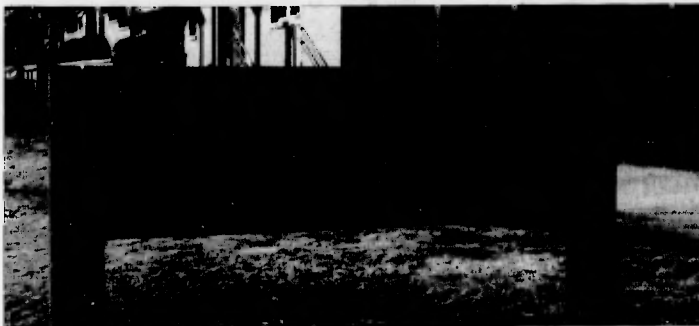


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Umstead changes leave students questioning options



The decision to change the living specifications for Umstead Hall was made only a few months ago.

Only certain students will be able to call Umstead home

BENJAMIN CORMACK
STAFF WRITER

A few months ago, ECU officials decided that next year Umstead Hall would be reserved for students involved in certain academic programs. Now, recent and long-time residents of Umstead Hall will have to consider different housing options for next year and in the years to come. Starting in the fall, Umstead Hall will be reserved for members of the ECU Honor Students, ECU Scholars, Teaching Fellows and Foreign Exchange Student programs. The response to this announcement was not very positive among current residents.

"I just keep getting told to

move," said Matt Guzman, a sophomore who currently lives in Umstead Hall with his brother Mike. The two of them lived in Slay last year when it was a residence hall and moved into Umstead this year. Now, they have to move again. "Umstead is one of the best places to be on campus," said Mike Guzman.

"It's close to classes, the library and a lot of things I needed access to. Now wherever I move to, I'm going to be a lot further away."

"People liked this building for its location and its accessibility to campus," said one resident of Umstead who preferred to remain anonymous.

"Now the school thinks that by offering us a chance to move into the new dorm, it is an acceptable bargaining chip in exchange for what this

dorm was and what it offered."

The decision to make Umstead Hall into an Academic Hall has not been made on a whim. For the past two years, officials have been debating which dorm would best be suited to house the various programs. They chose Umstead Hall because previous halls, like Jones, were too big and did not provide the kind of environment best suited for a program of this kind. "One of the goals of Campus Living is for the diversity of student life and to look for opportunities to collaborate with academic affairs," said Associate Vice Chancellor Todd K. Johnson.

Assistant Vice Chancellor and Director of the University Honors, EC Scholars and Undergraduate Research Programs,

see **CHANGE** page A2



'Caribbean Craze' at Mendenhall



Yesterday afternoon, students and staff alike flocked to Mendenhall Student Center where "Caribbean Craze" put everyone in the mood for summer vacation - or at least spring break. Above, three students model for the camera next to an informational booth for ECU Healthy Pirates, and below, a student is having a 'wax hand' made.

Crime beat

CLAIRE MURPHY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

- A hit and run outside of Building 159 was reported to police Feb. 25. The case is under further investigation.
- By the east side of Fletcher Hall, someone reported damage to private property. This occurred Feb. 25 and is also under further investigation.
- Larceny in Aycock Hall was reported Feb. 24 and is under investigation.
- A misdemeanor possession of marijuana in Scott Hall was reported Feb. 27. The case is closed and cleared by citation.
- Larceny in the Croatan was reported Feb. 28 and is under further investigation.
- Breaking, entering

and larceny from a vehicle occurred March 1 on Ninth Street. This is also under investigation.

• Domestic assault on a female occurring March 2 was reported. The case was closed and cleared by arrest.

• In the Ward Sports and Medicine building, someone reported larceny of a wallet on March 2. This is under further investigation.

• A simple assault charge was banned after it occurred on the College Hill upper bus stop March 3.

• Littering, underage possession of alcohol and false information, as well as a separate DWI, both on Reade Street, were reported to police March 4. Both cases were closed and cleared by arrest.

New graduate degree being offered

Master's degree from School of Communication

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
STAFF WRITER

The School of Communication now offers a new graduate degree with a major focus on health communication.

It is a master's degree of art in communication studies. The degree was created by Dr. Chuck Grant, assistant professor in the School of Communication, and Linda Kean, associate professor in the School of Communication.

Grant and Kean saw need for a degree in this area and went to the administration to get permission to initiate the program.

The process of deciding the appropriate requirements to be included in the degree has taken about three years, according to Grant.

The purpose for creating this degree was "to create a degree that fits in with the vision of the university, which includes education, art, economics and health," said Grant.

"These are the main platforms of the university's vision, and we have faculty members whose expertise are in health

communication."

To complete the degree program, a student must complete 30 credit hours, which would include some elective courses, or 24 credit hours of classes.

The remaining six hours would be used to write a thesis on research work gathered related to the topic of health communication.

The classes being offered for this degree are all evening courses.

There will be no morning classes available for this degree.

If a student desires to do so, they could complete the entire degree program in two regular semesters and one summer session.

This new degree will provide opportunities for people interested in getting into the health care field or for those who already have a career in the field of health care.

Some jobs that this degree would train individuals for include pharmaceutical sales, working for a non-profit organization such as the American Cancer Society or working for human resources at a hospital.

This degree could provide others with the insight and

see **DEGREE** page A2

National Guard students recognized Friday



Contributed Photo
Pictured from left to right are: PV2 Chuck Duggan, SFC Jimmy Smith and PV2 Lee Radford. Radford and Duggan were honored in Raleigh.

Check awarded for pilot program

CLAIRE MURPHY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

PV2 Chuck Duggan, a sophomore, and PV2 Lee Radford, a sophomore geography major, were recognized by Major General Ingram at a recruitment ceremony in Raleigh Friday.

The guard members get recruited and are given \$1,000 when they enlist, then another \$1,000 when they are shipped to basic training. They also get \$50 to complete a 30-minute online course, totaling \$2,050. Duggan is responsible for recruiting Radford, who became the first in North Carolina to be recruited by the GI program.

"Chuck Duggan had been

double-dipped since 9/11." This shows the progress the National Guard has made over the last few years.

ECU has a very strong ROTC program that opens up a lot of opportunities for the students involved. Individuals interested in joining or recruiting should contact the ROTC department.

The students are already on scholarship and get the recruit money in addition.

Sgt. Jimmy Smith said, "The number of recruiters has just about

doubled since 9/11." This shows the progress the National Guard has made over the last few years.

ECU has a very strong ROTC program that opens up a lot of opportunities for the students involved.

Individuals interested in joining or recruiting should contact the ROTC department.

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

Brent-efit: Helping a friend in need

Friends devise a way to support one of their own

CLAIRE MURPHY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A special event will be held by ECU students joined with the ECU chapter of PRSSA at Dr. Unk's Thursday from 10 p.m. - 2 a.m. to raise money for Brent Carpenter, who was seriously injured on Dec. 31.

Carpenter was doing a back flip into a swimming pool in Atlantic Beach when his neck hit the pool floor. He was airlifted to Pitt Memorial Hospital, where he was told he had shattered his fifth vertebrae (C5).

Surgery to put the bones back together went successfully, but his condition continued to worsen. While in ICU, he got sick with pneumonia and other infections. He still cannot move from the chest down and breathes with the help of a respirator.

At the time of the accident, Brent Carpenter was working

at Overton's. They provide insurance, which he changed his and his parent's insurance to. Unfortunately, the insurance did not go into effect until Jan. 1, which was 23 hours after his accident. The \$500,000 (and growing) medical bills must be paid out of pocket.

Most students do not think of such things happening to them or to someone they are close to, but it has and he needs our support.

Senior psychology major

and friend of Carpenter Kerl Hazelton said, "Brent is an amazing guy and an active member of our community who needs our help in his time of need."

The idea for the Brent-efit was that of his best friend Brad Wilder. The event will be hosted by the tons of friends he has stood by through thick and thin. Wilder and Carpenter grew up together and have been close since childhood.

"Come and support the boy who lives up the crowd, come

and help get this place loud," said Aaron Carpenter, Brent's brother and ECU an alumnus.

Many people who are strangers to Brent Carpenter are very willing to help in Thursday's event.

At the Brent-efit at Dr. Unk's, there will be chances to win T-shirts and gift certificates to many places in town, including the Olive Garden and Overton's. There will be a live performance by the band Dragon Seeks Path and a free pizza buffet. Everyone is hoping to raise about \$3,000 at the event.

Brent Carpenter is still in intensive care here in Greenville, where the fees escalate daily. He needs the help of all who can give it. You never know when it could happen to you or one of your best friends.

Friend of Brent's and senior industrial distribution major Steven Water said, "help support Brent as if he were your best friend, too."

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



Announcements:

The Black Watch and the Band of the Welsh Guards

Wright Auditorium at 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 9

Armed with bagpipes, dance shoes and drums, the storied Black Watch and the Band of the Welsh Guards will present a stirring evening of military music, pomp and pageantry.

Purchase Masterpiece Subscriptions by Sept. 28 for best options. Masterpiece subscription (all events): \$216 for public, \$198 for faculty/staff, \$108 for youth and \$72 for students. Purchase Crown Subscriptions by Dec. 1 for best options. Crown Subscription (choice of six events): \$162 for public, \$150 for ECU faculty/staff, \$84 for youth and \$48 for ECU students. Advance individual tickets, if available, may be purchased beginning Dec. 2 for \$39 public, \$37 ECU faculty/staff, \$19 youth and \$10 ECU student. All tickets at the door are \$39. Group discounts are available for groups of 15 or more.

Contact the Central Ticket Office at 328-4788 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS.cuarts.com.

Lecture: Lance Armstrong's Physiological Maturation: Sport Reflects Life

Brody School of Medicine Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 23

Edward F. Coyle, a physiologist who has studied world renowned cyclist Lance Armstrong, will visit ECU and discuss how the cyclist's physiology and optimal training contributed to seven consecutive wins at the Tour de France. The lecture is free, but donation opportunities for cancer research will be available. Armstrong overcame testicular cancer in the late 1990s. All proceeds will go to the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center in Greenville. The lecture is sponsored by the Department of Exercise and Sport Science and the Walker Center in the College of Health and Human Performance. The Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center in the Brody School of Medicine and the University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina.

Night of the Rising Stars

Saturday, April 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Greenville Convention Center.

A fundraising event featuring cocktails, dinner and performances benefiting the School of Theatre and Dance Scholarship Fund. Tickets required: Tickets are \$60 per person with a Cash Bar. Tickets may be purchased by calling the number below, the School of Theatre and Dance Box Office at 328-6829 or online at ECUARTS.com.

ECU Youth Arts Festival 2006

Saturday April 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on ECU campus mall

ECU's Youth Arts Festival will feature more than 100 visual and performing artists who will share their creative talents with area children.

Children will have the opportunity to create art and visit with artists who will demonstrate activities such as wheel thrown ceramics, traditional watercolor painting, weaving, felting, paper-making, printmaking, portraiture and other visual art media. Featured visual artists will come from surrounding states, North Carolina and from ECU's School of Art and Design. For more information, contact Dindy Reich at 328-5749 or Richard Tichich at tichich@ecu.edu or 328-5481.

B.J. Ward in Stand Up Opera

Saturday, April 8 at 8 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. Purchase Masterpiece Subscriptions by Sept. 28 for best options. Masterpiece subscription (all events): \$216 for public, \$198 for faculty/staff, \$108 for youth and \$72 for students. Purchase Crown Subscriptions by Dec. 1 for best options. Crown Subscription (choice of six events): \$162 for public, \$150 for faculty/staff, \$84 for youth and \$48 for students. Advance individual tickets, if available, may be purchased beginning Dec. 2 for \$24 public, \$22 faculty/staff, \$12 youth and \$10 student. All tickets at the door are \$24. Group discounts are available for groups of 15 or more.

Contact the Central Ticket Office at 328-4788 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS. or ecuart.com.

NEWS BRIEFS

State

Islands threatened by rising ocean levels, research says

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) - Rising sea levels mean an uncertain future for North Carolina's fragile barrier islands, especially if the development boom continues, a geologist told a legislative panel Tuesday.

"Some of these islands are going down fast," Stanley Riggs of East Carolina University told the Legislative Commission on Global Climate Change. "If we want this for something beyond our present generation... we're going to have to take care better care of it."

Members and speakers differ starkly over whether the use of carbon-based fuels is to blame for increasing temperatures and if a dramatic reduction in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases will steady Earth's climate.

Average atmospheric temperatures rose about 1 degree Fahrenheit in the 20th century and could rise several times that amount this century, prompting an 18-inch rise in ocean levels.

"I don't think for a second that we have to abandon the barrier islands," he said. "If we want those barrier islands, we just can't pack them solid."

Other speakers Tuesday made opposing arguments over whether the state could make a difference in stabilizing global temperatures, perhaps by setting a pollution-reducing goal for emissions from burning coal, gasoline and other fossil fuels.

Robert Jackson, a Duke University professor and faculty director of the Center for Global Change, disagreed.

Any small changes, whether as simple as riding a bike to work rather than driving, will add up, if others follow.

"This is my state and this is something I care about. We need to find a way to do this intelligently but quickly," he said. "Because global warming is now."

Jail fire lawsuit against state agency may proceed

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) - Survivors of eight men killed in a 2002 fire at the Mitchell County Jail may proceed with a lawsuit accusing state workers of failing to properly inspect the jail.

the state Court of Appeals ruled Tuesday.

The state Department of Health and Human Services had asked for a dismissal of the lawsuit based on the state's "public duty doctrine," but the court said that the North Carolina Industrial Commission had properly rejected that request.

The public duty doctrine holds that a public entity cannot be held liable for negligent performance of obligations on behalf of the public. Writing for the three-judge panel, Judge Martha Geer gave no credence to the state's argument that jail inspections are protected under the doctrine because inmates are members of the public.

"If we were to accept this facile argument, we would effectively eviscerate" all lawsuits against the state, Geer wrote, "since state agencies would be able to argue that any duty that they owed was necessarily to a member of the public since all residents of North Carolina are members of the public."

Judge John Tyson dissented, writing that the public duty doctrine should apply since the General Assembly has never specified that the state can be held liable in cases of negligent inspections.

"As far as we're concerned the state has already admitted liability in this case" when it issued the Labor Department report in 2002, he said.

National

Enron CFO takes stand against former bosses

HOUSTON (AP) - The architect of financial schemes that helped fuel the collapse of Enron Corp. told a jury Tuesday that he had the blessing of his boss, former CEO Jeffrey Skilling, for moves that helped the energy trading company hide losses and inflate profits.

In some of the most dramatic testimony in the sixth week of the trial, former Chief Financial Officer Andrew Fastow said Skilling told him, "Get me as much of that juice as you can," regarding the personally lucrative partnerships Fastow used to manipulate Enron's finances.

Fastow appeared contrite in his much-anticipated confrontation in a federal courtroom with Skilling and Enron founder Kenneth Lay, who are on trial for fraud and conspiracy

stemming from Enron's spectacular 2001 collapse.

He fought back tears as he told jurors that his wife, Lea, pleaded guilty to a tax crime and finished a yearlong prison term last July for signing a tax return that didn't include illegal income from business deals unrelated to the partnerships.

Fastow, who agreed as part of his plea deal to serve 10 years in prison, is a key pillar of the governments' quest to prove Lay and Skilling lied to Wall Street and to their own employees to conceal the crumpling finances that drove the company to seek bankruptcy protection in 2001. He originally pleaded not guilty but changed the plea, he said, because "I thought it was in the best interest of my family not to go to trial, to take responsibility for my actions and to try to move forward in my life."

Patriot Act headed to Bush's desk after months of fighting over snooping

WASHINGTON (AP) - Congress was poised to send President Bush a renewal of the Patriot Act Tuesday night after months of bitter fighting, authorizing law enforcement to keep its anti-terror tools but with some new curbs on government spying.

A final House vote and Bush's signature would make 14 provisions of the 2001 law permanent before they expired on March 10. Two other provisions would have expired in four years.

"Intense congressional and public scrutiny has not produced a single substantiated claim that the Patriot Act has been misused to violate Americans' civil liberties," House Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., said Tuesday. "Opponents of the legislation have relied upon exaggeration and hyperbole to distort a demonstrated record of accomplishment and success."

But opponents of the law say it gives the Bush administration too much power even with the additions. Sen. Russell Feingold, D-Wis., a chief critic, said the new protections for Americans are so modest they are almost meaningless. And the bill's chief Senate author, Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., has introduced a new bill "to provide extra protections that better comply with my sensitivity of civil

rights."

In the House Tuesday, several Democrats said they would protest the way the White House has used the act by voting 'no' on the renewal measure.

"I rise in strong opposition to this legislation because it offers only a superficial reform that will have little if any impact on safeguarding our civil liberties," said Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio. The legislation also takes aim at the distribution and use of methamphetamine by limiting the supply of a key ingredient found in everyday cold and allergy medicines.

Yet another provision is designed to strengthen port security by imposing strict punishments on crew members that impede or mislead law enforcement officers trying to board their ships.

International

Costa Rica's election tribunal declares Nobel winner Arias winner

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) - A Nobel Peace Prize winner who favors a contentious free trade agreement with the U.S. was declared the country's president-elect on Tuesday, more than a month after the vote that gave him a razor-thin victory over his closest rival.

Oscar Arias, who also served as president from 1986 to 1990, defeated his nearest rival in the race by little more than 18,000 votes of the 1.6 million ballots cast, winning 664,551 votes to 646,382 for Otton Solis.

The final official vote tally was delayed both by challenges from Solis' campaign and the closeness of the race, which prompted election officials to recount all of the votes by hand before declaring a winner.

"It is evident that the party that obtained the most votes was the PLN," said Supreme Electoral Tribunal President Oscar Fonseca. "Oscar Arias Sanchez is declared constitutionally elected."

While generally very popular, Arias' support for a free-trade agreement with the United States cost him some votes to Solis, an opponent of the pact.

Arias, the National Liberation Party, argued that the agreement

would help revitalize the country's stagnant economy. Solis said it would hurt farmers and should be renegotiated.

Solis, 51, conceded the election last Friday.

Twelve other candidates also sought the presidency in an election that officials said had a 64 percent turnout, the lowest in Costa Rican history. Arias will take office on May 8, replacing current president Abel Pacheco, of the Christian Social Union party.

Children of illegal aliens find their place in Israel, but some Israelis fret about national identity

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) - Dennis Sarpong used to live in fear that his mother, a Ghanaian on an expired work visa, would be deported. He would walk her to her cleaning jobs every morning because Israeli law bars police from arresting parents in their children's presence.

Now 16-year-old Sarpong is among 150 Israeli-born children of foreign workers who recently were granted Israeli residency. His new status also shields his mother from deportation and he can sleep an extra hour before heading to school. But some Israelis are uneasy that what the government insists is a one-time gesture will become a threat to the identity of the Jewish state.

The issue reveals conflicting impulses that go to the core of Israel's self-image. A state founded as a haven for Jews worries that its Jewish character is being diluted by a growing Arab minority, lately augmented by up to 300,000 migrants from Africa and Asia. Schooled in the virtues of Jewish self-reliance, it has seen the foreigners become dominant in whole sectors of its economy, chiefly construction and care for the elderly. The court has ruled that those children and their families can stay here until the end of this month, when it is to issue a final decision.

"We don't see any difference between someone who came here at the age of 2 and is now 15, and someone who was born here and is now 15," said Yoav Loeffel of the civil rights association.

"The aim is to save these children from cultural expulsion. The children are not responsible for the way their parents came here and the country that let them stay so long."

Change from page A1

Michael F. Bassman, stated the criteria students will have to meet in order to be allowed to live in Umstead and participate in the ECU Passport program.

"Entering freshmen, Honors Students and ECU Scholars must live in the dorm, excluding any extraordinary circumstances. Students with a 3.3 GPA will be welcome into the Honors Program, and they will need to maintain a 3.3 GPA to remain in it. They will also have to attend a certain number of events."

These recent changes are due, in part, to a national trend of creating academic halls, the purpose of which is to provide students with unique academic opportunities.

The goal is to provide students with an opportunity to do things like meet students from abroad, promote diversity awareness and appreciation and encourage students to participate in study abroad programs.

For Bassman, the goal is

also to try to remove the "party school" reputation that ECU seems to have in favor of a more academic reputation. For example, ECU has been selected to produce North Carolina's first state-wide journal for undergraduates engaged in research and creative scholarly endeavors. Johnson fears things like these will go unnoticed by the public and potential students.

While the addition of the newest resident hall was not initially part of the equation when making the decision, Mr. Johnson said that it has been a benefit in getting the changes started. This is mainly due to the fact that it gives residents of Umstead Hall a place to go if they are not allowed back into Umstead. When the official decision was announced, Umstead residents were sent a letter stating that they would be given top priority for rooms in the new residence hall.

"Any student who needs to be relocated always has first pri-

ority, depending on availability and privilege of choice, for placement on campus," Johnson said.

Both Johnson and Bassman agree that putting current residents out of Umstead is not a pleasant task, but also feel that it was necessary in the interest of the school and all students.

"We are studying the feasibility of building more halls," Johnson added.

"The style of which would be suite/apartment style. We are also planning on demolishing older halls like Belk."

Plans are also in the works to create more academic halls, more academic programs and more academic floors in current residence halls. Johnson specifically stated that a plan is waiting to be officially passed for renovating Scott Hall with a budget of \$10 million starting in the summer of 2007.

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

Degree from page A1

experience needed to get to the next level in their current health care profession.

"The degree targets people already in the health care industry who want to increase their education so they can get promoted," Grant said.

The degree program is looking to take about 20-25 students. There are also graduate assistantships available in this area.

The deadline for applying for this degree program is March 15.

The application date is flexible if something occurs that postpones the application getting in on time, but the department would like to get most of their applicants' information by the middle of April.

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

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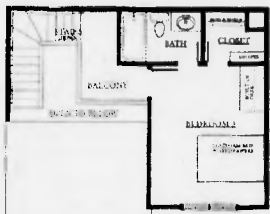
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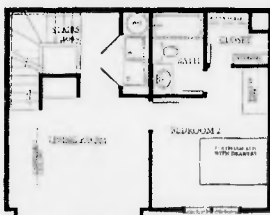
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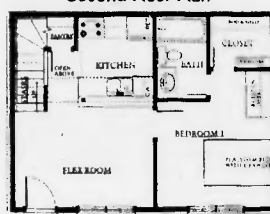
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Third Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan



First Floor Plan

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Open Mic
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Free Food.



Henna Hand Art
March 20th
In Mendenhall's Cynthia Lounge @ 3-5pm



Diversity Week
March 20th-25th



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

Happy Spring Break!



films

All movies are shown in Mendenhall's Hendrix Theatre.



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THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE**

Thurs March 23rd @ 7pm
Fri March 24th @ 9:30pm
Sat March 25th @ 7pm & Midnight
Sun March 26th @ 3pm



BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

Thurs March 23rd @ 9:30pm
Fri March 24th @ 7pm & Midnight
Sat March 25th @ 9:30pm
Sun March 26th @ 7pm

Our View

Oscar's make for a forgettable night

Another Oscar ceremony has come and gone, and even though the awards were handed out just a few days ago, many people are already starting to forget that the event even happened. This year's Academy Awards, though sprinkled with upsets (i.e. *Crash* taking the top movie honor over *Brokeback Mountain*), was simply a bore.

Jon Stewart didn't show the humor and sarcasm that he is so infamously known for on Comedy Central. He summed it up best when he said "Tonight is the night we celebrate excellence in film, with me, the fourth male lead in *Death to Smoochy*." His jokes seemed forced and unnatural, and the plethora of gay cowboy jokes really got old a few months ago.

Whatever happened to the exciting and fun years with hosts like Whoopi Goldberg, Billy Crystal and Chris Rock? This is ABC, the channel that brings us soft-core porn like "Desperate Housewives;" they could have at least allowed Stewart to crank out his batch of political jokes. Although, to his credit, the joke regarding Bjork and Vice President Dick Cheney was hilarious.

And another thing, what was going on with ABC broadcasting the ceremony's most random awards? Honestly, who really cares about the Best Sound Editing or Achievement in Sound Mixing? Is there even a difference? (I know all of the media production majors will now be sending in nasty letters regarding this.) Is this really what prime time television wants? I think not.

We at TEC appreciate good entertainment on television, and this year's Academy Awards did not provide that. Instead of being a pessimist, I will offer solutions and ways to improve next year's Oscars. I'd like to see an award for Best Wardrobe Malfunction. I'm sure that the little kilts that Brad Pitt wore in *Troy* had to have been blown around by the wind, which could stir up as much excitement on set, if not more so, than the Janet Jackson fiasco did with our entire country. I'd like for it to be required of each actor to sing his or her acceptance speech. Anyone else have any ideas? We'd love to hear them.

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Dustin Jones
Asst. Web Editor

Edward McKim
Production Manager

Newsroom 252.328.9238

Fax 252.328.9143

Advertising 252.328.9245

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



Opinion Columnist

'Brokeback Mountain' rich in sour grapes

'Crash' labeled Best Picture, voters labeled homophobes

GARY MCCABE
BITTER BOULEVARD

It's 11:20 Sunday evening. While I should be studying for my Spanish mid-term the next day, I'm sitting on my couch instead, watching the 78th annual Academy Awards. Up until that point, the show had been a complete bore — only made tolerable by the sheer brilliance of host Jon Stewart, who brought levity to the pompous production and masterfully skewered Hollywood and Hollywood types. The tepid response from the audience was obviously more of a reflection of Hollywood's inability to take a joke, not Stewart's ability to tell one.

With one award left and the show running much later than the 11 p.m. end time, a sigh of relief came over me as the final presenter of the night, Jack Nicholson, took the stage to hand out the biggest — and obvious — award of the night, Best Picture. "Great," I thought, "*Brokeback* can get its award and I can get in another few hours of studying." Then Nicholson dropped a bombshell. "And the award for Best Picture goes to... *Crash*." I couldn't believe it. Not that I particularly liked *Brokeback Mountain*, but over the course of the past three months leading up to the show, *Brokeback* had gathered so much momentum and so much support throughout the film industry that I thought its crowning as the year's Best Picture was but a formality.

If you believed the hype surrounding the film, you might think that it was the only film of worth the entire year. That obviously wasn't the case as the cast and crew of *Crash* stood on the stage hoisting the Holy Grail of film, not *Brokeback* director Ang Lee and actors Heath Ledger, Jake Gyllenhaal and Michelle Williams. "Eh, that's interesting," I said to myself as I turned off the TV and turned my attention to

the Spanish present subjunctive verb form.

But while I was memorizing the Spanish word for "jungle" (which I forgot when taking the test, unfortunately), newspaper writers across the nation were fuming. The next morning, Ken Turan of the *Los Angeles Times* ran a piece stating, "So for people who were discomfited by *Brokeback Mountain* but wanted to be able to look themselves in the mirror and feel like they were good, productive liberals, *Crash* provided the perfect safe harbor."

Turan's piece made it seem like the only reason the Academy Awards exist is to further a social cause, not decide the best performances and films of the year. There was no mention of the possibility that some of the voters chose *Crash* because they felt it was the better film. Sifting through the vast library of liberal blogs, the message was even stronger, *Brokeback* lost because the voters are nothing but a bunch of homophobes.

Jack Mathews of the *New York Daily News* wrote on Monday that *Crash* "simply bought the grand prize by outspending everyone else in a four million campaign." Even director Ang Lee seemed bitter about *Brokeback*'s loss, saying backstage after the event, "They [the Academy] didn't vote for it, I don't know [why]. I'm just glad the audience embraced it. It was a surprise [not winning], quite frankly." It seems like sour grapes to me. Now Lee is stating that *Brokeback* is still a winner because they're "doing the best at the box office of all the five movies." By that logic, while beating the other four films in the running for Best Picture, *Brokeback* is still overshadowed in terms of box office numbers by *King Kong*, *Walk the Line*, *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *Cheaper by the Dozen 2*.

The *Brokeback* supporters are up in arms because the film was edged out of a Best Picture win, but what is there to complain about? These supporters seem to think that *Brokeback* deserved to

win purely because of its taboo subject matter and the message it tried to convey. Granted, it was a powerful film, but the name of the award isn't Best Message.

To be honest, I was disappointed with *Brokeback Mountain*. I felt that aside from the performance from Gyllenhaal, the acting was weak and the "aging" of the characters throughout the film was so jarring and unconvincing that I found it difficult to suspend disbelief and seriously follow the film. As far as the story is concerned, I felt the film fell flat after the initial encounter between Jack and Ennis and that the writers could have done a much better job of developing their characters.

My assessment of the film has nothing to do with the fact that it was a film about gay cowboys. My assessment has to do with the film itself, despite the fact that these *Brokeback* supporters believe that it isn't possible to find flaws in the film without being a homophobe. Maybe there were a lot of voters with a similar evaluation of the film. Maybe *Crash* was the better film.

One word that I'm tired of hearing in regard to this year's Academy Awards is "snubbed," as in "*Brokeback* was snubbed by the Academy." Snubbed? It still won three awards and was up for a grand total of eight. How can it be snubbed? That's an utter misuse of the word. A correct use would be, "Paul was snubbed twice when he was not nominated for Best Actor for his roles in *American Splendor* and *Sideways*."

I applaud that fact that *Crash* won — despite the fact that I didn't love it. I'm glad that the Academy didn't succumb to the pressure of furthering a social cause by voting for an above-average film. The fervent *Brokeback* supporters seem to think that winning would have meant something — like homophobia would have ceased to exist had the film been deemed the best film of the year.

At the end of the day, the Academy Awards is just an award show — nothing more, nothing less.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,
I've never read such hogwash in all my life. Not one "fact" that Rev. Hall stated can be substantiated. A great majority of knowledgeable historians acknowledge that the Civil War was not about slavery. How ridiculous Rev. Hall's assertions are.

Dr. Ken Simpson
Milledgeville, Georgia

Editor,
The letter from Rev. Ozlie Hall regarding the Greenville monument to the North Carolina patriots who died during the War Between the States relies upon many unfounded ideas, inventions and notions. We cannot understand our history unless we rely upon facts.

A cursory review of American history shows that the British colonies in North America seceded from England in 1776 with nearly all new states maintaining the African slavery inherited from the mother country. And, no Confederate flag ever flew over an Atlantic slaver — but British, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and U.S. flags did.

He should know from his research that Southern abolitionist Sarah Grimke stated in 1837

that "slavery was the cornerstone of the American republic" long before Alexander Stephens made his remark. We know, too, that Lincoln held black people as inferior and desired a colonization program to deport them from the United States. This was a very common view from that period of our history.

The Constitution of the American Confederacy was a vast improvement on the U.S. version with an outright ban on the slave trade, and I sense that the country and constitution that Rev. Hall has an issue with is the United States. And if Hall wishes to speak of treason, he could start researching the many black soldiers who fought with Virginia's Lord Dunmore against North Carolina and our independence from the British.

Let's be honest, it is racist for a person or group to pursue an intellectual genocide of an ethnic group history as Hall wishes to do. This cultural genocide has its origins with the Stalin revolution of the 1920s, as the communists destroyed monuments and books and then rewrote history in order to glorify the new regime and forced "culture." This is America and we do not subscribe to this sort of cultural genocide

each time a different political party gains power.

I am confident that should we honor North Carolina's patriots in places other than the Pitt County Courthouse as Hall suggests, he would have a problem with the new location as well, and his next targets would be George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry.

I strongly encourage Rev. Hall to honor the heroes, culture and history of his own people, while respecting the heritage and history of others. This is what diversity means. We must also learn to put history in perspective and realize that we cannot change it, nor should we too harshly judge those who came before us, lest we be judged ourselves.

Sincerely,
Bernhard Thuersam, Director
Cape Fear Historical Institute

Dear Editor,
To respond to Rev. Hall's strange letter I can do no better than quote Alexander Pope.
"A little learning is a dangerous thing — Drink deep, or taste not the Perian spring."

Thank you,
Gail Jarvis
Aiken, S.C.

Pirate Rant

To the person ranting about the drunken education majors: I totally agree because these are the same girls who constantly complain about how hard their (easy) professor is and how they hope they don't fail the (also easy) class.

First, Second, Third, Fourth, Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Sixth, Seventh, Eighth ... what sense does that make?

One great thing about going Greek is the amazing family that you are brought into. I love my big and my grand big! Muah!

If we can't all agree on change, shouldn't we just keep things the way they are? Keep Fifth Streets as Fifth Street.

With all due respect, Rev. Ozlie Lee Hall, Jr., the Civil War was not about slavery. Please, get your facts straight before speaking out on the subject. Even Abraham Lincoln was quoted as saying, "If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it." So please, don't tell me the Civil War was about slavery.

I really love how people have been mean about not changing Fifth to MLK. Yay, I love racism.

So you say we should take down the statue of the Confederate soldier downtown because "the South lost the war?" Then I guess you'd like to take down the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., too? Or is that still OK?

C'mon, Java City. It should not take you 15 minutes to figure out how to make one of your cold drinks hot ... and did you really need the manager to tell you how?

College Vixen: Is it really as easy as Olive Garden and some shots?

To the guy at the Rec Center the other day who let me go ahead of him at the water fountain, thank you so much! It's nice to know there are still gentlemen at ECU!

Dear College Vixen, you are obviously ashamed of your loose morals or you would put your name on your article. I feel for your ex-boyfriend, he is much better off without someone like you. P.S. Would you like to go to Olive Garden sometime?

I hate my roommate. I don't know what to do about it, and I want to kick her out of my house. She eats my food, does laundry almost three times daily, smokes cigarettes with the door to our house wide open giving our house an ever so lovely smell, doesn't change the toilet paper roll when it runs out, watches TV while myself and others are trying to work on homework and complains about cleaning when nobody asked her to do it in the first place!

No matter what you say, I still love you. — God

To the person who complained about my "heart" statement, just because no one "hearts" you doesn't mean I need to be shot. You should be shot for being so grumpy!

Go ahead, name Fifth Street Martin Luther King Blvd. Then I think we should name 10th St. James Earl Ray Blvd. Deal or no deal?

I will admit, I was part of the group that put up the God posters. Guess what, my duty as a Christian and child of God is to spread His message to everyone. I am not here to judge you, but to love you just as He does. Did God authorize those posters? Well, if you read your Bible, it talks about spreading His message, and that was our way of doing it.

My roommate likes to dance to Sir Mix-a-Lot's "Baby Got Back." It's freakish-like. Some of the kids on the second floor of Tyler need to go lose weight. There are also some kids on the floor that need to change clothes more than once a week and take a shower at least once a week. The whole hall reeks. Can't wait until April when I'm out of here!

Someone please help me stop smoking, my teeth look like candy-corns.

UNC didn't beat Duke, Duke lost. I was there, North Carolina didn't play a great game; Duke played a bad one, so shut up, UNC fans.

Waaaa I have to memorize rock names. Dude, you're the one who signed up for geology. If you are just trying to get your science lab credits, go take physics of the universe with all the other dorks who are afraid to deal with science.

Hockey is the absolute best sport ever and the amazing Carolina Hurricanes are number one in the entire NHL! Bring the Stanley Cup home 'Canes!

Dear nursing professor, we took our test in February; it's now the second week of March. It's about time to have those graded by now. Please hurry up and do that because I don't have time to go talk to the dean about your lack of initiative.

I thought TEC was about not portraying ECU as a drug school, but I recall a Pirate Rant stating a student starts their day with an eight ball.

I just wanted to say that I thought the article on Greek life yesterday was total crap. I was in a sorority and quit because it was nothing but drinking and hooking up with fraternities guys. It wasn't just the sorority that I was in that did that, but almost all of the other sororities on campus, too.

Mmm, the biscuits at the Wright Place rock my socks!

Why is it just because you are a gay male, you can't give blood? That is stupid. It's not like the blood won't get checked. That's three lives that could have been saved.

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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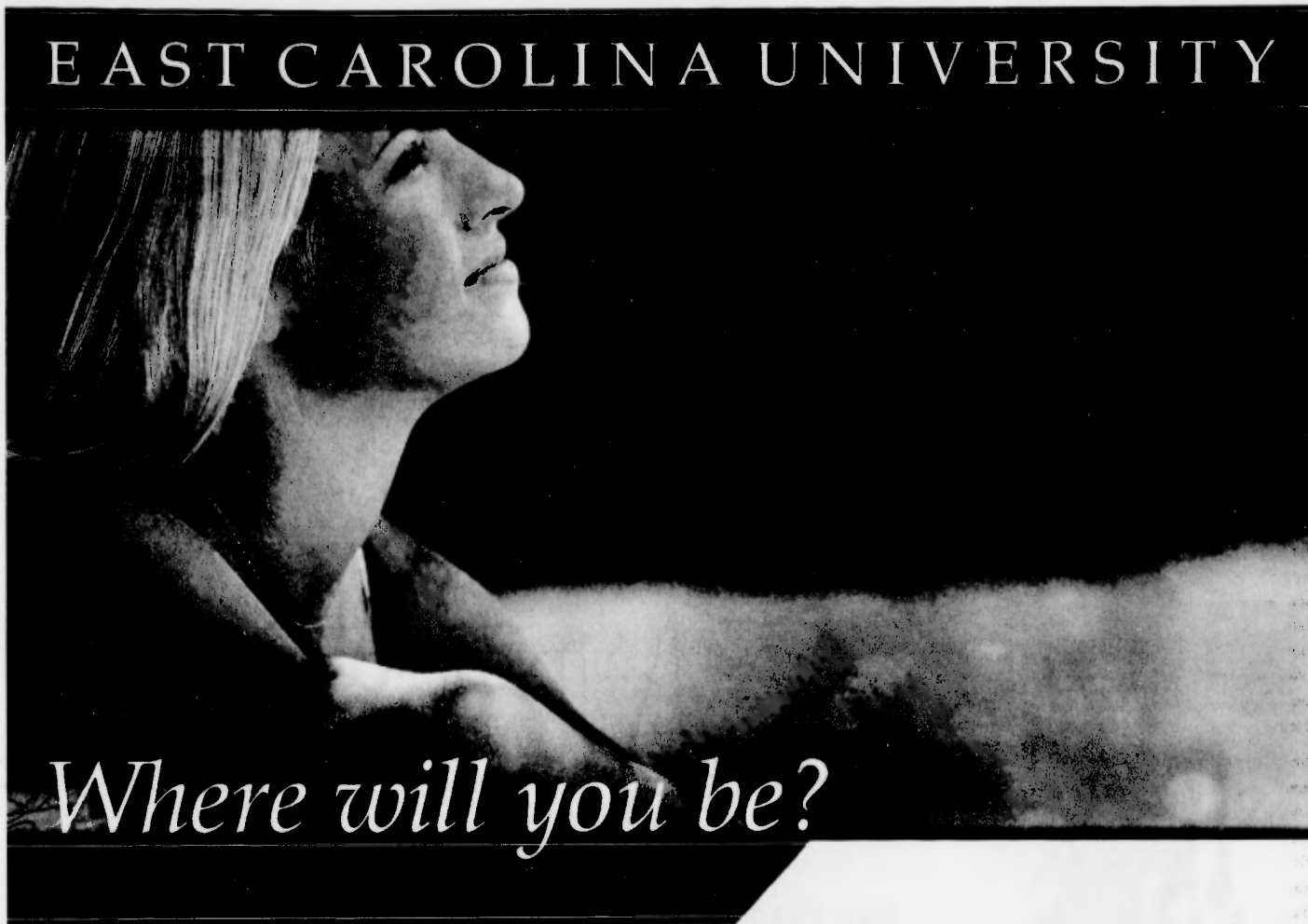
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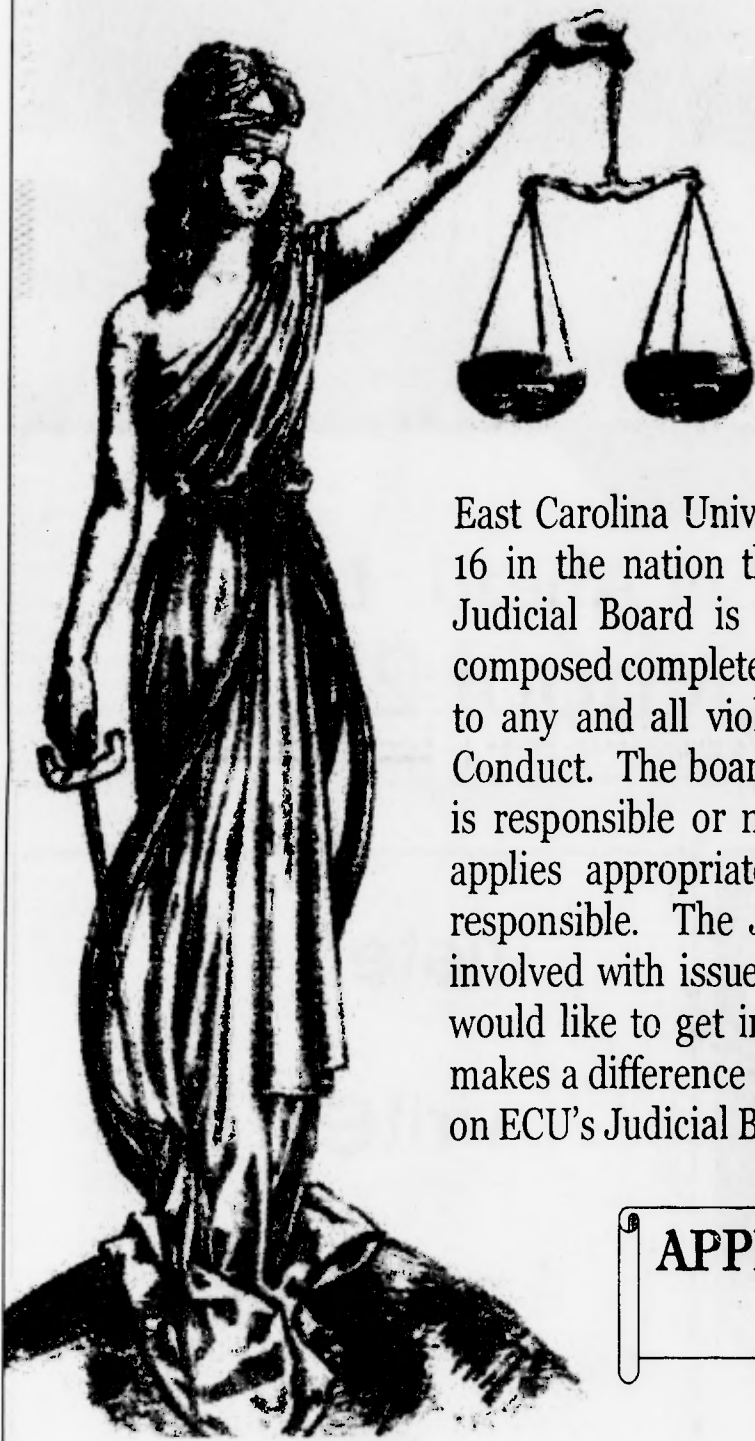


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GREEK PERSONALS

Thanks to Phi Tau for the social! We had a great time! -Delta Zeta

Thanks to the brothers of SAE for another successful year of Casey's Prom! We appreciate all the hard work you put into this memorable event each year! -Delta Zeta

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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Recipe

Salmon and Watercress

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Recipes:

Salmon and Watercress Salad

2 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 tablespoon olive oil
2 cups pumpernickel bread, diced into 1/2-inch cubes
3/4 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more for seasoning
1/4 teaspoon freshly cracked white pepper
1 teaspoon minced shallots
1/4 teaspoon minced garlic
1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1 1/2 teaspoons honey
2 tablespoons chopped capers with their liquid
2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 tablespoon champagne vinegar
1 teaspoon chopped fresh dill
2 teaspoons chopped fresh parsley
1/4 teaspoon freshly cracked black pepper, plus more for seasoning
1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
12 slices thinly sliced Irish smoked salmon (about 8 ounces)
1 pound watercress, stemmed, washed and spun dry
1/2 cup thinly sliced red onion
2 hard-cooked eggs
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Heat a 10-inch sauté pan over medium-high heat, and add the butter and olive oil to the pan. Once the butter is melted, add the pumpernickel cubes to the pan and toss to coat with the butter and oil. Season with 1/2 teaspoon of salt and white pepper. Continue to cook and toss the bread until all the butter and oil have been absorbed. Place the pan in the oven and continue to cook, tossing occasionally, until the bread is crisp, about 10 to 12 minutes. Remove the bread from the oven and allow to cool before using. Make the vinaigrette by combining the shallots, garlic, mustard, honey, capers, lemon juice, champagne vinegar, dill and parsley in a non-reactive mixing bowl. Whisk to combine. Season with the remaining 1/4 teaspoon of salt and 1/4 teaspoon of the black pepper. While whisking, add the extra-virgin olive oil in a thin, steady stream until the vinaigrette is well combined and partially emulsified. Set the vinaigrette aside while you prepare the salad. On four large chilled entrée plates, place three slices of the salmon in a triangular pattern along the edges of the plates. In a large non-reactive bowl, place the watercress and the red onion. Season lightly with salt and fresh cracked black pepper. Toss the salad to mix the watercress and onion, and add about 1/2 cup of the vinaigrette to the salad. Toss lightly to combine. Divide the salad among the 4 plates, and divide the croutons among the plates. Garnish the salad with the chopped eggs and serve.

Shepherd's Pie

2 tablespoons olive oil
2 cups chopped onions
Salt
Freshly ground pepper
2 pounds roasted lamb loin or leg, medium rare
3 tablespoons flour
1 tablespoon tomato paste
1/4 cup dry red wine
2 1/2 cups veal stock reduction
1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
1/2 cup sweet corn, cooked
1/2 cup small diced carrots, cooked
1 recipe mashed potatoes
2 tablespoons butter, cubed
Chopped parsley, for garnish
In a large sauté pan over medium heat, add the oil. When the oil is hot, add the onions. Season with salt and pepper. Sauté for two minutes. Finely chop the lamb. Add the lamb to the onions and sauté for one minute. Dust the lamb with the flour and cook two minutes, stirring constantly. Stir in the tomato paste and cook for 30 seconds. Stir in the red wine and the veal reduction. Bring the liquid to a boil. Stir in the thyme, corn, peas and carrots. Season with salt and pepper. Reduce the heat to medium low and simmer for 10 minutes. Pour the mixture into a deep 9-inch oval dish. Place spoonfuls of the potatoes over the meat mixture. Dot the top of the potatoes with butter. Place in the oven and cook for about 30 minutes or until the potatoes are golden. Place a baking sheet under the dish.

Spring Break Tips:

- Don't forget sunscreen and ChapStick.
- Some places don't take credit or debit cards; be sure to get some cash.
- Always go places in groups; it is much safer that way.
- Don't forget batteries for your digital camera.
- Make a list of things you need to pack so you don't forget anything.
- Be prepared for all kinds of weather and social situations.
- Don't forget to have some safe fun!

Alpha Female: Ultraviolet in theaters

Kicks butt and looks good doing it

SCOTTY WILLIAMS
SENIOR WRITER

One concept that some people always have trouble with in a movie or any theatrical performance is suspension of disbelief. Some moviegoers have no problem at all embracing the concept that you have to accept everything you see as "real" to enjoy it. You don't have to start championing the acceptability or reality of a concept, just accept that it could be happening in front of you on the screen or the stage. For example, if you spend the entirety of *The Matrix* questioning if Neo can really dodge bullets, the effect of the movie will be lost on you.

Suspension of disbelief is a tricky proposition in some cases, but your viewing experience is much better when you can actually disregard reality. This is one of the reasons that you will either love or hate *Ultraviolet*.

The movie stars Mila Jovovich as a tough chick in a futuristic society where a war is being waged between humans and an "infected" subculture of people. These people are faster, smarter and stronger, but apparently they're dying out. In the middle of this war, Jovovich's charac-

ter, Violet, intercepts a package that is supposed to contain a super-weapon. This weapon ends up being a small boy, and the fight is on.

Suspension of disbelief is a prerequisite for viewing this movie. Some scenes will pit Violet against many, many more people and you'll have to accept that you're seeing her simultaneously kick all of their butts. You'll also have to swallow some gravity defiance and other general amazements.

The movie appeals to a very particular type of viewer. For those who can't stomach overdone computer generated animation, this movie will be a problem. It's not exactly a movie that mainstream America will drool to see, but certain people will drool for Jovovich because she is definitely in shape for this movie. This is not the kind of movie you go to for great acting.

The film will appeal to people who love gaming and comics. After all, it's got a girl who kicks butt, lots of action and techno music. For viewers who like those things, this movie will be refreshing. It is near-epic in the scale of fights and actions. The final fight is a flurry of sword-fighting and the kind of music you would expect from an epic battle.

Ultraviolet makes some interesting choices. For example, there

will be lots of shooting, slashing and awkward landings, but one thing you won't see a lot of is bloodshed. It's to the point where you will see a decisive slash on someone and they'll just fall, no blood at all. A tad unrealistic for sure, but the body count of this movie is so high that even if they all bleed minimally, this movie would have been R-rated.

One note about the acting in this movie - William Fichtner has done a lot of small parts in last couple of years. He's worked on *Armageddon*, *Crash*, *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, *The Longest Yard*, *Pearl Harbor* and *Black Hawk Down* (that's the short list). He's done mostly small parts, but has some ability and he could be a major player down the road. His performance in this movie, while major, isn't particularly involved.

Jovovich is carving out a niche for herself as a butt-kicking alpha female, whether that's what she wants or not. The movie is an overall decent experience, but you've got to check your beliefs at the door, because otherwise, you'll spend most of the movie questioning it and you won't be able to enjoy the experience. If you're a fan of gaming and comic books, you'll enjoy this movie. It won't be *The Matrix*, but it has a quality that is lacking in movies

see **VIOLET** page B2



Mila Jovovich is the alpha female Violet in the film *Ultraviolet*.

New York: Hip-hop breaks out

A new genre of American music is born

MARK ROMANO
STAFF WRITER

New York, N.Y., has influenced every kind of American music because of the rich diversity of the people who live there. The beginnings of jazz, rock and hip-hop all have strong ties to New York because of the support the city provided to musicians. Different venues in different parts of town catered to different genres such as CBGB's in Manhattan for rock, the Blue Note Jazz club and The Apollo Theatre in Harlem for hip-hop.

Hip-hop emerged from New York's Bronx area in the 1970s and changed popular music forever. The advent of an emcee (MC) and deejay (DJ) combination allowed for interactive and personal shows. The MC, as we know it today, is the rapper at the forefront of a group, but they started out as entertainers in the early hip-hop world. They would introduce DJs, recite comedy, poetry and prose in the early days and eventually set their unaccompanied work to music creating rap.

Hip-hop and rap evolved from this and this is the reason why hip-hop is so personal. MCs would relate to the audience, which, in the beginnings of hip-hop, consisted of the lower class



NYC is the home of many American traditions, including Hip-Hop.

African Americans that lived in the projects of the Bronx. Naturally, crime and gangs were the topics of early hip-hop, but it was also used to uplift and inspire people, to make life better and give troubled youth an outlet for their dissatisfaction with the system that was holding them down. Also for this reason, hip-hop was not easily accepted by the traditional, mainstream and conservative music world.

The issues involved with hip-hop were too hard hitting, vulgar and real, and were considered by many people as too extreme to be considered popular. Many people also made the huge understatement that hip-hop

and rap were not "real" forms of music, which is a completely backward assumption. Hip-hop is a pure expression of humanity, making it a definite form of art and a musical expression as well. The first DJs received criticism because just by remixing existing records, they weren't composing their own music, but it was all the first Bronx DJs had to work with. By sampling small parts of songs, DJs could lay down constant beats for MCs to rap over, much in the same way Jamaicans practiced traditional "toasting," which involved talking or chanting over rhythms.

see **HIP-HOP** page B2



Closing ceremonies of the 2006 Olympics were not all that popular.

Fans supporting American teams or 'American Idol'?

Reality shows out-rate the Olympics

MARIANNE BARROW
STAFF WRITER

The highly anticipated Olympic Games aired in February. The almost-forgotten winter Olympics struggled to capture viewer's attention. In Europe, television show ratings were dominated by the viewing of the Olympics; nine out of 10 sports viewers turned on the games. With the competitions being held in Torino, Italy, there was a strong Italian following of the events.

However, here in America, it seems that the Olympics weren't quite as popular. Although I occasionally watched an addicting curling match, which still baffles me, I admit that my attention was probably on every TV show except the Olympics.

Ever since "The Real World," "Survivor" and other popular reality shows were introduced to Americans, it seems our attention has been drawn to the never-ending drama that comes with real experiences. One hot reality show in particular has proven to be a rival of the winter games.

As the competition of "American Idol" begins to get more and more interesting, their ratings have begun to climb. During the "American Idol" time slot, Americans switched their channels from the once-exciting events of the Olympics to a show of off-key singers struggling through songs.

Perhaps the selection of sports offered during the winter season was the cause of its defeat. There were approximately seven main sports in the winter games

some of the more recognized being the luge, ice hockey, ice and speed skating, bobsledding and curling. On the other hand, the summer games have 29 different competitions.

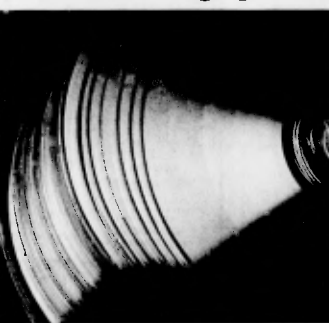
Still, a bigger part of me believes that if Simon Cowell's comments weren't so harsh and the "American Idol" singers' reactions weren't so fun to watch, there would have been a much greater following of the Olympics. Maybe for the majority of television viewers, the Olympics didn't hold that same heroic athlete-like standard.

It used to be general knowledge to know which Olympic athlete was which, and viewers were more prone to have a favorite athlete to cheer for. Now it seems the champion of Americans' hearts is the winner of "Survivor" or "American Idol."

Regardless of the reason, the winter Olympics have come and gone with much less enthusiasm than usual. Maybe along with the passing of the winter games came the passing of America's high regard for the competition. Currently, our culture seems to be more drawn to Brangelina, Nick and Jessica's current status and other drama-filled situations like reality shows. All we can do now is look forward to future Olympic Games and try and keep the American morale and support high. And to you dedicated audiences who watched every Olympic event, keep your spirits up and try and recruit some new viewers for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.

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

Reviewing yesteryear in music



Get out those old CDs and enjoy past classics.

Ska and punk edition

AARON BORRERO
STAFF WRITER

I was going through my album collection the other day and I decided to revive some of the CDs I listened to when I was a wee teenage lad. These were mainly ska and punk albums, but not all of them were the same. So I thought to myself, "maybe others would like to know about some cool albums from this genre made around the mid 1990s."

Operation Ivy's *Energy* is one of my favorite albums ever. This album is a collection of primarily everything the band ever recorded. Highlighted by "Sound System," "Warning" and "Knowledge," this album was a ska/punk masterpiece at the time of its creation. After this band broke up, a few of the members went on to become what we know as modern day Rancid.

Another band that is pretty good from this genre is NOFX. This band, out of L.A., is one of the most influential bands in their realm of music. In any of their albums, one will find political

messages and humor. These guys really had a lot to say, and they found music to be their platform of choice. So check these guys out if you are a fan of this type of music, even if you are politically apathetic or challenged.

Propagandi is another punk band, oddly enough, that doesn't care too much for ska music and isn't afraid to speak its mind about America and our politics. These guys are from Canada and have quite a bit to say about their southern neighbor and what our government likes to do. All of which is fine and dandy because they know Canada is the Euro Disney parking lot. Well, if they didn't know, they might now.

Anti-Flag is another band similar in their approach of wanting to express discomfort with the way things are going, but in a different way. These guys are actually from the States and, despite the name, are quite pro-America. These guys are just anti-government, so there is a difference in the way their message comes off. Their punk music has always been good, no matter what they say. Notice the running theme with good punk.

On a pure ska note, Hepcat is one of my personal favorites. This blend of island music meets the soul of L.A. ska and leaves me wanting to dance with a lady to the sweet sounds of relaxation. Don't look for the leering political message in this; it's all about the music.

Following this theme, albeit with a soft political message, the Toasters' *Dub 56* is a great addition to any ska fanatic's collection. These guys are also from L.A., but they have a more upbeat and less angry tone about their songs. It is never more apparent than in their song "Mona." They also have the big band sound to them, so if that's your thing, listen to them and enjoy.

A band similar to the Toasters are The Pietasters, who are worth praise and a bit of your listening time. The D.C./Maryland-based band is quite the entertaining group to see live. Their infectious "Maggie Mae" is an ode to their favorite beer-bring-

see **PUNK** page B2

Violet from page B1

lately, you'll get exactly what you think you're getting when you pay for a ticket.

Grade: B-
This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com.

Punk from page B1

ing maiden. It's an awesome song and the performers definitely do it justice.

Others to check out include Buck O'Nine, Mephiskapheles, Less Than Jake, The Dead Kennedys, The Slackers, Skankin' Pickle.

MU330 and Rancid. Such a great and diverse music selection, so little time. Enjoy it people and keep rockin' out.

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

Hip-hop from page B1

The first rap hit was "Rapper's Delight" by New York natives Sugar Hill Gang. This got hip-hop and rap rolling into the mainstream media. The development of gangster rap led to turmoil in the media due to the

illegal and misogynistic activities glorified in the lyrics, but this only gave rap more attention.

Hip-hop is still a very young genre, and it has taken 20 years for it to be accepted culturally, which is only an indication that

people shouldn't fear change, but should be more open minded when it comes to new forms of musical expression.

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

Movies with Heroes shows valiant effort



that is quite a bold statement for musicians who really haven't had time to make a definitive sound. Instead, they are taking the signature sounds of other bands in the emo/punk/indie rock genre to try to set them apart.

Nothing Here is Perfect is an astute choice for the album title. Mixed by Ed Rose, who has also done albums for The Get Up Kids and Reggie and the Full Effect, a lot of energy and enthusiasm has definitely gone into making the album.

The 10-track release, just 240 seconds shy of 40 minutes, begins with alien-conjuring sounds in the opening track, aptly named "Wake Up." It follows with probably the most catchy of their tracks, "Ink," which has the best shot for rotation if not on MTV, at least on Fuse.

Definitely press the next button when arriving on track four, "Nothing." Here, the channeling of all things The Killers creates a painful three minutes with an irritating repetition of "it's nothing" too many times to count or enjoy.

Upon first listen of *Nothing Here is Perfect*, it is neither surprising nor exciting until arriving on the seventh song. The formulaic album prepares you for more "emo screamo" blended with punk when all of a sudden, a soft side emerges. "The Wave" is a song of great beauty that swirls Royer's voice with a chorus of voices and guitar.

It is this curve ball and shift into more pervasive and heartfelt songs that will keep listeners from stopping after the fourth song, which can happen so often. The vocal shift from the feel of Dashboard Confessional to Weezer is a very welcoming change.

For those who enjoy supporting new artists in this ever-broadening genre of emo/punk/indie rock, *Nothing Here is Perfect* is an album worth looking into. While there is nothing really separating them from other established bands, they are young, dumb and full of... an enthusiastic desire to share their music with everyone.

Bottom Line: download Ink on iTunes and see if 13-year-old girls will like them enough to put them on TRL.

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

Nothing Here is Perfect' is almost too ironic of an album title

LIZ FULTON
STAFF WRITER

After five years of touring and attempting to find a following by releasing independent records, Movies with Heroes will launch the CI Records produced *Nothing Here is Perfect* on March 28 for the masses.

The Lancaster, Pa., quintet revolves around Jeff Royer (vocals, keyboards and programming) and Keith Wilson (vocals and guitar). Jeremy Bentley plays drums accompanied by Patrick Kirchner and Chiemena Ukazim on guitar. The band likens themselves to bands such as The Killers, Death Cab for Cutie and The Cure.

As a huge supporter of The Killers and DCFC even before they experienced mainstream success and as a huge admirer of The Cure, Movies with Heroes are quite confused on what their sound really is.

The band's MySpace page describes their music as a "working man's Foo Fighters or Coldplay with a doctorate." For a band that solidified in 2000,

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Attention ECU Sophomores

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

Sophomore Survey

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Movie picks


★ Outstanding
■ Worthy
▽ effort
● So-so

Local critic: Chicago Tribune, Dallas Morning News, Detroit Free Press, Miami Herald, N.Y. Daily News, Philadelphia Inquirer, San Jose Mercury News, Seattle Times

► Aquamarine (PG)	▽	■	▽	▽	●	▽
► Block Party (R)	★	★	▽	■	★	■
► Eight Below (PG)	▽	■	▽	▽	■	★
► Firewall (PG-13)	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	●
► Madea s ... (PG-13)	▽	●	▽	▽	▽	▽
► Running Scared (R)	●	▽	●	■	●	■
► 16 Blocks (PG-13)	▽	■	▽	●	▽	■
► Ultraviolet (PG-13)	●	●	●	●	●	●

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

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'The Voice' behind the microphone



Jeff Charles continues passion for broadcasting ECU sports

ERIC GILMORE
SENIOR WRITER

He's known simply as "The Voice." But Jeff Charles' most important sense may be his eyes, which serve as a filter between the live event and those hopeful fans scattered across the nation relying on his story.

Charles is an artist who has to paint his canvas with words. His inflection, tone and vocabulary have to create a mental image for the fans unable to attend. Because of Charles' talents, Pirate fans have come to trust his account as an unbiased viewpoint. For the younger Pirate generation, the 53-year-old veteran's on-air presence has been the only "Voice of the Pirates."

Getting started

ESPN.com and Sportscenter serve as a grazing pasture for sports fans ready to con-

sume every updated analysis and fact. But a generation ago, the common medium was radio. Charles remembers huddling around his transistor in Piqua, Ohio as a kid listening intently to professional teams.

"We all grew up listening to radio guys, and those guys were our heroes especially major league baseball guys," said Charles.

Charles cited the longtime Cleveland Cavalier play-by-play announcer Joe Tate and ex-Chicago Bear and current Purdue broadcaster Joe McConnell as childhood influences. Charles also included Dom Valentino of the defunct Cincinnati Royals, which are now the Sacramento Kings.

As is the case with most broadcasters, Charles learned at an early age that visions of the playing in the NBA or NFL were slim. "You learn at an age that you don't really have it," Charles said about his athletic career.

"I mean, I played sports in high school. I really decided to [pursue broadcasting] when I was a junior in high school,

and when you first start in this business, you have to do a little bit of everything. I started hanging around my hometown radio station, doing everything from taking out the trash to whatever just get some experience."

Charles learned more by attending a broadcasting school in Columbus, Ohio. Charles then graduated from Goshen College, located 25 miles northwest of South Bend, Ind. While attending Goshen, Charles worked for the local station doing 60-70 high school games per year.

"Well, I think it's part the voice, but I think it's part the knack," Charles said about developing his voice for the business.

"I think you just have to have a natural feel, ability, a natural knack to be able to do this."

The early years

Charles propelled his college experience into calling the University of Illinois football games for two years. At age 28, Charles sent off a demo tape to WSB-AM, a 50,000 watt Clear Channel sta-

tion in Atlanta. Six weeks later, Charles was hired by WSB-AM legend Elmo Ellis, who spent 42 years at the station. Fourteen months after taking his dream job hosting a sports talk show heard in 38 states, Charles was found unemployed when management cleaned house.

"At [28] you're a bit little naive still; I felt like I'd be [in Atlanta] forever or just go on from there someplace else," Charles said about being laid off for the first time.

"It was a wake up call to how the corporate world works. It was nothing that I did wrong or did bad, I just got caught up in a transition period."

Charles quickly latched on at Furman University in Greenville, S.C. calling football games in 1982. Current Furman Head Coach Bobby Lamb was a freshman quarterback for Dick Sheridan, who would later become the opposing head coach during one of Charles' most memorable calls. It was at Furman where Charles developed the "paint it purple" slogan that

he's so closely associated with. "I think it came up on the spur of the moment one time," Charles said. "It just came out and I can't even remember the first game it came out."

Charles recalls using the moniker during Furman's upset win 28-23 over South Carolina, but isn't sure it was the first time he used it.

After the 1982 season, Charles landed a similar job at Virginia Tech. While thoroughly enjoying his five year stint, Charles found himself surrounded by state politics.

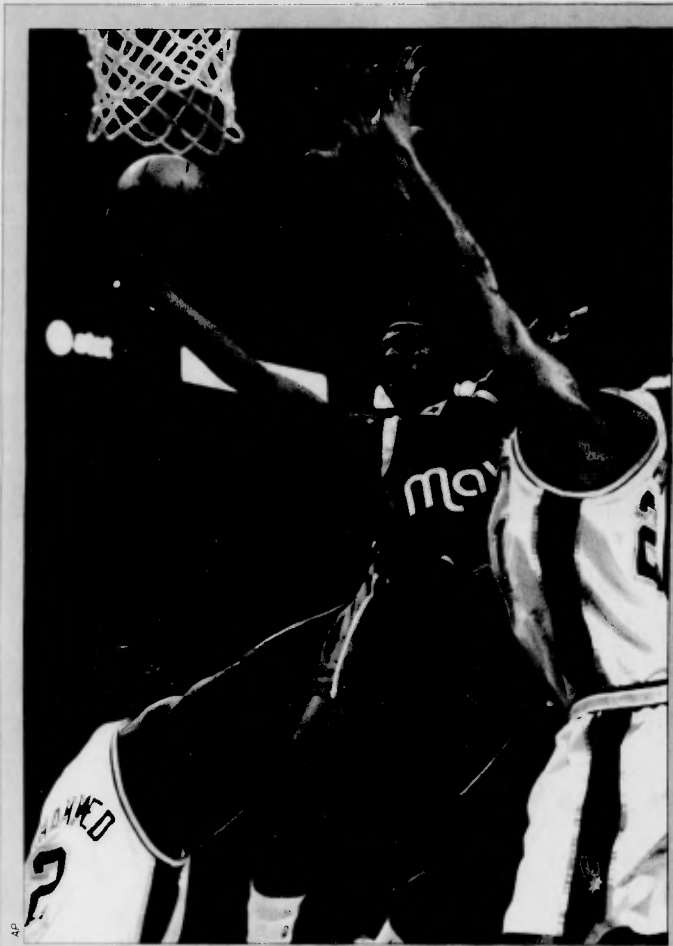
"It was a great learning experience," Charles said about his play-by-play job and host of the coaches' show. "I had never been exposed to the politics of college athletics. I got a real awakening."

The Pirate pride

Then-ECU athletic director Dave Hart, Jr., hired Charles in 1988. Hart, Jr. had contacted Charles in 1986, so when Hart, Jr. came calling again in 1988, the

see CHARLES page B6

CRUMPLER AND CHARLES



Mavericks' forward Josh Howard will run basketball camps in Winston-Salem this summer.

Former Wake Forest star declines USA invite

(KRT) — Josh Howard's decision to elevate community over country can be respected. But it's hard to figure it out.

The Mavericks' forward was given entry into an elite inner circle and turned it down. Instead of spending his summer with Kobe Bryant and LeBron James and Dwyane Wade, building his profile while building a U.S. team that can win the gold medal in the 2008 Olympics, he chose to spend it with underprivileged kids in his hometown of Winston-Salem, N.C.

Howard's devotion, at the expense of his own career, is as affecting as it is baffling.

A lot of people don't get Howard's decision; many of them work for the Mavericks. I'm not sure I get it either since it was possible for him to be part of U.S. team and still conduct his basketball camps.

Howard is so comfortable in his own skin, so oblivious to the ramifications of his decision that any negative reaction rolls off his back. He sought minimal advice from anyone in the Mavericks organization before declining his invitation.

The lack of dialogue makes some wonder if his upcoming contract talks played a part in the decision.

"I'm never worried about how I'm viewed," said Howard, who is more concerned about a strained hamstring that has kept him out of the last two games.

"I do what I do for myself and my family. That's going to always come first. Then it's my job with the Mavericks."

Howard wasn't even on USA Basketball's radar screen when the process got under way. But the more the Mavericks won, the more it became clear that Howard was the second most important player on the team behind Dirk Nowitzki.

Howard learned Feb. 11 that he would probably be invited to tryout. The paperwork came a little more than two weeks later. Once he saw the schedule, he thought to himself, "this ain't no good."

The July training camp was no problem. The problem came in the final two weekends of August when Howard had committed to run his basketball camps. That overlapped with the World Championship,

which will be played in Japan from Aug. 19 to Sept. 3.

There is no assurance Howard would have made the final 12-man roster. That would have cleared him to return to Winston-Salem, yet still be a part of the national team with a chance to land a spot on the Olympic roster in two years.

And there were other options. Howard could have moved his camps. He could have accepted the invitation and asked Jerry Colangelo, the managing director who put the team together, for permission to miss the tournament if he made the team.

The last option was one he didn't explore.

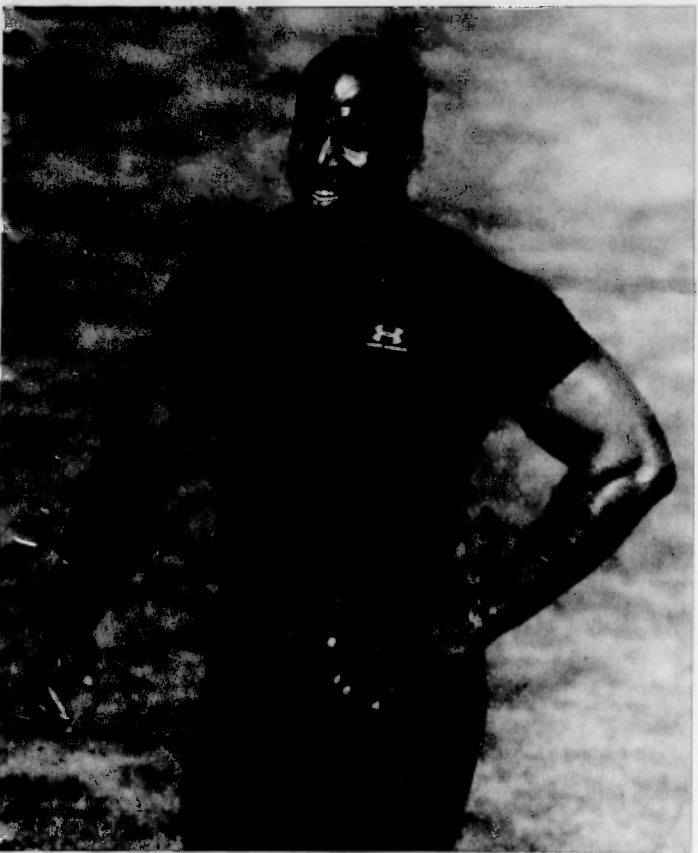
"That wouldn't have been fair," Howard said.

It's ironic. Howard cited the traits Colangelo looked for in putting together this group, a sense of commitment and a strong belief in the importance of team, as reasons to decline his invitation.

But it's hard to escape the nagging suspicion that more is at work here. Did Howard's pride at not being considered

see DECLINE page B5

"Game of Shadows" to be released March 27



Barry Bonds works out during training camp for the San Francisco Giants amid steroid rumors.

(KRT) — A new book accuses Barry Bonds of using a sophisticated doping regimen to transform his body into a home-hitting machine, providing a new level of detail to the mounting allegations that the Giants slugger used performance-enhancing drugs.

Excerpts from *Game of Shadows*, written by two San Francisco Chronicle reporters, portray Bonds as a jealous star willing to turn his body into a chemistry experiment in his quest for baseball greatness.

But the writers also indict everyone associated with baseball, from Giants management to baseball officials to sports journalists and even fans, for defending Bonds and ignoring the truth: That Bonds' late-career power surge, which has put him on the cusp of baseball's most cherished record, was drug-fueled.

Many of the charges contained in the book, set for release March 27, are not new. Bonds previously had told a grand jury that he unknowingly used two designer steroids, "the cream" and "the clear," provided by the now-infamous BALCO Laboratories.

But the book adds fresh information about what he allegedly took and summarizes the long-running drama in a way that packs a devastating wallop,

much like a Bonds home run. Most significantly, it states without equivocation that Bonds was completely aware, despite repeated denials, that he was using a wide assortment of illegal performance-enhancers, including bodybuilders' favorite steroid, stanozolol, which was injected into his buttocks.

It alleges that jealousy over the attention Mark McGwire received during his successful assault on Roger Maris' single-season home run record in 1998 is the reason Bonds turned to chemicals. The book, according to an excerpt to be published in this week's *Sports Illustrated*, claims Bonds then began using drugs for at least five years to get the spotlight back on him.

Bonds eclipsed McGwire's mark with 73 homers in 2001 and now stands at the doorstep of baseball's ultimate mark. His 708 career home runs trail only Babe Ruth (714) and Hank Aaron (755).

At the Giants' spring training camp in Scottsdale, Ariz., Bonds told reporters Tuesday he had just learned about the book and wouldn't be reading it or the magazine excerpt.

"I won't even look at it," Bonds said. "There's no reason to."

The authors, Mark Fainaru-Wada and Lance Williams, say

the book is the result of more than 200 interviews as well as court documents, affidavits filed by investigators and records that were seized from BALCO founder Victor Conte and personal trainer Greg Anderson. Much of the information has been reported before in the Chronicle, Mercury News and other media. But never have there been such damning and detailed accusations of Bonds' drug use.

Among the book's most explosive accusations:

That Bonds hit a pharmaceutical grand slam, taking drugs through injections, pills, skin creams and drops under his tongue. Bonds took the steroids stanozolol (which cost sprinter Ben Johnson his 1988 Olympic gold medal), Deca-Durabolin, trenbolone and testosterone decanoate (also known as Mexican beans and normally used in cattle), as well as insulin, human growth hormone and modafinil, a stimulant used to combat narcolepsy.

His personal trainer-friend Anderson, who got many of them from Conte, provided them. Anderson and Conte were sentenced to a combined seven months of prison time in the BALCO case.

Giants management turned a

see SHADOWS page B5

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Shadows from page B4

blind eye to Bonds' suspected drug use, even after background checks revealed that Anderson was rumored to be a dealer and that Burlingame's World Gym, where Bonds trained, was a place where steroids were available. Anderson was allowed free run of the Giants' clubhouse because management didn't want to upset its star.

Bonds' mistress, Kimberly Bell, began saving her voice mail messages after Bonds threatened to kill her. Bell said steroids were to blame for his quick temper.

Bonds cheated on his income taxes by not reporting at least \$80,000 in income from memorabilia sales that he used to buy Bell a house in Scotsdale.

The book also further tarnishes the image of baseball and its leaders, who have been accused of ignoring steroid use among players.

Rich Levin, a baseball spokesman, said officials, including Commissioner Bud Selig, could not comment because they haven't seen the book.

Bonds' agent, Jeff Borris, told the Associated Press: "I've read what was reported. Barry is looking forward to playing this year and the improved health of his knee, and being as productive as he's ever been."

No comments came from Giants Manager Felipe Alou and a team spokeswoman.

"If it's about baseball, I'll talk to you," Giants General Manager Brian Sabean told a reporter before an exhibition game in Peoria, Ariz. "If it's not, and I've got a feeling that it's not, I've got nothing to say."

But Bonds and steroids is what everyone else was discussing. The book only adds to the pile of evidence that ballplayers felt they had to use steroids to keep up.

Even Bonds, already on his way to the Hall of Fame, apparently felt that way.

According to the book, he was enraged by how the public became enchanted by McGwire's feats.

He was sure McGwire used steroids.

"They're just letting him do it because he's a white boy," Bonds told Bell.

He turned to Anderson in his effort to bulk up. Anderson, who bought some of the drugs from AIDS patients willing to sell their medications, helped Bonds, then 34, add 15 pounds, to a hulking 225. Anderson would inject stanozolol in Bonds' backside, although the ballplayer later learned to do it himself.

Bonds, though, grew too big, too fast and he suffered through an injury-plagued season in 1999 because his body couldn't handle the added muscle. But Bonds expanded his drug use, and his homer total jumped to 49 in 2000.

Before his epic 2001 season, Bonds met Conte. The chemist offered the slugger new, undetectable drug cocktails, including "the cream" and "the clear." Of course, they didn't actually need to be undetectable because baseball did not yet have a serious drug-testing program.

Meanwhile, Bell said Bonds showed signs of steroid use, including hair loss, acne and mood swings. In 2003, as their relationship was breaking down, Bell alleges that when she appeared late for a hotel rendezvous, Bonds placed his hands around her throat, put her up against a wall and said: "If you ever (expletive) pull some (expletive) like that again, I'll kill you, do you understand me?"

Later that year, the public first learned of BALCO. On Sept. 3 agents raided Conte's office and Anderson's home. Conte implicated 27 athletes, including Bonds.

Tuesday was a relatively normal day for Bonds. Before speaking briefly to reporters, he took batting practice and made a few playful tosses to one of his trainers, Greg Oliver.

Bonds also watched as his godfather, Giants legend Willie Mays, taped a segment for his upcoming reality television series.

Decline from page B4

from the start of the process cloud his judgment? He did say if he had known earlier, he might have been able to switch the dates of his camps.

Did he look at the roster, determine he would be competing with Memphis' Shane Battier for the same spot and figure he wouldn't make it since Battier played for coach Mike Krzyzewski at Duke?

There's another possibility that can't be discounted. Howard is eligible to sign a lucrative five-

year extension this off-season. He changed agents several weeks ago. Why risk injury in a competition owner Mark Cuban doesn't exactly embrace with a big payday on the horizon?

"That had nothing to do with it," Howard said. Winston-Salem had everything to do with it.

"It's a blessing and a great honor to be recognized," Howard said.

"But I have to go home and do the things for the kids."

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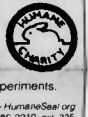
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Charles from page B4

38-year-old broadcasting veteran felt obligated.

Nearly 18 years later, Charles has worked with five chancellors, athletic directors, football and men's basketball coaches. A fixture on the second floor of the Ward Sports Medicine Building, Charles recalls when the building was still a field.

"The facilities have changed so much and with that the school has gotten bigger," Charles said about watching upgrades at every revenue sport.

"With that have come more challenges in a lot of ways. When I came here in 1988, it was almost like a small family atmosphere. It wasn't the big business that it is today."

Charles has teamed with ECU Hall of Famer Carriester Crumpler in the booth since arriving in Greenville. Charles' job involves hosting a radio call-in coaches' show and a television coaches' show. He also hosts a local sports talk radio show, which he's been doing for two years.

Aside from his play-by-play duty, Charles is the director of electronic media. In 1992, he founded the Pirate Sports Television Network to complement the Pirate Sports Radio Network. Prior to a Jan. 17 announcement that ECU has teamed with ISP Sports, a marketing firm based in Winston-Salem, Charles was the lone salesman to obtain sponsors for the broadcasts. For years, the moment that basketball season ended in March until football started in early August, Charles was on the road selling advertisements while locking in radio and TV stations.

"It's taken a big load off my shoulders," Charles said about the ISP announcement.

"Instead of having one person

do everything, you have five or six people doing what I've been doing. Anytime you have more people selling, it's going to be a benefit."

But Charles still remains a play-by-play voice at heart. He's called more than 180 football games and more than 620 men's basketball games at ECU. Among the most memorable was ECU's 37-34 come-from-behind win over N.C. State (coached by Sheridan) in the Peach Bowl on New Year's Day in 1992. During the same 11-1 season, Charles fondly remembers Jeff Blake's two-point conversion to upset Pittsburg 24-23 inside Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

In 2000, Charles was the recipient of the N.C. Sportscaster of the Year Award, beating out names like Woody Durham, Bob Harris, Bill Rosinski and Steve Martin.

"I tried to share it with everybody at ECU and eastern N.C. because no one had ever won it from here," Charles said choosing to deflect the limelight toward the region.

"And I thought it was neat that somebody finally did and got recognition for what [ECU] was doing in broadcasting."

Charles' talents brought him a job offer from the Charlotte Hornets back in 1991. But untimely circumstances kept Charles in Greenville. In 2005 when the Carolina Panthers decided not to renew Rosinski's contract, Charles immediately became a serious candidate. However, as the process dragged on for nearly three months, Charles decided not to pursue the opening. For ECU, it reassured that Charles will remain an ECU employee.

"I really don't know," Charles said about retiring from the microphone.

"I can definitely see myself

doing this another six or so years. After that, I'm not really sure. I'll know when its time. I don't see myself doing this forever and dying in the press box."

State of the business

Recently, when both former football coach John Thompson and men's basketball coach Bill Herrion resigned, they both credited Charles' professionalism.

"It's been a pleasure to work with Jeff because he is a true professional," said Si Seymour, who has worked as the color analyst with Charles during men's basketball for the past eight seasons.

"I've learned a lot just by working with him. He's going to be accurate in everything he does. Throughout the years, he's maintained his spark and his enthusiasm and that's really special."

Despite criticism, Charles sticks to what has worked for 25 years as an announcer.

"I am objective," Charles said. "If [an opposing player] dunks one, taking off from the free throw line, I'm going to get really excited. I appreciate great talent. That's part of the game."

With the proliferation of technology involving both cable and the Internet, Charles says that radio play-by-play announcers are a dying breed.

"The role, quite honestly, of the radio play-by-play guy is less than that it used to be," Charles said citing jobs that aren't even on-air.

"Now there are some many names on television that we basically have to keep reinventing ourselves. We have to keep selling the sizzle a little bit."

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

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ECU Student Stores
Ronald E. Dowdy

