Moss duo would be a delightful concoction. To complete the triumvirate, what about signing ex-Cowboy and Jet quarterback Quincy Carter? Talk about a potent offense or at the very least, one heckuva hotbox in the huddle.

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

LeClair from page B4

while striking out six. The opposition is only hitting .147 against the sophomore right-hander.

Adam Paul - the team's most reliable reliever up to this point. The veteran senior has faced the minimum in 2.2 innings of work and has yet to give up a hit.

VIRGINIA TECH: it's hard to get a feel for this team since they have only played two games against a very weak Campbell squad, who they beat comfortably in two games 5-2 and 16-6. The Hokies will be very solid offen-

sively and their pitching staff has some bright spots. Sunday's game against Virginia Tech could be a trap game for the Pirates if they don't play their A game.

Key Hitters: Bryan Thomas - continuing the trend of Player of the Week awards, Hokie third baseman Bryan Thomas was named the ACC Player of the Week last week for his efforts in the Campbell series. The junior batted .700 in two games, with two home runs and 10 RBI. He also scored four times and is

slugging an astonishing .1400. He drove in a career high seven runs in Virginia Tech's 16-6 win in game two. Thomas led the club last season with a .384 average.

Nate Parks - In two games started, Parks was 4-for-8 with a trip and two RBI. He scored five times as well.

Sheldon Adams - The senior outfielder was 4-for-10, with a triple, an RBI and two runs scored.

Key Pitchers: David Cross - The junior started game one against the Camels and held

them at bay, pitching five solid innings. He scattered five hits and gave up just one earned run while striking out four. He leads starters with a 1.80 ERA.

Greg Fryman - came on in relief of game two starter Ryan Kennedy who got roughed up for four runs and seven hits in just three innings. Fryman was brilliant for five innings, allowing only three hits and no runs to get the win.

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

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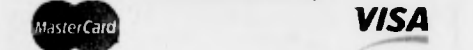
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