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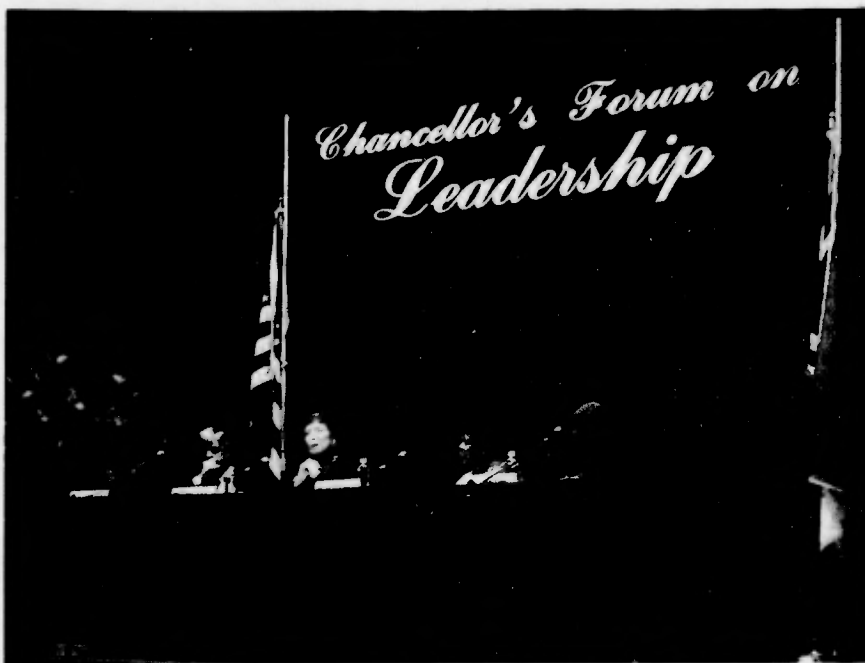
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**WEDNESDAY**

April 5, 2006

## Leadership that leaves a legacy



Chancellors convened for a leadership forum on March 30 and gave helpful advice to potential leaders.

*Respect and confidence are key for being a good leader*

**CHRISTOPHER STEVENSON**  
STAFF WRITER

During the chancellor's forum on leadership Thursday, March 30, four ECU alumni spoke on the concept of leadership and how ECU assisted them in their development of becoming successful leaders.

The panel of alumni talked about what leadership means to them.

Carol Mabe, a marketing and consumer brand specialist, has worked with some of the world's most identifiable and successful brands, including Hanes, Hanes Her Way, L'eggs, Victoria's Secret, Lee, Wrangler and Russell Athletic.

"I think every leader is someone who has influence over others, and I think in order to have influence, you have to earn the respect and confidence by those around you," said Mabe.

Mabe also emphasized that a leader must have a vision for the future and be able to articulate that vision to others.

Ron Clark, Disney Teacher of the Year in 2000 and *New York Times* bestselling

author, is known as "America's Educator" because of his passionate teaching style and the lengths to which he goes to see kids excel in education and in life.

Clark defines leadership as the ability to inspire others toward a similar goal. Clark stressed that the way words are spoken can be critical to a leader's success.

"If you've got a leader who is driven, dedicated and has that passion of really going for it, then it is contagious," said Clark.

As a student at ECU, Clark enjoyed being surrounded by professors and fellow students who shared his passion for education.

James Maynard, founder of the Golden Corral restaurants, has nearly 500 restaurants across the nation with sales in excess of \$1.3 billion. Maynard said that everyone is a leader at some stage in life.

"Winners keep winning and leaders keep leading," said Maynard.

Maynard also emphasized that ECU helped prepare him to achieve his career goals.

"What I loved about ECU was that anything I wanted to learn, I found out later how to go to do that," Maynard said.

As a student, Maynard spent hours upon hours in the library, pouring over many

different business books to enhance his knowledge about how the business world operated.

Valeria Lovelace is president and founder of Media Transformations, an educational production company committed to the formation of projects that encourage educational and social values among youth everywhere. Lovelace has an impressive clientele, which includes Nickelodeon, MTV Networks, MSNBC, Sesame Workshop and Disney.

Lovelace said that great leaders value the work of those they lead, appreciating every single component.

"I believe a leader is able to bring out the best in every single person," said Lovelace.

The panel of alumni also gave suggestions about how current and future students at ECU can become leaders.

Clark emphasized that educators need to direct students to areas where they can gain leadership experience. Clark also suggested that a leadership class is a great tool that could prepare students for the future.

The chancellor's forum was in honor of the 99th anniversary of the founding of ECU.

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



The NAACP awarded Erica Reid, 'Woman of the Year,' and De'Laria Woodruff, 'Man of the Year,' last Thursday night at the Legacy Dinner.

## NAACP members awarded

*Students and faculty honored at Sweethearts*

**CLAIRE MURPHY**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The NAACP had its Legacy Dinner in Sweethearts Dining hall Thursday, March 30 at 7:30 p.m.

The Legacy dinner is an awards ceremony for African American women and men in ECU's faculty, staff and student body.

This year there were about 54 awards and honorees including "Man of the Year," "Strive for Success," "Woman of the Year" and "Highest GPA."

There were very strict requirements for each person to win each award. Some of the criteria included character, campus involvement and grade point average, among other things.

There were a few appreciative performances throughout the banquet, including singers Natalie Wood and Dante Johnson and a dance performance by Monica Williams.

The dinner had a very open and friendly atmosphere, showing how proud and caring everyone was toward each other.

Jenilyn Turner provided

the initial welcome and most introductions. She also gave a special thanks to the committee. Christopher Foye and Atalaya Neal gave other introductions. Harolynn Mallette, Crystal Fuller, Melanie Handy and Michael Miller presented awards and certificates. Harolynn Mallette said closing words.

The Women's Program and Men's Program went as two separate events last Thursday. There were 22 male and 22 female honorees, as well as 10 from ECU faculty and staff.

There was a long list of both male and female honorees, all with impressive histories.

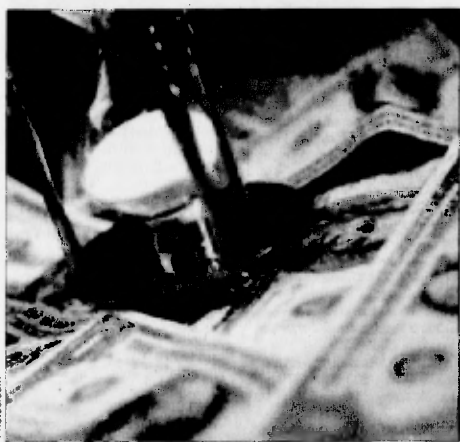
The winner of the "Man of the Year" award was De'Laria Woodruff Jr. The "Woman of the Year" was Erica Reid.

"Strive for Success" went to Je'Varis Richardson and "Highest GPA Award" went to Ngozi Igboko.

The students who won awards, as well as everyone else present at the Legacy Dinner, have achieved a very great honor and deserve to be recognized.

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## How many will be able to retire?



It's never too early to start thinking about retirement.

*Research shows that 53 percent of today's workers have not saved enough*

**LEE SCHWARZ**  
STAFF WRITER

How much money will I have to put away now to be able to retire? How will I make enough to put away enough to do so? These are questions that many workers are asking themselves. Money is a reality that will never vanish and should be treated seriously. A recent phone interview showed that 53 percent of today's workers have saved less than \$25,000 toward their retirement. Only 12 percent have saved more than \$250,000 which is what it will probably take to live comfortably in retirement given taxes and inflation.

Given the fact that the majority of workers say they have saved enough to retire when the evidence shows to the contrary, it

means that most workers are not well-informed about the reality of retirement. Only 42 percent of workers have even done a calculation to estimate their costs in retirement. This lack of calculation and thinking about retirement may prove to be the Achilles' heel which may force some workers into destitution after their 65th birthday.

So how does one calculate expenses? If you are 20 now and want to live on a modest sum of \$30,000 in retirement after you turn six, then you would need about \$113,447.90 a year in today's money because of about a three percent inflation over the next 45 years. Obviously, extensive planning and investing is necessary even to allow someone to live modestly in retirement. How many years will you live in retirement? Will you have high health care costs?

One of the authors of the

see **RETIRE** page A2

## Peace Club seeks to instigate change

**VANESSA CLARKE**  
STAFF WRITER

At a time when apathy is more socially acceptable than engagement and the 18 to 25-year-old demographic is charged with watching too much MTV to care about social justice, a new group on campus is forming to change that.

The Peace Club, led by defacto president Jacek Teller, a chemistry and physics major, seeks to take advantage of the recent shift in public opinion, especially when dealing with President Bush, whose approval ratings are at their lowest ever.

"It's high time to [get] the

peace movement on campus," the sophomore said.

In order to accomplish this, the group will mainly focus on education. The Peace Club hopes to raise awareness on social justice all over the world and here in the United States, Teller said.

Specific instances Teller mentioned at the club's first meeting on Thursday included the prison scandal at Abu Ghraib, the lack of due process at Guantanamo Bay and the war on terror in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Abroad," he said, "Something is very wrong."

Still, the issue the fledgling group will be focusing most of its attention on in the coming

months is the genocide in Sudan.

The group hopes to be able to attend "Save Darfur: Rally to Stop Genocide," sponsored by the Save Darfur Coalition in Washington, D.C., April 30. The rally is a part of the coalition's "Million Voices for Darfur" campaign, which pledges to send one million postcards to President Bush urging him to push for more United Nations support for the Sudan.

In addition to attending the rally, the group plans to show a documentary April 6 in Mendenhall dealing either with the war in Iraq or the genocide in Sudan.

The club has no regular meet-

ings because Teller said that sitting around and talking does nothing to promote the cause of peace and social justice.

Instead, the group will keep in touch by e-mail or phone when an event is taking place.

"If it's easy to participate, people will," Teller said.

For now, the group will be low-key, according to Teller. He said that he did not want to force the club in any particular direction.

"[This group] is whatever we decide it is," he said.

"It will become whatever it will become."

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## Robert Fox visits to speak at Thomas Harriot 'Voyages of Discovery' lecture

*Why the College of Arts and Sciences is named after Harriot*

**KIMBERLY BELLAMY**  
STAFF WRITER

Thursday, March 30, Robert Fox, a distinguished Harriot scholar from Oxford University, visited ECU's Hendrix Theater to give a lecture on Thomas Harriot, the man after whom the College of Arts and Sciences is named.

Fox's lecture was an overview of Harriot's life. Topics included

skepticism about Harriot's appearance and personal life and his many accomplishments.

Some major points in his lecture included Harriot's discoveries with the sun and the use of a telescope. According to Fox, shortly after the telescope was invented, Harriot observed the moon and the sun and made maps of the spots on these surfaces.

He recorded more than 450 observations of the sun over an 18-month period and concluded that the sun was rotating due to the fact that the spots would

always appear in a different location, according to Fox.

Fox argued that many of Harriot's findings and discoveries were more advanced than the well known scientist Galileo.

Harriot completed a book called *A Brief and True Report of New Found Land of VA*. Harriot came close to completing an additional book, but didn't quite make it.

The lecture highlighted Harriot's many contributions in chemistry and math. After Harriot's death in 1621 of nose cancer, a total of 8,000 pages of

manuscripts were left behind.

Today, there isn't much certainty of what Harriot truly looked like. Fox showed several paintings of Harriot, but none are necessarily accurate.

These paintings don't provide a clear view of Harriot, according to Fox, because the man in the picture would have shown aging physical characteristics, such as a receding hair line, if it was painted at the time it said.

One of the paintings was also painted a few years before Harri-

see **HARRIOT** page A2



# New research shows danger drugs, alcohol pose to teenagers' brains

(KRT) — Teenagers who drink, smoke and use drugs can derail their brain development and set themselves up for lifelong addiction.

And parents who strictly monitor their teens' behavior are one of the most influential forces in preventing kids from using drugs and alcohol.

Now that might not sound like news to you.

But the truth is, until recently most of what science has known about addiction in teenagers has been extrapolated from research in adults. Now, new brain-imaging studies have shown that the teenage brain is a rapidly changing organ and doesn't work the way an adult brain does. Researchers now believe that drugs and alcohol can disrupt that massive renovation of the brain during adolescence, making it more vulnerable to drugs and easier for teens to get addicted.

Scientists say that an addiction that starts early in life is harder to kick than one that starts later. Nearly half of kids who are regular drinkers before age 14 will become alcoholics, said Dr. Danielle Dick, a clinical psychologist and geneticist at Washington University. That puts early drinkers at three times greater risk of alcohol addiction than people who wait until age 21 to start drinking, she said.

Epidemiological studies have shown that most addictions start in adolescence, said Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse. And when a teenager's pleasure-chemical systems aren't fully developed and then get wired to depend on substances for feeling good, the normal flow of brain chemicals that aid in learning, decision making and other key processes are often blocked, Volkow said.

In adults, genetics are more than 50 percent responsible for addiction to alcohol. So people have long assumed that genes

are the biggest reason kids drink, too.

But new studies of twins in Finland and Missouri showed no evidence that genetics contributed to alcohol-dependence in 14-year-olds, Dick said.

Instead, Dick said, parental monitoring is one of the most consistent predictors of whether teens start using alcohol and other drugs.

And that means more than just having a good relationship with your kids. A good, warm relationship doesn't mean kids are going to tell parents what they are doing, or with whom.

"Parents might say, 'Oh, if they were doing that, they'd tell me,' but the reality is, they probably won't," Dick said. What works is knowing where children are, whom they are with and what they are doing. Children with the highest level of parental monitoring were less likely to start drinking or using drugs, Dick said.

For an addiction to take hold, kids must be exposed to addictive substances. So young adolescents who never have a chance to smoke or drink avoid stirring up a genetic predisposition to addiction. In a more permissive environment, genes may rear their heads.

Once teens start to drink or use drugs, the consequences turn severe. Recent studies show that teens who start using marijuana before they turn 17 are at higher risk of developing schizophrenia than people who didn't use or started smoking marijuana later in adolescence or young adulthood.

Marijuana has often been called a gateway drug, a substance that can lead to use of more harmful drugs. Most researchers agree that marijuana doesn't necessarily set up the brain for further addictions, but does give kids practice in obtaining illicit substances and access to a subculture where harder drugs are available.

The real gateway drug may be nicotine, experts say. Most kids try cigarettes before other drugs.

Researchers compared sets of identical twins in which one twin started smoking before age 17 and the other twin smoked later. Twins who started smoking before age 17 became addicted to other substances, such as alcohol or other drugs, more readily than their twins who waited, Volkow said. Because identical twins have the same genetic make-up, the addiction of early-smoking twins can't be chalked up to genetic susceptibility alone, she said.

Cigarette smoking also can disrupt memory and attention, said Dr. Leslie Jacobsen, a psychiatrist at Yale University. But withdrawal from cigarettes is also bad, she said.

"Once you're dependent, you're always confronted with a certain amount of nicotine withdrawal," she said.

"Children get addicted to smoking more quickly than they expect, and many aren't even aware that they are dependent," she said.

Even teens that just binge drink on weekends can hurt their brains, said Susan F. Tapert, an associate professor of psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego. Her measurements of a seahorse-shaped part of the brain, called the hippocampus, revealed that drinkers had shrunken hippocampuses compared with teens that don't drink. That is important because the hippocampus is one of the regions of the brain most responsible for learning and memory.

Tapert doesn't see the same dramatic change in the hippocampus of marijuana smokers.

But that may not matter, Jacobsen said.

"It's not just how the brain looks, but how it works that's important," she said.

Teens who smoke marijuana, even those who have stopped

using for a month — need to expend much more mental energy to do simple tasks, Tapert said.

For instance, marijuana smokers retain 5 percent to 10 percent less information when listening to a story. That difference may not seem big, but could make the difference between passing and failing a test in school.

A University of Missouri study of college-age students showed that chronic binge drinkers make bad decisions in other parts of life. Researchers at the Midwest Alcoholism Research Center in Columbia tested 19- and 20-year-olds on a decision-making task involving gambling risks. People who were chronic binge drinkers more often made decisions that would put them at high risk for losing money, said Kenneth J. Sher, director of the center.

The binge drinkers weren't more impulsive or thrill seeking than their non-drinking counterparts and they scored similarly on the ACT college entrance exam. But bad decision-making on the gambling test was also associated with making unwise decisions about drinking in life. The heaviest drinkers had their first full drink at age 13, and were bingeing on almost 18 drinks per week by the fall of their freshman year in college.

The researchers don't know whether the students are heavy binge drinkers because they are bad at decision-making or if the alcohol impairs their ability to make good decisions, Sher said.

Either way, students get set in their ways earlier than many parents realize, he said.

"Most drinking patterns are set before they get to college," Sher said.

Parents unwittingly give young teens access to alcohol. Few parents think to lock up their liquor cabinets, Sher said.

"I think parents are clueless," he said. And many have a strong case of denial.

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## Great Scots: Trivia in honor of Tartan Day



Prince Charles in his tartan.

(KRT) — National Tartan Day — which honors Scotland's influence on America — is celebrated every April 6. How much do you know about Scotland's role in American life?

1. A tartan is the plaid woven fabric used to make kilts, tams and other pieces of clothing. What aspect of the fabric does "tartan" describe?
  - a. The color
  - b. The pattern
  - c. The thread count
  - d. The way it's woven
2. The colors and pattern of the tartan tell facts about the person wearing it. What could you learn about someone by "translating" his tartan?
  - a. What clan he belongs to.

- b. What kind of job his family has.
- c. Whether he's married or single.
- d. Which district his family comes from.

3. Holding Highland Games competitions is another way Americans celebrate their Scottish heritage. Which of the following is not a traditional Scottish contest?
  - a. Bagpipe throw
  - b. Caber toss
  - c. Hammer throw
  - d. Sheaf toss
4. Many modern conveniences were developed by Scottish or Scottish-American inventors. Which was not?
  - a. Lawnmower

- b. Pedal bicycle
- c. Television
- d. Typewriter

5. Let's talk Scottish influence on pop culture. Which of the following actors is not a great Scot?
  - a. Sean Connery
  - b. Alan Cumming
  - c. Colin Farrell
  - d. Ewan McGregor

### Answers

1. d. The way it's woven
2. c. Whether he's married or single.
3. a. Bagpipe throw
4. d. Typewriter
5. c. Colin Farrell

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## Top 5:

### Top 5 Movies:

1. Ice Age: The Meltdown
2. Inside Man
3. ATL
4. Failure to Launch
5. V for Vendetta

### Top 5 Pop Albums:

1. Prince
2. Various Artists
3. James Blunt
4. Barry Manilow
5. Ne-Yo

### Top 5 TV Shows:

1. "American Idol"
2. "American Idol"
3. "Desperate Housewives"
4. "CSI: Miami"
5. "60 Minutes"

### Top 5 Books:

1. The Da Vinci Code
2. The Tenth Circle
3. The 5th Horseman
4. Dirty Blonde
5. The Templar Legacy

### New DVDs This Week:

1. The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe
2. Brokeback Mountain
3. Crash
4. Night Watch
5. Little Manhattan

### Coming Soon:

1. The Benchwarmers
2. Lucky Number Slevin
3. Phat Girls
4. Take the Lead
5. 95 Miles to Go

## Horoscopes:

**Aries** - You're in the mood to knock down barriers and maybe even walls. Better come up with an overall plan before you do real damage.

**Taurus** - Save enough cash on your shopping trip to get a little gift. A friend of yours would appreciate any information you find out there.

**Gemini** - Thoughts turn to business as you realize there's a profit to be made. All you have to do is provide a necessary service, and well. Do it better than anyone else.

**Cancer** - Although you still have to deal with issues you would rather ignore, don't fret. You're stronger now, and you'll be able to express your thoughts quite well. Full speed ahead!

**Leo** - Once you've made the connection, you'll find there's more work to be done. You've advanced into new territory. Now, prove you deserve to be there!

**Virgo** - First, accept a creative assignment. Then, tell your friends all about it. They'll help you meet the very person to show you how to do it.

**Libra** - A respected person is considering you for more authority. Don't be afraid; this could mean a big raise in pay. You can do this.

**Scorpio** - Meet with loved ones and start making big plans for the future. Toss some crazy ideas around and see which ones stick.

**Sagittarius** - What you need is new technology that will make your home more comfortable. You'll most likely save money on energy bills, too. Check it out.

**Capricorn** - Somebody you don't like all the time is your best tutor now. Ask tough questions and be willing to really hear the answers.

**Aquarius** - Listen to a person who's practically at their wit's end. You can provide the solution to a problem that has them stopped.

**Pisces** - First, you'll find something of value or something you've been looking for - could be the same thing. Then, you'll have a great idea that benefits somebody you love. It's a good day.

## Fun Facts:

All polar bears are left-handed.

You have no sense of smell when you're sleeping.

The search engine Google got its name from the word googol, which refers to the number one with 100 zeros after it.

In Kentucky, it is illegal to carry ice cream in your back pocket.

In the United States, more than 10 percent of lottery prizes go unclaimed.

The first domain name ever registered was Symbolics.com.

# Getting to the 'bottom' of things

The outcome of the "super bowl" of toilet paper

AARON BORRERO  
STAFF WRITER

So I know what you guys are thinking when reading the headline - "what are they thinking?" Well ladies and gents, the minds in the assignment department granted me the privilege of covering hard-hitting issues such as toilet paper, which in some cases, can be hard-hitting if you are not careful.

So when it came time for me to cover an important task relating to toilet paper, I thought to myself, "where could I be better educated." I looked to none other than the actual people who use the substance, the little people.

When asked, Kristin Murnane, our very own Assistant Features Editor, recommended the wet toilet paper. When asked for clarification, Murnane specified Kleenex Cottenelle wipes.

She also remarked that it "makes me feel baby fresh after doing the deed just like a shower." To my amazement, I wasn't gagging or falling into a toilet to pray at the ivory plumbing utensil. The last thing I need is to have to feel like a wet dog's nose all day.

I seem to remember a time, not to terribly long ago, when there was a scare about colored toilet paper. This certain type of toilet paper was said to give the user colon cancer. If that was really to be the case, then why would the gods that be still give toilet paper using the same ink, in prints, our wiping pleasure - a sadistic intention? They wouldn't, so stop being paranoid.

Not to be to undermining, but I believe that there would

need to be some interesting facts and certain tests to back up my point. My point being that

I believe my initial pick would have to be Angel Soft toilet paper, but I have been proven to be wrong on more than one rare occasion.

It is believed that although the earliest form of toilet paper on a roll wasn't introduced until 1880, people made do with many various items that stemmed from their environments. Corn cobs, leaves and sticks or even linen were used to quench those "urgent" needs.

I, personally, think that as a principle, places like ECU need to upgrade to something besides that one ply stuff. In a humble guy's opinion, there needs to be a little bit more than just sand

paper between my hands and ... well you get the point.

As a weird test, I actually slept upon a few different types of toilet paper. I found over a course of a week, Angel Soft and Charmin Double Roll seem to be the best. I know this test was weird, but follow me for a second. Therefore, if it is sleep I pursue, I guess I am covered, but if it is for the enjoyment of a well-earned "dropping," then I feel confident I wasn't wrong.

Now let's analyze these two products in terms of price. Angel Soft is cheap and very willing to pick everything I leave behind. Charmin, with its effervescent and ubiquitous label, commands respect for its track record of also grabbing everything I wish it to, but I still pick Angel Soft. Hands down, or up, whichever you prefer.

So Borrego picks Angel Soft to keep watch over his naughtiest of parts.

You better believe I will recommend this toilet paper to some of you people in my classes. It seems as though you forgot what toilet paper and soap were ... that's another assigned article though.

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



# Natalie Portman: She's bold enough to be bald



Natalie Portman shows off her short hair at the Golden Globe Awards.

Natalie Portman goes to any length for a movie

MARIANNE BARROW  
STAFF WRITER

It's not often that you come across a young actress who has the whole package - brains, beauty and incredible talent. However, Natalie Portman seems to have all that and more on lockdown. It takes a lot of guts for a woman whose career depends on attractiveness to shave her head during a shot for a movie. She could have worn a cap and gone through extensive make-up, but Portman is fully committed to doing anything to make a great movie.

Natalie Hershalg was born in 1981 in Jerusalem, Israel, and later used Portman for her acting career. At the age of three she moved to America with her parents, who eventually settled in New York. While eating in a pizza parlor at age 11, she was discovered by a talent agent. At such a young age it was suggested that Portman try modeling, but she was more interested in acting. She made her way into show business in her highly regarded debut film *The Professional*. She played a 12-year-old girl who was the only weakness to an accomplished

assassin.

After getting her name and abilities out in Hollywood, Portman made several other films including *Mars Attacks!*, but she then decided to take a break and concentrate on high school. She earned straight As at her hometown high-school in Syosset, N.Y.

Education is extremely important to Portman, who enjoys math and literature and

## Did you know?

Natalie Portman:

1. Has trained in jazz, ballet and tap-dancing
2. Said she would never be in a horror or teen film
3. Math was her favorite school subject because "There's always an answer."

is fluent in five languages.

To members of the press she stated, "I'm going to college. I don't care if it ruined my career. I'd rather be smart than a movie star." She fulfilled those goals by attending Harvard to study psychology and received her college diploma in 2003.

Portman's sensibility and

see **PORTMAN** page A6

## New season, new me

Spring gives us all an excuse to tidy up

SENSIBLE PARTNER  
TRUTH WRITER

It's spring and it seems like Mother Nature is finally getting her act together. The blue skies and warmth hints at summer and new possibilities. Personally, I know that I have desperately been in need of some spring cleaning. We're not talking about cleaning house either, with this new season I have been craving a new outlook.

I've had a crazy past couple of weeks (I know, who hasn't) and along with chucking all of my old emotional baggage, I'm ready to come clean



and enjoy the cloudless days. Breaking up with a long-time boyfriend has been painful but strangely liberating. Don't get me wrong, there was wallowing and self-pity, but at the end of it all, I only felt more confident that I can do anything I want on my own. So I made a hair appointment to get it all chopped off and have a pact with a friend to adopt a new golden glow through self-tanning. Sure, I know, a new hairdo and a tan won't fix everything, but boy is it a good distraction and ego boost while you're wading through the nastier issues.

I've been feeling a lot better lately, maybe because of a little exterior revamping, but mostly because I'm learning to put a lot of things into perspective. Not to sound like a brochure or anything, but college really is a time to discover yourself and, more importantly, to like what you find.

Now I'm handing this right of passage off to all of you to encourage you to do the same. This time of the year is the perfect chance to shake things out, get a new perspective and just be able to relax and savor the ride.

Maybe you're nervous about turning over a new leaf, and I completely understand. With big

see **SPRING** page A6

## Best theme parks of Mid-Atlantic region

So many options near Greenville

TOMEKA STEELE  
SENIOR WRITER

Summer is just around the corner and everyone's looking for fun ways to spend a day. Roller coasters are the ultimate thrill. They give us stomach-turning exhilaration and loads of amusement. There are many places in North Carolina and neighboring states where one can find some of the best roller coaster rides and other thrill rides around.

Busch Gardens, Paramount Carowinds and Emerald Point's Wet 'n Wild Water Park are just a few places within a couple of hours drive where one can find all the roller coasters they can fathom.

In Williamsburg, Va., Busch Gardens has been a tourist destination for people from the East Coast for years. They have

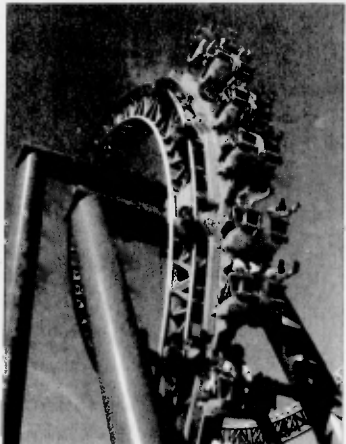
a variety of attractions, rides, shows and animal attractions for people of all ages.

Busch Gardens will have an updated ride this year that will include footage and scene enhancements in 3-D and greater ride vehicle propulsion. The ride is called "Curse of Darkkastle" and is sure to be a hit amongst the other fantastic roller coasters at Busch Gardens.

"Alpengeist" is one of the best rides at Busch Gardens. It is the world's tallest inverted roller coaster. Riders experience every motion while sitting in a hanging chair that speeds along the rails at high speeds and down a 170-foot drop.

For an old school roller coaster feel but still a heart pumping thriller, "Loch Ness Monster" at Busch Gardens is another exciting roller coaster. Reaching speeds

see **COASTER** page A6



Riders let their feet dangle on this roller coaster.

## Summer Vacation Series: Remembering Magic



It's just like the sign says, it is the Happiest Celebration on Earth.

Take a trip to Disney World

SARAH CAMPBELL  
STAFF WRITER

Growing up, one of my all time favorite vacations was my family's trip to Walt Disney World. As a child, the magic of Disney World seemed too good to be true; it was like heaven on Earth. However, I recently began to wonder if a trip there now would be as magical.

I couldn't quite remember everything that Disney World had to offer, so I decided to do a bit of research. It turns out that the happiest place on Earth holds magic for people of all ages.

The four theme parks are Disney World's claim to fame. Each of them offers visitors something equally as unique as magical.

Two of Disney World's most famous attrac-

see **DISNEY** page A6

Got something to say? Send us your Pirate Rants!

## Casey's 2nd Annual "Race for Kids" 5k run/walk



Presented by The Greek Community at East Carolina University  
Benefiting The Boys and Girls Club of Pitt County  
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CONTACT: Matt (919) 389-9269  
mlr0112@ecu.edu  
www.ecu.edu/studentlife/greek

### Coaster from page A5

of 60 miles per hour and featuring a 114-foot drop, this coaster takes you through loops and will have you screaming your head off. It will also have you laughing at the face you made on the drop that flashes on monitors once you exit the ride.

Paramount Carowinds on the North Carolina and South Carolina border is another great theme park to find excellent roller coasters. All together this park has nine fabulous thrill rides made for terrifying amusement. "Thunder Road" is one classic twin-racing roller coaster that takes you backward or forward. Backward is the best especially down the huge drop.

"Hurler" is also a great wooden roller coaster that has amazing drops and views of the park from the top. One of the most known thrill rides at Carowinds is "Drop Zone, Stunt Tower." In this ride, people are suspended in hanging seats and pulled up 16 stories and then dropped and free fall at 56 miles per hour.

For the summer months, everyone wants to get to a great water park with thrill rides that keep you cool at the same time. Wet 'n Wild Emerald Point in Greensboro, N.C. is the perfect place to cool off and have tons of fun.

They have plenty of water slides such as "Twin Twisters," an enclosed water slide

with more than 350 feet of twists and turns. "Daredevil Drop" is another water slide that drops you 76 feet down.

Wet 'n Wild also has "Sky coaster," which uses cables to hang people and pulls them up into the air and lets them free fall to the ground. For fun and to stay cool, Wet 'n Wild is a great place to be.

"I've been to Wet 'n Wild Emerald Point lots of times and I love it. It's the perfect place to go on a hot summer's day for great slides," said senior sociology major, Tiffany Bonaparte.

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

### Disney from page A5

tions, Splash Mountain and Space Mountain, are housed in Disney's Magic Kingdom. Here, visitors can also take a trip to Cinderella's Castle, the Swiss Family Treehouse and the Haunted Mansion, Tower of Terror.

If you've always wanted to travel around the world, Disney's Epcot is the perfect treat for you. Epcot offers visitors a chance to immerse themselves in the cultures of countries ranging from Japan to Morocco.

Journey into the wonderful world of show-biz at Disney's MGM Studios. Here, visitors get a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore the behind the scenes action of movies, television shows and stage performances.

Disney's Animal Kingdom offers visitors a taste of the wild.

Upon entrance into the Animal Kingdom, visitors are struck with the beauty of the Tree of Life, which has 325 animals carved into it to create a unique work of art.

On the Kilimanjaro Safari, visitors can see animals such as giraffes, hippos, elephants, rhinos and lions roaming free in the savannah landscape. Besides these four theme parks, there are countless other things for Disney visitors to explore. Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex offers visitors an opportunity to view memorabilia from legends like Wayne Gretzky and Shaquille O'Neal.

If you're the life of the party, you may want to venture to Downtown Disney. The West side offers restaurants, theatre and shows, while Pleasure Island

is filled with live entertainment and nightclubs.

Venturing into the magical world of Disney reminds people of all ages that you're never too old to have a good time.

For more information about Walt Disney World's theme parks and resorts visit waltdisneyworld.com.

One thing to remember when planning a trip like this one is that it will cost you quite a bit of money if you want to do it right. For those of you graduating in May, this would make a great trip to celebrate your accomplishment so start saving now and you will have a great time with all of your friends as a last college trip.

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

### Portman from page A5

forward to having her head shaved live during a torture scene, reportedly saying that she had wanted to do it for a long time.

Though she is still very young, Portman has commanded respect and admiration from her peers as well as audiences.

It's refreshing for girls to see a young woman with such a bright future who excels in many different areas, but what's even more captivating is her humbleness and understated elegance. Whatever the reason, one thing is certain and that is no matter what it takes, Natalie Portman is going places.

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

### Spring from page A5

changes come a lot of attention, and sometimes a little ridicule. People might look at you differently or judge you because of your newfound self-acceptance. That can make anyone a little hesitant, but people judge - it's just what they do. Some judge too quickly, and unfortunately in our age group's case, judgment weighs heavily on appearance.

If we know that it's impossible to please everyone, why is everyone exhausting themselves trying? By just letting go of the small things, you might find that understanding the big picture is easier.

So maybe you're a little weird, who isn't? It's possible that you don't look photo shoot ready

every day of your life, who doesn't? Perhaps you tripped on the sidewalk in front of dozens of people one day, who cares? Oh wait, that was me last Thursday. But after being completely horrified by my crooked aviator sunglasses, I got over it and laughed.

So go soak up the new season, and the new changes you have the ability to make for yourself. Put on those oversized shades and strut through Wright Place. When you see the girl marching right next to you with the newly cut hair and slightly bronzed face, don't hesitate to give a little wave.

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

# SERVICE NORTH CAROLINA

April 3-8, 2006



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### Decision Sciences:

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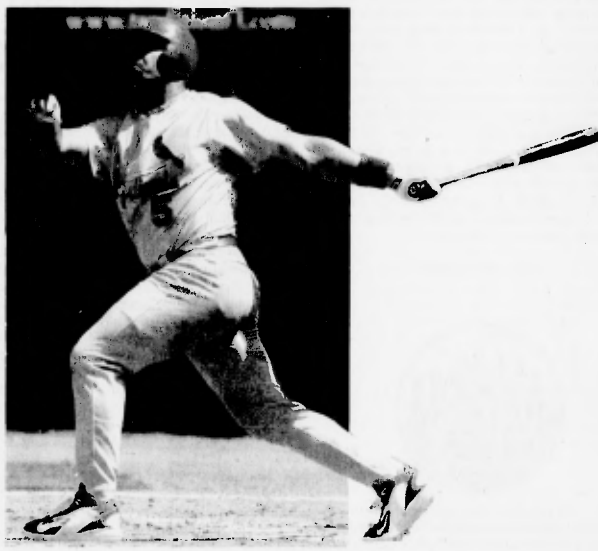
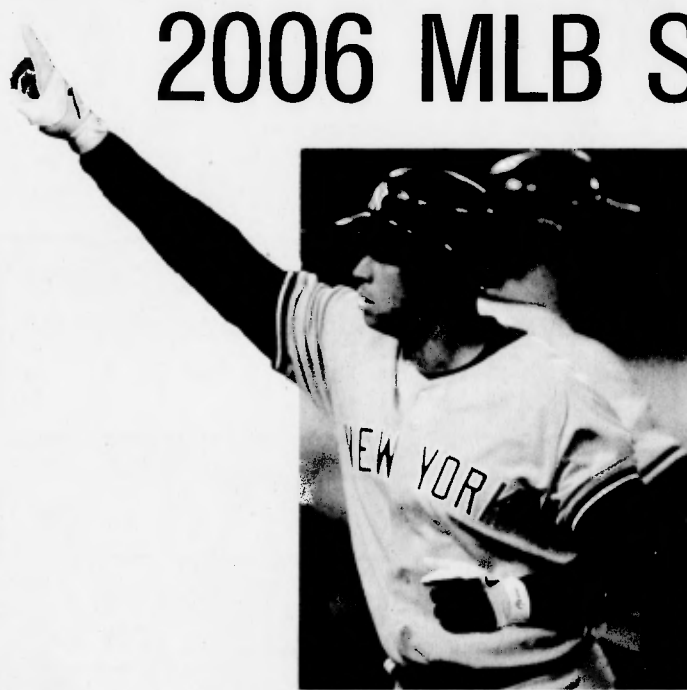
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## 2006 MLB Season Outlook



### Predictions for this year's diamond action

JOSH FERNANDEZ  
STAFF WRITER

Spring is the best time of year – beautiful, warm weather, school coming to a close, troubles of the winter slowly melting away. But for me, the best aspect of spring is Opening Day – the start of another season of Major League Baseball.

Every year since I can remember, the first few days of April were always so exciting for me. My family, being Orioles fans, would make the short trek to Baltimore from Olney, Md., for O's games regularly. It was the best feeling, seeing the backdrop of the city with Camden Yards standing majestically in front, especially for the first time of any particular season.

There was nothing quite like reaching my seat (third base side, 10 rows back) after a long fall/winter of Redskins football, tearing open a fresh bag of peanuts and sitting back for one of 162 games that, in all likelihood, I would watch either in person or on television.

However, I must digress. Now that the season has officially begun (two days ago), many of you are probably wondering what we have in store for MLB's 2006 offering of baseball action. Well, due to my natural obsession with baseball that has once again surfaced in the face of another season, I will share with you my observations, ruminations, and other "ations" pertaining to the outlook of the season, division by division.

#### American League East



The AL East is proving once again it's up there with the most competitive divisions in the league and is, without a doubt, the most popular. It is home to the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox, the two most popular, well-funded and talented teams in all of baseball. Division-mates Baltimore, Toronto and Tampa

Bay are once again in position to ride on the coat-tails of those perennial powerhouses.

However, don't count out any of these teams, especially Toronto, a club that, this off-season, bolstered itself on the mound and in the batter's box. The additions of former-Oriole closer B.J. Ryan (a 2005 all-star), pitcher A.J. Burnett and big bat Troy Glaus should spark more production from an already highly talented team that has been essentially out of the picture since winning the World Series almost 15 years ago.

As much as I'd like to see my Orioles surprise everyone and win the division, something they haven't done since 1997, I see the Blue Jays taking second place with the Orioles and Devil Rays battling for fourth or fifth. First and third will be either New York or Boston – I'm leaning toward the Yankees taking the division once again, especially after watching them slap a 15-spot on the Athletics Monday night. However, offense alone won't win them a 27th division title. Their pitching has been under much scrutiny by the media and baseball-heads and

must perform more consistently than last season.

Once again, the story behind this division will be Boston and New York's \$100 million-plus rosters versus the relatively humble payrolls of the other's – nevertheless, look for the result to be New York at the top, followed by Toronto, Boston, Baltimore and what will be a scrappy and competitive Tampa Bay club rounding out the division.

#### AL Central



The world champion Chicago White Sox reside in this division, a team that finished with 99 wins in 2005, but could have easily ripped off well over 100 if it wasn't for a late-season slide. Obviously that doesn't matter since they took home the hardware, but it's worth noting, nevertheless.

The big challenger to their

divisional dominance is Cleveland. The Indians just resigned 22-year-old center fielder Grady Sizemore to a \$23 million contract, which is the most ever guaranteed money for a player with less than two years of major league service. They also are coming off a 93-win season and are surely seeking redemption after their collapse in last year's playoffs. Led by guys like Sizemore, Travis Hafner and Jhonny Peralta, offense surely shouldn't be hard to come by in Ohio this year.

However, the Twins can't be counted out; this is a team that, for the past several years, had been at the top of this division before the inception of the newly dominant White Sox. Look for catcher Joe Mauer, one of the purest hitters in baseball, to have his breakout year. Also, long-time Twin Torii Hunter, if healthy, could help this club remain at the top of the Central division.

But the main reason the Twins will do well (and continue to do so) is their farm system. They groom some of the best players (Boston's David Ortiz, for example) and know how and when to use them.

I don't normally like to write

teams off from the start, but in this division, it's safe to do so – don't look for Kansas City or Detroit to make much noise this year, but simultaneously, don't totally disregard them. They could do a bit of damage to the other teams in their division, but won't be sitting atop the standings. I see it like this, Chicago, Cleveland, Minnesota, Detroit and KC bringing up the rear.

#### AL West



The West should turn out similarly to how it looked in '05, but the only difference will be Oakland taking the division instead of Los Angeles (at Anaheim, mind you). The A's are a very versatile team and have so many tools; they even have the option of possibly dealing Barry Zito (who lasted had a rough

see MLB page A8



The Pirates will be wrapping up their spring workouts this week and will play the annual Purple-Gold game Saturday afternoon.

## ECU enters last week of spring drills

(SID) — ECU officially began its last week of spring workouts under the guidance of second-year head coach Skip Holtz and staff with a two-hour session Monday afternoon at the Cliff Moore Practice Complex.

The Pirates returned to action in shells after conducting their second intra-squad scrimmage of the season Friday afternoon at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. After turning in its 13th practice of the spring period Monday, ECU has just one more workout scheduled for Wednesday before closing camp with the Purple-Gold Game Saturday.

"I thought we made some more progress Friday," Holtz said after reviewing the game tape over the weekend. "We've still got a ways to go to get where we want to be but there were many posi-

tives to build on, both offensively and defensively."

Holtz indicated he adjusted the program's depth chart Monday morning to reflect some of the more impressive performances from Friday's contest. One of the most notable changes was the promotion of redshirt freshman Brett Clay to the sole understudy position behind James Plinkney at quarterback after sharing the status with Patrick Plinkney last week.

In addition, Holtz shuffled personnel on the No. 2 offensive line with the insertion of freshman transfer Andrew Farr at right tackle, redshirt freshman Stephen Heis at right guard, junior Fred Hicks at center, redshirt freshman Joshua Stahl at left guard and senior Lance Neitz at left tackle. On the other hand, he

also said that some players solidified their standing after Friday's scrimmage such as second-team defensive tackles Wendell Chavis and Dontre Brown, along with top reserve safeties Herman Best and Chris Mattocks.

"It's all about making plays," Holtz explained. "While I was pleased with the intensity, enthusiasm and the physical part of it, this is the stage of the spring where you look for execution and people who consistently make plays and a difference out there. As I've said before, this is a work in progress and changes are part of it."

After opening Monday's session with its traditional individual drills, ECU quickly moved to an extended team segment and spent the remainder of practice working on blocking assignments deep within the Pirates'

playbook and different defensive coverages and alignments. In addition, Holtz also spent time covering situational tendencies again, such as clock management, down and distance and red-zone efficiency.

After Wednesday's full-gear practice, ECU's coaching staff will conduct a player draft to select roster positions for the Purple-Gold Game, which is scheduled for a 3:00 p.m. kickoff inside Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

Tickets, which are priced at \$5.00 for the contest or \$10.00 with the addition of a plate of barbecue from the Pirate Purple/Gold Pigskin Pigout Party, can be purchased at the ECU Athletics Ticket Office or by calling (252) 328-2300 locally or (800) DIAL-ECU outside the Greenville area.

## NFL Draft 2006: So many picks with so many picks

Talented DBs provide deep talent pool in secondary

RON CLEMENTS  
STAFF WRITER

The defensive backfield may be where NFL teams find the most depth in this year's NFL Draft. As many as 12 players from the secondary could be drafted in the first round.

Michael Huff, after making big plays in the Rose Bowl for the National Champion Texas Longhorns, leads the 2006 class of talented defensive backs. A versatile player who can play either cornerback or safety, Huff is an excellent tackler with good coverage skills and size. He's 6 feet 11 inches and 205 pounds with great instincts, which play a part in his proclivity for being in the right place at the right time to make plays – similar to that of Baltimore's Ed Reed.

Huff is not the only DB who can play corner or safety. Virginia Tech's Jimmy Williams, Tennessee's Jason Allen and Donte Whitner of Ohio State all possess that same quality. Williams, who played corner in Blacksburg, has the ability to be a shut-down corner, but his size at 6 feet 3 inches and 216 pounds, gives NFL teams the option of putting him at safety in running situations.

Both Huff and Williams will be drafted within the first 16 picks. The Detroit Lions cover Huff with the ninth pick while St. Louis at 11, Denver at 15 or Miami at 16 are likely spots for Williams.

Ohio State's Whitner has been shooting up draft boards and is now a probably first-rounder along with his Columbus teammate, cornerback Ashton Youboty. Kansas City is torn between Youboty and Clemson's Hill. Hill's 4.3 time in the 40-yard dash at the combine popped open many eyes. Should he still be available come the 20th pick, the Chiefs would definitely snatch him up. If not, a corner like Youboty would still fill a need and not exactly be a bad consolation prize.

Huff, Williams and Hill should be the first three defensive back taken off the board. Before the Buckeyes, Whitner and Youboty get drafted, Miami's Kelly Jennings should go. I have Jennings rated as the fourth best DB, but that is no slight to his talent. He's not as big as Williams or as fast as Hill, but is still a solid cover corner.

While his stats at "The U" may not be that impressive, it's mainly because opposing teams threw away from him. He's a legitimate cover corner with 4.39 speed and an exceptional ability to change direction.

Youboty, one of several junior DBs in the draft, should be the first underclassman taken, but followed very closely by Southern Cal safety Darnell Bing. Bing, 6-2, 220, is a hard-hitting safety and a sure tackler. The New York Giants, who own the 25th pick, could make the Big Apple home for Bing.

Two other juniors that have helped themselves immensely at the combine and other workouts

see NFL page A9

**MLB** from page A7

opening outing to say the least) and not severely hurting their pitching in the process.

The acquisition of Frank Thomas could be beneficial if he stays healthy, but that could be asking a lot from the Big Hurt, who is entering his 16th season. However, he looked to be perfectly healthy after taking Randy Johnson deep opening night in Oakland in his first at bat of the season.

I don't see the Rangers or Mariners surpassing the aforementioned clubs for the sole reason of pitching, or lack thereof. Seattle is still in a transitional phase where they are figuring out their team identity after a complete drop-off from their unprecedented 116 wins in 2001 and 93 in 2002.

The Rangers are in a precarious early-season position due to several pitchers finding their way to the disabled list, most notably their ace, Adam Eaton. If the bats can support the pitchers until the club learns what kind of staff they really have throwing for them, the Rangers could start off well; the only question is if they have staying power because in MLB, longevity directly relies on pitching. My guess on how I believe this division will look come October is this: Oakland, LA (at Anaheim), Seattle and Texas.

**National League East**



Annually the most competitive division in all of baseball, the NL East looks to be much different from last year's result of nine wins separating first from fifth (the first-place Braves finished 90-72, the fifth place Nationals ended at .500, 81-81).

After the dismantlement of the Marlins by their front office (once again) and the bolstering of the entire Mets roster, the status quo in this division looks to be in favor of the team from Queens.

The Mets, by far, made the most off-season moves out of all teams. First-time Mets in 2006 are Carlos Delgado, Paul Lo Duca, Billy Wagner, Jorge Julio and Julio Franco, with stars like Pedro Martinez, Carlos Beltran, Jose Reyes, Cliff Floyd and David Wright returning. This team looks to fare quite well in this division and, from what I've observed, should reach the later rounds of the post-season, possibly the World Series.

However, the Braves will never make it easy. Atlanta has won this division 14 straight times and is looking to continue that streak this season. After hitting 51 homers in 2005, Andruw Jones, who also went deep on opening day against the Dodgers, should continue his powerful ways and belt-out another 40-50 this year while looking to up his average from his mediocre .263 effort from last season.

The main key to the Braves winning, though, is for their young guys to step up. Ryan Langerhans, Jeff Francoeur and Wilson Betemit put out unexpected numbers last year and should continue that trend under the watchful eye of manager Bobby Cox. The addition of Edgar Renteria to the lineup will bolster their offense as well; his return to the NL will rekindle his production from his days as a Cardinal.

The Nationals and Phillies are a solid teams, but I don't see them competing with Atlanta or New York. And you can forget about the Marlins this year since they resemble nothing of what they were just a half-year ago; rebuilding is the name of the game for Florida and a record at or near .500 would be quite a treat to the Marlin-faithful. The NL East will pan-out like so: New York, Atlanta, Washington, Philly and Florida - with much more than nine wins separating first and fifth.

**NL Central**



Not much will change here this season - in fact, the final standings may very well end up identical to last year's. St. Louis and Houston will remain the powerhouses of this division and continue to dominate the National League.

The Cardinals will win 100 games again. They have the best hitter alive in Albert Pujols, the best game-manager alive in Tony LaRussa and a deep roster of skilled hitters, defenders and base runners. They can hit the long ball and steal bags; their pitchers can strike out the side with pure gas and pick apart hitters with pinpoint accuracy; they have rabid fans that fill the seats whether the opponent is the Astros or the Rockies. They are the best franchise in baseball and will continue to be until some significant event occurs that prohibits them from being so.

Enough brown-nosing the Cards. The Cubs are sitting on the razor's edge this year. They have an excellent lineup that boasts speed and power; guys like Derek Lee, Aramis Ramirez, Juan Pierre and Jacque Jones will be the primary run producers this year, while Kerry Wood and Mark Prior (on the DL already) will try to last the whole season and be productive for their ball club when they return to the rotation/bullpen.

The question is can they play as a cohesive team and can Dusty Baker keep his club in a position of contention for the length of the season?

The Brewers and Reds will be competitive this season. Both teams shine in different spots of their rosters but lack the depth that Houston and St. Louis have.

Cincinnati will look to pitchers Aaron Harang and Bronson Arroyo to keep them in games, while Adam Dunn, Ken Griffey and Felipe Lopez provide run support. Milwaukee and Pittsburgh should have decent seasons - about 70 wins each - but shouldn't be much trouble for the big boys. Result: St. Louis, Houston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Milwaukee and Pittsburgh.

**NL West**



This is easily the worst division in MLB. Their winner last season, the San Diego Padres, finished 2005 at 82-80, one game up on the Nats, who were in last place in the east. The other four teams finished with sub-.500 records. This division will end up in a much different result this time around, but in regard to the paltry records, I don't see them changing much.

The Dodgers look to be the team to beat this season. After acquiring shortstop Rafael Furcal and Nomar Garciaparra, the Dodgers added a bit of pop to their order. But questions still look over what type of team this will be after the disappointing effort from last season.

Arizona and Colorado will be non-factors this year. They lack the tools to compete in the race for a playoff spot, much less in their own division. The real question, obviously, is what to expect from the Giants. Media-darling Barry Bonds is back, along with all his off-field baggage and steroid-fueled body - what should we expect from him? He'll surely pass Babe Ruth; he's only got six more homers to go.

But can he hit 40? 30? 15? Can he still almost single-handedly lead his team like he's done in the past? And can a team whose average age is equivalent to the faculty of any given department at ECU beat a bunch of young guys who are in their primes? We'll have to wait and see, but I will tell you this much: Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Arizona and Colorado should be the order you can expect to see in the standings come October.

So there you have them - my predictions and thoughts on the newly started 2006 MLB season. There's nothing better than a brand-new season of baseball.

This writer can be contacted at [sports@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:sports@theeastcarolinian.com).



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# LaRussa won't let Cardinals pitch around Rollins

NFL from page A7



Rollins extended his hit streak to 37 games with a double in his last at bat Monday afternoon.

(AP)—Tony La Russa watched too many teams pitch around Mark McGwire to let it happen to Jimmy Rollins.

Rollins' hitting streak was on the line when he came to the plate with two outs in the eighth inning and the Philadelphia Phillies trailing the St. Louis Cardinals 13-5 in Monday's season opener.

Reliever Adam Wainwright's first three pitches were out of the strike zone, and those remaining among the sellout crowd of 44,614 at Citizens Bank Park boomed each one.

Before the next pitch, La Russa got catcher Yadier Molina's attention and signaled for a strike. The right-handed Wainwright threw a fastball down the middle and Rollins ripped it down the right-field line for a double to extend his hitting streak to 37 games.

"You have to play the game. We can't walk him in that spot," La Russa said.

It was the eighth time during

his streak that began against San Francisco last Aug. 23 that Rollins kept it going during his last at-bat. He ought to thank La Russa for giving him a chance this time.

La Russa was in his third year managing the Cardinals in 1998 when McGwire hit 70 homers to break Roger Maris' single-season record of 61. It was frustrating for La Russa to see McGwire often get nothing to hit from pitchers, especially in tight games. He didn't want Rollins' streak to end with a walk when his team had an eight-run lead.

"Some of that is him, but mostly it's about us," La Russa said. "I wouldn't want the St. Louis Cardinals to walk him in his last at-bat. That's not what we represent."

Rollins went 0-for-3 with a sacrifice fly before getting his hit. He hit two hard liners at center fielder Jim Edmonds, grounded out to first base and fouled out his first time up when shortstop David Eckstein made a spectacu-

lar, sliding catch near the railing down the left-field line.

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North Carolina State's Marcus Hudson and Ohio University's Dion Byrum, who hails from Monroe, N.C., could both hear their names drafted before the last pick is called.

ECU's Zach Baker has the ideal size for an NFL safety at 6 feet 2 inches, 208 pounds with a time in the 40 of 4.5. Baker was third on the Pirates in tackles and tied for the team lead in interceptions with three in 2005. He could prove to be a steal for some team in the later rounds or via post-draft free agency.

This is the third part in a series of NFL Draft previews. Next week I will preview wide receivers and tight ends. The NFL Draft is April 29-30 in New York City.

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**MLB** from page A7

opening, out to say the least) and not severely hurting their pitching in the process.

The acquisition of Frank Thomas could be beneficial if he stays healthy, but that could be asking a lot from the Big Hurt, who is entering his 16th season. However, he looked to be perfectly healthy after taking Randy Johnson deep opening night in Oakland in his first at bat of the season.

I don't see the Rangers or Mariners surpassing the aforementioned clubs for the sole reason of pitching, or lack thereof. Seattle is still in a transitional phase where they are figuring out their team identity after a complete drop-off from their unprecedented 116 wins in 2001 and 93 in 2002.

The Rangers are in a precarious early-season position due to several pitchers finding their way to the disabled list, most notably their ace, Adam Eaton. If the bats can support the pitchers until the club learns what kind of staff they really have throwing for them, the Rangers could start off well; the only question is if they have staying power because in MLB, longevity directly relies on pitching. My guess on how I believe this division will look come October is this: Oakland, LA (at Anaheim), Seattle and Texas.

**National League East**



Annually the most competitive division in all of baseball, the NL East looks to be much different from last year's result of nine wins separating first from fifth (the first-place Braves finished 90-72, the fifth place Nationals ended at .500, 81-81).

After the dismantlement of the Marlins by their front office (once again) and the bolstering of the entire Mets roster, the status quo in this division looks to be in favor of the team from Queens.

The Mets, by far, made the most off-season moves out of all teams. First-time Mets in 2006 are Carlos Delgado, Paul Lo Duca, Billy Wagner, Jorge Julio and Julio Franco, with stars like Pedro Martinez, Carlos Beltran, Jose Reyes, Cliff Floyd and David Wright returning. This team looks to fare quite well in this division and, from what I've observed, should reach the later rounds of the post-season, possibly the World Series.

However, the Braves will never make it easy. Atlanta has won this division 14 straight times and is looking to continue that streak this season. After hitting 51 homers in 2005, Andruw Jones, who also went deep on opening day against the Dodgers, should continue his powerful ways and belt-out another 40-50 this year while looking to up his average from his mediocre .263 effort from last season.

The main key to the Braves winning, though, is for their young guys to step up. Ryan Langerhans, Jeff Francoeur and Wilson Betemit put out unexpected numbers last year and should continue that trend under the watchful eye of manager Bobby Cox. The addition of Edgar Renteria to the lineup will bolster their offense as well; his return to the NL will rekindle his production from his days as a Cardinal.

The Nationals and Phillies are a solid teams, but I don't see them competing with Atlanta or New York. And you can forget about the Marlins this year since they resemble nothing of what they were just a half-year ago; rebuilding is the name of the game for Florida and a record at or near .500 would be quite a treat to the Marlin-faithful. The NL East will pan-out like so: New York, Atlanta, Washington, Philly and Florida - with much more than nine wins separating first and fifth.

**NL Central**



Not much will change here this season - in fact, the final standings may very well end up identical to last year's. St. Louis and Houston will remain the powerhouses of this division and continue to dominate the National League.

The Cardinals will win 100 games again. They have the best hitter alive in Albert Pujols, the best game-manager alive in Tony LaRussa and a deep roster of skilled hitters, defenders and base runners. They can hit the long ball and steal bags; their pitchers can strike out the side with pure gas and pick apart hitters with pinpoint accuracy; they have rabid fans that fill the seats whether the opponent is the Astros or the Rockies. They are the best franchise in baseball and will continue to be until some significant event occurs that prohibits them from being so.

Enough brown-nosing the Cards. The Cubs are sitting on the razor's edge this year. They have an excellent lineup that boasts speed and power; guys like Derek Lee, Aramis Ramirez, Juan Pierre and Jacque Jones will be the primary run producers this year, while Kerry Wood and Mark Prior (on the DL already) will try to last the whole season and be productive for their ball club when they return to the rotation/bullpen.

The question is can they play as a cohesive team and can Dusty Baker keep his club in a position of contention for the length of the season?

The Brewers and Reds will be competitive this season. Both teams shine in different spots of their rosters but lack the depth that Houston and St. Louis have. Cincinnati will look to pitchers Aaron Harang and Bronson Arroyo to keep them in games, while Adam Dunn, Ken Griffey and Felipe Lopez provide run support. Milwaukee and Pittsburgh should have decent seasons - about 70 wins each - but shouldn't be much trouble for the big boys. Result: St. Louis, Houston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Milwaukee and Pittsburgh.

**NL West**



This is easily the worst division in MLB. Their winner last season, the San Diego Padres, finished 2005 at 82-80, one game up on the Nats, who were in last place in the east. The other four teams finished with sub-.500 records. This division will end up in a much different result this time around, but in regard to the paltry records, I don't see them changing much.

The Dodgers look to be the team to beat this season. After acquiring shortstop Rafael Furcal and Nomar Garciaparra, the Dodgers added a bit of pop to their order. But questions still look over what type of team this will be after the disappointing effort from last season.

Arizona and Colorado will be non-factors this year. They lack the tools to compete in the race for a playoff spot, much less in their own division. The real question, obviously, is what to expect from the Giants. Media-darling Barry Bonds is back, along with all his off-field baggage and steroid-fueled body - what should we expect from him? He'll surely pass Babe Ruth; he's only got six more homers to go.

But can he hit 40? 30? 15? Can he still almost single-handedly lead his team like he's done in the past? And can a team whose average age is equivalent to the faculty of any given department at ECU beat a bunch of young guys who are in their primes? We'll have to wait and see, but I will tell you this much: Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Arizona and Colorado should be the order you can expect to see in the standings come October.

So there you have them - my predictions and thoughts on the newly started 2006 MLB season. There's nothing better than a brand-new season of baseball.

This writer can be contacted at [sports@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:sports@theeastcarolinian.com).



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# LaRussa won't let Cardinals pitch around Rollins

NFL from page A7



Rollins extended his hit streak to 37 games with a double in his last at bat Monday afternoon.

(AP)—Tony La Russa watched too many teams pitch around Mark McGwire to let it happen to Jimmy Rollins.

Rollins' hitting streak was on the line when he came to the plate with two outs in the eighth inning and the Philadelphia Phillies trailing the St. Louis Cardinals 13-5 in Monday's season opener.

Reliever Adam Wainwright's first three pitches were out of the strike zone, and those remaining among the sellout crowd of 44,614 at Citizens Bank Park boomed each one.

Before the next pitch, La Russa got catcher Yadier Molina's attention and signaled for a strike. The right-handed Wainwright threw a fastball down the middle and Rollins ripped it down the right-field line for a double to extend his hitting streak to 37 games.

"You have to play the game. We can't walk him in that spot," La Russa said.

It was the eighth time during

his streak that began against San Francisco last Aug. 23 that Rollins kept it going during his last at-bat. He ought to thank La Russa for giving him a chance this time.

La Russa was in his third year managing the Cardinals in 1998 when McGwire hit 70 homers to break Roger Maris' single-season record of 61. It was frustrating for La Russa to see McGwire often get nothing to hit from pitchers, especially in tight games. He didn't want Rollins' streak to end with a walk when his team had an eight-run lead.

"Some of that is him, but mostly it's about us," La Russa said. "I wouldn't want the St. Louis Cardinals to walk him in his last at-bat. That's not what we represent."

Rollins went 0-for-3 with a sacrifice fly before getting his hit. He hit two hard liners at center fielder Jim Edmonds, grounded out to first base and fouled out his first time up when shortstop David Eckstein made a spectacu-

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## HELP WANTED

**Manager and Sales Persons Needed. Full Time. Part Time. Day or Evening Hours. Great Working Conditions Excellent Pay End of Year Bonus. Located at Nags Head Beach North Carolina. Contact Gary at 252-305-5558 or 252-441-5558**

Live this summer at the Beach and work with Telescope Pictures/Sunrays Studio in Ocean City, MD/Virginia Beach, VA. Earn up to \$10,000. Housing is Available. For more information visit our website and Apply On-Line www.sunraysstudio.com or call 1.724.322.1858. E.O.E

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

Mgrs. and Lifegrds at Pools and Beaches in Greenville, Atlantic Beach, and Wilson. Call Bob 714-0576

Greenville Recreation & Parks Department is recruiting part-time youth baseball coaches for the spring t-ball program. Applicants must possess a good knowledge of baseball skills and have the ability and patience to work with youth. Hours vary from 3:30 pm to 8:00 pm, Monday-Friday with some weekend coaching. Flexible hours according to class schedules. This program will run from April 24-mid June. Salaries start at \$6.50 per hour. Apply at the City of Greenville, Human Resources Department, 201 Martin L. King Dr. Phone 329-4492. For more information, please contact the Athletic Office at 329-4550, Monday through Friday, 10 am until 7 pm.

After school childcare needed. Monday-Friday 2:00-5:30. Transportation necessary. Call after 6pm 355-3884.

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.

Work hard, Play hard, change lives!

Girls resident camp looking for counselors, lifeguards, wranglers, boating staff, crafts, Unit Leaders, Business Manager, and Health Supervisor. \$200-\$300/week! June 3-August 13th, Free Housing! (336) 861-1198 or Keyauwee@northstate.net www.keyauwee.com for an on-line application.

WZMB is currently accepting applications for a student office assistant. You must be a registered student with a gpa of at least 2.3. Attention to detail and a strong math background would be helpful. If interested please come by the radio station in the basement of mendenhall to fill out an application. This position is for the summer only. Deadline is Monday, April 10.

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.

Local law firm has a part-time mail room/runner position open. Responsibilities include: general office support, errands, file maintenance, phone and mail room support. Must have own transportation and be computer literate. Please send resume and available summer and fall hours to: Legal Administrator, 1698 E. Arlington Blvd., Greenville, NC 27858 or fax to 252-353-1096. EOE. Resumes without available hours attached will not be considered.

Babysitter: Mature, responsible babysitter needed for infant and toddler three days/week beginning in May. Must have good driving record, excellent references and reliable transportation. Contact kaswank@earthlink.net, 353-0187.

Part-time position now for energetic, committed Christian to coordinate programs for children, youth, and adults at historic Calvary Episcopal Church, in Tarboro, NC, 30 minutes from Greenville. Calvary has programs on Sundays and Wednesday evenings as well as seasonal programs such as Vacation Bible School and Lenten education series for a liberal congregation

of 350. A furnished office and telephone provided. Annual salary is \$13,500. Deadline for letter of interest and resume with at least three references is March 31, 2006. A background check will be conducted. Send letter, resume, and references to: Calvary Church, P.O. Box 1245, Tarboro, NC 27886.

Want ed: Stud. ent to ass\_ist kids ages 14, 13, and 9 with homework. Must be math major with GPA of 3.4 or bet\_ter. Strong in sci\_ence a plus. Must be non-smoker, flexi\_ble hours, trans\_por\_tation, avail\_able to work af\_ter\_noons, nights, and some wee\_kends. Call 252-917-6787 or 252-752-1572 for in\_ter\_view.

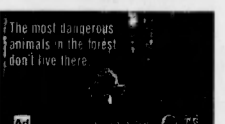
Now Hiring Tokyo To Go (Big Lots Shopping Center). Applications on door. Drop off at Any Jersey Mike's for more info call George 341-6630

Campus Towers in Greenville, NC seeks a general manager or leasing manager to provide leadership in the development and implementations of a comprehensive marketing and leasing program with the goal of 100% occupancy. Campus Towers is a new student housing facility serving the students of East Carolina University. Candidates with experience in student housing preferred. Bachelor's degree, self-motivation, strong computer, interpersonal communication skills, and an energetic and positive sales approach required. To apply, please send resume to heard@campusadv.com; fax to 512-472-0982; or call 512-472-6222.

## OTHER

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

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



Firewise tip: Landscaping with water-retaining plants helps protect your home from wildfire. Find other useful tips at Firewise.org.



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