



Fraternity and sorority members competed against one another in events like the water balloon toss, egg toss, tug of war and more.

The Swash Improv group will be on fire



'Blazin' Wing Challenge' in Wright Plaza today

KATLYN WYLLIE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Swash Improv Group is going to take the "Blazin' Wing Challenge" in Wright Plaza on Tuesday April 18 from 12 - 2 p.m. to promote their Plaque Attaque Tour finale show on April 20 at 8 p.m. at Mudslinger's Coffee Shop. Instead of handing out flyers in Wright Plaza, the Swash players will entertain and promote by eating a total of

100 notoriously "blazin'" wings. Their blood, sweat and tears will let the campus know just how serious The Swash is about entertaining. The Axis of Stevli, a local Web site designer, axisofstevli.com, will be sponsoring the event.

The Swash Improv Group's final show to their Plaque Attaque Tour is on Thursday April 20 and starts at 8 p.m. Mudslinger's Coffee Shop is located next to Aqua nightclub, on Evans Street. As always, the show is free.

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

Players compete at Greek Olympics

Event is part of Greek Week activities

CLAYTON BAUMAN
STAFF WRITER

Greek fraternity and sorority members gathered at the bottom of College Hill to go head-to-head last week during the Greek Olympics.

Consisting of teams of up to 10, fraternities and sororities allied with one another to face other Greeks in a variety of competitive events.

Events tested a variety of skills such as teamwork, strength and speed. Players participated in events such as the three-legged race, the balloon toss, the egg toss and a couple heated rounds of tug-of-war.

Despite low numbers of players at first, those on hand managed to have a lot of fun with the games. Class conflicts may have been part of the problem, something that should be taken into consideration next year.

"I think that it is a good chance for everyone to get to know each other better, and get more involved in other Greek systems," said Taylor Uzzeil, sophomore communication major and member of Alpha Delta Pi.

"It's a nice day out, it's a real good idea. I think they should keep doing it each year," said Sharnere Morrison, senior rehabilitation studies major and member of Alpha Kappa Alpha.

"Hopefully the population will increase each year." David Wagner, member of

Phi Kappa Psi, freshman and computer science major said, "It's something to do. I kind of wish more people were out here, but there is still a couple people so, still have fun."

The director of Greek Life and the assistant director were on hand to enjoy watching a couple rounds of games.

"I think it's going to be a good week," said Ion Outterbridge, director of Greek Life.

"We're just glad students are coming out and supporting it."

"I think Greek Week is a great way to get all the Greeks together to do some fun activities," said Kay Christian.

"I think the Greek Week committee, which was made up of all students, did an excellent job of making sure there was a

wide variety of events."

Lindsey Sherer, a graduate assistant at the office of Greek Life said, "I think this is great. I think it's something to unify all three of the umbrella organizations, which our campus really needs."

Phil Kendall, IFC Public Relations Chair and member of Kappa Sigma, was in charge of the Greek Olympics this year.

"For the first time trying to do something like this in a while, I think it was pretty good," said Kendall.

"We could have a little bit better of a turnout with people showing up, but everybody who came in gave 110 percent and we had a good time."

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

Now offering ARTstor digital library

A step toward the future

JOSEPH THOMAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Students, faculty and researchers can now access approximately 400,000 visual images and related catalog data online through ARTstor, a non-profit initiative with a mission to use digital technology to enhance scholarship, teaching and learning in the arts and other fields. Joyner Library provides access through its database pages.

ARTstor documents artistic and historical traditions across many time-periods and cultures and focuses on, but is not limited to, the arts. Students in many disciplines, including history, religion, literature and classical studies, will want to use ARTstor. ARTstor's software tools enable users to view and analyze images through features such as zoom-

ing and panning, and to save groups of images for personal or group uses, as well as for use in lectures and other presentations, either online or off-line.

Kelly Adams, Director of the School of Art and Design Media Center, described the usefulness of this new subscription.

"As an interdisciplinary resource, ArtStor, with features such as the Quick Time Virtual Reality (QTVR) or zooming/panning, provides a more animated environment for teaching traditional courses, distance education and scholarly presentations. ArtStor balances the complex interests of intellectual property owners while providing vast collections of digital images and related cataloging for pedagogical and scholarly purposes."

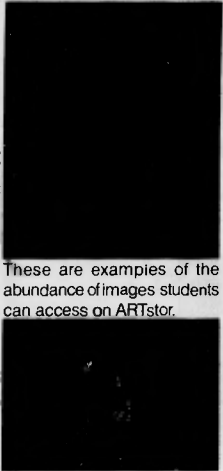
The Collection has been derived from several source collections that are the product of collaborations with librar-

ies, museums, photographic archives, publishers, slide libraries and individual scholars. These source collections include images documenting art and architecture from the United States, Europe and Asian countries.

ARTstor is further enriched by specialty collections of old master European prints from the 15th to the 19th Centuries, the MoMA Architecture and Design Collection, the Smithsonian Institution's Native American Art and Culture Collection from the National Anthropology Archives and the Schlesinger History of Women in America Collection.

For more information about ARTstor, please contact the Joyner Library Reference Desk at 328-6677, AIM: JoynerRef or e-mail askref@ecu.edu.

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



These are examples of the abundance of images students can access on ARTstor.

Competition intense at some elite universities for top minority students



Minority students are being 'fought over' by many prestigious schools.

(KRT)—High school student Emily Harris remembers coming home one day to find 27 college letters and brochures waiting for her near her family's front door in Hyde Park, Ill. She recalls that day, she says, because her two younger sisters took some pride in counting her college recruitment letters every day, one by one.

"We would just laugh about

it," she said with a smile. "They thought it was hilarious that I would receive so much mail in one day."

A high-achieving black senior, Harris has been fought over by a range of elite universities that might make some of her classmates jealous, and now she has to make up her mind: Will it be Yale, Stanford, Columbia? Oh yeah, the University of Illinois

at Urbana-Champaign accepted her, too.

"They offered me a full-tuition scholarship at the U. of I," Harris said.

"I'm not going to go there, but I haven't told them yet. It's just not one of my top choices."

Harris, a student at Chicago's Walter Payton College Preparatory High School, basically has had limitless options since last spring when she racked up impressive scores on the ACT and SAT, the two widely used college entrance exams.

She got a composite score of 34 out of a possible 36 on the ACT, a test now required of all Illinois public high school juniors, and she earned a combined score (verbal and math) of 1480 on the SAT (out of a possible 1600).

In the high-stakes competition to attract a diverse student body at the nation's elite universities, scores like that, combined with an A average and extracurricular activities, make Harris the scholastic equivalent of a rock star.

While college entrance exams are only part of the picture when it comes to student recruitment, the following statistics provide a vision of what some university officials say they are up against.

The numbers are still being compiled for Emily's class of 2006, but for high school seniors across the country in 2005, there were 864 blacks and 2,033 Latinos who earned a composite score of 29 or above on the ACT, while 66,708 white seniors did.

In the SAT testing program, there were 696 blacks and 1,458 Latino seniors in the class of 2005 who earned combined scores of 1400 or higher, while 36,471 white seniors did.

Clearly, the nation's very best minority students, particularly blacks, American Indian and Latino, make up a small pool, and they are generally the most underrepresented student groups at elite universities.

Court challenges have resulted in universities pulling back from

see MINORITY page A3

Acts of kindness

(KRT)—First, giant signs appeared on Washington University's campus, each with a cryptic message or question, such as "Wake up" or "What will you change?" or "Can you feel it?"

The next week, boxes filled with toy, beach balls, soccer balls, Frisbees, materialized in various locations. Some of the signs were changed to read: "Play nicely" and "Pass it on."

Then last week, two horse-drawn carriages showed up unannounced outside residence halls to give students free rides to class. There was no explanation, just signs on each carriage that read, "It's your turn."

Among the signs that week: "Where are you going?" and "Get back on your horse" and "Cowboy up."

Some apathetic college students haven't noticed all of these strange signs and happenings around campus, and don't really care. But many Washington U. students have been murmuring to each other, wondering about the identity of the anonymous benefactors behind the "Your Turn" campaign who are trying to jump-start a chain reaction of kindness.

"I think it's a really cool idea," said Lauren Jaffe, a freshman from Columbus, Ohio, as she sat outside the library on a warm, breezy day.

"It reminds me of that movie..." said Lisa Podlecki of Longmont, Colo., as she looked to Jaffe for help. Her eyes lit up, and she

blurted out, "Pay It Forward!" At first, Jaffe said she thought students must be behind it. But she wasn't so sure when the carriages arrived, figuring instead that it must be somebody with lots of money.

But Podlecki pointed out that the whole enterprise seems very "college-y" with its idealistic aspirations.

"I think it's cool they aren't taking any recognition for it," Jaffe said.

"Yeah, if you do it for recognition, it's not random and kind," Podlecki said.

"It just makes it more... nice," Jaffe agreed.

Another part of the "Your Turn" campaign is to get students, faculty and staff to write anonymous notes to the people who have made a difference in their lives. When people send those notes to a certain e-mail address, the secret do-gooders will send those notes along to the recipients through campus mail. The letters encourage the recipients to spread the love by writing similar notes to others.

It should be noted that it's rare for students to receive letters in their campus mailboxes. So the "Your Turn" folks use e-mail to remind e-mail-addicted students to check their mailboxes.

Jill Carnaghi, assistant vice chancellor of students, said she received the "nicest anonymous

see KIND page A3

Crime beat

CLAIRE MURPHY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Sexual Assault in Greene Hall was reported April 3. It is under further investigation.

Larceny in Todd Dining Hall was reported April 3 and is under further investigation.

A report of damage to property in Scott Hall is under further investigation.

A vehicle hit a pedestrian April 5 on 10th street. A citation has been issued.

Driving while license was revoked on College Hill Drive was reported April 8. It has been closed and cleared by arrest.

An armed robbery in Slay Hall April 8 is under further investigation.

Damage to property in Tyler Hall occurred April 8 and has been closed and cleared by arrest. A citation has also been issued.

Belk Hall had a case of drunk and disruptive assault on a female April 8. It has been closed and cleared by arrest.

At the Brody construction site, Larceny of a cell phone April 7 was reported and is under further investigation.

Larceny of License Plate in Fletcher Hall was reported April 9 and is under further investigation.

Joyner Library had a case of larceny of money April 9 and is under further investigation.

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

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Minority from page A1

affirmative-action programs for everything from admissions to enrichment programs — upping the stakes in the competition for the nation's top minority students such as Emily Harris. A soccer and guitar player, Harris guesses she has received hundreds of splashy letters from interested schools.

"Students also have called and e-mailed and invited me to events," she said about her contact with one school, Yale University, where she received an acceptance letter in December. She considers the school her top choice but has until May to make a final decision.

University admissions officials say they pursue top minority students with scholarships, fly-ins to campus and a barrage of outreach efforts, including using current students and alumni to extol the virtues of their schools.

Some schools in rural areas as well as some small liberal arts colleges also colleges, also make a special effort to target Asian-American students, since because their numbers can be particularly small low on those campuses, university officials say.

For Harris, being competitively courted means the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign sweetened its admissions offer with a scholarship, and Yale, after accepting her in December, put her in touch with other students, hoping to establish a personal connection.

She was invited to Yale this month for a special program set up to solidify the bond between prospective freshman and the university. She also thought it was a nice touch when Yale sent her a T-shirt and a car bumper sticker.

"I didn't like Harvard," said Harris, whose dark, curly hair and bright smile make her look younger than 18. She visited Harvard along with other top East Coast schools last fall.

"I liked Yale because people work hard but they also know how

to have a good time," she said. "Harvard just wasn't a good fit."

University officials at elite schools across the country, including those at the University of Chicago, have long argued that their attempts to create a campus with a diverse mix of students is complicated by the fact that the top schools are often competing for the same people.

"There is terrific competition for those top minority students," said Michael Behnke, vice president for university relations and dean of college enrollment at the University of Chicago. U. of C.

"They all have wonderful options, and we like to get as many of them as we can," he said.

The intense competition for the same small pool of high achievers is one reason the University of Chicago has had trouble nudging up its percentage of incoming black freshman, according to outgoing President Don Randel. That percentage now hovers between four 4 percent and 5 percent.

"Now we are doing more phone calls, more mailings, we help students with travel expenses to visit campus," added Behnke.

Merit scholarships also can be a key to attracting top students, said Behnke. The total cost for undergraduates attending the University of Chicago for the 2006-2007 academic year, for example, will be nearly \$45,000, according to university officials.

U. of C. officials say another approach also has been to help grow its own new entrants with a program started three years ago called the Collegiate Scholars Program.

The enrichment program, aimed at Chicago Public Schools students rather than at minority students exclusively, starts in the summer break between the 9th and 10th grades, and allows top city students to spend six weeks in intensive coursework at the U. of C. Afterward, the university continues to work with the students with a variety of projects.

Kind from page A1

letter" thanking her for her work.

"I've carried it around for days," she said, adding that she has written down a list of people she plans to write notes to in return.

Carnaghi also disclosed that she knows the identity of some of the people involved in the "Your Turn" campaign but has promised to keep their anonymity.

"I think they really are sincere about just focusing on the content and not who are the individuals involved in it, or what are their affiliations, and is there an ulterior motive," she said.

Alina del Castillo, a junior from Rockville, Md., who took one of the carriage rides last week, said she hoped students would find out by the end of the year who was behind the kindness, so they could repay the favor.

"It does make me want to be nicer to people around me," she said, as she paused while doing a

Sudoku puzzle on the quad.

Andrew Walzer, a senior from Memphis, Tenn., said he has noticed that something different has been going on around campus.

But he wasn't ready to attribute it to pure kindness.

Was this some way the school is trying to get money from students, he wondered?

"But if it's all in the spirit of kindness..." he trailed off, then that would be cool, he said, grinning.

When reached by the Post-Dispatch, the people behind "Your Turn" agreed to speak on the condition of anonymity.

They are, indeed, students. But they wouldn't say whether more surprises were planned.

Asked why they were so determined to remain incognito, a spokesperson responded, "The whole motive is that you don't always need something in return. To do something just because it's a nice thing to do is the most gracious gift of all."

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Canadian from page A2

for five years, picking cucumbers and melons for GIFAR Co., an agribusiness. He routinely works the planting and harvesting seasons, allowing him to go home to his family five or six months a year with his pockets stuffed with cash.

Before he started working in Canada, he used to pack a small plastic bag with a few clothes, a water jug, his wife's burritos, a baseball cap and comfortable running shoes and head for the yards and roofs of Dallas. He made good money, he said, but he hated the journey, abusive smugglers, and days of walking along the banks of the Rio Grande or in the desert, not knowing where he was or when he'd see his wife and three children again.

"As an illegal immigrant, you're also always vulnerable," he said. "And in Dallas I was always looking over my shoulder to see if the migra (Border Patrol) was behind me. And then all the personal attacks against us."

The Suaste brothers nodded their heads in agreement. These men, at least, said they have no intention of ever abandoning their homeland. The three live on the same plot of family land with their parents, wives and children. Their three homes, built with money earned in Dallas and beyond, are clustered together.

"We don't want to be anybody's burden," said Alejandro. "We just want to work, help feed our families back home, and return again without the dangers of crossing the border."

President Bush has said matching foreigners with U.S.

jobs that Americans won't do will help "bring people out of the shadows of American society so they don't have to fear the life they live."

The Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program allows Canadian farms to recruit foreign workers if they can't find Canadians to harvest their crops. It began in 1974 with only a handful of foreign workers. These days, there were so many Mexican workers in Ontario alone, 7,200 that last year the Mexican government set up a new consulate office to meet their needs.

In Canada, workers are provided with housing and transportation. Employers pay for the plane ticket and then deduct some of those costs from the employee's paycheck. The workers return home at the end of the harvest season with a letter from their employer either inviting them to return next season or not. Officials say 75-80 percent of all employees do return.

Mexican President Vicente Fox is calling on Canada to expand the program.

"We should move out from agriculture to other services and other kinds of jobs, and we are working on this with the Canadian government," Fox told the Toronto-based Globe and Mail newspaper.

In Toronto, David Rosenblatt, managing director of Rosenblatt & Associates, a recruiting agency, said Canada's birth rate of 1.5 children per female, an aging population, plus a brain drain of people leaving for the United States means that the country faces pressing challenges.

Alpha Phi Alpha probate



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Page A7 The East Carolinian, Self Help Building

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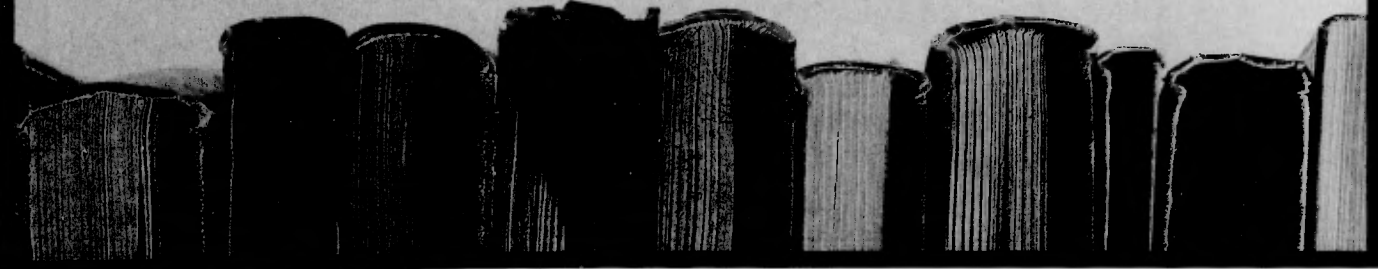
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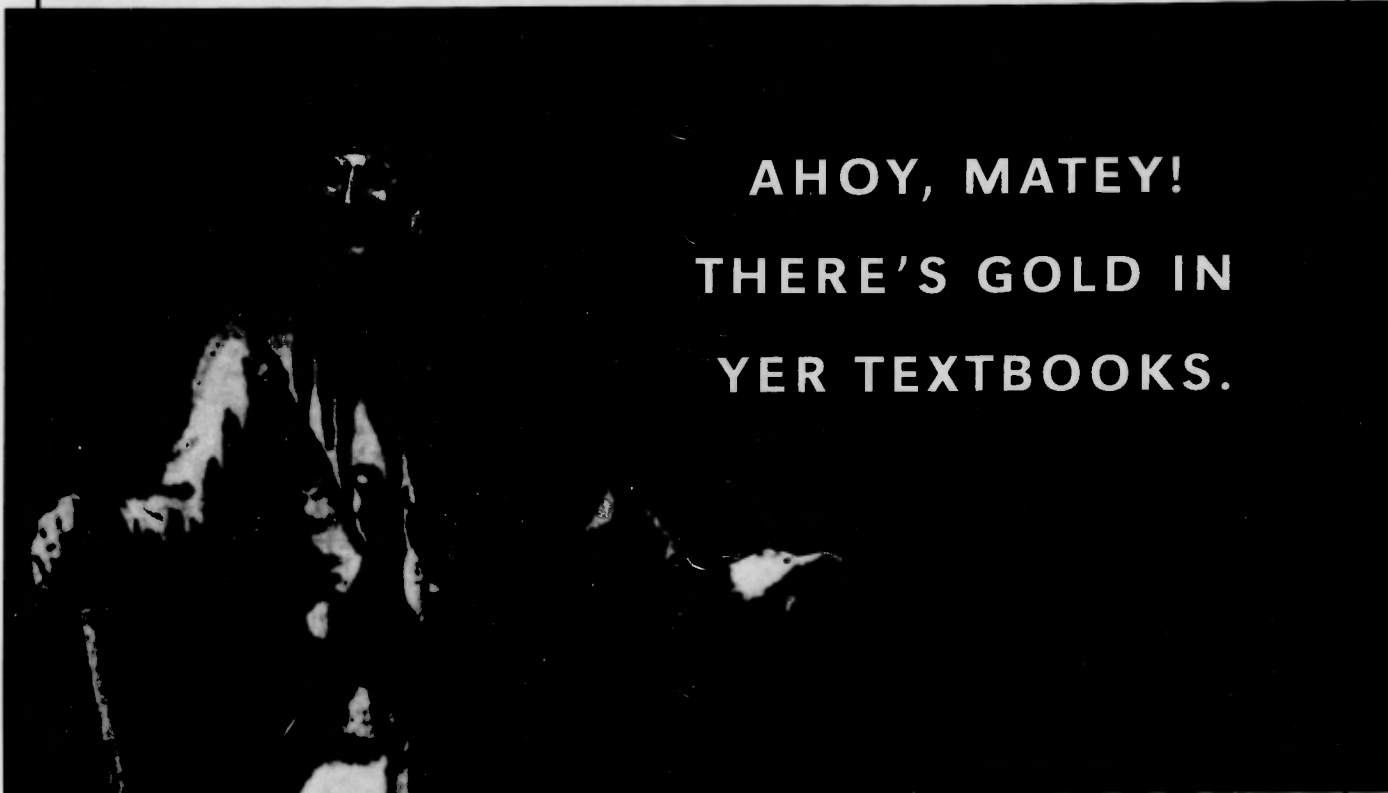
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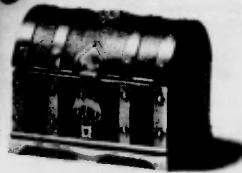
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Queen from page B1

vals and welcome centers. I also went to Washington, D.C., for "Watermelons on Capitol Hill" where I lobbied for more money for research in watermelon diseases.

TEC: What do you plan on doing after college?

Wilson: Well I have two very different answers to that question. My dream is to become a published fiction author, live in a big house in the South with a huge front porch and drink iced tea every day for the rest of my life. But there's also a big part of me that wants to do research on how physical traumas in the brain affect behavioral patterns and if there are ways to prevent the negative outcomes in surgical and head trauma patients.

Writing has always been a passion of mine. I love it, and the prospect of being paid to do something I love is a dream come true. But I have a very real and emotional connection to the brain trauma research; as well, I have a sister who suffers

from the consistent re-growth of tumors on the meninges of the brain called cluster meningiomas. Despite surgeries that seem to follow an every two-year pattern, my sister has done remarkably well. She functions on a normal level cognitively and socially with only minor physical difficulties. She is blind in her left eye and experiences some numbness and paralysis on the left side of her body at times, but the psychological differences are noticeable.

As expected, she suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder because of the surgery and sometimes has trouble with paranoia and sudden mood swings. I want hospitals to start treating surgical patients more like trauma patients, and help them with these behavioral side effects. The brain can't tell if a scalpel is cutting it, or an ax, all it registers is the trauma. I think it's important that be addressed.

TEC: You are surprisingly comfortable when it comes to talking

about your sister's tumor. How is that?

Wilson: I don't mind talking about my sister at all; she's an amazing person and a very important part of my life. My family is the most important aspect of my life. I have three brothers and one sister. My sister is seven years older than I am and she has a daughter who is four. Since my sister's surgeries, Mercy, that's her daughter, and I have become very close. During my sister's recovery time, my mom and I take care of Mercy.

Mercy is an amazing little girl and she means the world to me. I can't imagine life without her.

Amanda Wilson is an inspirational queen who is able to successfully manage all of life's curve balls.

She is among the many who juggle academics, work and personal endeavors. This pirate is sure to go a long way.

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

Barefoot from page B1

about their particular group.

While student organizations will take up most of the mall with booths, this year's Barefoot sponsor, Bank of America, will have banners and booths prominently featured throughout the mall.

Thanks to their \$5,000 donation the Student Union

will be able to bring us this afternoon of enjoyment.

Whether you are looking forward to enjoying some live music, catching up with friends, working on your tan or just taking off your shoes to feel the grass between your toes, Barefoot is a definite way to ensure a hassle free afternoon.

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

MFA from page B1

These students have traveled from around the world to pursue their passion for art and gain the knowledge that they need in order to be successful and confident.

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to hone in on their natural born talents, they will finally be achieving the ultimate success of graduating next month.

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Saturday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Beginning on May 12 and extending throughout the summer, the Gallery will be closed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Support these students.

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

Job skills from page B1

away, take a deep breath and give yourself a moment to think.

Eye contact and body language are other ways to make a good impression on a potential employer. Make sure when shaking hands or answering questions you hold eye contact with the interviewer. You want to make

sure that you are having a conversation, not talking to the floor.

Last, but definitely not least, remember to be yourself. Don't try to be someone that you aren't in the pursuit of acceptance. If the employer doesn't appreciate you for who you are, you more than likely don't want to work

there anyway.

When pursuing the perfect job remember to go in with your head held high and keep on smiling, even if your stumble a bit. Happy hunting.

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

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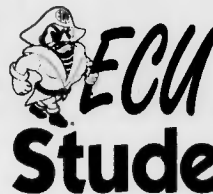
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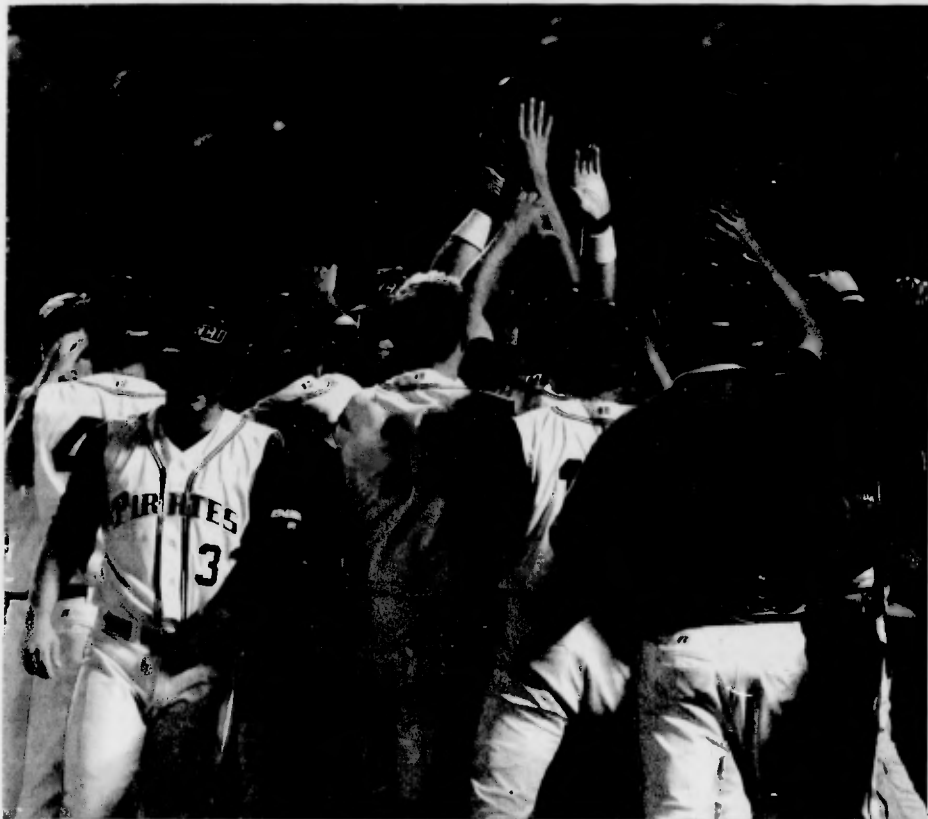
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Pirates sweep Albany; win streak at six



Adam Witter continued his hot hitting with a grand slam in the third game against Albany this past weekend. He had 10 total RBI for the series.

Diamond Bucs move to 25-13 on the season

BRENT WYNNE
SENIOR WRITER

ECU scored 40 runs and banded out 52 hits in three games as the Pirates swept the first ever series with Albany 16-5, 11-3 and 13-9. Albany led in every contest, but the relentless offensive barrage from the Diamond Bucs proved to be too much for Great Dane pitching, as they fell to 8-20 on the season while ECU improved to 25-13 and have now won six games in a row.

Adam Witter was an absolute monster at the plate all weekend, going 7-for-12 with a grand slam, 10 RBI and six runs scored. The grand slam occurred in game three in which Witter was 3-for-5 with six RBI.

"He's a true Pirate," said Godwin.

"It's great to see good things happen to good people."

With the Pirates trailing 9-6 in the final game, Witter took it upon himself to get the Pirates back in the game. After Harrison Eldridge and Jamie Ray recorded back to back singles and Dale Mollenhauer loaded the bases on a fielder's choice, Witter delivered the final back-breaking blow to Albany and their hopes of winning a game, sending Chris Ott's offering deep over the right field wall, giving the Diamond Bucs a 10-9 lead.

"There's nobody on this team that I pull harder for than Adam Witter," Godwin said.

"He works hard and good things deserve to come to him. I just felt like he was going to do

something good there."

Witter singled with the bases loaded again in the seventh, pushing two more Pirate runs across. In all, ECU scored seven times over the sixth and seventh innings, seizing control of the game 13-9.

The Diamond Bucs stroked 17 hits and six Pirate batters had multi-hit days. Witter, Eldridge and Batts each collected three hits, while Mollenhauer, Jay Mattox and Ryan Wood each had two.

With an infield hit in his first at-bat of game three, Ryan Wood extended his hit streak to a team high 12 games, surpassing Jamie Ray for the longest hit streak by a Pirate in 2006. Ray's streak was 11 games.

ECU starter Shane Matthews had a bad outing, going just 4.2 innings, while giving up seven runs on eight hits. He struck out five.

Scott Andrews, who was also shaky, found his stride and got the win for ECU in relief. The senior southpaw went 3.1 innings, allowing two runs on four hits and a walk with a strikeout.

Jason Neitz slammed the door with a perfect ninth. Neitz's season ERA is a ridiculous 0.42 in 21.2 innings.

In game two, Josh Dowdy was brilliant on the mound, while Mattox drove in a career high five runs as ECU cruised to an 11-3 victory over the Great Danes.

Dowdy, who came on in relief of starter Michael Hill, tossed 6.1 scoreless innings of awesome relief, striking out nine while earning his first win. He gave up just four

see **BASEBALL** page B5

Pirates give back with youth baseball clinic

CONTRIBUTED BY NICK ZULOVICH
THE DAILY REFLECTOR

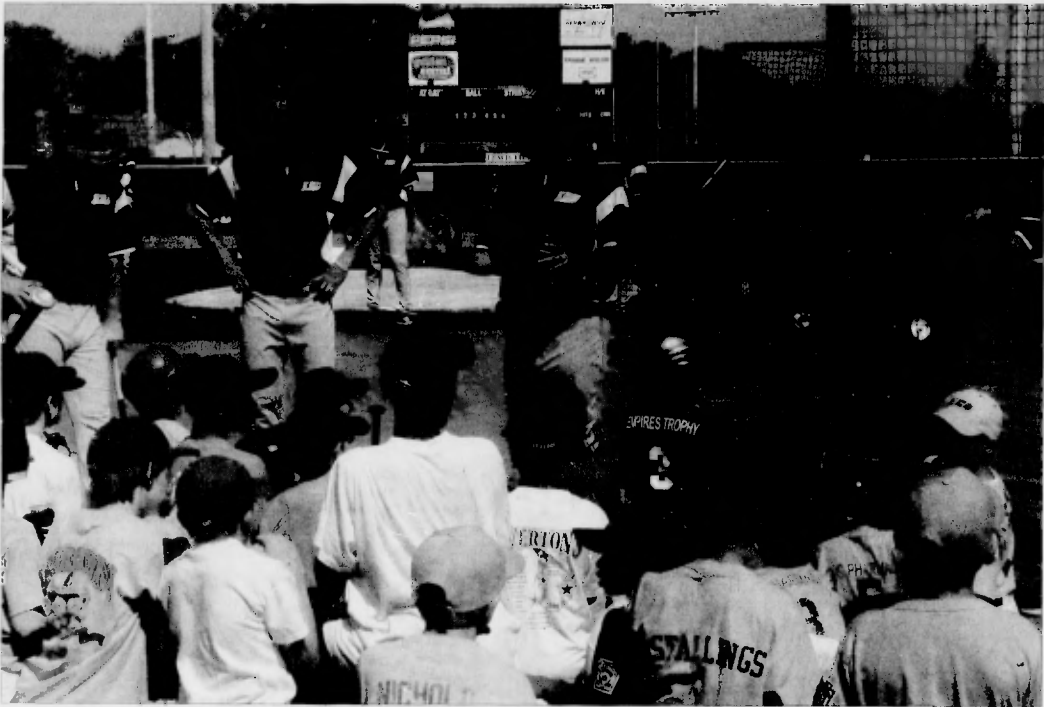
Uniforms and caps that ranged in every color from a box of crayons dotted the turf at Clark-LeClair Stadium on Saturday morning. There were the purple and gold uniforms of East Carolina's baseball players and coaches along with more than 150 youth baseball players who turned out for a 90-minute free session that was just as much about instruction as it was about enjoyment.

"This was about the love of the game," ECU head coach Billy Godwin said. "It was just a great morning. I love this."

ECU's players and coaches worked with the youngsters on all of the basics of the game, ranging from how a pitcher should throw a baseball, how a fielder should position his feet to gather in a ball, how a baserunner should touch the bag and be ready to advance and how a hitter needs to hold the bat correctly in a bunt situation. It was difficult to determine whose smile was wider, the youth players, the adults who loaded up SUVs and minivans to bring them, or the members of ECU's baseball program.

"To me, as people who have been fortunate in this game, we owe a lot of people," Godwin said. "This would not have been successful if nobody showed up. I've been very blessed in this game that I feel like I have to give back something to keep the fire burning in guys who want to play baseball. I was as excited as the kids were."

Ashley Padgett of Washington came with her husband Chris, who filled the family camera with pictures of their children, Reed, 10, and Josh. Ashley Padgett said she told her sons of the event on Thursday night and the wait for them seemed to be unbearable. She added how ECU outfielder



The Pirates held a baseball clinic for the youth of Greenville over this past weekend.

see **YOUTH BASEBALL** page B5

Men and women's track excel over weekend

(SID) — Three ECU men's track and field athletes and the Pirates' 4x100 relay squad bested NCAA Regional qualification minimums during competition at the Sea Ray Relays held at the Tom Black Track Inside LaPorte Stadium on the University of Tennessee campus, while Junior Chelsea Salisbury captured a javelin title and earned runner-up standing in the hammer throw event to highlight the women's track program's participation at the Carolina Fast Times meet at Irwin Belk Track and Fetzer Field over the weekend.

Freshman sprinters Kevin Thompson (10.41) and Jerek Hewett (10.42) both earned qualification in the 100-meter dash with personal-record efforts that resulted in fifth and sixth-place finishes, respectively. Junior Terrance Myers also established a career-best effort in the hammer throw at 58.54 to pick up a second-place standing and exceed the post-season qualification mark for the fourth time this season.

In addition, the Pirates' 4x100 relay squad surpassed the NCAA minimum for the second time in 2006, finishing third with a time of 40.22, just .02 shy of the program's season-best.

Salisbury recorded a javelin toss of 39.19 meters

to edge out teammate Danielle Eiler's career-best mark of 38.15 before setting a personal record of her own with a 52.11-meter effort in the hammer throw.

In all, the Lady Pirates registered 12 top 10 finishes and established six new personal standards during the competition. Seven of ECU's top 10 standings came in the throw events as Eiler topped a fourth-place finish in the shot put (PR of 13.13 meters) and stood sixth in the discus (42.48) while juniors Jessica Georgio (44.27) and Emily Thompson (44.19) were sixth and seventh in the hammer throw, respectively.

Other individual men's top 10 finishes of note include freshman Brandon Small (400 meters/8th/47.29) and junior Eric Frasure, who recorded a discus throw of 50.50 meters to stand eight.

A pair of relay teams experienced action for the first time this year as ECU's 4x200 and distance medley squads picked up a pair of third-place results after producing times of 1:24.06 and 10:00.40.

Both teams will return to action next weekend when it competes at the Neely/Alumni Relays on the campus of North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro.

Hodge thankful he's alive after shooting, unsure when he'll play

(AP) — Julius Hodge sat at a table by midcourt, his left leg in a walking cast, his flesh and bones still mending from the three bullets that pierced his body in a drive-by shooting.

An ever-so-slight smile crossed his face.

"I can still shoot," he said, flipping a basketball into the air. "I'm a passer though."

Right now, he's a bystander. The 22-year-old Denver Nuggets rookie returned to the Pepsi Center on Monday for the first time since the shooting nine days ago. He was thankful to be alive, but wasn't sure when he'll play again.

"I want to take this opportunity to let everyone know that I'm feeling good and on the road to recovery," Hodge said at the team's shoot-around, his first public comments since the shooting.

Hodge didn't show any signs of bitterness.

"I just try to smile as much as possible every day," he said. "It's definitely a real tough time on my family and friends. I just try to pick everybody's spirits up and just try to use my laughter as a defense mechanism, try to smile and not frown a lot, or be down on myself because it's definitely a blessing I'm still here."

His arrival at the Nuggets' training facilities also brought smiles to his teammates' faces.

"It's great to see him," Marcus Camby said. "It's great to see him alive."

Hodge was shot in the left leg early on April 8 while driving on a Denver freeway after he left a nightclub. Investigators said the shots were fired from a car that pulled alongside Hodge's.

"Being from New York City

was definitely tough going, and coming out here to Colorado, I was definitely thinking that was real ironic," Hodge said. "It's an unfortunate happening but it's definitely a blessing in disguise why I'm still here today, be able to talk to you guys, continue to see my mom's laughter."

"I'm very happy and I'm going to take advantage of each day that I'm here on this Earth."

Hodge refused to discuss details of the shooting because it's still under investigation.

Adams County sheriff's deputies have said they have no suspects and have not determined a motive.

Hodge said he's eager to meet with the couple who stopped and took him to a hospital.

"The police haven't given

see **HODGE** page B5

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Baseball from page B4

hits in his longest outing of his career.

Mattox led the Pirates at the dish, going three-for-five with five RBI. Mollenhauer, Ray, Witter, and Wood each added two hits for ECU, who had 15 as a squad.

After a sluggish start from Pirate pitching and hitting in game one, which saw the Pirates trailing Albany 3-2 heading to the bottom of the fourth, ECU responded with 14 runs in their last five at-bats to triumph over the Great Danes 16-5.

Starter Dustin Sasser got knocked around a bit, giving up five runs off of seven hits and a walk in just 4.2 innings. Senior reliever Kevin Rhodes came on in relief of the southpaw and got the win after the Pirates exploded in the fourth. Rhodes clearly didn't even need half of that output from the Buc bats, as he stifled Dane hitters for the last 4.1 innings of the game. He gave up just one hit and

one walk to improve to 2-0 on the season.

The senior righty is quietly having a phenomenal season, posting a 2.45 ERA in 22.0 innings.

Smith and Witter led the Pirates at the plate with three RBI apiece, while Mattox and Ray led the team in hits with three each.

The Diamond Bucs return to action tonight in the season's rubber match with in-state rival N.C. State. After State erased a 4-0 deficit to win in the bottom of the ninth in game one in Raleigh, the Pirates responded with a 2-1, 13-inning triumph at home to even up the season series. Game three will be played at Doak Field in Raleigh on Tuesday. First pitch is scheduled for 7 p.m.

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

Youth Baseball from page B4

Brandon Henderson immediately helped her older son with his skills.

"They've already fixed something with my son, so I'm just tickled," Padgett said. "It took an ECU player to get him straight."

Patrick Searcy of Bethel, along with being the father of a ballplayer, also coaches youngsters with the Southern Pitt All-Stars. Searcy said he and his son, Davis, 8, regularly attend ECU games and the opportunity to learn and speak with players first hand was a chance not to be missed.

"It validates what we say," Searcy said. "The coaches and the players are all doing it."

Though ECU junior pitcher Mike Flye said otherwise, it wasn't a terribly long time ago that he was a youth player in Greenville Little Leagues. Flye said there wasn't events like this when he was a player for the Lion's Club. However, he smiled looking over the field that was covered with players of various ages and ethnicities.

"There's a lot of tradition here," Flye said. "It's good to see these young kids coming out and keeping it going."

That tradition is being kept up not only in sheer volume but in quality of play, as well. Godwin threw several sessions of batting practice for some

of the players.

Rashawn Lockamy, 10, was just one of the numerous players to draw praise from not only Godwin but other ECU athletes. Lockamy laced several of Godwin's offerings for long drives that could have gone for home runs on a Little League field.

"I was a little nervous," Lockamy said. "When I started hitting them into the outfield I wasn't nervous anymore."

The event concluded with Godwin giving some brief points of advice to the youngsters, including to thank the people who brought them to Clark-LeClair, also to concentrate on school work, too, as well as a method to use to make good decisions.

"Ask yourself if the person who loves you most would approve of you doing that," Godwin told the group. "It's something I tell my players all the time because it always works."

ECU's athletic department is hoping this type of event becomes a regular part of the Pirates' season. Along with Saturday morning's clinic, youth ballplayers in uniform had the opportunity to run out of the field with their favorite ECU player prior to Saturday evening's game against the University of Albany.

"It's great to give back because when we were kids, guys came back to help us, too," Flye said.

Hodge from page B4

me the information yet but as soon as I get it, I would like to thank them personally," he said.

Hodge, who played at North Carolina State, was Denver's first-round draft choice in 2005, the 20th selection overall. He got off to a rocky start in Denver when a 37-year-old woman accused him of trying to sexually assault her in October, but prosecutors declined to file charges.

Hodge spent most of his rookie season in the NBA's developmental league and appeared in 14 games for the Nuggets this season, averaging 0.9 points and 2.4 minutes.


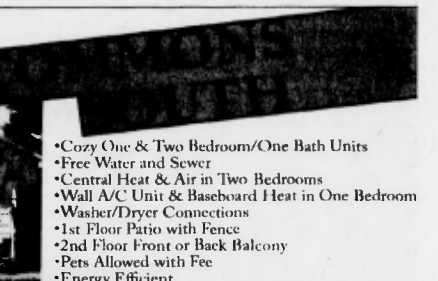
Originally, the Nuggets were optimistic that

Hodge would recover by the start of the playoffs, at least to give them another body at practice. Those plans have changed.

Coach George Karl said Monday that the team will be much more cautious and that Hodge wouldn't be on the practice court anytime soon.

"Julius has had a tough rookie season but he's still an NBA player, and now we've just got to rehab him and get him strong enough to play in the summer," Karl said.

Hodge said he's trying to find a way to turn his shooting into a positive part of his life "because what doesn't kill you only makes you stronger, and I'm just trying to become better physically and mentally make better decisions in life."


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