

ECU ASSIST currently undergoing testing



This image shows what would appear on a security computer screen in the event of an alarm.

New project could be answer to a host of ECU safety concerns

ELISA BIZZOTTO
STAFF WRITER

An innovative new emergency alert and tracking system, which could potentially provide greater security to students, faculty and staff if successful, is currently undergoing testing for effectiveness and performance.

ECU ASSIST, as the pilot project has been named, is a collaborative effort between Campus Police and Public Safety, Campus Living, the ECU Technology Advancement Center and Disabilities and Support Services in which the primary purpose is to develop a system on campus that could resolve many security issues as well as provide support to those in emergency situations.

Participants for the pilot project include 12 Safety Committee Members, nine Residence Hall Advisors, six Disabilities

and Support Services personnel, five staff members, and three Technology Advancement Center staff members to combine a total of 35 active participants. The test location for the project is central campus, specifically involving Cotton, Fleming and Jarvis Residence halls, as well as the Flanagan building, Student Health Services, Joyner East, Joyner Library and the mall area.

The way in which the system will work is rather simple in that it was intentionally designed for mobility and subtlety. Each test participant is designated a personal transmitter which is smaller in size than the average mobile phone. The participant can either carry the device or, for those that require mobility assistance, the device can be attached to a wheelchair, scooter, walker, etc. If at any time the participant is in need of emergency medical assistance or is faced with a threatening situation, the participant simply presses a button on the hand-held device and a signal is sent to the telecommunication

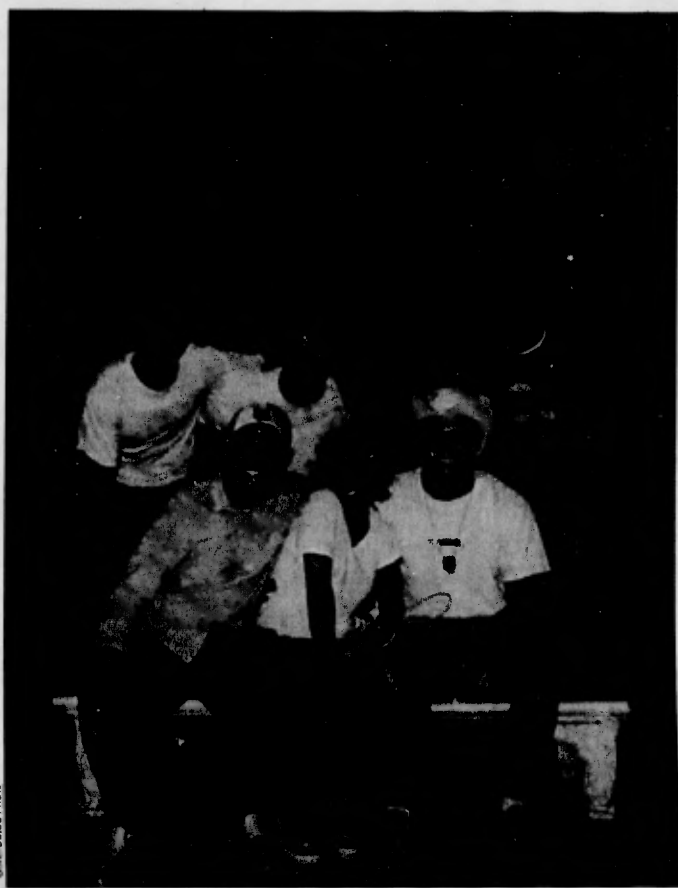
dispatch office in the campus police building just a couple hundred yards from the mall area.

The button triggers an alarm on a PC in the police office and the name and picture of the participant who activated the alert emerges on screen. The participant's location is then determined through a triangulated system in which receivers in the designated buildings transmit the alert signal, and the three that pick up the strongest signal pinpoint a location and transmit it to a map on the PC.

Police officers are then dispatched to the scene and continuous updates are provided to the dispatcher in the direction the participant is traveling after activating the alert. The updates continue for 15 minutes, at which point the signal is lost if the transmitter is not activated a second time. In the event that no real emergencies occur within the testing period, each participant is

see ECU ASSIST page A8

'Semester at Sea' teaches students valuable lessons



Students embarking on 'A Voyage of Discovery' enjoy a stop at the Taj Mahal in India.

'Go to school' on a great big boat all over the world

CLAYTON BAUMAN
STAFF WRITER

Students interested in spending a semester at sea can look forward to learning over seas in a variety of different destinations.

The Semester at Sea program, accredited through the University of Virginia, gives students the opportunity to earn college credit for different courses.

Students who are interested need to first meet with their advisors in order to figure out which credits are transferable from the courses that are to be taken.

For more information, including a step by step guide on how to properly enroll for what is dubbed, "A Voyage of Discovery," students can visit the semester at sea Web site at semesteratsea.com.

Armand Vonsiatzky, junior and construction management major, took part in the semester at sea program in fall of 2005.

"It was an experience that was very rich and intellectually stimulating," said Vonsiatzky, who visited such exotic locales as India, Myanmar and Vietnam.

"I had culture shock in India because it is night and day compared to American culture," said Vonsiatzky.

"I definitely realized that even if you're poor in America, you'd be considered rich in these other countries."

Vonsiatzky also emphasized the bonds that he made with his fellow shipmates saying that the friendships he made will last a lifetime.

According to the Web site, the ship that students took, the MV Explorer, was like a small cruise ship. It came complete with the luxuries of a regular cruise ship. The ship-

board campus includes classrooms, study areas and an 8,000 volume core library that supports the itinerary and the global, comparative academic focus of Semester at Sea.

"Students could play volleyball and basketball while on the ship, as well as spend an afternoon by the pool sunbathing in the tropical sun," said Vonsiatzky.

"I had the time of my life," said Brian Durham, a junior at Appalachian State University. "We just learned to appreciate what we got. We learned how lucky we are to live in the United States, just because it's a whole lot worse in other places of the world."

Semester at Sea currently offers three voyages a year during the fall, spring or summer. They are currently accepting applications for all three of these voyages.

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

Bush declining political power

Pivotal choices lead to a question of leadership

LEE SCHWARZ
STAFF WRITER

In recent weeks, President Bush has not been able to convince Congress to go his way on several issues.

His support for Dubai to purchase the U.K.-based Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co. for \$6.8 billion on March 2, which would place control of ports New York, Newark, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Miami and New Orleans into the hands of the United Arab Emirates firm, was shattered by Congress, thereby forcing Dubai to sell its U.S.

operations within six months.

Bush's proposal to give India nuclear technology to lessen their dependence on foreign oil in exchange for India placing its military nuclear program under UN supervision is in the midst of being dissected by Congress and could be turned down as well.

Additionally, Bush is taking heat on the possibility of an Iraqi civil war.

Bush's job approval rating is at 39 percent and has been inert for the better part of a year.

Why is Bush's own party, the GOP, in Congress is fighting him so hard? Did Tom Delay really help Bush that much to get his political agenda through Congress? A lot of Republicans believe that the White House is not fol-

lowing the conservative guidelines on which the Republican Party is based.

The rift forming between Bush and the rest of the Republican Party may be advantageous to the GOP in 2008 when it will select a new presidential candidate.

Those voters who are disenchanted with Bush may indeed be swayed by a new conservative Republican agenda and candidate.

It seems unlikely that Bush would win an election if it were held this year.

Perhaps the only thing that could save Bush politically would be a watershed event such as

see BUSH page A8

New SGA office and member cards complete MCAT gets a face lift

SGA takes steps to promote student activity

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
STAFF WRITER

SGA addressed the topics about the new office membership cards and funding for various organizations at Monday's meeting at 5 p.m.

M. Cole Jones, SGA president, announced that the new SGA office, located near the help desk in Mendenhall Center, was completed over the spring break.

"The new office is more visible and more accessible at the request of the students," Jones said.

Corey King, assistant vice chancellor for student experience, is greatly contributing to making Mendenhall Student Center more and more of a premier center for students, according to Jones.

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate and open the new office.

The time and date of the ceremony will be announced at a later date.

SGA membership cards were also made a point of interest by

Jones.

"SGA membership cards are an incentive-based tool to create more awareness about SGA, who we are and the many organizations SGA supports," according to Jones.

Under the new constitution, every student is a member of the SGA in some capacity. With this fact being a part of the new document, the membership cards will be available to all students and not just executive or senate members of SGA.

SGA was able to fund many different various organizations at the meeting as well.

These organizations include the African Students Organization, National Kitchin and Bath Association (NKBA), Health Educators Preparing for Tomorrow's Advancement (HEPTA) and a psychology honors organization.

All of the funding allotted to these organizations will be used to provide money to attend conferences and pay for educational supplies, office supplies, pamphlets, tee shirts, advertising and various other experiences.

Students are reminded to



SGA members vote after some disagreement over funding.

check out the many activities that will take place March 20-25 for Diversity week. A majority of these events will be held in Mendenhall Student Center, Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, Hendrix The-

ater or the Willis Building. Students are encouraged to be aware of flyers and e-mails concerning events on campus this week.

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

Five new elements to the test that every medical student should know

CLAYTON BAUMAN
STAFF WRITER

The MCAT test for medical students has recently undergone some changes.

Pre-medical students can expect to run into multiple changes when taking the pre-med test this year and into the future.

"The MCAT medical college admissions test is an exam that is taken by 60, almost 70,000 people annually," said Amjed Mustafa, MCAT program manager for Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions.

"The MCAT itself is about eight hours and is comprised of four sections."

The four sections are comprised of background in physics, general chemistry, organic chemistry and biology.

Mustafa added that students also need to have the critical thinking ability to do well on a

verbal section as well as a writing sample component that tests the way students can formulate arguments that are presented to them.

The biggest change that is taking place is the jump from the standard paper and pencil administration to a computer-based test.

The test is available for pencil and paper testing two more times before the permanent jump to computer-based testing.

The changes have made many students rather apprehensive about the jump to computer testing.

A poll of 4,000 MCAT students showed that 80 percent of students have yet to take a computer-based test.

Even more are not as confident that they will perform better with the new testing.

The change to computer testing is the biggest change that the MCATs has seen in 75 years of testing.

Kaplan recommends to students that have completed their

see MCAT page A8

Celebrity funerals 'best free show' in New York



Many people flock to celebrity funerals to see the stars; others simply want to be in the presence of a star, living or not.

(KRT) — Francine Greene tracks celebrity ailments in the news. She scans the obituary page daily to see which leading lights have died.

Morbid? Perhaps, but the celebrity death watch is an honored rite here, where part of being a New Yorker is basking in the radiant light of the city's galaxy of stars.

When a luminary dies, New Yorkers pack churches, synagogues or theaters to say goodbye and to catch what Greene calls "the best free show in town."

Perversely, services for dead celebrities are often the best places to see live ones.

Metropolitan Opera star Robert Merrill's "was like a Broadway show. ... Rudolph Giuliani spoke. Leontyne Price sang," Greene said. "At Alan King's service, Bity Crystal did the eulogy. Need I say more?"

Some celebrities have so many devotees—actor and civil-rights activist Ossie Davis, for one—that the New York Police Department sends officers to control crowds and traffic.

Fans review the funerals and memorials as if they had just taken in Chicago on Broadway. Marvin Hunter, 75, a retired psychologist, and his wife, Cathy, 74 and an artist, make a hobby of attending them.

"There have been so many remarkable moments at these things," Marvin Hunter, said, hoisting his backpack, as he stood in line to get into a Lincoln Center service for Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Wendy Wasserstein.

There was Liza Minelli singing "New York, New York" at the November 2004 memorial service for composer Fred Ebb, who

wrote the anthem for this city and for strivers everywhere.

And who could forget playwright Terrence McNally ("Kiss of the Spider Woman") asking at Ebb's service: "What do you say about a homophobic, anti-Semitic gay Jew?"

Many people remember Jerry Orbach as the lovable if dark NYPD detective Lennie Briscoe on "Law & Order" or as the original Billy Flynn in "Chicago." But Greene and others, including the entire cast of "Law & Order," were charmed at his March 2005 service to hear of his daily poems to his wife, Elaine:

"A chilly winter morning. The wind could freeze your liver. And so where are we filming? 113th Street on the river." Of course, these encore performances to lives well-lived offer wisdom as well as wit.

At bandleader Skitch Henderson's February service at Carnegie Hall, Kitty Carlisle Hart sang a pitch-perfect, plaintive version of Irving Berlin's "Always."

In her bold red dress and matching lipstick, she proved that you can be 95 years old, have legs like Chita Rivera's and deserve your own cabaret show at Feinstein's, a popular nightclub.

At last Monday's service for Wasserstein, Cathy Hunter said the palpable weight of collective grief in the theater stayed with her.

Beloved for her warmth and sense of humor, Wasserstein died at age 55, leaving behind a 6-year-old daughter.

"You know she was really an authentic person in this artificial world," Hunter said.

Stanley Tannen, founder of a program called Toward International Peace Through the

Arts, organized a service on the one-year anniversary of Arthur Miller's death. Tannen believes the playwright's ideals represent those of his organization.

"It's not Willy Loman alone to whom attention must be paid," Tannen said, quoting the best-known line from Miller's play "Death of a Salesman."

"It's all the Willy Lomans in the world. Attention must be paid to people who are dying of AIDS and of famines all over the world, so Arthur Miller is to me a great quintessential international artist."

In order to pack the Feb. 10 service, which featured performances by actors Eli Wallach, Anne Jackson and Tony LoBianco, Tannen publicized the program at senior citizens' centers.

"60 Minutes" reporter Mike Wallace, who went to the University of Michigan with Miller, attended. Only four days earlier, he had attended Skitch Henderson's service.

"I'm going to more and more these days," Wallace, 87, said wearily. He announced his own retirement last week. Celebrities automatically get in at these events. Those who never had stars on their doors have to work at it.

People seeking a seat at last week's Wasserstein service had to line up four hours in advance to get one of 60 public seats.

But then, who cares about time when you get to see Meryl Streep perform for free? She read from Wasserstein's "American Daughter."

Stars know their roles. So does the audience. New Yorkers have perfected the art of spying on celebrities while acting blasé.

As a group, they probably have the world's most well-developed peripheral vision.

New Yorkers grant celebrities a wide berth. They know that asking for an autograph would quickly earn the epithet "tourist."

But they sneak peeks.

At the Wasserstein memorial, Cathy Hunter looked at her husband, Marvin, and quietly said, "Marian Seldes on your right."

Anywhere else, Seldes might go unnoticed, but here, generations of theatergoers can spot a Tony-Award winner (Seldes won in 1967 for Edward Albee's "A Delicate Balance") as easily as if she were Paris Hilton.

"Dianne Wiest," Cathy Hunter continued. "Oh, there's (Vanity Fair writer) Dominick Dunne. And I think that's the playwright Eve Ensler."

Greene, who lives on the Upper West Side, plays it cool, too.

"I'm not awed by celebrities," Greene said. "I go to my market and I see Dianne Wiest in a house dress."

The gravity of a memorial service does not stop Greene from playing critic.

At one tribute, when an actor forgot her lines and abruptly sat down off stage, Greene elbowed a companion and said, "Get the hook!"

She started attending memorial services to keep herself busy after her husband died. Her friends found it strange at first but now often go with her.

"It's interesting because these people become human beings, not just icons," she said. "When we know someone died, my friends laugh. We say, 'Oh, we have something to go to.'"

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March 27 at 7:00 p.m.
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Participants will include East Carolina geography professors Derek Alderman and Rebecca Torres; Greenville City Council member Rose Glover; and ECU's student neighborhood relations facilitator, Michelle Lieberman.

THE FORUM IS SPONSORED BY THE CHANCELLOR'S COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL.

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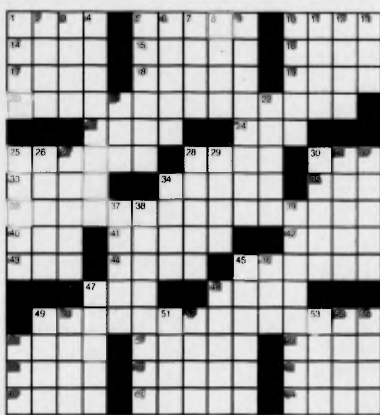
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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS**
- Hustler from Minnesota
 - Victorious Super Bowl IV coach
 - Soprano Gluck
 - Give off
 - Crownlet
 - Requirement
 - "Two Years Before the Mast" author
 - Leek's relative
 - Sawbucks
 - Crow
 - Sock parts
 - Gumshoe
 - Engraver's instrument
 - Bambi and kin
 - Carpentry tool
 - "Dies ___"
 - On the wagon
 - Rocky peak
 - Hunt
 - Moving vehicle
 - Negatively charged ion
 - Part of B.A.
 - The Greatest
 - Tears
 - Admonition
 - May celebrant
 - Woody Guthrie's boy
 - Apple
 - Assists
 - Speckled fish
 - "... la Douce"
 - Run off
 - School for Pierre
 - Aunts in Acapulco
 - Hardy girl
 - Warning words
 - Salinger lass




By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR 3/22/06

- DOWN**
- G-men
 - Asian nursemaid
 - Frog
 - Momentarily stunned
 - Mass vestments
 - Louise and Turner
 - Death Valley rarely
 - Third baseman Rodriguez
 - Sea cows
 - Caper
 - Provocative look
 - Patch up
 - Pop-ups, e.g.
 - ___ are here (map info)
 - Quotable catcher
 - Trees of a region
 - Error's partner
 - One-named New Age musician
 - Extinct birds
 - Israeli statesman
 - Gawk
 - Major artery
 - Carpus, commonly
 - Salon sound
 - Sluggo Hank
 - Lively
 - Likely winner, perhaps
 - Packing cases
 - TV alien from Melmac
 - Exodus leader
 - Mature
 - Office folder
 - March 15th
 - Shell competitor
 - High time?
 - "Trinity" author
 - Muslim leader
 - Stun, with a gun
 - Back of the Space Shuttle



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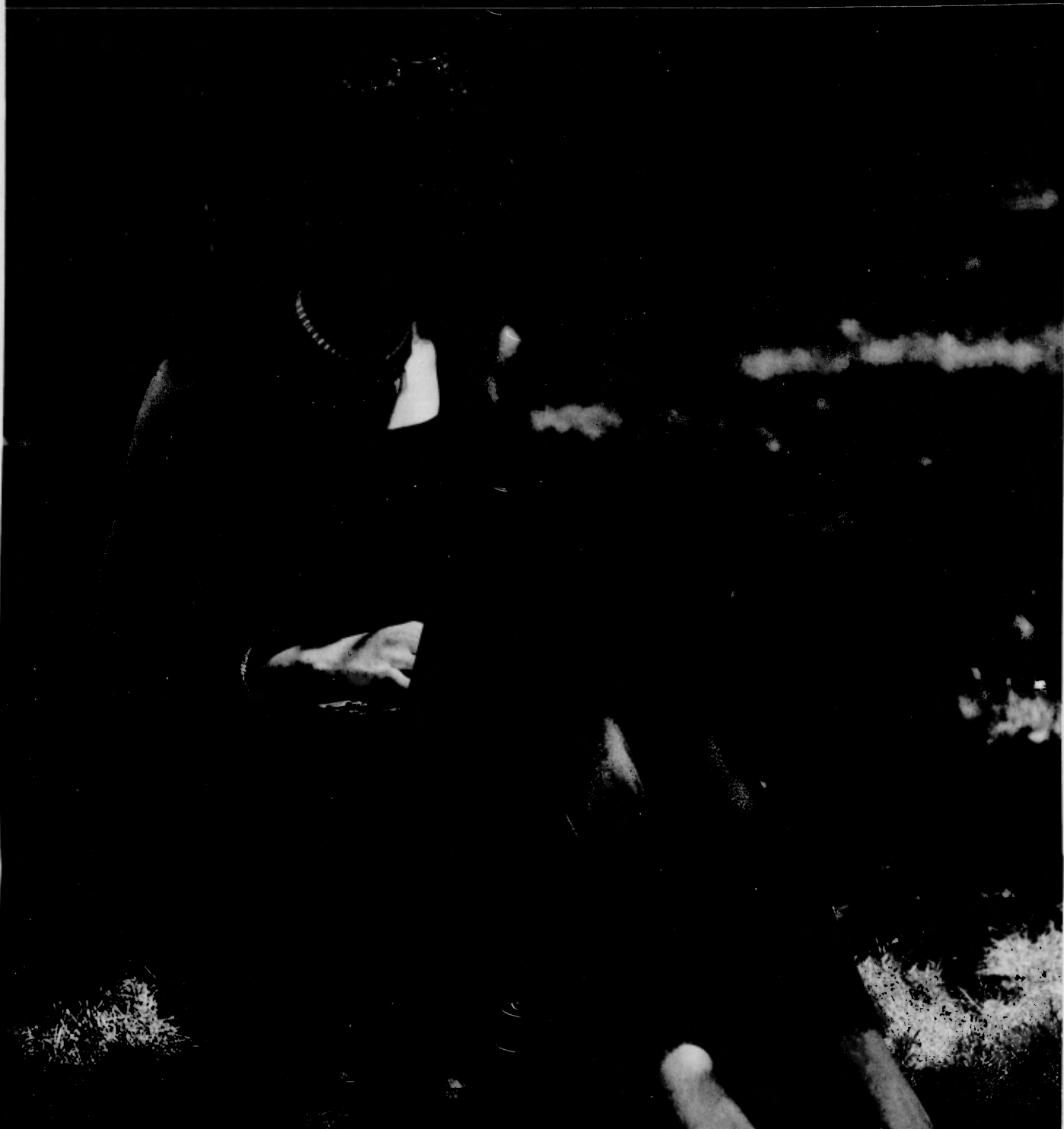
Diversity Week 2006

Leading through Diversity

<p>Wednesday March 22, 2006</p> <p>Cultural Health Forum/Display MSC 244 • 3pm-5pm</p> <p>SGA presents: Diversity Workshop/Open House Ledonia Wright Cultural Center • 5pm-6pm</p> <p>Movie: Broke Back Mountain MSC Hendrix Theatre • 7pm</p> <p>Thursday March 23, 2006</p> <p>Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Presents: Diversity Greek Night Out!!! "No Matter the letter, we are all Greek together" Willis Building • 7:30pm</p> <p>Religion Forum MSC Multipurpose Room • 8:30pm-9:30pm</p> <p>Poetry Slam MSC Pirate Underground • 9pm-11pm</p>	<p>Friday March 24, 2006</p> <p>Women in Leadership Conference 809 Johnston St, Greenville Rotary Building 8:45am-1pm</p> <p>"Walk a Mile in my Shoes" (monologues) MSC 221 • 6pm-8pm</p> <p>Russian National Theatre Wright Auditorium • 8pm \$: Tickets @ Central Ticket Office <i>Sponsored by SRAPAS</i></p> <p>Mix-it-up Dance Explosion MSC Social Room • 10pm-1:30am</p> <p>Saturday March 25, 2006</p> <p>Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. presents: "Pirate Battle" Bottom of College Hill • 11am-3pm</p> <p>Fashion Show Hendrix Theater • 4pm-6:30pm</p>
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Page A7

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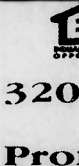
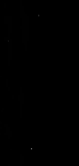
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Swim instructors and lifeguard needed at Raynez. Experience requested. Job from June-August hours 9-7 Resume 3205 Raynez Drive Greenville 27858 or call 916-5494.

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

around dorm residents only. Leave message if necessary.

EpochEast, North American distributor for AirEpoch wireless networking equipment is currently looking to fill a position for Chief Engineer for its Greenville, NC facility. Duties include manufacturer liaison, customer relations/sales, and phone-based troubleshooting and support. Qualified applicants will have excellent written and oral communication skills, ability to manage time effectively between multiple projects, excellent customer service history, and a degree in Industrial Distribution or Computer Networking or equivalent experience. Experience with wireless networking equipment and installation heavily favored. Interested parties should contact Frederick Bunch, Patrick Burke, or William Smith at 252-756-8324 or by email at team@computer-techs.biz

CCT Wholesale, leading vendor of networking and data cables and equipment is currently seeking a qualified candidate to fill the position of Sales/Shipping Coordinator for their Greenville, NC facility. Duties will include sales and marketing, customer relations and shipping management. Qualified applicants will be energetic and outgoing, possess excellent written and oral communication, ability to quickly learn new products. Advertising or graphic design a plus for designing new ads for online wholesale division. Interested parties should contact Frederick Bunch, Patrick Burke, or William Smith at 252-756-8324 or by email at sales@cctwholesale.com

Lifeguard needed: Summer guards wanted for local community pool. Great Pay! Will Pay for CPR recertification. Please call Tiffany @ 336-407-8059 or email tdh0614@ecu.edu

Computer Techs Inc. has an immediate opening for a qualified installation technician in Greenville, NC. Responsibilities will include air travel 2-3 times a month for one to two days duration, as well as local

installation of low voltage data and voice lines, phone systems, and related equipment. Qualified applicants will have the ability to work well under time constraints, be able to cope with unforeseen situations, and function without direct supervision. Position requires work in confined spaces and at heights or 20+ feet. Background in computer networking a plus. Interested parties should contact Frederick Bunch, Patrick Burke, or William Smith at 252-756-8324 or by email at team@computer-techs.biz

Restaurant Manager needed at Professor O'Cool's night and weekend hours. Part and Full time position. No Phone calls Apply in person 605 Greenville Blvd.

Autism Society of NC needs Camp Counselors for summer residential camp serving children and adults with autism. Located 30 minutes southwest of Raleigh. Internship credit possible. Needed May 28-August 11. Apply online (www.autismsociety-nc.org) or contact Molly Simons @ (919) 542-1033 or msimons@autismsociety-nc.org.

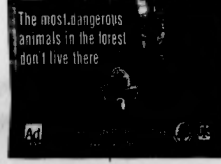
Lifeguards and swim instructors needed for outdoor pool June 1-August 20. Candidates must be certified in Lifeguarding, AED, First Aid and CPR/PR. \$7.50 per hour. Apply at www.greenvillenc.gov or call Jessica at 329-4043 for more information.

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Five thoughts on recycling

MCAT from page A1

Bush from page A1

(KRT) — For many people, it's a habit to sort cans, glass, paper and plastic into recycling bins. But to really minimize the resources we use and the waste we leave for future generations, we have a ways to go. Here are a few things you might not know about recycling.

DON'T COUNT ON IT: Just because something is labeled "recyclable" doesn't mean it will be recycled. And "recycled" doesn't necessarily mean "refilled" or "made back into another one."

Plastic milk bottles, for instance, are often made into lumber substitutes rather than new bottles.

THE PLASTIC CODE: That little triangle of arrows surrounding a number says what kind of plastic a thing is made of, such as code 1, polyethylene terephthalate, or PET, used for soda and water bottles. "The best market for recyclables is the 1s and 2s," said Gary Mielke, recycling coordinator in Kane County, Ill. But "plastics are problematical"

for many reasons, Mielke says.

CANS OR BOTTLES? A star of the recycling bin is the aluminum can, because it is made into another can with a huge savings of electricity and other costs over mining new metal. "It's a circle," says Betsy Vandercook, president of the Chicago Recycling Coalition. "A can becomes a can because a can becomes a can."

THOSE PESKY LABELS: Rinse out containers, just so you don't have funky substances sitting around your house for days. But don't bother removing the labels. When glass, plastic and metal are melted down, the temperatures are so high that the labels "just go away," Vandercook says. Do remove caps, though.

GARDEN GARBAGE: When you buy a plant, what does it come in? A plastic pot. You can reuse pots yourself, of course, and sometimes garden clubs or conservatories need them for plant sales, but most recycling programs don't accept them.

first two years of biology or either chemistry, general chemistry and physics, that they try to sit in for the August administration of the MCATs.

This is so that students who may have concerns about taking the computer test may get a chance at taking the standard pencil and paper test before the final transition to computer.

One possible benefit to the computer testing is a shorter test day.

Rather than the standard eight hour day of testing, with the computer it has been reduced to around five and a half hours.

Nevertheless, the reduction in time has resulted in reduction in questions. This leaves smaller room for error.

Students who would like more information on the changes that are being made can find it at kaptest.com/MCATchange.

another tragedy at a 9-11, finding Osama bin Laden, or a world-backed military effort into Iran which would force Iran to follow UN nuclear guidelines and stop its nuclear program, which everyone believes is for a weapons program and not for peaceful civilian purposes.

When the European Union wants to take action against Iran when it would not against Iraq three years ago it is telling of the world's perception of Iran's regime. So far it seems as though Iran's diplomatic attitude is one that is daring the U.S. and the world to act.

Seemingly, the proposals he has backed are part of globalization and may be in made in the interest of making better relations between the U.S. and the rest of the world.

It seems that he has gone the way of Richard Nixon in that he is supporting a relatively liberal

agenda in his second term, much to the chagrin of the GOP and his campaign supporters.

Of course Nixon was undone by the Watergate scandal and then forced to resign. Will Bush suffer a similar fate or will he simply be politically neutered and marginalized by his own party in Congress while they bide their time until they replace him in 2008? Probably the latter since it seems as though Congress is running its own agenda without Bush.

Bush wants to re-institute the line item veto in order to have some control over Congressional spending. Line-item veto, which allows for the ability of the President to cut certain parts of a proposed law out in order to save money and to make the spending focused more on the nation as a whole rather than just one particular area, was first instituted in 1996

and Clinton used it 82 times to save the Government \$2 billion as he too lost power in Congress during his second term.

The difference, however, was that Clinton was mired in scandal and was dealing with the opposite party. Neither is true for Bush, making recent developments that much more puzzling.

The fact that Bush wants it revived after it was declared unconstitutional in June 1998 is a sign of how Bush has lost power in Congress.

Even John Kerry supports Bush having the power, which may be a very savvy maneuver by the Senator to widen the rift between Bush and Congress, saying, "I want to see the incomprehensible waste coming out of this Congress vetoed."

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

WWW.BUCCANEER.ECU.EDU

ECU Assist from page A1

required to test their alarm on a specific day of the week resulting in up to five alarm tests per day.

Because the project is in a pilot stage, the hand-held transmitter is only picked up if the participant is inside or in close proximity of one of the designated buildings or in the mall area. Ideally, if the system is in fact implemented on campus, all campus locations would be wired and the receivers would be able to transmit signals activated from as far out as Fifth Street and the freshman parking lot.

Furthermore, each individual would also have the option of including personal information into the system along with pictures and names, such as troubled relationships or specific medical ailments for example, to provide more knowledge to dispatch officers in the event that they require emergency assistance.

The technical system selected for use in the project is BOSCH Security Escort System, chosen for its success in tracking and locating people in and outside of buildings. The system was installed throughout the fall semester and early this spring, and testing just recently began at the beginning of this month. It will continue on through mid-April at which point implementation and evaluation of the system will begin.

The estimated time for which all three phases of the pilot project will be complete is sometime this summer. At the completion of the pilot, the heads of each division involved will determine the success of the project and ideally provide a proposal to implement the system on campus.

The idea for the project stemmed from Director of the ECU Technology Advancement Center, J. Barry DuVall, and Assistant Director, Matthew Powell's desire to implement a system that would be proactive in resolving growing safety and security concerns rather than reactive. They expressed that past crime and safety issues on the ECU campus as well as on campuses across the country can be accredited, in part, to their idea for this initiative.

While universities in other states use similar systems to better secure their campuses, ECU is the first school in the country to work on this type of network. Furthermore, ECU is currently ahead of all of UNC's sister institutions in testing a project of this sort. According to the Support Services Major, Frank Knight, ECU is representing the sister institutions in determining whether or not this project would be worth implementing into their systems.

According to DuVall and Powell, however, it is not solely the safety and security concerns that play a factor in the desire to see this project succeed. In addition to veering away, those individuals of the Greenville community that do not belong to the campus but continuously pose as threats, both see significant possibilities in the advances in technology the project could bring.

Along with the ASSIST project there are four others that are in the process of testing or will shortly be underway. They are looking for components in each project that would best suit the needs of the campus and ideally would like to combine those components to create one system that would provide a better environment on the ECU campus overall.

For more information on the ECU ASSIST program, students can visit the Technology Advancement Center Web site at tac.ecu.edu.

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

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Top 5s:

Top 5 Movies

1. Failure to Launch
2. The Shaggy Dog
3. The Hills Have Eyes
4. 16 Blocks
5. Tyler Perry's Madea's Family Reunion

Top 5 Pop Albums

1. Juvenile
2. James Blunt
3. Various Artists
4. Matisyahu
5. Ne-Yo

Top 5 TV Shows

1. "American Idol"
2. "American Idol"
3. "CSI"
4. "American Idol"
5. "Grey's Anatomy"

Horoscope:

Aries - Information you've recently gathered can greatly assist your advancement. You can provide the clue that helps the detective solve the case. Do the right thing.

Taurus - You pay off your debts, not just because you said you would. You do it for the fabulous feeling you get. That's available again.

Gemini - Let your partner do the talking. With your encouragement, others will make an agreement that works out well for you.

Cancer - One of the secrets to your success is your natural talent for delegation. You'll do very well now through somebody else's efforts.

Leo - Work interferes with travel, and just about everything else, now. No point in arguing; that's just the way it is.

Virgo - You can get the resources to do things right, once and for all. Then, you can relax in the lap of luxury.

Libra - A startling discovery you've recently made is just starting to sink in. The possibilities are huge, but some will cost money. First, do the numbers.

Scorpio - The work is challenging and requires your constant vigilance. The money's good, however, and you have a natural talent.

Sagittarius - As you start counting up the costs you might, at first, get discouraged. There are other ways, however, to get where you want to go.

Capricorn - You're starting to look at things differently, and this is a good thing. Don't act impetuously, however. Confer with friends.

Aquarius - The planning and research is done for a while. Now you need to make prototypes and see if your ideas actually work. Do a reality test.

Pisces - You didn't ask for all this attention, but you have been doing the work. You have been practicing for years. This advancement is natural.

Names in the News:

Bono dishes it out

Talking about Bono, the U2 star has been sharing some dishy dirt about his brushes with power. "Literally spittle coming out, invective coming out," he said about Bob Geldof's spitting-mad discussions with Brit Prime Minister Tony Blair over preparations for the Live 8 concert. He said former Soviet Union leader Mikhail Gorbachev once showed up at his Dublin house unannounced, joining Bono, his wife, Ali, and their son, John, at the kitchen table. "We sat down and drank a lot of whisky together," Bono said in an interview with Australian TV host Andrew Denton, excerpted by the *New York Daily News*. And he said President Bush once told him that when "I first came to this town, people used to wave at me with one finger." "So, he's funny," Bono said.

Sleeping with the Benjamins

The *Wall Street Journal* says several foot soldiers in the Soprano family are jockeying for a bigger piece of HBO's takings. "Sopranos" supporting players Tony Sirico, Steven Van Zandt, Steven R. Schrimpa and several others have applied to renegotiate their contracts for more cash.

From Genesis to Revelations

Brit drummer-singer Phil Collins, 55, and his Swiss-born wife, Orianne (reportedly in her early 30s), are going Spittsville. The couple, who have sons Nicholas, 4, and Matthew, 1 (Phil also has three kids from his first two wives), met in 1994 and married five years later. In a joint statement, the duo, who will continue living in Switzerland, say they "are both very sad that it should come to this" and vow to focus on "the welfare and happiness of their children."

ECU Assist: Plans to make campus even safer

New project being tested this spring

MARK ROMANO
STAFF WRITER

From March 6 - April 14, Campus Living and the ECU Technology Advancement center will be testing the effectiveness of a new emergency and help location system. With the help of 30 participants consisting of students, staff and faculty in the west campus area, the project will be put into action for the first time on ECU's campus.

Crimes such as robberies and assaults have been on the rise on campus, and the ECU Assist system provides a much more practical way to contact police.

The emergency posts scattered around campus that are currently used to aid students in contacting police are nowhere near as sophisticated or reliable as the new system will be.

"I don't think the emergency posts around campus are all that effective; if someone's going to rob you they're not going to do it 10 feet from one of those, and

if you have to run to one, the person's going to get away. They do serve some peace of mind and deter thefts and muggings, but an updated system would make me feel safer walking around campus at night," said sophomore Charlie McCaless.

The Assist system uses a network of transmitters and receivers that will be placed on and around the dorms and buildings of west campus in the initial testing.

The participants will be given a small transmitter, similar to a keyless entry remote for a car, which alerts police that a person is in distress. This system has many practical features that can enhance safety on campus. In addition to alerting the police, the transmitter is tracked for 15 minutes following activation.

Once the signal is received by police, information is presented showing the person's picture and any medical information that police may need to know.

This is another advantage of the system; it not only works for student victims, but also helps people with disabilities that may not be able to reach an emer-



The emergency indicator lights located throughout campus are more useful than ever with ECU Assist.

gency post. The system is the Bosch Security Escort System, and it has been used by businesses and colleges because of its effectiveness at tracking and locat-

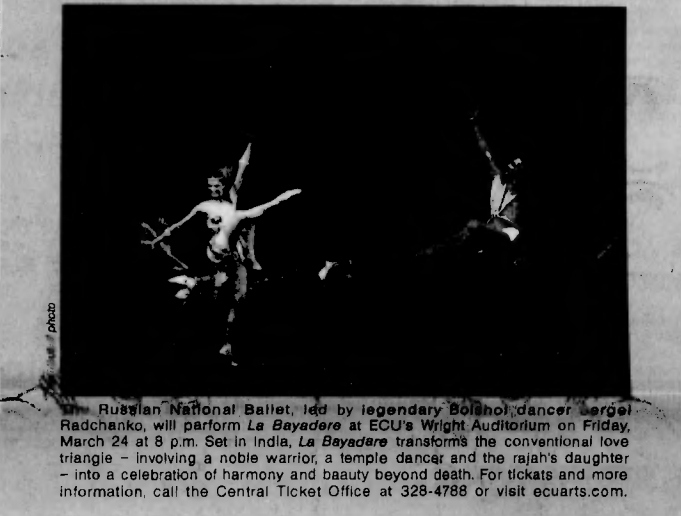
ing people even while they are inside buildings.

This system could offer peace of mind for many students all over campus if put in place. When it comes time to decide

whether or not to use the system, support safety and support the ECU Assist system.

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

'La Bayadere' performed at ECU



The Russian National Ballet, led by legendary Bolshoi dancer Sergei Radchanko, will perform *La Bayadere* at ECU's Wright Auditorium on Friday, March 24 at 8 p.m. Set in India, *La Bayadere* transforms the conventional love triangle - involving a noble warrior, a temple dancer and the rajah's daughter - into a celebration of harmony and beauty beyond death. For tickets and more information, call the Central Ticket Office at 328-4788 or visit ecuarts.com.

Late Night laughs at Pirate Underground



The Late Night Players show their individual personalities on stage as well as in photographs.

ECU Swash Improv joins national comedy group

JOSEPH MINNICH
STAFF WRITER

For all you "Saturday Night Live" and "Mad TV" fans out there, the Late Night Players are parading into Greenville with their unique brand of live sketch comedy. The group, which formed six years ago at Brandeis University in Boston, is playing at the Pirate Underground on the bottom floor of Mendenhall at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 30.

The group, which consists of Zach (the boss), Seth (the buffoon), Seth D. (the nerd), Andrew (the new guy) and Aaron (the rebel), has journeyed to more than 26 states and played in a wide array of venues ranging from the Galapagos Theater in New York to the Charleston Comedy Festival in South Carolina.

Along the way, these men have been willing to do anything to entertain their spectators, from dressing up as a giant tampon during a musical number to competing in an impromptu dance-off.

The Late Night Players also

separate themselves from other sketch comedians by customizing every show for each particular crowd. During their last show at ECU, the audience was treated to a new school alma mater, as well as several anagrams involving phrases made from "East Carolina University."

Rather than relying on exhausted racist or homophobic jokes that can be seen on Comedy Central (give it up Carlos Mencia), the Late Night Players tailor their material away from topics that bash people. This style can be considered a blessing or a curse. The Late Night Players have been treated to a standing ovation by 1,000 people at one performance, but have almost been bum-rushed by an entire fraternity at another performance for a joke gone awry.

"We recently raised more than \$5,000 for the hurricane-ravaged town of Biloxi, Miss. We love doing shows that raise money on important issues," stated Andrew when asked about his favorite venues in a press interview.

The Late Night Players say their love for philanthropy comes from their various backgrounds in political science and sociology,

which have led them to champion social justice and use this in their material.

Andrew and Seth D. both made it clear during their interview that they had no lack of material either. Spending so much time on the road has led to a lot of strange situations, such as the night they spent at a rodeo-cowboy bachelor party in the South Dakota badlands.

The long-term goal for The Late Night Players is to gain enough popularity to be granted a TV show, similar to the classics "SNL" or "Kids in the Hall."

The show at the Pirate Underground March 30 is free for everyone, and the ECU Swash Improv will be opening.

The Swash Improv is the first and only improvisational comedy troupe affiliated with ECU. They participate in a series of games and scenes and, using audience suggestions, create these scenes on the spot.

Their performance is tailored similarly to "Whose Line is it Anyway?" with a sharper edge and a college theme.

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

Dating can feel like a world war



Someone needs to wave the white flag

SENSIBLE PARTY
TRUTH WRITER

Lately I've been hearing that I'm too young to be in a relationship. Everyone tells me at this point in my life, dating and going out with new people should be fun. So why does it seem like dating and relationships consist of one big game - men versus women or partner versus partner?

On first dates, you're wondering if what you're saying is interesting enough or if you're talking too much in general. Then after the date, there's that awkward moment when you realize you're about to part ways but have no idea how you want to say goodbye.

I've had both a disappointing and disturbing ending to a first date. We had made it through the evening with minimal embarrassment, saw a band play and stopped by a party. Then before I knew it, the night was coming to an end and we were pulling up to my house. He leaned in for a kiss (after having a huge crush on him for quite some time, I was OK with it) and I closed my eyes.

The next thing I know, his tongue is all over the place and in the back of my head and all I'm thinking is "Dear God what is he looking for in there?!" He was one step away from licking the side of my face before I pulled back and retreated into my house. I've had awkward dating moments before, but being violated by someone's tongue was a whole new low. Nevertheless, my crush faded quickly into disgust.

So let's say you make it past the first few dates. First let me say congratulations; you've made it through the sometimes rough trials and tribulations of getting to know someone. But now you find yourself on a whole new playing field.

Now there are all these new questions: "Is it too soon to call him?" Or, "I really like her so I'm going to wait a long time to call her back, that way she won't know that I really like her."

We're all familiar with worrying too much about the little things when it comes to the opposite sex. In fact, thinking constantly about who has control over whom or which person wears the pants can actually hurt a good relationship.

So how about a truce? If we're all preoccupied with sexual politics, then no one's having as good of a time as they should be. Instead, on a date you should be excited about what you're saying and interested in what the other person has to offer as well. If he cracks a slightly lame joke, give him credit for trying and laugh a little.

Ladies, if he takes you to a nice restaurant, I'm begging you to eat all that you possibly can. Don't think that it's not lady-like to eat a lot; you're human and you can appreciate a good steak just as much as he does. When you go out, you shouldn't be so concerned about making the ideal impression. Don't get so caught up in making a perfect front that you end up blocking the other person from seeing the real you.

Dating can feel like a war sometimes. You're both so worried about stepping on a mine or setting off a trip wire that you can't relax and appreciate a good date. What men and women don't realize is the person sitting across the table secretly feels the same way. If dating is a battlefield then our only chance of survival is to stop looking at the opposite sex as foreigners; otherwise, we'll never get a chance to cross over enemy lines.

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

She's drawing her own line



Witherspoon posing with her shiny new Oscar.

Reese Witherspoon crosses over to fame with her Oscar win

MARIANNE BARROW
STAFF WRITER

Reese Witherspoon used to be known as the sassy blonde law student she portrayed in *Legally Blonde*. That changed in 2005 when she played the role of June Carter in *Walk the Line*, a film documenting the life of famous singer Johnny Cash. Recently winning an Oscar for Best Actress in a leading role has proven to film audiences and critics that Witherspoon will now be known for her outstanding performances rather than for being a dumb blonde.

Born in New Orleans, Laura Jeanne Reese Witherspoon traveled with her family to Germany for two years and then came back to the United States to be raised in Tennessee. Her parents realized her potential, and Witherspoon began modeling at age seven. She progressed into appearances in television commercials. Her first big break was in 1990, when she played a young teenage tomboy in *The Man in the Moon* and got great reviews.

Though she was heavily involved in acting,

Witherspoon was still dedicated to school work. She graduated in Tennessee from an all-girl high school in 1994 and planned to attend Stanford University and major in English. However, she took a break from her studies in 1996 to take on the lead role in the dramatic movie *Fear*, opposite Mark Wahlberg.

At her 21st birthday party, Witherspoon met actor Ryan Phillippe, whom she eventually married and went on to co-star with in *Cruel Intentions*. The couple now have two children, Ava and Deacon. Everything was going in the right direction for the charming actress, and in 2001, Reese Witherspoon became a house-hold name.

Legally Blonde was released in theaters and turned out to be a box office grand-slam. Witherspoon played Elle, a ditzzy but loveable student who attended Harvard Law School to win back her college boyfriend.

So the door to stardom was propped open for Witherspoon, but it was a film directed by James Mangold that would blow her entrance to memorable acting wide open. The concept for *Walk the Line* was serious; it took four years for producers to get secured rights for the script from friend of the family James Keach. It then took four more years of hard work to finally get the film together.

Witherspoon starred in the movie with Joaquin Phoenix, who played legendary country-music bad boy Johnny Cash. She played the role of Cash's true love and fellow singer, June Carter. Both actors took singing lessons for six months and sang throughout the film, making their performances that much more impressive.

The actress actually went one step farther and also learned how to play the auto-harp as June Carter Cash did. Reportedly, June Carter Cash personally chose Witherspoon to portray her in the film and Johnny Cash picked Phoenix for his character. Sadly, June passed away before production on the film, but this only fueled Witherspoon to examine the extraordinary woman more closely.

She took note of everything from the pitch of June's voice to the closet full of clothes that she wore while performing and going on tour.

Reese Witherspoon has been in the movie-making business for a long time. She has steadily made her name known and increased her capabilities as an actress. But it was her truly in-depth work in *Walk the Line* that made her talent shine through and allowed her to move up to the position of a respected, bright actress. The Oscar speaks for itself.

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

Fun Facts about Witherspoon:

1. Witherspoon was named 'Favorite Female Film Star' by 'People Magazine' in 2004.
2. She is a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority.
3. She moved from her production company 'Type A Films' to join the Universal Pictures team.



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Monday, March 27, 2006

7:00pm

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Halle Berry has diabetes. Could you have it too?



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Call 328-6387 for more information.

Individuals requesting accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact the Department for Disability Support Services at least 48 hours prior to the event at (252) 328-6799 voice (252) 328-0899 TTY.



RECREATIONAL SERVICES

Family Fun Day coming to SRC

Free event for students and their children

SHANNON DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Family Fun Day provides an opportunity for students with families to participate in activities together. The exciting activities for both adults and children include fitness, sport games, wall climbing, cart racing and arts and crafts. These events are located at the Student Recreation Center. Additional opportunities for swimming, drop-in basketball, family games and bowling at Mendenhall Student Center will be available. At the conclusion of the morning's activities, a free lunch will be provided for all participants.

Family Fun Day is an annual event sponsored by the Department of Recreational Services and the Office of Adult and Com-muter Students.

The event will be held on Saturday March 25, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and is open to students and their families, members of the SRC and community members ages four and up. This is a free event for students and their children. The cost is \$4 per a person for SRC members and their children and \$5 for non-SRC members and their children.

For more information or to register, please contact Eleana Brockert or David Gaskins at 328-6387 or e-mail them at edb1027@ecu.edu or gaskinsd@ecu.edu.

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



Healthy living for students: Too many vitamins or minerals can be harmful

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REGISTRATION TIME IS HERE
March 20 - March 29

Registration Time Schedule Summer/Fall

Check Here For Times

Once your registration window is open, you may register during operating hours listed any time during the registration period or until the semester begins.

The term "hours" indicates the total number of credit hours earned at the end of the previous semester/session.

Terminals open 8-5
(Campus Offices)

	8:00	9:00	10:00	11:00	2:00	3:00	4:00
Monday, March 20	Graduate Students, 3 rd Degree Students, Teaching Fellows with 60+ hours, Honors Students with 60+ hours	Teaching Fellows with 0-59 hours, Honors Students with 0-59 hours	Students with 130+ hours	Students with 120-129+ hours	Students with 114-119+ hours	Students with 110-113+ hours	Students with 107-109+ hours
Tuesday, March 21	Students with 104-106+ hours	Students with 101-103+ hours	Students with 98-100+ hours	Students with 95-97+ hours	Students with 92-94+ hours	Students with 89-91+ hours	Students with 86-88+ hours
Wednesday, March 22	Students with 83-85+ hours	Students with 81-82+ hours	Students with 79-80+ hours	Students with 77-78+ hours	Students with 75-76+ hours	Students with 73-74+ hours	Students with 71-72+ hours
Thursday, March 23	Students with 69-70+ hours	Students with 67-68+ hours	Students with 64-66+ hours	Students with 61-63+ hours	Students with 58-60+ hours	Students with 55-57+ hours	Students with 52-54+ hours
Friday, March 24	Students with 49-51+ hours	Students with 47-48+ hours	Students with 46+ hours	Students with 45+ hours	Students with 43-44+ hours	Students with 41-42+ hours	Students with 38-40+ hours
Monday, March 27	Students with 34-37+ hours	Students with 30-33+ hours	Students with 25-29+ hours	Students with 21-24+ hours	Students with 19-20+ hours	Students with 17-18+ hours	
Tuesday, March 28		Students with 16+ hours			Students with 15+ hours		
Wednesday, March 29	Students with 14+ hours	Students with 13+ hours	Students with 12+ hours	Students with 9-11+ hours	Students with 4-8+ hours	Students with 1-3+ hours	Students with 0+ hours

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page B6

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Vitale from page B4



Dick Vitale speaks with Pittsburgh Pirates' manager Jim Tracy prior to a spring training game.

other people around me, that love should never be held back. That phrase, "if you love somebody, let it go" kind of applied to my life. My family and friends didn't let me go, but they made me see that they could. And that was enough."

Vitale woke up, and grew up, quickly. After graduating from high school and Seton Hall (he eventually achieved a masters in education from William Paterson College), he coached high school basketball in New Jersey, winning two consecutive state championships. He then was an assistant at Rutgers before becoming head coach at University of Detroit. While there, he went 78-30 before eventually getting the job as the Detroit Pistons' head coach.

"I learned about being humble in the NBA," Vitale jokes. "There were some good reasons we didn't do well, and although I wish I could have gotten more of a chance, it was probably a break that I got fired."

It probably was. ESPN hired him to be a color analyst, and the rest is history.

It's no secret, Dick Vitale lives college basketball.

He was the analyst on ESPN's first college basketball broadcast, and it's been an uphill spiral ever since. At the Sarasota restaurant, people want to know how their favorite teams are going to do. Vitale not only tells them what he thinks, he tells them why he thinks it. In more detail than they probably wanted.

But what might be a surprise to learn, the sport is only third on his list of priorities.

He has an incredible house in the Sarasota, Fla., area. More than 12,000 square feet, with a huge pool, an enormous yard and countless rooms. Televisions are on almost every wall (he says he's never been on all of them at once because his wife won't allow it) and where there is space, there are pictures, pictures and more pictures.

Some are Vitale with presidents, celebrities and sports stars. But most are shots of his family. His wife, children and grandchildren are No. 1 in his personal rankings.

"Without family, we're nothing," he says. "I learned that as a child and have carried it through my life. I've come so far from when I was a kid and am thankful for that. I'm able to live a great life and have whatever I want."

"But what I truly want is for my family to be happy and secure forever. THAT is what I want my legacy to be. Not the fact that I was a somewhat well-known television guy."

His devotion to things close to him isn't restricted to his family, however. He co-chairs the Jimmy V. Foundation (with Mike Krzyzewski and John Saunders), which is one of the most prominent organizations in the battle against cancer.

"This illness has to be wiped out," Vitale says, his voice dropping well below its usual level. "So many people are devastated by it, and not just the ones who are ill. It destroys lives; it destroys families."

If you think Vitale is fanatical about basketball, you have no idea just how fanatical he can be. The Jimmy V. Foundation has raised more than \$50 million,

but it's only a starting point.

"I can't even begin to tell people how important beating this disease is to me," Vitale says. "I truly believe that everybody should help, if they're able, because the chances are, cancer will affect somebody you know or love."

In addition to his hard work, Vitale fights the battle against cancer with his own finances. Portions of the profits from Dick Vitale merchandising (you can buy Vitale basketballs, bobbleheads, books, "diaper dandy" clothes for babies and even a clock radio with "WAKE UP BABY... IT'S AN AWESOME DAY") go to the foundation.

Critics of Dick Vitale (and there are a lot of them) have several complaints. They think his enthusiasm is false, his knowledge is limited, he's too loud, etc., etc. But the biggest consistent criticism is that he's in Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski's pocket.

There's not much that makes Vitale angry, but that does.

"I've heard that for years and I almost never respond to it because it's garbage," he says. "But you know what? I'm going to tell you what I think of it."

"First, what's not to like? Duke wins, it wins the right way, the kids get degrees and there aren't many off-court incidents. Are they always right? Absolutely not. And if they're wrong, I'll be the first to say it."

Perception usually depends on what people want to see. Vitale might cover three Texas or Connecticut games in a season and eight or nine Duke games. ESPN has decided that the Blue Devils are a rating bonanza, so the network schedules Vitale to cover more of their games.

And in most of those, the Blue Devils win. So the viewer is seeing Vitale praise Duke for seven or eight games, as opposed to two or three for the Longhorns or Huskies.

"I have great respect for Mike and his team," Vitale said. "I won't apologize for it. But to say that I favor them over any other team just isn't right. I have no direct ties."

He has an indirect one since Krzyzewski is one of his co-chairs for the Jimmy V. Foundation, but he tries not to let that color his broadcasts.

"Does Coach K mess up sometimes?" he asks. "I think so. But he's in the Hall of Fame and I'm not, so maybe I'm wrong. But I can honestly say I have no rooting interest, except that a good performance by Duke is good for college basketball. There always has to be a team people love to hate. The New York Yankees or Notre Dame in football... without them their sports wouldn't have as much passion. And Duke does add that to college basketball, love it or hate it."

The same might be said of Vitale. People aren't neutral on him, either loving him or not being able to stand him. But like Krzyzewski, he's identified with college basketball. Vitale was recently nominated for the Basketball Hall of Fame and, while he might be elected this year, it should be inevitable, considering his impact on the game. With or without Duke.

There is nobody as passionate

about the sport as Vitale and very few people as knowledgeable. And yet, there is a generation of fans that believes he's all sizzle and no steak. His loudness and ESPN's stick at times camouflages exactly how insightful he is about the game and the people who play and coach it.

"Everybody has their own taste," ESPN broadcaster Jay Bilas said at the Maui Invitational last November. "And to some people, they look at Dick and see one thing. But I can flat out tell you that nobody in this business understands the game the way he does. I've learned a lot from listening to him, really listening. And as for the complaints that he's a shill and a fake, it is the furthest thing from the truth. He's the ultimate professional."

Vitale doesn't usually see a need to defend himself, but in this case, he does.

"If you want to say I'm too loud, fine," he says. "If you want to say I look at the game with rose-colored glasses, also fine. I'm my own toughest critic. I second-guess myself constantly and sometimes feel that I am too soft on players or coaches."

"But nobody has ever said that I'm not prepared for a game or don't know what's going on. I'll always fight that criticism."

The game Vitale loves has its ups and downs, something he's more than aware of.

"The internet has hurt the sport," he says. "One of the worst things ever conceived, at least to me, is chat rooms. I think it's great that fans, true fans, have a place to talk about their favorite players, their games, all that stuff. But so many of those rooms are just negative pits. Players, who, remember, are still kids, are ripped like they are pros. Coaches, who have done amazing things, these so-called fans demand that they be fired."

"It doesn't matter that none of those 'fans' would have the first clue on how to coach a team on the court and even less of an idea how to deal with athletes off the court," he adds. "But, hey, just fire the coach or verbally attack a kid. That will solve it."

The invasion of AAU basketball into the college game also has created problems.

"Nothing is all bad," Vitale says. "There are more players that are college-ready now because of AAU play. Kids learn how to deal with playing at tough places and they get used to great competition."

"But there are always the guys who think they can go a step above. Guys who will try to convince their players not to go to a certain school because of personality problems, or worse, shoe contract disputes. I gotta wonder when the kids became the second-most important thing in the game, besides money."

And yet... "Nothing is perfect," Vitale said. "And, yes, college basketball has problems."

"But they're fixable problems, and they're being worked on. And for whatever is the matter with the sport, it doesn't even begin to balance what's right about it. And that's one reason why I'm planning on sticking around for as long as they'll have me."

And that's awesome.

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 should have received a message on March 2 at your ECU Exchange email address asking you to participate in the survey. The message explained that your record would be "tagged" so that you could not register until you responded to the survey. If you did not receive the email notice, it means that the survey and registration restriction does not apply to you.

Many of you have now responded, but this is to encourage the rest of you to respond as soon as possible. When you submit your survey 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.

We really want your feedback to the survey questions, but 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.

Please respond to the survey 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.

Tackles from page B4

linemen who will be drafted on day one of the draft, which is April 28. The Florida State pair of Kamerion Wimbley and Brodrick Bunkley should come off the board within the first 30 picks. Wimbley, a 6-foot-4-inch, 245-pound end, wowed scouts at the combine and could get moved to outside linebacker in the NFL, while Bunkley is just a beast in the middle. He led the ACC in tackles for a loss with 23 in 2005. His stock went up at the combine when he impressed teams with his strength, putting up 44 reps of 225 pounds on the bench press. He should go in the first round, with the Cincinnati Bengals and the 24th pick being a very strong possibility for the 6-foot-3-inch, 285-pound Bunkley.

Defensive end Tamba Hali, from Penn State is another possible first-rounder and I have him rated as the number three end in the draft, behind Wimbley and Williams. Hali, a native of war-torn Liberia wants a big NFL contract so that he can afford to move his family to the U.S. That shouldn't be a problem for the 6-foot-3-inch, 267-pound Hali, who has been wreaking havoc on Big Ten quarterbacks for the last four years.

Another end to keep an eye on is Boston College's Matthias Kiwanuka, who had a knee injury in 2005, compounded by a cheap-shot, late low block from a Virginia offensive lineman. Despite that injury, Kiwanuka has responded well in workouts and it's hard to ignore a guy who is 6-feet-7-inches, 262 pounds, has been compared to Simeon Rice and Jason Taylor and is the school record holder for sacks. A native of Uganda, Kiwanuka's grandfather was elected as the country's first prime minister in 1961 before being assassinated in 1972.

Other ends that should disappear from draft boards on day one are Virginia Tech's Darryl Tapp, N.C. State's Manny Lawson, Indiana's Victor Adeyanju, Mark Anderson from Alabama, Stanley McClover from Auburn and Georgia Tech's Eric Henderson.

Joining Ngata and Bunkley as day one draft picks will be LSU's Claude Wroten, Orien Harris from Miami, Florida, Michigan's Gabe Watson, Jesse Mahelona of Tennessee, Montavious Stanley from Louisville, Virginia Tech's Jonathan Lewis, Rod Wright from Texas and N.C. State's John McCargo.

This is the first in a series of draft previews. Next week I will preview the linebackers. The NFL Draft is April 28-29 in New York City.

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

Shambles from page B4

Mason delivered the knockout blow, eliminating North Carolina and setting up an all-underdog clash with the Shockers on Friday night.

Thrown in Gonzaga and Memphis, high seeds from low-rated conferences, and the Patriots are one of five mid-majors in the Sweet 16, the most since 1993.

"If you had told me two weeks ago we'd be in the Sweet 16," GMU guard Tony Skinn told si.com. "I would have said, 'What's wrong with you?'"

How about those experts? On last weekend's selection show, CBS commentators Jim Nantz and Billy Packer blasted the selection committee for their at-large choices.

They questioned the worthiness of schools like Bradley and George Mason, wondering how they could be better than the ACC's Florida State or the Big East's Cincinnati.

George Mason's supporters in Dayton remembered the lack of love. In the final seconds of their team's victory over the Tar Heels and Friday's upset of Michigan State, fans chanted "Billy Packer-er!" to mock the veteran broadcaster.

As the day ended, the CBS team in Philadelphia acknowledged their mistake.

"They've proven a lot of people wrong," Nantz said on the air about the mid-majors, "including two sitting here court-side."

"Good point," Packer said.

The upsets didn't stick to mid-majors. Northwestern State, the Southland Conference champ and No. 14 seed sent home No. 3 Iowa in the Atlanta Region's first round.

But maybe no team shook up opening weekend like the Braves, a 9-7 team in mid-January that entered the Missouri Valley Conference tournament seeded fifth. They looked nothing like that team this weekend, dumping No. 4 seed Kansas and No. 5 seed Pittsburgh.

Bradley and Wichita State give the MVC two teams among the final 16 for the first time. George Mason's run gives the Colonial Athletic Association its first Sweet 16 team since Richmond in 1988.

No one, however, captured the spirit of the weekend like Patriots Coach Jim Larranaga. After an hour of interviews and accepting congratulations, he paused at the door of his team's locker room and began to dance. He danced for joy. He danced for the chance to play in the Sweet 16.

Got something to say? Send us your Pirate Rants!

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ECU Campus Dining

Customer Service Champion of the Month
Carrie Bandy

ECU Campus Dining proudly recognizes Carrie Bandy, a supervisor and cashier at The Croatan, as our Customer Service Champion for the month of January. Carrie exemplifies what we consider to be excellent customer service. She has been working at ECU for fourteen years and at The Croatan for the last five. She is an asset to our team as well as an example for all to follow. For her excellent service she was chosen as our \$100 winner for January and is one of the nominees for the Service Champion of the Semester Award.

We'd like to thank those members of the ECU Community who have sent us positive comments regarding Carrie.

Below are some of the comments we have recently received:

"Ms. Carrie smiles and greets me so warmly everytime I go there [Croatan]."

"I am a student here at East Carolina University, and I dine twice a day on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Chick-fil-A. The lady who runs the cash register, I believe her name is Carrie, has one of the best personalities I have ever been around. Everyday she is very polite, and goes out of her way with her kind words to make us (the customers) feel special. I hope that she can receive at least half of the recognition she deserves, and I wish that ECU Campus Dining was filled with more people with her attitude."

"To the sweet lady cashier at the Croatan: Thank you for making me smile every morning at 7:30 am. You are always so sweet and kind. You really brighten my day."

Debra Shackelford, the manager of The Croatan, couldn't agree with you more!
 "Carrie takes an interest in what's going on in the lives of her customers. They share with her how things are going in school and in their lives."

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