



Pirate Connection bridges the gap

A tool for campus involvement

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
STAFF WRITER

The Pirate Connection Program is an innovative way for students to connect with a variety of organizations and clubs and a good source for organizations to spread to word about their group.

The program started last summer as a tool for incoming freshmen to gain a sense of belonging to the university before the start of the semester.

A survey was created with a large variety of organizations and clubs available at ECU to find out what types of organizations students would find interesting.

Approximately 86 percent of incoming freshmen completed the survey last summer, which suggests that a large number of students want to become active in some type of activity outside of their class work.

Al Smith, assistant vice chancellor for student development, said, "This reflects a national trend that students are looking to get involved in civic and social responsibilities."

Following the survey responses, the organizations send out a letter to let students know more information about their organization, usually within 14 days of the start of the school year.

Rather than just informing students during orientation and the Get a Clue program that is normally during the first month of the fall semester, the Pirate Connection is an additional method available to spread the word about these organizations.

Smith said that according to research on retention rates, the first few weeks of school are crucial in making the student feel welcome.

"We want our students to be involved in educational, purposeful activities right at the start of their college career," Smith said.

Also, commuter students and/or students who live more than 100 miles away have lower retention rates. Exposing these students to activities and organizations can help increase or stabilize enrollment.

Being a part of an organization is a "life shaping" experience in college and is "like a relationship in which you have to be involved and engaged," Smith said.

Upperclassmen should use the Pirate Connection as a method of getting involved in more organizations or joining a group for the first time.

This program can also be used as a recruiting method for clubs and organizations wanting to increase their membership.

One of the big problems with this is letting all the organizations know about the program and what a big asset it could be to them, according to Smith. Smith said that students expressed interest in all clubs that were on the survey.

Last summer, about 36 out of 280 organizations and clubs were listed on the Pirate Connection survey. Smith said they are trying to increase that number this year.

Funding is also available to new organizations or to clubs who have activities planned for their group.

Organizations still have the opportunity to receive funding and to let the student body know about their organization by being a part of the Pirate Connection.

To receive funding for your organization, register with the Office of Organizations and Activities by Feb. 28. Organizations have until March 15 to get on the Pirate Connection.

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

'I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell'



Though Max made a best-seller out of partying, he also holds various degrees from multiple schools.

Tucker Max is an icon to many college students

ELISA BIZZOTTO
STAFF WRITER

Internet legend Max Tucker has taken his ability of story-telling a step further.

With the continued increase of an already impressive fan base, Max compiled a book of 27 of his most outlandish personal exploits and titled it *I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell*.

The book, which was published earlier this year, chronicles Max's wild stories of belligerence and debauchery and invites readers to experience each tale as if they were right there with Max every step of the way.

Interestingly enough, the premise for the book stemmed from a bet while Max was working toward his J.D. at Duke Law School. As a result of the bet, TuckerMax.com was created and once Max had gained somewhat of a following, he began to post what were originally e-mails to his friends relaying his experiences the night before. Max's following increased significantly as a result and the stories of excessive drinking, relentless partying and sexual conquests ultimately transcribed into his book that is now climbing the *New York Times* Best-Seller list.

Naturally, Max has critics, especially those college students that make up most of his fan base who see their own weekend excursions in his tales. However, it is Max's writing style and undeniable wit that have catapulted him to success.

Max does not let his readers

forget his ivy-like education. He holds a B.A. from the University of Chicago, which he achieved in three years with honors, no less, and a J.D. from Duke Law School, which he received on a full academic scholarship. Although many see irony in Max's situation, noting his divergence from these degrees, it is he who made the most out of simply being himself.

When asked about the claims that the true message of the book is for one to be himself, Max responded accordingly.

"The message developed on its own. I really just don't let other people dictate my behavior," said Max.

It is apparent that Max is highly interested in pleasing himself before others in reading his accounts and it is difficult to see him strive to produce a theme of morality throughout the book while he finds pure joy in making fun of fat women, for example, and having no regard for the consequences of his actions. Still, many see an underlying message that is more telling of Max than his actual excursions.

Regardless of the message, Max has achieved undeniable success. He has gained an extraordinary fan base in both men and women. Pictures on Max's Web site show military men overseas holding a sign that reads "Max Tucker for President." He has received recognition by *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times* and *Playboy*. According to his publicist, "The Daily Show," Jay Leno, David Letterman and Jimmy Kimmel

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Senior wins \$1,000 scholarship for 2006



FICZKO
Scholarship given by Women in Transportation

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
STAFF WRITER

Samantha Ficzeko, ECU senior, was awarded a \$1,000 Women in Transportation scholarship by the Women in Transportation Seminar North Carolina Chapter.

The Women in Transportation organization is dedicated to the advancement of women in the fields of transportation and urban planning, which are both

heavily dominated by men.

Ficzeko was a strong candidate for the scholarship with a double major in urban and regional planning and communication with a concentration in public relations.

The requirements for the scholarship include being a female studying transportation or a closely related field, such as planning. The student was also required to submit an application letter including their experience and education related to transportation and their goals and ambitions for the future.

The scholarship was applied to Ficzeko's spring 2006 tuition bill. Ficzeko was also nominated for the Women in Transportation undergraduate leadership award.

Dr. Mohamad Kashef, assistant professor in the department of planning, gave her the nomination.

Kashef was also gave her the chance to apply for the \$1,000 scholarship by giving her details and encouraging her to apply.

Ficzeko was inspired to apply for this scholarship after hear-

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Organization receives funds

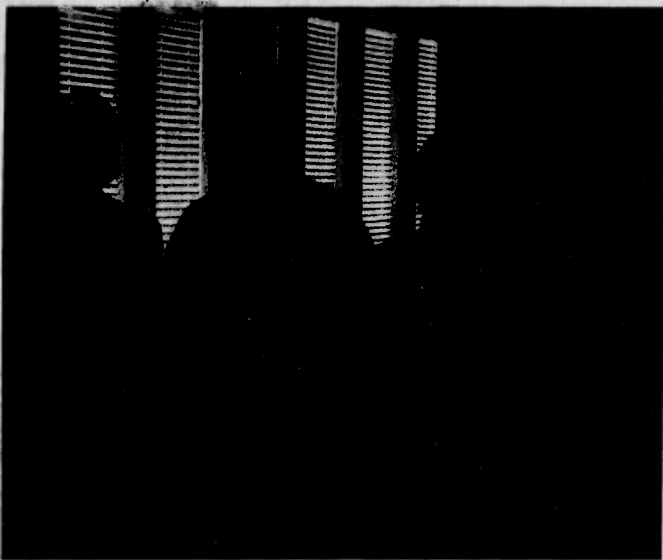


Photo by Liz Wells

ECU VOICE and the Office of Student Experiences presented a check on Sunday for \$14,000. It was received by Student Life, Family Violence Program of Pitt County, the Mayor and the Chief of Police. The check was donated to the Family Violence Program in honor of V-Day, a global movement to stop violence against women and girls through the performance of *The Vagina Monologues*. V-Day generates awareness, raises money and promotes creative events.

How much does your GPA really matter?

(CareerBuilder.com) — Studies have shown college graduates earn up to 75 percent more than people with just a high school diploma. So students earn good grades, study for the SATs and rack up an impressive list of extracurriculars in their quest for that oh-so-important acceptance letter.

But now that you're in, can you relax? Just how important are your college grades to future employers? Are those long hours at the library and those all-night study sessions really worth it?

Keeping your grade point average (GPA) up can be vital to your academic success. Slacking off could land you on academic probation or the university could yank your scholarship. Plus, according to the U.S. News and World Report, maintaining a high GPA is crucial to those who dream of attending top graduate schools

like Harvard medical school (3.8 average GPA), Yale law (3.9) or Stanford business school (3.6).

Thankfully, most employers don't enforce these same academic standards on their applicants. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers' "Job Outlook 2005" survey, 70 percent of hiring managers do report screening applicants based on their GPA, but the largest group says they use a 3.0 as their cutoff.

All other factors being equal, an employer is more likely to choose the candidate with stellar grades, but that doesn't mean a so-so student can't land a competitive job with a prestigious company.

Employers understand that students have different circumstances. Employers do take a university's reputation

into consideration, but they also understand working to pay your way through school, extracurricular involvement and extenuating circumstances can lower your academic marks.

Having relevant experience like internships is key to getting ahead in today's cutthroat job market. Luckily, a superior GPA from a top-ranked university isn't required to get an internship, according to the Princeton Review. Internship coordinators look for candidates with a go-getter attitude, something that can be expressed in a cover letter and interview-not a resume or transcript.

Although employers may not automatically cut you for your low grades, leaving your GPA off of your resume completely may do you more harm than good. If you're a new grad and omit your

GPA from your resume, you might find employers warily wondering how terrible your grades really are. One career adviser even said if there's no GPA on a resume, he automatically assumes it's under a 3.0. And it should go without saying that you should never lie and tell an employer you have better grades than you really do.

If your GPA falls below your dream employer's minimum standards, you do have options. Again, leaving the figure out isn't wise, but you should emphasize your academic strengths as much as possible.

Luckily, some business schools and other graduate programs pay closer attention to the grades you earned during your junior and senior years than to your overall transcript. This can really help out people who are struggling to raise

their averages after a rough transition into college life. Another option is to list your major GPA, or your average grades for only the classes taken in your major.

Collegegrad.com offers these tips for choosing which GPA to include: If your major GPA is higher than a 3.0, and your overall grades fall below that cutoff, only list your major average. If both averages are higher than a 3.0 and your major GPA is at least three-tenths of a point higher than your overall average, feel free to list both. Always round to the nearest tenth of point.

And remember what President George W. Bush told a group of graduates in 2001: "To all the C-students, I say, you too can be president of the United States."

Announcements:

Cultural Outreach Season schedule

The S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series, ECU's flagship performing arts series, annually presents a season of nine of the world's top orchestras, ballet companies, jazz artists, soloists, modern dance ensembles, Broadway shows, opera companies, chamber ensembles and pop artists. The Family Fare Series features kid-centered cultural excursions for the entire family. This series features four curriculum-based performances by the nation's finest young-audience touring companies. The season is currently underway and will continue through April. For more information, call 328-4788 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS.

2006 majors fair

Wednesday, March 1 from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. on first floor Bate. Take another step toward your career decision. There are more than 100 majors at ECU; attend the fair to learn more about them. This program is sponsored by the Academic Enrichment Center, the Academic Advising and Support Center, the Career Center, Campus Living and the Office of Student Experiences. For ticket information, contact the Academic Enrichment Center at 328-2645 or visit Brewster B-103.

Storybook Theatre, My Hero... Reaching for the Stars!

Back by popular demand! Following their successful debut at Wright Auditorium last year, ECU's Storybook Theatre returns March 4 at 2 p.m. in Wright Auditorium with stories about ordinary youngsters who make extraordinary contributions to the world. Purchase subscriptions by Oct. 8 for best options. Family Pass (four tickets to each show) \$96. Public Subscription (one adult ticket to each show) \$30. ECU faculty/staff Subscription (one adult ticket to each show) \$25. ECU Student/Youth Subscription (one student/youth ticket to each show) \$20. Advance individual tickets, if available, may be purchased beginning Oct. 17 and cost \$9 public, \$8 ECU faculty/staff, \$6 ECU students/youth. All tickets at the door are \$9. Tickets are required. For more information, contact the Central Ticket Office at 328-4788 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS.

Bachelor of Science degree in Rehabilitation Services

March 15 is the application deadline for students interested in pursuing a BS degree in Rehabilitation Services. Applications can be obtained online at ecu.edu/rshb/ or from the Department of Rehabilitation Studies, 312 Belk Building. If you have any questions regarding the degree, contact Dr. Martha Chapin at 328-4424.

PRSSA teams up with MAC Cosmetics

ECU's Public Relations Student Society of America is bringing MAC Cosmetics to Wright Plaza March 2 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Wright display is part of the PRSSA-sponsored campaign to help promote MAC's CulturalBloom Makeover Event March 4 at Belk's MAC counter in Colonial Mall of Greenville. Students can schedule appointments and browse the limited edition spring line at the PRSSA table outside of Wright Plaza. Students can begin scheduling appointments now by calling the MAC counter at 758-7540.

Japan Center East hosts "Trip to Japan"

On March 1, Japan Center East is holding a free presentation called "Experience Japan," from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Willis Building. The event will include a slide presentation on Japan and information on an economy trip to Japan being offered in 2006. For more information or to reserve a seat, contact Chikako Massey at 737-1352.

State:

N.C. electronic health records SAUGERTIES, N.Y. (AP) - Some day, paper records will disappear from the doctor's office, scribbled prescriptions slips will be history patient histories will pop up on screens in seconds. For now, high-tech access looks more like what Dr. Eugene Heslin has at his family practice in the Hudson Valley. From a laptop computer on his desk, he checks a cancer patient's hematology report from one lab and an X-ray report on another patient; tasks that used to require phone calls or paper files. "The beauty of the system is I can pull lab data for two or three different hospitals," Heslin said. The doctor's office is involved in a federally funded effort to figure out how to create a system in which every American has an electronic medical record. The Bush administration wants to make the conversion by 2014, aiming to reduce medical errors and save lives. But first researchers in the Hudson Valley and 11 other areas around the country are trying to answer some basic questions: How will the system work? How will a lab in Wichita communicate with a doctor in Washington? How do you encourage doctors to sign on? "We do believe this is going to happen," said Neil de Crescenzo, a vice president with IBM Business Consulting Services, which is involved in the project. "It's just going to happen in smaller chunks, which hopefully will become larger and larger chunks."

In November, the Department of Health and Human Services awarded \$18.6 million in contracts to four groups to create electronic health information network prototypes. The IBM-led consortium is working in the Hudson Valley and two areas in North Carolina, in Rockingham County and Research Triangle Park. "The hospitals aren't trying to shirk away from their responsibility to do this. Given the cost and controversies, the government is taking a step-by-step approach. IBM in the Hudson Valley is working with the Taconic Independent Physicians Association, which already is rolling out a secure, Web-based system that allows Heslin and some 500 other doctors share electronic information with participating labs and hospitals. Federal officials hope these sorts of incentives will spur doctors and hospitals to make the changeover. Dr. David Brailer, appointed by Bush to coordinate the government's health information technology, said using taxpayer money to "subsidize" the changeover is not being considered. "We basically are saying that this is going to cost a lot of money," de Crescenzo said. "But then again, it took a lot of money to build out the infrastructure for the banking system. But I don't see anybody complaining about that." The yearlong contract runs through the fall. Brailer hopes the government will be closer to a system architecture that allows hospitals, labs and doctors to share information. Consumer access and security issues are also being looked at, he said. Then government officials will fund another round of demonstration projects. "A lot of communities are on the fence watching this, seeing where they need to head," said Dr. John Blair, president and chief executive officer of Taconic IPA. "So this is going to have a big impact."

College high school

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) - Sixteen-year-old Liliana Marquez admits that starting at noon instead of the more traditional 8 a.m. was one of the initial perks of Middle College High School at Durham Technical Community College. But when the 11th-grader from Hillsborough learned she'd have to come in early to take college courses through Durham Tech, she wasn't deterred from staying. "I like

the smaller classes," said Marquez, who went to Orange High School last year. "It's not as crowded. I like that." Marquez and about 50 other students from the Orange County, Chapel Hill-Carboro and Durham school systems are reaping the benefits of classes with as few as three students at the school, which is housed at the community college's Durham campus. And students say the fledgling program has blossomed from something a little bit disorganized to a haven for students who crave smaller classes and better relationships with teachers. "Although it was a little disorganized at the beginning, the faculty are doing a good job of getting this together," said Mario Boni, 17. "It's working out all right." A collaboration among the three local school districts, Middle College opened, it seemed, almost on a whim. Planners didn't hire a principal until late spring, leaving little time to recruit students. The school had room for 100 juniors, but only enrolled 38 by the time of the opening.

By January, the school's enrollment had jumped to 48, and officials hope to have at least twice that next year. Of the 48, 10 are from Chapel Hill-Carboro, 11 are from Orange County and 27 are from Durham. School officials are now enrolling a new class of juniors for next fall, along with more seniors. "It's about getting the word out," Principal Charles Nolan said. "We couldn't wait a year to open, and fill this whole school up. But we are ambitious, and it turned out great. It's a great program." Students at the school are on a block schedule, meaning they take four longer-length classes each semester. The students have access to the same Durham Tech resources as college students. They research in the library, eat lunch in the cafeteria and use the computer labs. The first semester, the school was a little bit more like their old high schools. The students took only high school courses in four classrooms in a Durham Tech hallway. They all arrived at 12:30 and left at 5:30. Keith Sweezy takes psychology and trigonometry through Durham Tech. The classes, he said, are similar to ones he used to take at East Chapel Hill High School, except he's earning college credit. And his English class, which is a high school course, has only eight students. "At East, it could get up to 30 people," said Sweezy, 17. "It's a lot easier to have seminar types of course discussions." With the potential to take eight college courses a year, students could, in theory, come close to earning an associate's degree while in high school, Nolan noted. Unlike college, however, the classes are free to the students. "Once I tell parents, they're like, 'Why haven't I heard this before?'" Nolan said. "Once they know, they don't need any more convincing."

National:

Church shooting
DETROIT (AP) - A man opened fire at a church service Sunday, killing an 18-year-old woman and wounding her child before shooting another man outside, according to police and broadcast reports. Second Deputy Police Chief James Tate confirmed that three people were shot, one fatally, at Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Church, about 11 a.m. The child did not have life-threatening injuries, WWJ-AM reported. The third victim, who was shot when trying to protect his wife from a carjacking attempt by the shooter, was in critical condition, the station said. Church members helped police identify a suspect, Tate said. Officers were looking for Kevin Loranzo Collins, 24, who is considered armed and dangerous. The shooting was the result of a

domestic dispute, Tate said. "Church had begun, and shots rang out," he said. After summoning help, church members continued the service. "They didn't let this incident stop the reason why they came to church," he said. "They came to worship."

People in the news

NEW YORK (AP) - "The Sopranos" will definitely be taken out next year, the show's creator said, though he can't say it won't hit the big screen at some point. "It may be that in two or three or four years I could be sitting around and get an idea for a really great 'Sopranos' movie," David Chase told *The New York Times* in a joint interview with James Gandolfini, star of the HBO series. "I don't think that will happen. But if one morning somebody woke up and said this would make a really good, concise, contained 'Sopranos' story, I wouldn't rule that out." Chase, also the series' executive producer, and Gandolfini reflected on the show and the trajectory of its central character, mobster Tony Soprano, in an article appearing in Sunday's editions. Gandolfini's character never crossed the line into killing family members, except to spare a cousin a worse death by enemies. "I think there's a place Tony knows that if he goes to, he's not coming back, and that's the place," Gandolfini said. "If you start killing family members, what's next?" The newest 12-episode season will begin March 12. The Emmy-winning show, which began airing in 1999, is to wrap up with eight episodes starting next January.

NEW YORK (AP) - Richard Gere fears that Asia will be "lost" if the AIDS epidemic hits India hard. The actor and AIDS activist is traveling to the subcontinent this week along with President Bush. Gere may not agree with Bush on everything, but he "certainly can praise him" for bringing attention to AIDS in India, the actor said on ABC News' "This Week" on Sunday. "The president of the United States coming there in a world where he's seemingly obsessed with terrorism, clearly obsessed with it, and talking about HIV/AIDS in the same breath, in the same paragraph, extremely important," Gere said. Bush has said he hopes to address the AIDS crisis with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. "India is a country that I care about deeply," Gere said. "We're talking about a population in India that is close to a billion people. If this crisis hits them to the degree it's expected to, we've lost Asia."

LONDON (AP) - Best-selling novelist and former Conservative Party official Jeffrey Archer acknowledged Sunday that his political career was over after he served a two-year jail sentence for perjury. Archer, former deputy chairman of the main opposition Conservative Party, confirmed in a television interview that he had rejoined a local branch of the party since leaving prison. But he said it was unlikely he would take his place in the House of Lords, Britain's unelected upper chamber. "I'm not taking any interest in politics. I'm not involved in politics in any way. My life is in writing now," Archer told British Broadcasting Corp. television. Archer left prison in 2003 after serving two years for perjury and obstructing justice. He was convicted of lying during his successful 1987 libel action against Britain's Daily Star newspaper, which claimed he had hired a prostitute. A tireless fundraiser for the party, he

was honored with a life peerage in 1992. But the Conservatives expelled him in 2000 after he admitted asking a friend to lie for him during the libel suit. Archer is internationally known as the author of novels including "Kane and Abel" and "First Among Equals."

International:

Saddam Hussein trial
BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Saddam Hussein's lawyers are asking for a delay in his trial because of the turmoil that swept Baghdad after the bombing of a Shiite shrine, one of his lawyers said Sunday. A court official said a postponement was possible for the next session on Tuesday. The defense team's request comes amid sectarian violence and movement restrictions after the bombing Wednesday of a revered Shiite Muslim shrine in Samarra and ensuing reprisal attacks on Sunni mosques and clerics across Iraq. More than 200 people have been killed. "We have asked for a delay because of the security situation. It will be difficult for our colleagues to attend and there is a curfew as well," said Khamis al-Obaidi, one of Saddam's lawyers. "We have asked the court and are still waiting for an answer." Some of Saddam's lawyers, among them foreigners, will have to fly into the country. The government imposed a daytime curfew in Baghdad and three nearby provinces in the three days after the shrine bombing. On Sunday, the curfew was lifted but driving was banned in Baghdad and its suburbs. Officials said roads would reopen Monday.

Judge Raed Juhri, a court spokesman, said he believed the next trial session might be put off if the situation continued unchanged. "In the end it is the decision of the chief judge," he said. Saddam and co-defendants have been on trial since Oct. 19 in the killing of nearly 150 people from the town of DuJail after a 1982 assassination attempt against Saddam there. They face death by hanging if convicted. The trial has been dogged by the assassination of two defense lawyers, replacement of the chief judge and criticism by international human rights groups questioning whether Saddam could get a fair trial in Iraq's polarized climate. Al-Obaidi, the lawyer, said Saddam and some of his co-defendants had ended a hunger strike they started two days before the last trial session on Feb. 14. Members of the defense team also met with their clients for the first time in weeks, he said, without giving a specific day. He added that members of the defense team planned to return to court when the trial resumes. The trial has been repeatedly disrupted since it began. The first chief judge stepped down last month amid charges of political interference in the case and criticism accusing him of failing to control the proceedings. Two defense attorneys have been assassinated.

Chief prosecutor Jaafar al-Moussawi, who confirmed that some of the defense lawyers met with their clients recently, said the next trial session will include reading the testimony of six witnesses and presenting more documentary evidence. The court has heard 26 prosecution witnesses, mostly recounting their imprisonment and torture at the intelligence service headquarters in Baghdad, Abu Ghraib prison and a desert detention camp near the Saudi border. None linked Saddam directly to their ordeal, but some witnesses identified his half brother Barzan Ibrahim, who

also is on trial, as having personally taken part in their torture. Another defendant, former Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan, was linked by witnesses to the destruction of DuJail's orchards and farm fields.

Iran nuclear

BUSHEHR, Iran (AP) - Iran's nuclear chief said an agreement was reached with Moscow on Sunday to set up a joint uranium enrichment facility on Russian soil, a deal that could assuage global concerns that Tehran wants to build atomic bombs. The plan proposed by Russia is backed by the United States and European Union. The agreement was announced after a meeting between Russian nuclear chief Sergei Kiriyenko and Gholamreza Aghazadeh, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and the country's vice president. The two countries "reached a basic agreement on the creation of a joint venture (to enrich uranium)," Aghazadeh told a news conference. The International Atomic Energy Agency's 35-nation board of governors is scheduled to meet March 6 to consider what to do about Iran's recent resumption of nuclear activity. The meeting could start a process leading to punishment by the U.N. Security Council, which has the authority to impose economic and political sanctions on Iran. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov was quoted by Russian media as saying Moscow will continue its talks with Iran until the March 6 IAEA board meeting in an effort to resolve the crisis. Moscow has been struggling to persuade Tehran to reinstate a moratorium on uranium enrichment and agree to shift its enrichment program to Russian territory to ease world concerns it could divert enriched uranium to a weapons program. Enriched uranium can be used for both nuclear energy and weapons.

Kiriyenko said Moscow would insist on resolving the Iranian nuclear dispute within the IAEA, Russia's RIA Novosti news agency reported. Russia is one of the five permanent Security Council members with veto power over any resolution. Russia has said its enrichment offer was contingent on Iran reinstating the moratorium on domestic enrichment, but Iran has rejected such a link and in the past insisted on its right to enrich uranium domestically. Kiriyenko was quoted by Russian media as saying the joint enrichment venture in Russia was just "one of the elements in the complex of issues related to the Iranian nuclear problem." Asefi played down a secret nuclear project that U.S. intelligence has linked to warhead design, saying it would offer information on it to the IAEA. "We will discuss the issue, and the rumors surrounding it, with the agency. It is not very sensitive or ambiguous," Asefi told reporters at a news conference when asked about the secret "Green Salt Project." Public mention of the "Green Salt Project" first surfaced in an IAEA report drawn up earlier this month for a meeting of the agency's board of governors. The meeting ended with the board reporting Tehran to the Security Council over concerns it could be hiding a nuclear weapons program. Asefi reiterated that Iran would continue its nuclear fuel research activities and would not give in its rights under pressure and "bullying language."

He said his country expects the next IAEA board session to be held on a "nonpolitical, independent and professional" basis.

Educators struggle to attract black men to campuses

(KRT) - Chris Catching says that African-American men are being left behind. A doctoral student in education at Rutgers University, he doesn't think higher education knows what to do with black men. So he wants to show them. He's studying why they are staying and learning why they are staying in school. "So much of the research focuses on the pathological," Catching said. Instead, they should find out what works, he added.

Nationwide, women earn the lion's share of college degrees among African-Americans. The gender gap has been growing for years, and educators have been grasping for ways to close it. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 68 percent of all baccalaureate degrees awarded nationwide to African-Americans are given to women. In New Jersey, the figure is 67 percent. African-American women graduate at a higher rate than their male counterparts. In addition, 52 percent of African-American women graduate from college within six

years in New Jersey, compared with 40 percent of black men, according to statistics collected by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. "It's just a very complex problem. One of the things I know about boys is for boys, it's just not cool. It's just not macho to get an education, to speak properly, to be the top of the class. Among our boys, it's just not macho to be that person," said Carey Jenkins, founder of Operation Link-Up, a program that helps children in the Paterson, N.J., schools attend college. Jenkins has 27 students attending Syracuse University, but only five of them are men. Jenkins said there are a lot of messages in the media and in the classroom that discourage African-American boys, who can feel out of place in school. "I think a negative message is being sent out to boys," he said. "There just seem to be more positive role models for girls, more women who are out there who are doing something." Jesse Gray attends Syracuse University with 26 of his peers

from the Paterson schools. But he's only one of five male students there from his school district. He joined Operation Link-Up as a freshman at John F. Kennedy High School. He always knew he would go to college, even though he was the first in his family. "I wanted to get a good education and you can't expect to get out of high school and just have a great job waiting for you," said Gray, a freshman studying mechanical engineering. He noticed quite quickly there weren't many other African-American boys following his path. "Looking around every year since grade school, there's always been a lot more girls," Gray said. But the gap only made him more determined to succeed. "It was a little added pressure because there were only (a few) boys there; you had to hold your end of the bargain," Gray said. The college gender gap isn't limited to African-Americans, even though the disparity between black men and women is the largest. According to the

U.S. Department of Education, women make up 56 percent of all college students. It's a gap that's been growing for nearly three decades. The department estimates that if trends continue, 3 million more women than men will be in college by 2014. At Rutgers' New Brunswick campus, the NCAA reports 619 African-American men attended the college between 1998 and 2002, but only 54 percent graduated within six years. Meanwhile, 1,112 women attended the school, and 64 percent graduated. Princeton University had the highest graduation rate in New Jersey for both black men and women. The Ivy League school saw 91 percent of African-American men and 95 percent of African-American women graduate within six years.

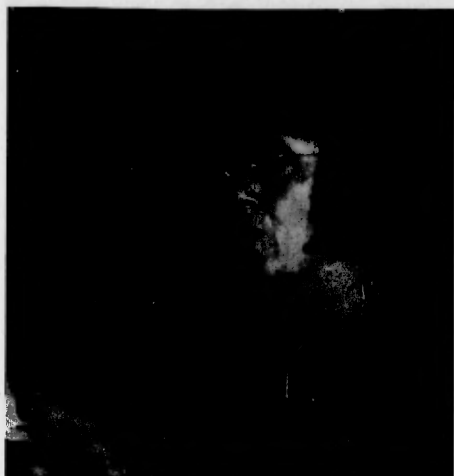
None of the 17 African-American men who attended Felician College in Bergen County graduated within six years, giving it the lowest graduation rate for black men. New Jersey City University had the lowest graduation rate for African-

American women, where only 34 percent graduated within six years. Sandra Timmons of Hackensack, N.J., president of A Better Chance, an organization that places talented young minorities in demanding public and private secondary schools, said she's noticed the percentage of

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Childcare facilities for students and faculty proposed at meeting



Nancy Lee speaks on behalf of the child development department.

Funding for building to house students' and faculty's children

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
STAFF WRITER

Nancy Lee of the child development and family relations department spoke about a proposal for students and faculty with children at the SGA meeting on Monday afternoon. This would allow more individuals the opportunity to continue their education without being concerned with hiring someone to take care of their children.

The facility would house approximately 150-200 children. The project would cost anywhere between \$2 million to \$2.5 million.

To pay for the cost of the building, a possible increase in tuition of \$3-5 for each student was a suggestion. Lee asked the administration

to consider funding to the program, keep the program running and help fund students with children.

The children would also be used for educational purposes. Currently, there are students in 16 different fields that do service learning with children according to Lee.

Lee said that the proposal has been on record for the last two years. Lee found that space and money are two major factors that ECU has problems with when receiving proposals for new building and programs.

A student stated at the meeting that she knows personally that the facility would benefit students and faculty, being a mother and a student herself.

She said she was shocked to find out that ECU didn't have childcare facilities on campus.

Most universities offer this service to students and faculty, which contributes to their retention rates according to Lee.

The current facilities have lack of space and a high demand to house more children according to Lee.

Lee said that she receives more than 100 calls a month from students asking them to allow their children to come to the facility.

A childcare task force is something that the administration is considering.

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

Local N.C. school boards sue over eye exam requirement

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 \$65 to \$120, are too expensive and unnecessary since children already must receive vision screenings before entering school.

"The effect of this new law is to put an unconstitutional price tag on admissions to public schools," said Ann Majestic of the North Carolina School Boards Association, a party to the lawsuit.

"The law leaves out thousands of families who do not qualify for public assistance." The law set aside \$2 million to help parents pay for exams uncovered by Medicaid or other government programs. Opponents say that won't go very far.

They ask in the lawsuit filed in Wake Superior Court for the law to be declared unconstitutional before an estimated 119,000 children seek entrance into kindergarten for the coming school year. The exams must be performed within six months of the start of school, so the window to perform exams opens next week.

While Gov. Mike Easley is

listed among the lawsuit's defendants, the largest booster of the "Governor's Vision Care Program" has been House Speaker Jim Black, a Charlotte-area optometrist. The program was inserted into the House version of the budget last June and passed without even a public hearing.

An optometrist or ophthalmologist to check for seven different disorders would conduct the exam. 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.

Black received tens of thousands of dollars in campaign donations from fellow optometrists during the 2003-04 election cycle. A State Board of Elections investigator said earlier this month that Black's campaign and the N.C. State Optometric Society's political action committee appear to have violated the law by filling in the payee line on incomplete checks from committee members. The board hasn't completed its investigation.

Black's office didn't immediately return a message Tuesday seeking comment on the lawsuit.

Ophthalmologist Cindy Hampton of Henderson said even comprehensive exams of a 4- or 5-year-old can't guarantee that problems such as myopia or lazy eye will be discovered.

"This is not the most opport-

une time for visual development," said Hampton, representing the North Carolina Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons. Screening programs already evaluate the vision of 500,000 children annually, the lawsuit says, and about 35,000 are referred for follow-up exams.

And seven eastern counties have no eye doctors, meaning parents would have to travel up to 50 miles with their children to get the exams, said Shelia Owens, principal of Tyrrell Elementary School.

Educators say they also worry about having to decide between preventing a child from entering kindergarten without the eye exam, or breaking the constitutional right to a free public education.

"Surely, this is not the choice that the General Assembly intended for North Carolina schools to make," Owens said.

The lawsuit also contends the exam violates the U.S. constitution because it violates a federal requirement to provide free public education to children with disabilities and another requirement to allow homeless children to enroll in school even without all of the normally required documentation.

Several state senators have joined advocacy groups to ask for the repeal of the law. Black has said he will seek changes when the General Assembly reconvenes in May, including giving children up to six months after the start of school to get the exam.

Senior from page A1

ing about it from Kashaf and learning that a student who was studying planning received a scholarship from the organization last year.

If Ficzk receives this award, she will also earn a larger scholarship that will be applied to her bill for graduate school.

"I am anxious to hear whether I will be awarded the leadership award. If so, I will definitely be able to attend graduate school. Right now, I am not sure whether I will be able to go or not," said Ficzk.

If Ficzk is awarded the scholarship, she said she is sure that wants to attend graduate school but unsure of which one at this point. Ficzk plans to pursue a career in community development.

Notification by letter will be sent to Ficzk to invite her to a banquet the organization will have to announce the winner of scholarship.

If Ficzk chooses not to attend the banquet, the organization will notify her by mail again to inform her if she is the winner of the

scholarship.

When asked how she feels about receiving this scholarship and the chance to receive an additional scholarship that will be a determining factor in her attending graduate school, Ficzk seemed very happy and thankful about the opportunity.

"I really appreciate the opportunity to have been given this scholarship, as well as the recognition," Ficzk said.

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

Beer from page A1

have all shown interest in booking Max.

Many have questioned Max's honesty in recounting these stories and wonder, because they are so outrageous, if some are even possible.

Honesty, though, is something, if not the only thing, Max takes seriously. He said his stories embody the truth, and on his Web site, he counters the idea, questioning how he could even make up stories such as some of those he experiences. He added there

are legitimate eyewitnesses in the form of bystanders, friends and in some cases, victims. He does confess, however, that he writes according to memory and the help of a tape recorder, which he uses liberally when he goes out.

Max claims that he is not very surprised at the success of the book or recognition he is receiving. He stated simply that the stories are funny, and thus, people want to read them.

Aside from managing his Web site full-time and touring

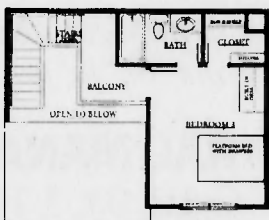
the country for book signings, Max also has deals set up with Hollywood in the form of TV and film projects, though nothing has been finalized.

The information for this article came from Tucker Max himself as well as from TuckerMax.com.

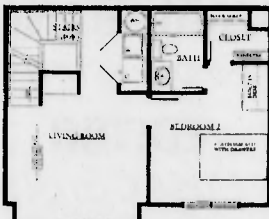
To access more information on Max or to read some of his ridiculous tales, students should visit ihopetheservebeerinhell.com.

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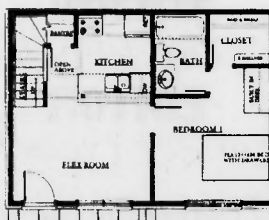
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Campus from page A2

boys in her program drop over the years. Out of the 11,000 alumni of the 43-year old organization 55 percent are male and 45 percent are female, she said. But among students currently in the program, about 60 percent are female and 40 percent male. She said about 60 percent of the youths are African-American. She said there are many reasons for this, explaining that studies show African-American boys are less likely than girls to graduate from high school and that few are picked to take demanding classes in elementary school that give them an early head start on college. "If you're falling behind by Grade 3 or 4 in reading, it's difficult to even get into a program like ours," Timmons said. She said educators spent a lot of time in the 1970s and 1980s

helping girls catch up. It might be time now to make sure boys aren't falling behind. "It's a problem that people have ignored," Timmons said. Catching, the Rutgers doctoral student, said African-American men who succeed in college share many characteristics. "Some of the key things have been mentors at all levels of their life, mentors in their community, parental support and sensitivity on behalf of educators," Catching said. "Those mentors help you get through those roadblocks." He said mentors helped him graduate from Montclair State University in 1999. Jenkins, of Operation Link-Up, added that it takes more effort to convince boys to go to college than girls. Unlike girls, Jenkins said, boys need more convincing to see the value of college.

Job-seeking stunts

(CareerBuilder.com) — What would you do to get your dream job? Bribe the employer with food or gifts? Hit on the hiring manager? Become a stalker? Job-seekers will do almost anything to stand out among the competition. There is no length a candidate won't go to and no line someone won't cross in order to get a job. Hiring managers nationwide shared the most unconventional methods job-seekers used to grab their attention in CareerBuilder.com's latest survey "How to Get in the Front Door." While some candidates' efforts were impressive — like giving PowerPoint presentations, distributing portfolios on CD and working for a day to demonstrate talents — others were complete turn-offs. One candidate called incessantly for weeks before and after the position was filled. Another clueless candidate asked for another interview after being told that the job was filled. One job-seeker brought coffee for the entire office, while another asked the interviewer out to dinner.


If you think that's weird, here are some of the most bizarre things job-seekers did to get noticed:

- Wore a tuxedo.
- Used a celebrity official fan site as one of their portfolio accomplishments.
- Brought a baby gift to the interviewer who was pregnant.
- Sat next to the hiring manager in a church pew.
- Left Yankee tickets for the interviewer.
- Sent a nude photo of himself to the hiring manager.
- Tried to do a stand-up comedy routine.
- Waited for the hiring manager at his car.
- Came dressed as a cat.
- Said they "smiled on command."

Multiple people are vying for the same open positions in most situations. Trying something out of the ordinary to market your skills and accomplishments can give you an edge over other applicants. The key to executing effectively and making yourself memorable for the right reasons is coupling creativity with professionalism and persistence.

Got something to say? Send us your pirate rants! Submit online at www.theeastcarolinian.com, or e-mail editor@theeastcarolinian.com.

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OPINION

Our View World catching up in men's ice hockey

Four years make one heck of a difference. That difference burned as brightly as the Olympic torch in this year's Olympics in Torino, Italy, particularly in men's ice hockey.

And yes, it is Torino, not Turin. Though Turin isn't technically incorrect and it is spelled Turin in English, in Italy it is Torino.

But I digress. The real point of the story here is that the rest of the world is finally catching up again with Canada and, to a lesser extent, the U.S.

For years the Russians dominated Olympic hockey - champions in 1964, 1968, 1972 and 1976 before the "Miracle" 1980 U.S. team dethroned the almighty reds. Past that, we have seen teams such as Canada, the United States, Sweden, Finland and the Czech Republic do well in the tournament.

And now even more teams are stepping up and planting parity in international hockey.

Look at what happened in the field in this year's Olympics. Canada, the United States, Russia and the Czech Republic were supposed to dominate, with Canada's slew of scoring firepower overwhelming everyone else. However, Canada (although they did play well and were unfortunate to run into two amazing goal tending performances) and the United States barely made it into the second round while the Russians and Czechs had decent performances as the Czechs beat out Russia for bronze.

On the rise, though, were the Swiss and Finns, who both shut Canada out 2-0, an unthinkable feat before these Olympics began. Switzerland was one of the most surprising teams in the toumey, if not the most surprising, and had quality wins against Canada and the Czechs. Finland went unbeaten all the way to the championship game against the Swedes, and Slovakia put up an excellent performance in the first round, finishing 4-0-1.

It's not to go as far as saying Canada is being usurped as the hockey powerhouse of the world, because that hasn't changed. But there are many more teams who can give them a run for their money. More importantly, there are now more countries building better talent pools for the future.

After watching many of these games, particularly those with Sweden, Finland and the Swiss, it was plain to see that the world is going to see better and better hockey through the coming years in international competition, and especially the Olympics.



Opinion Columnist Just another Academy Awards predictions piece

A bad year in film equals a bad awards show

GARY MCCABE
BITTER BOULEVARD

The 78th annual Academy Awards (or as I call them, "the Oscars") are less than a week away and for some reason, I couldn't care less. Maybe it's because I'm still fuming because Bill Murray didn't win Best Actor for *Lost in Translation* or that Paul Giamatti wasn't even nominated for *Sideways*.

Maybe it's because the award winners as of late have been about as predictable as a Ramones song and almost as grating to my senses. More than likely, though, it's because the films this year as a whole have been dreadful. From top to bottom - *Brokeback to Red Eye* - I've been very disappointed with almost every film I've seen this year.

With that out of the way, the Academy Awards will air live on Sunday whether I like it or not. So as a service to you, the reader, I'd like use this space to share my feelings on each of the major award categories and tell you who will win, who should win and basically, anything else I feel like writing. For the record, I've seen almost every film in contention for the major awards so this is more than mere speculation.

Best Picture
This award should be called "Best Picture by Default" because if it were any other year, none of these films would have a chance of winning Best Picture. Clearly, *Brokeback Mountain* is the favorite to win this award, and generally, I'd agree. Even when you strip *Brokeback* of the hype, the controversy and the jokes, it's a beautiful movie. The only problem with it is, had it been the story of a man and a woman and not two men, it would have just been another average love story and would have no chance at winning Best Picture. The film, in essence, is just a novelty act. Not that there's anything wrong with that. The only legitimate competi-

tion *Brokeback* has is in *Crash*, which is basically a series of intertwining events that reveal just how entrenched racism is in American society. I liked the message of *Crash*. But it's so contrived and so condescending that I can't believe it didn't go straight-to-video. The remaining three films (*Capote*, *Munich* and *Good Night, and Good Luck*) are enjoyable but all three could easily have been replaced by *Walk the Line*, *King Kong* or *Broken Flowers*.

Best Actor
Jamie Foxx's portrayal of Ray Charles in last year's *Ray* was vastly overrated. He didn't portray Ray Charles - he did a caricature of the man - and what's worse, he didn't even do his own singing. Joaquin Phoenix, on the other hand, became Johnny Cash in this year's *Walk the Line*. For such a larger-than-life role, Phoenix attacked it with a brilliant, low-key performance, even nailing Cash's baritone perfectly. With Ray, all I could think was, "Oh, that's Buz from *Booby Call* playing Ray Charles." Not with *Walk the Line*.

The award for Best Actor will inevitably go to Phillip Seymour Hoffman for his portrayal of writer Truman Capote. Don't get me wrong, Hoffman was great, but there wasn't much for him to do other than squeak like a Muppet Baby and cry like a regular baby.

Best Actress
Much like Julia Roberts did for *Erin Brockovich*, Reese Witherspoon should be all set to receive the "Thanks for all that money you made us" Award in the form of a Best Actress Award. I'm not saying it isn't well deserved - Witherspoon was so beautiful and captivating as June Carter Cash and gave *Walk the Line* genuine heart - but I'm not even sure if the role was large enough to be considered a lead role. The nod should go to Charlize Theron for *North Country* instead, although most pundits say that she's basically out of the running because she won two years ago

for *Monster*.
To be fair, I haven't seen *Transamerica* so I haven't seen Felicity Huffman as a tortured man who wishes to become a woman. I hear she's good, but I just think convincingly playing a man doesn't automatically mean you're a great actress - it probably just means you're ugly. I'll let you know when I actually see the film, though.

Best Supporting Actor
Paul Giamatti was robbed when he wasn't nominated for Best Actor in 2004 for his role in *American Splendor*. Ditto for 2005 when he was slighted for his role in *Sideways*. The last thing I want to see, though, is him winning Best Supporting Actor as some sort of conciliatory gesture by the Academy. He's a much better actor than that.

Rather, Jake Gyllenhaal should take the statue because of the five nominees, he gave the best performance - even though it was much larger than a supporting role. I'm not sure why Heath Ledger is up for Best Actor and Gyllenhaal Best Supporting Actor - Ledger basically did his best Clint Eastwood impression while Gyllenhaal ran the gambit of emotions and carried the film on his, er, broke back.

Best Director
This is the easiest of the major awards to predict. Lightning won't strike twice for Steven Spielberg. Sure, *Munich* may be another film about Jews, but it's no *Schindler's List*. George Clooney directed *Good Night, and Good Luck*, which was less a movie than it was a documentary. Paul Haggis directed *Crash*. I've said enough about that film. Bennett Miller directed *Capote* and made an entertaining film, but it felt like every other biopic. Anybody could have made that movie.

So by the process of elimination, the Best Director will go to Ang Lee because nobody can depict the rugged, mountain life in Wyoming better than ... an Asian man whose prior work includes *The Hulk*. Maybe this show won't be so predictable.

Pirate Rant

From here forward, I will always carry a single bullet in my chest pocket in honor of the greatest man who ever lived!

There is more than one dude with a mohawk ... and I did not ask you out.

I would like to commend the ECU Police Department for their excellent job of keeping ECU safe from illegally parked cars. One day we will possibly figure out how to keep students from being routinely robbed, but for now, all focus must be on keeping those haphazardly parked cars from endangering students.

Next time you want to flatter yourself, find something a little more positive. At least your good at one thing - making me laugh!

From this point on, each time I have to wait 10 minutes for this computer lab computer to work, I am going to resort to vandalism. It has been like this all year. Lab assistants say they have put work orders in to fix the problem, but nothing has been done.

You can turn right on red! You, however, cannot - I repeat - cannot go straight in a right turn only lane! Am I the only person who had to take Driver's Ed to get a license?

If you're in too much pain to sit in class and not moan and groan in my ear then don't come or, better yet, take online classes so I don't have to hear it because I'm not going to ask you if you're OK!

To the guy who said that the police are giving drinking tickets downtown to protect the students ... you're an idiot. How is me drinking a beer putting me in danger of getting shot walking home from downtown?

I watched the lady at Wright Place make my bacon, egg and cheese sandwich right in front of me; yet, when I get my food it's sausage and egg! It's not April fools yet. Is she a magician? I just want to know how that happened because I haven't stopped thinking about it all morning.

To every guy on the Gold bus leaving from College Hill Monday morning, I hope you were comfy sitting down while I stood. I'm a 5-foot-2-inch girl. Do you know how hard it is to hold on to the bar on the top of the bus so I don't fall on you? Probably not. You guys need to learn some manners fast!

I wish people who whine about N.C. would go back to where they came from. It's beautiful here.

I thought if you were loud after quiet hours, you were supposed to be written up. So why aren't the drunk people who come to my building loud as hell being written up?

Attention girls in Garrett Hall, I just have one piece of advice for you - grow up! You are not in high school anymore, so don't act like it.

What are sleep pants?

To the person who quoted the "Fresh Prince of Bel Air" theme song in the rant, thanks! You made my day that much more enjoyable.

To all ECU ebayers, beware of Neason17. He is a bad ebayer. This guy will screw you mega hard on ebay if you buy or sell to him.

I think there needs to be a superhero running around the streets of Greenville to try to clean up the scum that's taking over our town with crime. If no one's going to do it, then I guess look for my sign.

To the girls who attend the SRC with their hair down, all their make-up on and their extremely short shorts, please stop. I've had about all I can stomach!

I like the biscuits in the Wright Place.

I am addicted to checking my e-mail and no one ever e-mails me.

What's up with the dance routines in Wright Plaza? What's the point in it? Who said you could do it? I want to know. When I dance in the parking lot, people look at me like I'm strange. Something is unfair about that.

Are you kidding me? My roommate put on her AIM profile a picture of a detective and "put this in your profile if you live with someone sketchy." What is this, middle school?

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.

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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.

In My Opinion

(KRT) - More than four years after the first terrorist suspects arrived at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, there is still no answer to the question of how long the camp will remain open and under what circumstances.

Around the globe, the camp remains a lightning rod for those who complain about America's disregard for civil liberties. In this country, a number of court cases challenge the treatment of the Guantanamo inmates and their legal status. In Guantanamo, the detainees remain human guinea pigs in an experiment testing whether this nation can wage an effective battle against enemies who fly no flag except that of destruction. Given all this, how can we remain true to our fundamental principles of justice. When should this experiment be declared over?

Even Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain, a staunch administration supporter, conceded recently that the camp was an "anomaly" - a departure from normal standards.

He was reacting to a recent U.N. report condemning the detention center, adding to the growing consensus in the international community that the Guantanamo camp must be closed. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the camp would have to be closed "sooner or later," but he stopped short of endorsing

the demand for an immediate shutdown. He also reaffirmed the basic point that prisoners cannot be held in perpetuity without being either released or charged and prosecuted.

Yet the report must be judged incomplete because it failed to say exactly what should happen to the inmates, particularly those deemed to be a continuing threat. That's taking the easy route. If the United Nations disapproves of the conditions at Guantanamo, it has an obligation to do something besides complain about it, perhaps even undertake to deal realistically with the detainees and the problems they pose. But no plan to shut down Guantanamo should be considered unless there are provisions to identify diehard terrorists and ensure that they will not be set free to commit new acts of destruction.

The camp was created in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, when the Bush administration was trying to define rules for a new kind of war. It was designed to be a place where the administration could treat detainees as it wanted, without interference from either courts or foreign governments. The U.S. Supreme Court, to its credit, rejected the argument that Guantanamo existed in some sort of extra-legal universe, beyond the reach of the law.

For a while, Guantanamo was

useful as a short-term solution to a problem of enormous complexity - how to deal with hundreds of stateless alleged terrorists from countries that can't be trusted to keep the guilty ones locked up. (Earlier this month, 23 convicted al-Qaida prisoners managed to escape from a jail in Yemen. They remain at large.)

But as the months have stretched into years and the stopgap plan turns into a long-term proposition, it becomes more untenable. The camp can't continue forever, but the administration seems content to leave this problem on the White House doorstep to await the next chief executive.

Congress, for its part, has played a less than helpful role. Its main effort was to pass a law that severely restricts the access of inmates to the U.S. judicial system. That has only added to questions about the status and treatment of the detainees. But erecting a firewall between Guantanamo and the courts would only add to the legal isolation of the inmates without resolving the fundamental issues.

Instead, Congress should hold hearings and push the administration to say where it is going with this island prison. At the same time, Congress can help the architects of the battle against terror to design a detention policy that can withstand legal scrutiny and win international support.

Names in the News:

Aussie, Aussie, Aussie

Fellow Aussie titans Russell Crowe and Nicole Kidman, who were slated to star in the now-defunct *Eucaalyptus*, will finally engage each other in a thespian pas de deux in a yet-to-be-titled film helmed by fellow countryman and cinematic giant Baz Luhrmann, whose prodigious baton inspired Kidman's lovely turn in *Moulin Rouge*. Baz's work will be a film of epic proportions, a sweeping *Lawrence of Arabia*-esque historical saga that will reveal the very essence of Australia. "We have some of the most extraordinary landscape on the planet and we want to get two of the most extraordinary actors in the world and put them ... in that landscape," said Baz to Aussie paper *The Australian*. Production begins in August.

Pesci's free pass

Authorities have decided not to file charges against actor Joe Pesci for allegedly socking an amateur photo in a shopping center parking lot in Boca Raton, Fla. Juan Carlos Montenegro, 24, a Broward Community College student, claims Pesci gave him a fat lip when he tried to snap his screen idol's pic. Cops say they can't determine who started the brouhaha. Pesci's attorney could not be reached for comment.

An idol pose

Seems "American Idol" contestant Becky O'Donohue's past media exposure isn't limited to "Fear Factor." Man's best friend, *Maxim* is carrying erotic photos of Becky and her "Fear" costar, fellow athlete, model and vocalist sis Jessie. The PG-13-rated online photos (maximonline.com) are in the venerable tradition of *Sports Illustrated's* swimwear issue, with costumery ranging from tight cut-off T's and unbuttoned baseball jerseys to bikinis. One sauna-like scene shows the two sporting only towels. Taken two years ago, the pics are tastefully touted on *Maxim's* site with, "Jessie and Becky bared their pipes for us long before Simon Cowell had a crack at them."

The Jackson case

In a world without meaning or hope, some people desperately cling on to memories of past heroes such as Elvis and John Lennon. For federal officials, it means to hold on to Janet Jackson. The Federal Communications Commission is expected to stand by its Nipplegate ruling and go forward with its decision to fine 20 TV stations some \$550,000 for violating indecency rules during the 2004 Super Bowl halftime show.

Tomkat still on

Months have passed since Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes decided to wed. Will they make it to the altar? Or are post-Valentine's Day rumors of trouble in their little fantasy island of a world actually true? Never fear. *People* reports the pair made a big show of togetherness during a three-day visit to Australia. The happy couple's first child and Tom's latest creative baby, *Mission Impossible III*, are both due in May.

Family Fare Series:

"My Hero ... Reaching for the Stars" will be performed at Wright Auditorium Saturday, March 4 at 2 p.m. You'll meet Crispus Attucks, George Washington Carver, Caroline Anderson and Romana Acosta Banuelos, to name a few, in this engaging production. Filled with music, audience participation, humor and history, the show will inspire youth to hold on to their hopes and dreams and keep reaching for success. For tickets and more information call the Central Ticket Office at 252-328-4788, toll free at 1-800-ECU-ARTS or visit ecuatarts.com.

Local Concerts:

Carbon Leaf will be performing at ECU Saturday, March 4.

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

Clap Your Hands Say Yeah will be at the Cal's Cradle in Carboro, N.C. Thursday, March 9.

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

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

Marina McBride will be at the RBC Center in Raleigh Sunday, April 2.

Michael Buble will be performing at Memorial Auditorium in Raleigh Wednesday, April 12.

From ECU to WWE: Linda McMahon

We talk to Linda McMahon, CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment

KRISTIN MURNANE ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

Professional wrestling is on television nearly every night of the week, not to mention that it's been popular with both men and women of all ages for decades. Programs like *Smackdown*, *RAW* and *Pay-Per-View* shows *SummerSlam*, *Royal Rumble* and *WrestleMania* draw millions of viewers. For this, we have World Wrestling Entertainment and its leaders, Chairman Vince McMahon and CEO Linda McMahon, to thank.

Without the leadership of these people, among others, the WWE would not be the international entertainment sensation that it is today. But did any of you know that the McMahons are ECU alumni? We had the chance to talk with Linda McMahon about everything from her time as a Pirate to her time in the ring.

TEC: You're originally from the eastern North Carolina area; can you describe for us some of your childhood memories?

McMahon: I'm from New Bern, N.C., which is about 42 miles, I think, from Greenville. Boy, it was a great place to grow up. I grew up very close to the Neuse River so a lot of my childhood was spent swimming, water skiing, learning how to slalom ski on one ski, do jumps ... all of that stuff. It was incredibly fun. I went to high school at New Bern High. I absolutely enjoyed all of my time in high school. It was just a wonderful time in my life. It was great growing up in eastern North Carolina. I met my husband Vince in New Bern. In church if you can believe that. We were married early and I actually started at ECU after we were married. So that was certainly a challenge.

TEC: What can you tell us about your experience at ECU? Do you still have that Pirate Pride?

McMahon: [laughs] Absolutely, I can remember sitting in the stands and cheering for the football team. I can't remember, but I think my senior year we had a really good season and then we watched them subsequently in bowl games. So that was a lot of fun. We were involved with all of the sports teams, and you know, just yelling and screaming your lungs out for your team to win.

So it was all fond memories of being at ECU. We lived in a small apartment. I think it was on Elm Street. So we walked to class and I just remember the beautiful trees that lined the streets. At that time it was just a nice, sleepy little college town.

TEC: When you married Mr. McMahon, were there any inclinations that the WWE would grow into the global business that it is today?

McMahon: There was no WWE at that time; my husband's father's company was the World Wide Wrestling Federation.

TEC: That's right, the WWWF. **McMahon:** I think so. I really didn't know very much about professional wrestling, so I had no visions at all.

TEC: Wrestling is viewed as a male-dominated sport. What does it feel like running such a large company where women are viewed as part of the minority? What advice do you have for young women in the business world?

McMahon: Don't have any fear. I think there are a lot of advantages sometimes to being a female in a heavily dominated male environment because I think while you may run into glass ceilings and things like



Linda McMahon, a talented and powerful ECU alumni.

that, there's a great opportunity for young women today with passion and pride. You have to seize the opportunity, and you also have to make your way. It's not about resting on your morals or it's not about sitting back and saying "well that's never going

to happen because I'm a female." You have to go for it.

TEC: Can you take us through a typical day in the life of Linda McMahon?

McMahon: Well, I don't know

see MCMAHON page A7



Students work hard to get to graduation, and preparation is essential to make sure the day goes well.

Planning steps toward graduation

Don't forget the little things that make a difference

SARAH CAMPBELL STAFF WRITER

In a few short months, many seniors will be preparing to take the final step in their college careers - graduation. Preparing for graduation can be a grueling experience, especially if you aren't sure what you need to do and when to do it.

Well, have no fear. I'm here to offer you some tips that will make preparing not only bearable, but maybe even enjoyable.

The most important thing that you will need to do is be sure all of your graduation paper work is done. Stop by your advisor's office or the graduation office and ask if there is anything else you need to do before the big day. Also don't forget that you have to register on OneStop for graduation, which lets the people in charge know whether you will be attending your departmental graduation, the large ceremony or both. This is often overlooked

by students, but is a vital part of the graduation process.

No one wants to walk across the stage naked, so be sure to pick up your cap and gown. The cost is covered through student tuition, and you can pick it up at the Dowdy Student Store upon completing the Dowdy Student Store Commencement Appeal Form. This form is available in the store or online at ecu.edu/studentstores.

When preparing an outfit to wear underneath your cap and gown, there are a few things to take into consideration. Since temperatures in May will be rather warm, students should wear light clothing underneath their gowns.

Women may want to consider wearing short sleeves and bringing along a sweater to wear after the ceremony, as the spring temperatures can prove to be a bit chilly. Also, make sure you don't wear a skirt or dress that exceeds the length of your gown. Finally, wearing shoes with straps may be a better choice than backless shoes considering the fact that you will be walking across

a stage in front of hundreds of people. You don't want to risk losing a shoe or falling down.

There aren't very many choices for men when it comes to choosing something to wear underneath your gown; however, remembering to wear dark pants so that you don't stand out will be a wise choice. Also, wearing a short-sleeved shirt rather than long sleeves may keep you cooler.

After figuring out your wardrobe, the next thing to focus on is sending out graduation announcements and invitations. The Dowdy Student Stores offers students pre-printed graduation cards, coordinating envelopes and inserts, on which you can handwrite your name and degree. Also, custom printed announcements are available to order online form jostens.com, but keep in mind that it may take up to two weeks (or more) for orders to arrive.

Announcements may be sent out either before or after your ceremony since

see GRAD page A7

Professor committed to learning

Who is Who at ECU?

SHANNON DAVIS STAFF WRITER

To the surprise of many students, instructors do not live in their classrooms. Faculty and staff have an array of responsibilities on and off campus. ECU is privileged to have Janie Jones Sowers, M.S., LMFT on staff at the Child Development and Family Relations Department. Her enthusiasm and fervor for education is commendable.

TEC: How did you come to find that you wanted to work at ECU?

Sowers: I grew up 21 miles from Greenville in Washington, N.C. I became involved with ECU when I came back for my second master's degree. My first degree is in counseling, my second is in marriage and family.

TEC: What is involved in your occupation?

Sowers: I am a visiting instructor at ECU and a clinic coordinator for the Family and Therapy Clinic.

TEC: What do you like most about your job?

Sowers: I use a systematic approach when working with individuals, couples and families. I enjoy helping people via therapy and being in the classroom helping students discover their passions.

TEC: What is the most important part of your life?

Sowers: I am a social creature. I love laughter. I love music, theatre, comedies and being with people who are significant in my life. My faith is equally important to me as well.

TEC: What are your passions?

Sowers: To help people understand their potential. The highest regard given to someone is that they made a difference. I also like to travel. I have done a good number of mission trips around the world. I have been to the Philippines twice, Mexico four times, New York City after September 11, Washington D.C., San Antonio



JANIE JONES SOWERS

and the Navaho Reservation Four Corners outside of Montezuma, Utah. I will be going to Chicago this summer.

TEC: How do you see your role as an educator?

Sowers: Motivating and tapping into passions. I see myself facilitating learning.

TEC: How do you maintain balance?

Sowers: I know my limits and prioritize. I have also learned the importance of relationships and those who are significant. As a Christian, I am influenced by my faith, which has a large role in my life.

TEC: At what age did you realize you wanted to become an educator?

Sowers: It is such an honor to know I was considered in that light. I would say in my 20s.

TEC: What interests you the most about child development?

Sowers: The role I see a child play in a family context. I understand that every person is somebody's son, daughter, brother,

see PROFESSOR page A7

School of Art and Design Undergraduate Exhibition at Gray Gallery

Students display talent and receive awards

SHANNON DAVIS STAFF WRITER

Coordinators in the School of Art and Design chose the exceptional works submitted from more than 650 undergraduate students to be displayed in the art gallery for an opportunity to win a variety of awards. Curator Gail Brown selected the award winning pieces and announced the winners at an award ceremony Friday, Feb. 17. Among the winners was senior Melissa Van Sandt, a sculpture major.

TEC: What award did you win?

Van Sandt: I won the Sculpture Merit Award

TEC: How long did it take you to create the sculpture?

Van Sandt: There are two parts to it. The first part, which is the cast, took one week; the second part is the steel and that only took two days.

TEC: Where did you get the inspiration to make it?

Van Sandt: It is based on organic form called "Native Fabrication." Organic forms such as plant life, shell forms and organic features that were prominent when I was growing up inspire all of my work.

TEC: What influenced you to become a sculpture major?

Van Sandt: I like to work with tools. It is a three dimensional world and I like to work in three-dimensional.

Another talented artist who won an award was senior Debora Gomez, a painting and drawing major.

TEC: What award did you win?

Gomez: I won Excellence in Painting.

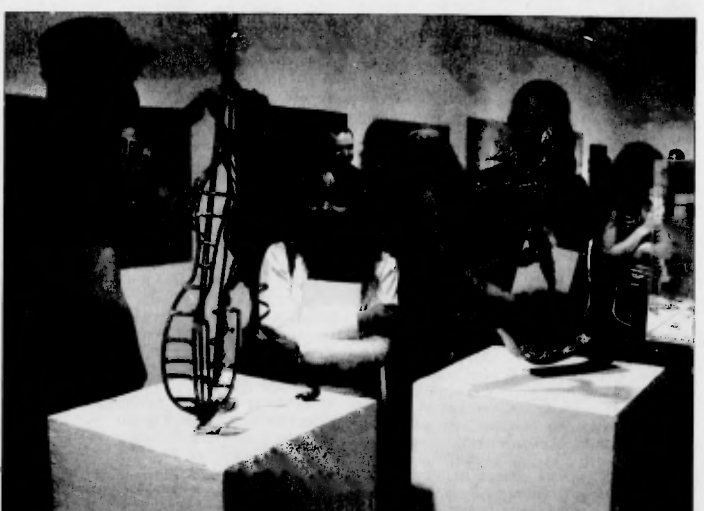
TEC: What is the piece about?

Gomez: It is a photo of my mother and me when I was little. She is bathing me in the sink.

TEC: What inspires you most?

Gomez: My past, family or whatever is currently going on with me. I like to do a lot of personal pieces.

see EXHIBITION page A7



The artwork above received the Sculpture Merit Award at the School of Art and Design Exhibition.

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It's Back!

WZMB will be hosting another Speed Dating round!

March 9, 2006
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Refreshments will be served!

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When: Now!

Connect here: www.ecu.edu/dining

McMahon from page A6

it there is such a thing as a typical day. [laughs] I'm up early about 6:15, I take care of the dog, then go to the gym. After that I make breakfast for Vince and myself, then I come into the office and then have a full day here. One afternoon I'll go into the city and play with my little grandson. So that's a very happy afternoon. There's always a lot of meetings. I meet with analysts, investment bankers and I have internal business meetings here. We're going into our last quarter of our fiscal year, so there are a lot of financial meetings going on. It's a full day, a full week, and this entertainment business is sometimes just 24/7 and you can't count on having the weekends off. This is something we truly love; it's a passion for us and so it doesn't really feel like a job.

TEC: Do you enjoy not only working behind the scenes, but also being in front of the camera and in front of a live audience? Do you prefer to be on television or work behind the scenes?

McMahon: Oh definitely off

camera. [laughs] I'm not leaving my day job. I've seen my job on TV and I think I should stick to my day job.

TEC: You've taken some bumps in the ring before. Does it really hurt as bad as it seems on TV?

McMahon: Sometimes. In fact, there was one scenario where Stephanie and I were feuding and she actually slapped me in the ring and it was a good hard slap, knocked me down. She swears she didn't, [laughs] but it clearly hurt. So yes, those bumps in the ring do hurt. I've got the greatest respect for our superstars who are in there night after night with the bumps that they take. They have to be great athletes to do what they do. They have to train hard. But just to run and bounce off those ring ropes, you have no idea how it feels and if you try it one time, you'll see that the ropes will bruise your sides, they'll bruise your ribs, but they make it look easy. I have the utmost respect for them. They are marvelous performers and athletes.

TEC: Is there anything else that you'd like to say to the ECU community?

McMahon: Yes. Go Pirates! McMahon and the WWE also have a variety of community relations programs including the Get R.E.A.L. program, Smackdown Your Vote!, Circle of Champions, as well as Military Outreach.

Get R.E.A.L. encourages success in children in junior and senior high school through respect, education, achievement and leadership. WWE superstars will travel to libraries around the world encouraging students to read more. In 2005, superstar Rey Mysterio was a spokesperson for Teen Read Week. To read more about this and other programs, log on to vote.wwe.com or corporate.wwe.com/community/overview.

To read the complete interview, including the WWE's stand on steroids, log on to theeastcarolinian.com.

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

Grad from page A6

they are not meant to be invitations, just an announcement of your accomplishment. Don't be shy about sending them out in fear that people will think you are only trying to receive gifts; you can write a note at the bottom requesting no gifts if you so choose.

Although announcements can be sent out whenever you wish, invitations will need to be sent two weeks to a month in advance to ensure that everyone that you wish to attend will have ample time to plan their schedule around the event. You want all of your loved ones to be there to share your achieve-

ments, so be sure that you have your announcements sent in a timely manner.

After the thrill of graduation has begun to diminish, you will need to begin sending thank you notes to everyone who gave you graduation gifts. Thank you notes are a polite way to show your appreciation not only for the gift they gave you, but also for the support they have offered you throughout the years.

You can find out more about graduation supplies at ecu.edu/studentstores.

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

Exhibition from page A6

TEC: Did you anticipate winning any of the awards?

Gomez: Not at all. It was the first time I've submitted anything so I didn't think I'd win. It is awesome that I did though.

ECU features the largest studio art program in North Carolina. The concentrations represented in the exhibition include art foundation, ceramics, graphic design, illustration, interactive media, metals, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, textile design, video and wood design.

The annual ECU School of Art and Design Undergraduate Exhibition at the Wellington B. Gray Gallery is from Feb. 17 - April 1. The gallery and auditorium are located in the Jenkins Fine Arts Center at Fifth and Jarvis Streets. The gallery hours are Mon. - Fri. from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

For more information, log on to the School of Art and Design Web site at ecu.edu/soad. Go out and enjoy all of the hard work these students have put into their work.

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

Professor from page A6

sister, cousin or niece.

TEC: What other courses do you currently instruct?

Sowers: Culturally Diversity and Family Relations, Family and Community Services Internships and Profession Seminar for Family and Community Services.

This licensed family therapist

enjoys helping people and life. The academia at ECU is growing tremendously and will continue to grow because of multi-faceted instructors like Sowers who provide an interactive and instructional atmosphere for students.

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

Go for the Goal!

Majors Fair

March 1
10:30-1:30 PM
1st Floor, Bate Building

Take another Step towards your career decision. There are over 120 majors at ECU. Attend the fair to learn more about them.

March is Majors Month!

If you are undecided or reconsidering your major set a goal to select a major this March.

SPORTS

Page A8 sports@theeastcarolinian.com 252.328.6366

TONY ZOPPO Sports Editor BRANDON HUGHES Assistant Sports Editor

TUESDAY February 28, 2006

Sports Briefs

ECU swimming claims second in C-USA championships

ECU finished in second place at both the 2006 Conference USA Men's Invitational and Women's Championships held at Houston's Campus Recreation & Wellness Center Natatorium over the past four days. SMU took home its first C-USA Women's Swimming and Diving title and Men's Invitational crown in the program's inaugural year in the league. For the women, ECU followed in second (587), while the Houston Cougars were only two points behind the Pirates. Rice followed in fourth with 540.5 points, while Tulane (402.5) and Marshall (249) rounded out the women's teams. On the men's side, ECU finished second (781), while the University of Hawaii (583) came in third. The women's team began the day in fourth place and trailed Houston entering the final race of the day, 400-yard freestyle relay. ECU finished the race in third place (3:25.42) ahead of Houston (3:27.00) and added 32 points to its total. UH's mark gave the squad 28 and pushed the team behind ECU. Junior Kate Gordon, a member of the 400 free relay team, helped the Pirates bolster their point total with a second place finish in the 200-yard butterfly (2:02.98), just ahead of teammate Holly Williams (2:03.34), who placed third. Rebecca Perry, Adrienne Williams and Courtney Felker joined Gordon on the 400 free relay team. ECU stood second after three days and was able to hold onto its second place standing earning three third place finishes on the final day of competition. Sophomore Greg Neville placed third in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 1:56.31. Sophomore Peter Brachyhouse earned a medal in the platform dive with a third place finish, earning a total score of 129.95. The team of Christoph Lubenau, Bryan Yasinsac, Josh Curutte and Charlie McCanness placed third in the 400-yard freestyle relay with a time of 3:04.36.

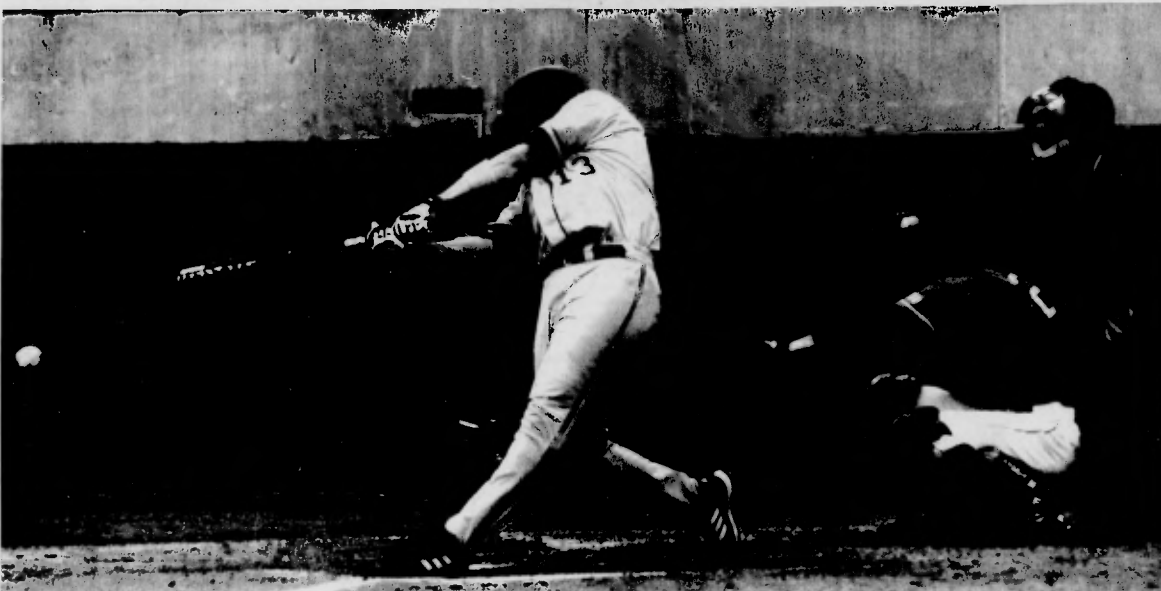
Jake Smith Named C-USA Hitter of the Week

ECU senior catcher Jake Smith was named Conference USA Hitter-of-the-Week by league officials on Monday. The announcement marks ECU's first player of the week winner this season and the first Pirate to be named hitter of the week since Ryan Jones earned the recognition May 3, 2004. Smith, a Greensboro native, led the Pirates to three victories last week, batting 8-for-18 (.444) with two doubles, a home run and 10 RBI. He hit safely in each game and drove in all of his 10 runs during ECU's three wins. Smith opened the week by going 3-for-6 against Duke with two doubles, a career-high five RBI and three runs scored. He also went 5-for-12 during the Keith LeClair Classic, hitting his second homer of the season while collecting four RBI in a 3-for-5 performance against UNC Wilmington. On the year, Smith is second on the team with a .375 average while he leads the club in most offensive categories including homers (2), RBI (14), doubles (3), hits (15), total bases (24) and slugging percentage (.600). In addition to his early success at the plate, Smith has caught eight attempted basestealers through the Pirates' first 10 games. ECU (7-3) is hosting Duke Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 4 p.m. before Stony Brook comes to Greenville for a weekend series, March 3-5.

Lady Pirates earn No. 8 seed in Conference USA tournament

After earning its first-ever conference championship in women's basketball on Friday, regular season champion Tulsa will be the No. 1 seed in this week's C-USA Women's Basketball Championship, March 2-5 at SMU's Moody Coliseum in Dallas, Texas. The Golden Hurricane posted its 11th home win and 13th conference victory, breaking the school's single-season record, following a win over UTEP earlier today. As the No. 1 seed, Tulsa will have a first round bye at the 2006 C-USA Women's Basketball Championship. Other teams receiving first round byes include No. 2 Rice, No. 3 SMU and No. 4 Southern Miss. Thursday's first round match-ups include: No. 8 East Carolina vs. No. 9 UAB at 1 p.m., No. 5 Marshall vs. No. 12 Memphis at 3:30 p.m., No. 7 Houston vs. No. 10 UTEP at 6 p.m., and No. 6 Tulane vs. No. 11 UCF at 8:30 p.m. In Friday's quarterfinal round, No. 1 Tulsa will take on the winner of the ECU/UAB game at 1 p.m. and No. 4 Southern Miss will face the winner of the Marshall/Memphis match-up beginning at 3:30 p.m. No. 2 Rice, winners of seven in a row, will take on the winner of the Houston/UTEP game at 6 p.m., while No. 3 seed SMU will close out Friday night with the winner of the Tulane/UCF contest at 8:30 p.m.

Diamond Bucs take two in Keith LeClair Classic



Jake Smith was in the zone this past week for the Pirates, collecting 10 RBI on eight hits, including a career high five RBI against Duke last Tuesday.

Kennedy leads Hokies past Pirates in finale

BRENT WYNN
SENIOR WRITER

Virginia Tech starter Ryan Kennedy stymied the Pirate offense for seven innings and Jose Cueto delivered a two-run home run in the fourth, as the Hokies ended the Keith LeClair Classic with a 5-1 win over ECU Sunday afternoon at Clark-LeClair stadium.

In his seven innings of work,

Kennedy surrendered just one run off of six hits while walking one and striking out four. The south-paw hurler recorded all 21 outs on the infield, including 15 groundouts, four strikeouts, an infield foul out and an infield pop out. Hokie relievers Adam Redd and Nicky Bowers kept the Pirates at bay the last two innings, each pitching a scoreless inning to close the deal.

As a team, ECU managed only eight hits on the day, none of which went for extra bases.

"We just didn't string any-

thing together offensively," said Head Coach Billy Godwin.

"There was no consistency, but I tip my hat to Virginia Tech. They played well."

Pirate starter Shane Matthews mirrored Kennedy's performance through the first three innings, but in the fourth he made his first mistake of the game to Cueto.

Allowing only one hit going into the frame, Matthews gave up a one out single to Sean O'Brien, who then scored on Cueto's second run tripper to left, giving the Hokies a 2-0 lead.

Tech left-fielder Sheldon Adams was hit by Matthews to begin the sixth. After recording an out on a sacrifice bunt, Matthews was lifted for senior Scott Andrews. Adams moved to third on an O'Brien single and then scored when designated hitter Billy Marn singled to right, pushing the lead to 3-0.

Matthews took his first loss of the season, going 5.1 innings. He gave up three runs off of three hits and a walk, while striking out four.

ECU scored their only run of

the game in the sixth. Jay Mattox walked with one out and moved to second on Jake Smith's single. Adam Witter then followed with a single to load the bases. Stephen Batts hit into what looked to be a sure-fire double play, but after Hokie shortstop Warren Schaeffer's throw pulled first baseman O'Brien off the bag, Mattox scooted home to cut Tech's lead to 3-1.

The Hokies added two more insurance runs in the ninth

see CLASSIC page A10

A night to forget, Pirates drop home finale 66-53

Tulane bests ECU on Senior Night

ERIC GILMORE
SENIOR WRITER

Senior Night is supposed to be an easy win, rewarding four-year players with a culmination of their efforts. However, Saturday night, Tulane had alternate plans.

The Green Wave used a torrid shooting touch and stifling defense to defeat ECU 66-53 in front of 5,310 fans. Tulane sank 52 percent (24-of-46) from the field while the Pirates struggled to find the basket throughout the game.

"I'm proud of our guys and the way they performed tonight, especially in the second-half," said first-year Tulane coach Dave Dickerson.

"We did the things we needed to do to win the game. We knew that ECU would take a lot of threes, so we felt like our three-point defense needed to be tremendous."

And it was. ECU missed all 11 shots from behind the

arc in the second-half, shooting just 4-for-22 total.

"It really came down to shooting the basketball," said ECU coach Ricky Stokes.

"We did not shoot the ball very well and they did. I thought that was the difference in the game."

Senior forward Corey Rouse led ECU (8-18, 2-11 Conference USA) with a game-high 17 points and 11 rebounds to earn his 15th double of the season. In his finale inside Minges Coliseum, Rouse struggled with his shooting touch, going 6-of-15 from the field and 5-of-11 at the charity stripe.

Sophomores Jeremy Ingram and Jonathan Hart each added nine points. Ingram, despite playing through a meniscus tear in his right knee, tallied all of his points on threes in the first half.

Like Rouse, junior guard Courtney Captain and freshman guard Sam Hinnant both struggled with their shots. Captain was 1-of-9 from the field while scoring six points. The junior's lone field goal was a three-pointer, marking

the 25th time in 26 games that the Captain has connected on a trey. Hinnant had shooting woes as well, missing all five shots from beyond the arc en route to 1-of-7 shooting. The freshman's four points was his lowest output since Dec. 3.

Tulane forward David Gomez led the Green Wave (10-15, 5-7) with 15 points, while senior center Quincy Davis had 13. Freshman point guard Ryan Williams chipped in 11 while freshman forward Daniel Puckett notched seven points and added six rebounds.

With the score knotted at 41, Tulane edged out a decisive 16-3 run over an eight-minute, 38-second span. During the spurt, ECU managed only one field goal, while Tulane sharp shooter Chris Moore sniped in two threes. The Pirates made only four field goals over the last 13 minutes and 26 seconds.

"We're disappointed we weren't



Photo by Herb Sneed

see FINALE page A10

Tulane ruined senior night for ECU as they beat the Pirates 66-53.

Longevity lacking in head coaches' demanding realm



Cowher has been with the Steelers for 14 years.

(KRT)—The fraternity is like no other.

It is one of the rarest in the world and also one of the most visible in the world, with a network all its own. There are only 32 members.

Long-established members suggest savoring the brotherhood as if it were a rare wine, one that has but a sliver of time for enjoyment. Because that's what coaching a team in the NFL has become.

Five years ago, 32 head coaches came to the NFL Scouting Combine during their most relaxing time of the year and evaluated 2001's draft prospects.

Today, only seven of those 32 hold the same job.

Bill Cowher, the league's longest-tenured coach, landed in Pittsburgh in 1992. Since, the New York Jets and the Washington Redskins each have hired six coaches. Oakland has had five.

"When I was here four years ago (as an assistant coach), I remember sitting in the dome by myself looking around. Didn't really know anybody," new St. Louis Rams Coach Scott Linehan said from the RCA Dome, where this year's NFL prospects went through their first sets of job interviews.

"My challenge then was figuring

out what I was going to do with the Minnesota Vikings' offense ... Now, every decision, somebody says, 'What's Coach want?' It comes across my desk."

Linehan is part of the largest class of first-time NFL head coaches in recent memory. Nearly one-third of the league's teams take new coaches into the 2006 season.

Beginning with the draft process, 10 teams introduce new head coaches; seven of the 10 are first-timers.

Some are West Coast-offense aficionados, others defensive specialists. One comes out of the Bill Belichick lineage, another from Tony Dungy's tenure at Tampa Bay.

Those are some of their specialties and differences. They have one thing in common. Job security is tenuous. They have it now. It won't always be so.

History suggests in another five years, by the 2011 combine, more than half of them will be doing something else. That leaves little time for turning blueprints into reality.

And this: "There's no handbook for the head coaching job," second-year Browns Coach Romeo Crennel said. "People can tell you a little bit about it,

but there's no handbook. When it happens, it happens. You have to understand and deal with the things you have to deal with and be better prepared the second time or the second year assuming you get a second year."

Year one is a blur. By the time first-year coaches have their staffs in place, the combine is here. Just about the time they wish there were more player evaluations to make, the draft comes. By then, off-season workouts are in full-force.

Next come mini-camps, passing camps, veteran camps and, finally, training camp.

"Got to get a lot done in a very short period of time," new Detroit Coach Rod Marinelli said.

Being in the fraternity means never-ending video clips on the NFL Network. Traveling in obscurity is over. Walking from the media room to the dome here means dealing with the cadre of autograph seekers and souvenir hounds.

Soon, days of going to and from practice without a camera running are over.

see LONGEVITY page A9

28, 2006

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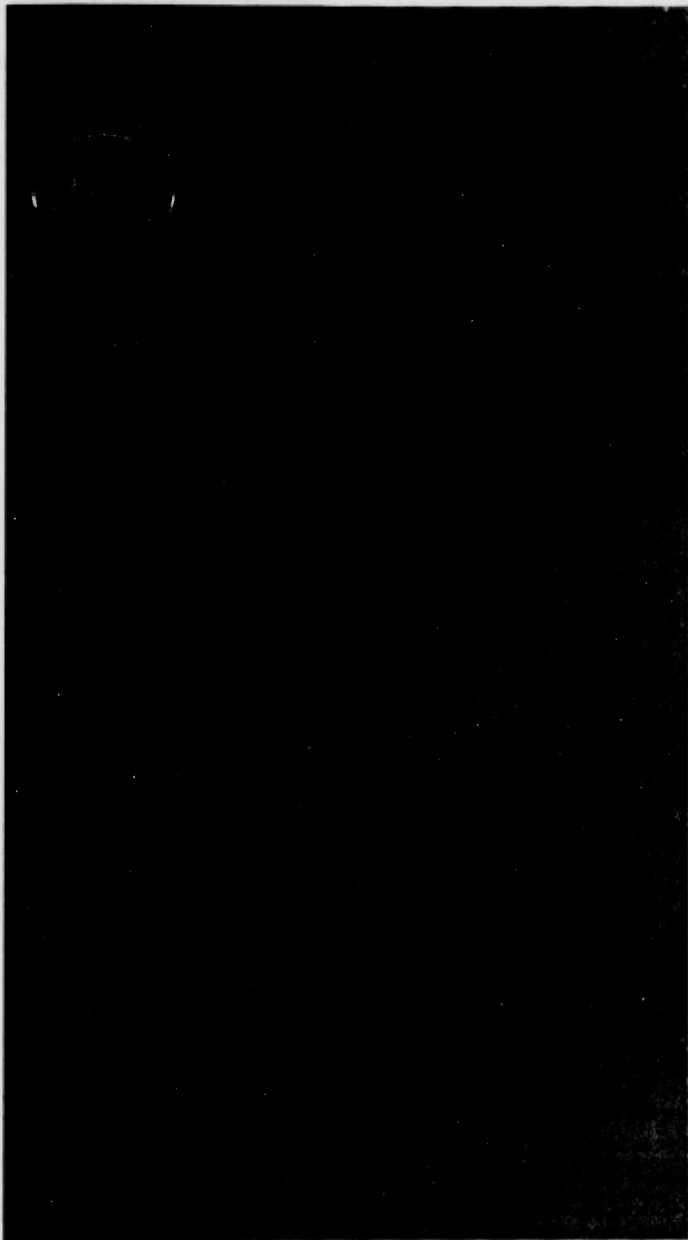
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page A9



Longevity from page A8

Everybody knows their name. Everybody wants to know what they think. Even their own people. Especially their own people.

Progress is expected, especially considering their million-dollar contracts.

"I can't get you a specific example, but it's seeing the things you're trying to get done actually take place however that manifests itself," said new Jets Coach Eric Mangini, a Belichick disciple and at 35 the NFL's youngest head coach. "I've seen it enough times to know what it should look like. It's got to look the way I expect it to look, and as long as we're moving in that direction, then I'll be happy."

Three of this year's changed coaching slots, Oakland's Art Shell, Kansas City's Herman Edwards and Buffalo's Dick Jauron have been here at least once before.

For the seven newcomers, Linehan, Marinelli, Mangini, Mike McCarthy (Green Bay), Brad Childress (Minnesota), Gary Kubiak (Houston) and Sean Payton (New Orleans), this is all new. They're navigating a learning curve.

"Without a doubt," second-year 49ers Coach Mike Nolan said. "But I'm hopeful to think

there's a learning curve for second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, all the way down the line. That's what keeps you energized. I never believe that you ever have it all down because it just keeps turning."

For the seven new faces, the primary difference between their lives now and their lives here last year is the sheer volume of responsibility. Priority lists have become imperative.

While running San Francisco's offense for Nolan a year ago, for instance, McCarthy watched every college snap taken by the draft's top two quarterbacks, Alex Smith and Aaron Rodgers. Now in charge of Green Bay's team, McCarthy doesn't have the time to devote that much attention on one position; he assigned such tasks to his first group of assistants.

Likewise, all position coaches and coordinators comprehend the salary cap and can identify restricted and unrestricted free agents. Head coaches have to see the bigger picture. Some are asked to have a hand in painting it.

Oh, and this is all while infusing their personality, and their systems into the franchise. A closed-door style would be a challenge; too many people need answers to too many questions.

All 10 just want to see progress.

Only two of the 10 new coaches inherit a team with a winning record. Childress is one.

That's not to say he walked into the best situation. The Vikings fired Mike Tice after 9-7, didn't get them to the playoffs, a result that followed the "Love Boat" sex-capade in which four Vikings players, including quarterback Daunte Culpepper, were charged with indecent, lewd and/or lascivious behavior.

Management styles personal methods to extend coaching lives differ dramatically. Mangini already has built into his Jets operation the same regimented and tight-lipped customs he learned to appreciate (and embrace) under Belichick.

When a reporter suggested to him here that it was believed the Jets, who are coping with quarterback Chad Pennington's shoulder injury, favored Vanderbilt quarterback Jay Cutler, Mangini's eyes narrowed.

"Who's been talking about that?" he softly demanded.

"The Internet," was the reply.

see LONGEVITY page A10



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Classic from page A8

before Bowers came on in the bottom of the inning to slam the door for good.

The Pirates fell to 1-3 on the season in games played on Sundays.

"All our three losses have come on Sundays. Maybe we'll just skip Sunday and start playing on Mondays," Godwin quipped.

Cueto, O'Brien and Parks paced Tech with two hits each, while Batts was the only Pirate to record a multi-hit day. He also drove in ECU's only run.

GAME TWO

In front of the second largest crowd in school history, the Pirates defeated UNC-Wilmington 11-2. As 4,141 people watched, ECU dismantled their bitter in-state rivals with a mixture of timely hitting and a dazzling pitching performance from four Pirate hurlers.

Dustin Sasser pitched 5.2 innings of eight hit ball, giving up just two runs with three walks and one strikeout. The red shirt sophomore improved to 2-1 on the season.

"I didn't think he (Sasser) was as sharp today as he has been," Godwin said.

"But he's going to compete and give you everything he's got. What a great job he did keeping us in the game."

Pirate relievers Chris Powell (0.1 innings pitched), Jason Neltz (2 IP) and Kevin Rhodes (1 IP) combined to shutout the Seahawks the rest of the game.

Jake Smith, who was a triple short of the cycle, going 3-for-5

with four RBI and a run scored, led the Diamond Bucs on offense. For the season, Smith is batting .375 with two homers and 14 RBI.

Dale Mollenhauer added two hits and three RBI, while Harrison Eldridge and Jake Dean also had two hits.

Wilmington took an early 1-0 lead after Steve Halford, who reached via a single, scored on a wild pitch from Sasser.

ECU responded quickly with two runs in the bottom of the inning to take the lead. After Dean's RBI single scored Batts to tie the game at 1-1. Seahawk starter Allen Flood returned the favor given by Sasser, delivering two consecutive wild pitches, allowing Ryan Toudley to score for a 2-1 Buc lead.

Mollenhauer's two-RBI triple and Jake Smith's chopper single up the middle in the fourth extended the Pirate lead to 5-1.

The Seahawks closed to within three in the sixth when Hargrave singled home Barefoot, cutting the Pirate advantage to 5-2.

Smith's solo blast in the seventh seemed to spark the ECU offense, as the Pirates blew the game open in the eighth with five runs.

The Bucs loaded the bases in the inning with two singles and an error by the Seahawks. Mollenhauer's RBI single, followed by a Mattox's RBI walk boosted the lead to B-2. Smith delivered yet another timely hit, this one a two-RBI single that scored Mollenhauer and Eldridge

for a 10-2 lead. A pitch hit Jamie Ray later in the inning with the bases loaded to close the scoring at 11-2.

GAME ONE

With old skipper Keith LeClair in attendance, Smith delivered a sacrifice fly with the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth to break a 3-3 tie, giving the Pirates a 4-3 walk off victory against Penn State in the nightcap of day one at the Keith LeClair Classic Friday night.

After a walk by Drew Schieber and consecutive singles from Mollenhauer and Jay Mattox loaded the bases, Smith sent his sacrifice just deep enough into left field, allowing Schieber to beat the throw from Nittany Lion Lance Thompson to the plate, sending the crowd of 3,814 into a frenzy.

"For the people in the stands, it had to be a good game to watch," Godwin said.

"Fortunately we seem to be coming out on the good end of it."

Penn State threatened to take a 4-3 lead in the eighth, loading the bases with just one out.

Scott Gummo, who homered earlier in the contest, lifted a fly ball to right that appeared deep enough to score Matt Cavagnaro from third. But when Eldridge corralled it in, he also made a perfect throw to the plate, gunning down Cavagnaro and keeping the game knotted at three all.

ECU starter T.J. Hose was solid again as he pitched seven innings, allowing three runs off of six hits and a walk while strik-

ing out nine.

"T.J. had another great outing," Godwin said.

"He was two pitches away from a stellar performance. If we keep getting those kind of outings from T.J. Hose, life is going to be good for ECU Friday."

ECU took a 1-0 lead in the first when with runners at the corners, Godwin decided to double steal Witter to second and Mattox home. The play worked as Mattox scooted home safely for the first run of the contest.

The Pirates struck again in the second inning when Batts scored on a groundout from Schieber for a 2-0 lead.

Gummo's homer in the fourth cut the Diamond Bucs' lead in half, 2-1. Matt Lewis's RBI double, followed by an RBI single from Gummo in the sixth gave the Nittany Lions their first lead of the ballgame at 3-2.

The Pirates tied the contest up at three in the seventh when freshman Brandon Henderson scored on a throwing error from Penn State shortstop Scott Gafney on a Mattox ground ball. That set the stage for Smith's ninth inning heroics.

ECU returns to action Tuesday as they battle Duke for the second time this season. The Pirates embarrassed the Blue Devils last week, dealing them a 19-5 loss. Game time is 4 p.m. at Clark-LeClair Stadium.

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

Finale from page A8

able to send our seniors out with a win," Stokes said.

"Give Tulane a lot of credit; they played extremely hard."

The three seniors, Mike Castro, Will O'Neil and Rouse all received framed pictures during a pre-game ceremony honoring their contributions to the program. All three started, but Castro and O'Neil were pulled out after just 26 seconds.

"It's sunk in, but it'll probably sink in some more later on," said Rouse, who is currently leading the conference in rebounding, about his final home game.

"When I was walking off the court at the end when [the coaches] took me out, I just realized that it was over."

The loss was a bitter end to a 5-8 home schedule against Division I opponents in Stokes' first

year. The Pirates' fans suffered through a disappointing 2-3 record against N.C. opponents and also two overtime C-USA losses.

The Tulane loss leaves the Pirates a half game behind Southern Miss for 11th in the C-USA standings. If Southern Miss loses to Tulane Wednesday, then ECU's Saturday season finale against the Golden Eagles in Hattiesburg,

Miss. would leave the victor with 11th place.

"Anything can happen," Rouse said about his team's chances in the conference tournament.

"Any team can beat anyone on any given night. We're just going to go out and play whatever team is [next] from here on out. It's the end."

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

Longevity from page A9

"Oh," In New York, and as in Miami, where Nick Saban practices habits learned from Belichick from their days with the Browns, Jets assistants are forbidden from talking to the media.

In Detroit, Marinelli, Tampa Bay's former defensive line

coach, preaches high-energy habits to players and coaches. He believes one of his chief challenges will be to get the Lions to practice at the fast pace he saw in Tampa.

"Each day there's something that pops up that's kind of neat," he said. "Problems you can

attack with energy sometimes. And you just chip away and learn. That's the fun part, the unexpected.

Maybe there's a reason there's no handbook for this. In the Indiana Convention Center, Chicago Coach Lovie Smith thought about it. He has but

two years' experience as a head coach, but already he's the dean of his division, the NFC North. He'd like to keep the post.

"We're division champs right now and we want to stay that way."

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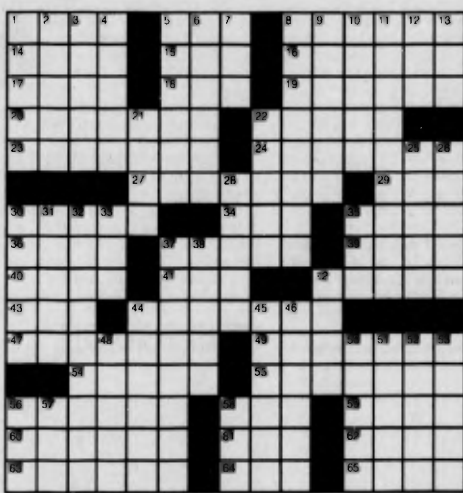
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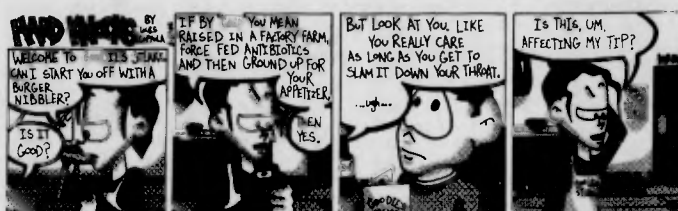
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- ACROSS**
- Archibald of the NBA
 - H.S. subj.
 - West Indies music
 - Author Haley
 - Old sailor
 - What squirrels squirrel
 - First-class
 - Physicians' org.
 - Young pigs
 - Singing group
 - Holler
 - Dancing companion
 - Former
 - Spoke with drawn-out vowels
 - Can to a Brit
 - Picture puzzle
 - Towel word
 - Litter's littlest
 - Australian birds
 - Molts
 - Scent
 - Nail trimmer
 - Falsehood
 - Abrasive material
 - Hospital wing
 - Baltic Sea republic
 - Think seriously and calmly
 - Series of boat races
 - Puts in order
 - Distress calls
 - Immediately!
 - Prevent
 - Landed
 - Short, swordlike weapon
 - Lyrical poem
 - Departed
 - Occupy one's thoughts completely
 - Shell propeller
 - Art print: abbr.
- DOWN**
- Civil rights org.
 - Waikiki greeting
 - Male voice
 - Act vigorously
 - More trite
 - Shutterbug's instrument
 - Writer Levin
 - Reckless quality
 - Resounded
 - Leave home
 - Feeling of thankfulness
 - Social insect
 - Double curve
 - Common conjunctions
 - Firm
 - One under legal age
 - Item inserted in a written record
 - Sajak's spin
 - Pass on (to)
 - Sociologist Durkheim
 - Big, deep-voiced croakers
 - Exploit
 - CD-
 - Oilskin raincoats
 - Clues
 - Uneasy
 - Dealers in stolen property
 - Spanish fleet
 - Closer
 - Actress Jessica
 - Familiar saying
 - Claw
 - Binding
 - Rayed flower
 - Fuss
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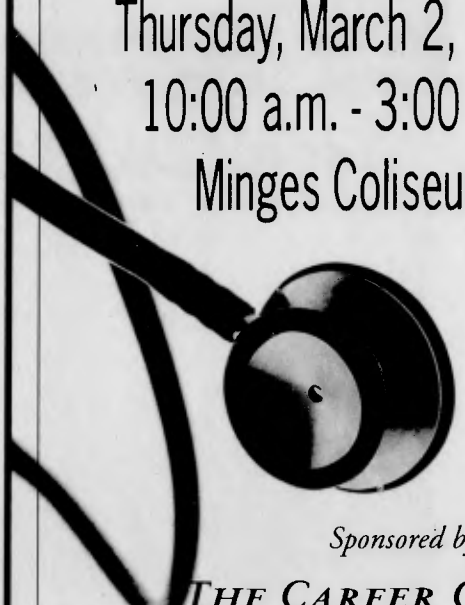
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Page A12

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To looking for PAC & NIE HANDLERS in local vans and unbranded trailers for the AM shift hours 1 AM to 8 AM \$8.00/hour tuition assistance available after 90 days. Future career opportunities in management possible. Applications can be filled out on 24/7 United Drive near the aquatic center Greenville