

Clement Hall fire intentionally set

ECU Police say ill will sparked Clement Hall fire

BENJAMIN CORMACK
STAFF WRITER

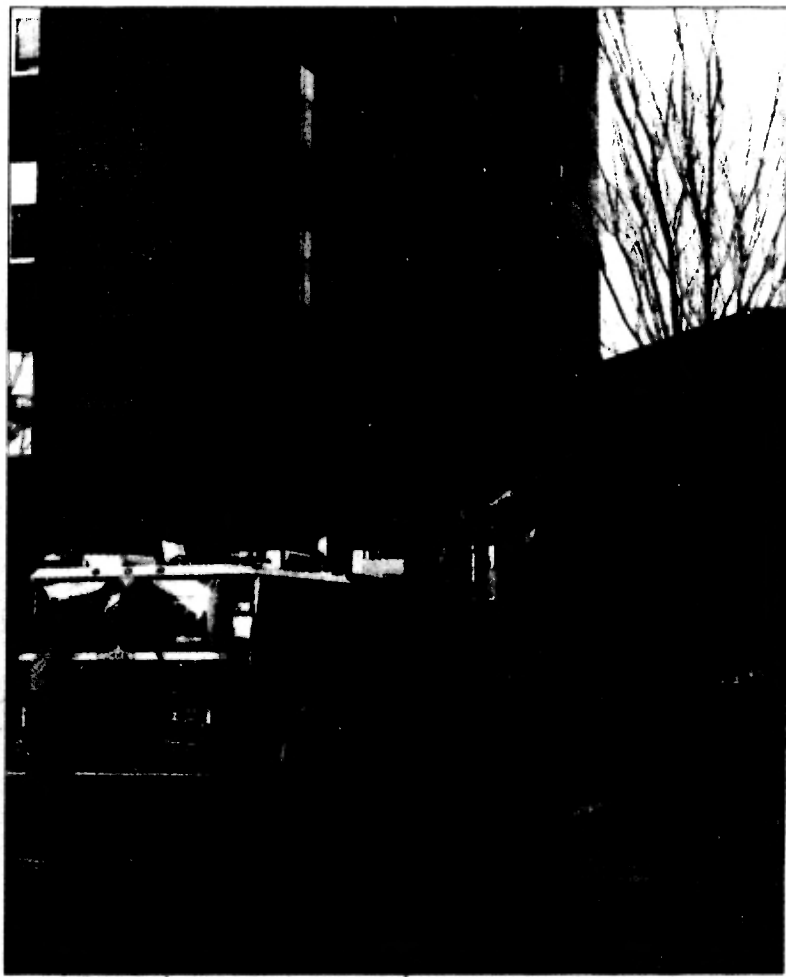
The ECU Police Department held a press conference last week to discuss the investigation into the Clement Hall fire that took place March 29, and the arrest of the student allegedly responsible for starting it.

Latasha Ann Isler, 18, was arrested on May 16 after investigators determined that the Clement Hall fire was not an accident. Greenville police held a press conference at the Blount House on Wednesday to address questions about the investigation.

Assistant Police Chief Tommy Evans was on hand to provide statements and answer questions.

"The fire was arson, it was intentional and it was not accidental," Evans said.

While he did not go into specific details about what the motivation behind setting the fire was, Evans did say that, "There was



see **ARSON** page 3

Authorities say a student started the fire in Clement Hall on purpose.

Grant to fund diabetes research

ECU receives \$491,000 grant from Johnson & Johnson

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
STAFF WRITER

ECU was awarded a \$491,000 grant to research new cures for diabetes by Johnson & Johnson at a March 21 press conference.

ECU faculty members are using the grant to research the effects gastric-bypass surgery on patients with diabetes. Gastric-bypass surgery is an operation that reduces the size of the stomach.

The research directly looks

at insulin sensitivity and glucose metabolism during a two-year clinical study.

"Insulin is a hormone secreted from the pancreas that increases sugar transport to muscle and fat leading to increase fuel or diet storage," Dr. Edward Seidel, professor of physiology, said.

"Glucose is used to drive metabolism but when glucose usage becomes compromised it leads to high blood glucose levels and diabetes."

According to Seidel, there are two different kinds of diabetes, type one and type two. Type one is juvenile onset diabetes and type two is adult onset diabetes.



Dr. Pories and Chancellor Ballard speak after the press conference.

The leading cause of type two diabetes is obesity, which is directly related to the production of insulin.

Treatment known to help cure diabetes right now is insulin injection.

see **GRANT** page 3



Stuart Hager, 13, test drives an interactive video game at ECU's activity promotion lab under the supervision of David Kemble.

ECU researchers observe video game effects

Interactive video games being studied

CLAYTON BAUMAN
STAFF WRITER

ECU's exercise and sport management program is currently conducting experiments with interactive video games and children.

The study, which is still in progress, has observed children playing a variety of interactive video games such as "Gran Turismo 4," "Moto Racer" and "Dance Dance Revolution."

According to Matt Mahar, ECU exercise scientist, researchers have monitored a variety of the children's reactions to the games such as heart rate variability and arousal.

"The purpose for the study, or underlying premise is that children are less active than they used to be," said Mahar.

Mahar cited the absence of video games when he was younger and how outdoor activity was encouraged, such as climbing trees or riding bikes.

"Now, with the traditional video games, they're very exciting, kids can sit real still actually and move their fingers and thumbs," said Mahar.

Mahar feels that there is perhaps a link between childhood obesity in America and the non-interactive video games that are being produced.

The study takes a deeper look at games produced by companies that are actually trying to get kids out of their chairs and interact with the game through physical activity.

"Dance Dance Revolution" features a dance pad which hooks up to the machine. Players then "dance" on the pad, which is a series of left, right, up and down arrows. When the arrow on the screen is illuminated players in turn step on that arrow. The speed increases making for some rather aerobic dance sessions.

"A third game we're using is a boxing game, where there is an eye-toy, or camera on the television, that films the participant, and the participant appears on the screen boxing the character on the screen," said Mahar.

"The things we're looking at are energy expenditure, if the kids are burning more calories," said Mahar, "We expect certainly that they're going to expend a lot more calories during the interactive games than

see **GAMES** page 2

Announcements:**2006 ECU/Loessin Summer Theatre**

Individual ticket sales begin June 1. Please see ECUARTS.com to purchase tickets or call 1-800-ECU-ARTS. Summer season tickets are available now.

'Guys and Dolls'

June 27 - July 1, A Musical Fable of Broadway and based on a story and characters of Damon Runyon, this funny and romantic comedy-considered by many to be the perfect musical comedy - soars with the spirit of Broadway. Abe Burrows and Jo Swerling's hilarious, fast-paced book and Frank Loesser's bright, brassy, immortal score takes us from the heart of Times Square to the cafes of Havana, Cuba, and even into the sewers of New York City.

'The Fantasticks'

July 11-15. The original production opened on May 3, 1960 at the Sullivan Street Playhouse in New York's Greenwich Village where it's still playing after 15,000 performances making *The Fantasticks* is the longest-running musical in the world! It's a moving tale of young lovers who become disillusioned, only to discover a more mature, meaningful love is punctuated by a bountiful series of catchy, memorable songs. With its minimal costumes, small band and virtually non-existent set, *The Fantasticks* is an intimate show that engages the audience's imagination and showcases a strong ensemble cast.

'Footloose: the musical'

July 25-29
One of the most explosive movie musicals in recent memory now bursts onto the live stage. To the rockin' rhythm of its Oscar-nominated top 40 score to which new, dynamic songs have been added, *Footloose* celebrates the wisdom of listening to young people, guiding them with a warm heart and an open mind.

Games from page 1

they would during the traditional games. How many more is what we will document."

Mahar talked about how the state of West Virginia is currently putting "Dance Dance Revolution" to use in middle schools as a form of physical activity.

"We have the first generation of kids who actually have a shorter life expectancy than their parents, and that's never happened before in the United States," Mahar said.

Mahar hopes to combat this epidemic through getting to kids with what they enjoy - video games of the interactive nature.

Documented participants currently number 23. The kids who participate come in for two 2-hour sessions. During the first session, resting energy expenditure is measured, and the participants are allowed practice with the games they'll be using. At the second session, energy expenditure and arousal are documented during the performance with the traditional games and the interactive games.

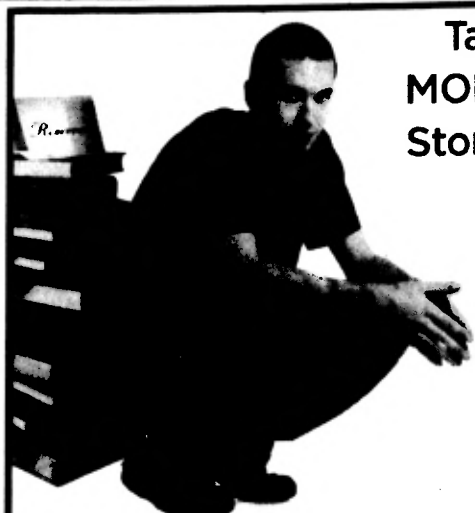
For more information contact Matt Mahar at 328-0008.

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Announcing:

The Student Coalition for Inclusion

Sponsored by the Office of Intercultural Student Affairs, the Student Coalition for Inclusion will assist with fostering a climate of inclusion that respects and promotes interculturalism and cultural competence. Specialized training will be offered to help participants acquire the various tools needed to enhance diversity.

The goals include, but are not limited to:

- Fostering alignment with University objectives.
- Creating a more inclusive environment.
- Identifying strategic and measurable actions.
- Instilling a culture of structured renewal.
- Enhance cultural understanding, education and awareness.

The objectives include, but are not limited to:

- Implementing a Diversity Symposium
- Facilitating Diversity Forums.
- Collaborating with faculty and staff on awareness and inclusion.
- Conducting and presenting research that will assist with the University diversity strategic planning process.

An application for membership on the Coalition is attached and should be returned to the Office of Intercultural Student Affairs by **July 31, 2006**.

For additional questions or information contact the Office of Intercultural Affairs at 252-328-4350, email isca@ecu.edu, or visit 105 Ragsdale Hall.

Arson from page 1

some ill will or malice as far as the intent behind it. There was some emotional involvement between the two roommates."

Evans also said the feud had been going on for a while.

According to an article in *The Daily Reflector*, three resident advisors told detectives in April that there was a rift between Isler and her roommate, Chiqueta Winston, 21, because of Winston's boyfriend. One of those advisors interviewed said that she discussed the problem with Isler a few days before the fire occurred.

Winston was out of town when the fire occurred.

Police arrested Isler at 1:25 p.m. on May 16 and charged her with first-degree arson, which is the intentional act of setting a fire. She was released by magistrate order under a \$15,000 unsecured bond. Isler could face nine to 14 years in jail if convicted. Damages from the fire could cost more than \$100,000 to repair.

"This was a very, very serious and dangerous event," Evans said.

"First degree arson or any crime is not taken lightly. This young lady endangered the lives of a lot of students, and she is unfortunately now facing these charges."

The police first interviewed Isler the night of the fire, at which time she was asked to give a written statement. She then later voluntarily came in with her father to meet investigators, who found conflicting information between her interviews and her written statement. Police also believe that Isler tried to steer the investigation toward another woman.

The ECU police obtained a search warrant to access electronic

media to get additional information and leads, which included emails and videotapes from dorm security cameras. Footage from the security cameras also conflicted with Isler's statements.

"Our investigation shows her to be the last person to walk out of the room and the first person to return," said Evans. Isler stated that she was the one who found the fire.

Evans described Isler as being "non-emotional" during her interviews. Her statements were also missing things and were out of sequence with one another.

ECU Public Relations Officer Nancy McGillicuddy was also at the press conference and discussed the University's position as well as Isler's status as a student.

"We can't speak to the specifics about the student's status at ECU," McGillicuddy said.

"In general when a student is arrested on a criminal charge they are placed on administrative suspension, which means they are no longer enrolled to take classes at the university."

The call to the fire department came in at 2:43 p.m. on March 29 and originated in room 317 of Clement Hall. Investigators found no indication of flammable liquids or accelerants. Ordinary combustibles, which can include wood, paper, cloth, rubber and some plastics, were said to be used to start and fuel the fire. Investigators say that they knew that night, after the fire had been extinguished, that it had been intentionally set by human hands.

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

Grant from page 1

tion, which is used for type one. Type two is non-responsive to insulin injection, according to Seidel.

Dr. Walter Pories, professor of surgery, has found that four out of five patients with adult onset diabetes didn't experience any diabetic symptoms within days after gastric-bypass surgery.

Findings potentially include identifying hormones from the gastrointestinal system that might be involved in the development of adult onset diabetes, according to Seidel.

Other ECU faculty participating in the research include Dr. Kenneth MacDonald, Dr. William Chapman, Dr. John Pender, Dr. Lynis Dohm, Dr. Ying Chang and Dr. Hisham Barakat.

"Dr. Pories and his colleagues

are at the forefront of diabetes research, and this support will ensure their ability to continue their path-breaking investigations," ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 7 percent of the United States population has diabetes.

ECU Center for Health Services Research and Development has found eastern North Carolina has a higher rate of diabetes than any of the other counties in the state. Bertie County has the highest diabetes death rate in the region with 62.8 deaths per 100,000 people according to CHSRD.

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SUBMIT YOUR PIRATE RANTS
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In My Opinion

Looking out for the innocent in a group of devils

BENJAMIN CORMACK
OPINION COLUMNIST

Once again the time of longer class sessions and Greenville heat has begun. For some this may be their first time in summer school, but for others, like me, it is a familiar journey. While the heat combined with class work may be a burden, know that I will do what I can do to help you through it. For some that may just make this summer even worse, while others may not even care.

While some of us have classes and summer trips to look forward to, others are not so fortunate. Take the Duke University mens' lacrosse team for example; three of their members have a trial to look forward to while the rest of them have no games to play. Here's the sad part - they were ranked in the top 10 of their league. Now due to a "lapse in judgment" as the team's captains put it, their entire season looks like it is going to be wasted.

I want to state first that I think rape is one of the worst, most heinous and disgusting crimes anyone can commit. But putting the issue of guilty or not guilty aside, just this allegation and the events that led to it have hurt a person that in my view is totally innocent, the coach.

The Director of Athletics at Duke University, Joe Alleva, announced in early April that Mike Pressler, then the coach of the men's lacrosse team, had resigned.

"I believe this is in the best interests of the program, the department of athletics and the university," said Alleva.

Let me share with you some facts about Mike Pressler. He spent 16 seasons at Duke, earning a record of 153 wins and 82 losses; that's around two wins for every

one loss during that time. He also had three ACC championships, 10 NCAA Tournament berths and an appearance in the 2005 national championship game. He's a three-time ACC Coach of the Year and the 2005 USILA National Coach of the Year. His overall coaching record is 229 wins and 102 losses; again around two wins for every one loss in his entire career.

And Duke University let him go. I guess the D in Duke stands for, or as Carlos Mencia would say, "Di-di-di!" Don't believe me? What does Duke start with? Answer: "Duh!" Want more proof? I've heard rumors that Pressler resigned due to pressure from the Duke alumni. I'm no expert at math, but I think the numbers speak for themselves. If there is any truth to these rumors about the alumni, then I can only assume that that means I'm better at math.

Duke University President Richard Brodhead described the mens' lacrosse team's behavior as "wholly inappropriate to the values of our athletics program and the university." So how does he punish them? He suspends the team for two games and lets a coach like Pressler walk right out the door. Again, "Duh, di-di-di."

Isn't that always the case when something bad happens to a sports team, people blame the coach.

I guess it's crazy to blame the guys who actually threw the wild party, the guys who hired the exotic dancer or the guys who may or may not have raped her. I guess it's also crazy to blame a loss on the players because they were too busy getting drunk instead of getting ready for the game, and too lazy to put some hustle into the game. Maybe I'm also crazy for thinking that you should blame the guys who show more enthusiasm for practicing keg stands than practicing on the field.

I guess when you blame the coach only one guy ends-up getting hurt, but this is one guy

who doesn't deserve it. If you are able to go to one of the most prestigious schools in the in the country because once in a while you have to chase a ball around with a stick, catch it and throw it, you'd be stupid to throw all of that away. I think that's what we have here; only it is the coach who gets thrown out instead of the players.

Mike Pressler worked hard to bring pride to his school, and I think it's despicable that the administration at Duke University and the mens' lacrosse team allowed this to happen. If they don't want Pressler, I say ECU should try to get Pressler. Then again, ECU has had a bad habit of getting rid of coaches. Either way I wish Pressler all the luck in the world, because nobody else seems to care.

We keep looking for the innocent victim in this case, and to be honest, regardless of what may or may not have happened that night, nobody involved in this case is completely innocent in terms of their character. One of the three Duke mens' lacrosse team's members has been in trouble with the law before, and is in even more trouble now because of it. I think what people want is someone to cheer for and someone to have sympathy for, but from what I've seen no one completely meets the requirements. To put it bluntly, it seems like no one is being completely honest.

Having a privilege and being privileged does not necessarily mean that you have privileges, at least not the privilege to be rude to others or to treat people like they're beneath you. Most of the time it seems people act out of concern only for themselves or their particular group. At least that's one way of looking at why we have crime, scandals like Enron and a war on our hands. I honestly think that if more people stopped and thought about how their actions might affect others, we wouldn't have as many problems in this world as we do.

Pirate Rants

I really hate how all of TEC's copy editors either graduated or went home for the summer. We desperately need more copy editors, so instead of sending in Pirate Rants about the errors you found, why not come apply for a job?

My neighbors are such loud obnoxious people. I wish they would grow up and stop acting like self-important jerks with an over developed sense of entitlement. I can't wait until they move!

Charles Boulevard is paved. Anyone think the city could have done that after graduation? With no or few students running back and forth it seems the traffic flow would have been minimal. Had the work continued through May, no big deal, summer school attendance would mean less traffic. Greenville, in my opinion, is just one big, urban sprawl of a ghetto, ran by political morons and policed by incompetents.

Pirate Rant should have a daily/weekly/bi-weekly rant e-mail sent to students who sign up for it ... I miss it during the summer.

Continue to rave on. Just keep it down will you, I'm trying to sleep!

Even though summer time causes people to act wild you are a nice guy and I think you should know that 1. She still calls her ex and hangs up on him just to hear his voice. 2. She is still in love with him. 3. She is dating not only you but several other people ... Yes, this is what happens when you live in a dorm room cell, you learn way too much about another person. Can't wait for off campus living!

Does anyone else notice that all of their friends are getting married? I mean it is like a trend that everyone is jumping on right now. Maybe that is why the divorce rate is so high.

Now that it's the summer parking is awesome around campus!

It is the end of May already, where did the month go?

Why do we have such a weird limit on our school e-mail account? I mean I have deleted every e-mail in every folder and it still says I am over my limit, what is left for me to do?

The summer is supposed to be a break, so why don't I get a break from my family too?

For God's sake and everyone else for that matter, get a room, even if it's just the restroom inside Christenbury. Thank you.

I am very happy to report that the Croatan found out that we college students absolutely love daytime soaps. It's all that is ever on in there and I can't speak for everyone, but I do think it's safe to say that we would rather watch MTV U. Seeing as how there is a big yellow sign informing us that is what we are watching anyway...

To my neighbor: I am so glad that you chose to move out on Monday night. You didn't have to scream and yell with your friends the whole time, though. Oh, wait... yes, you did.

OK. Seriously. Where do they make all those giant art sculptures that are all over campus! I'm an art major and I've NEVER seen one of those things being built! They just show up magically on the lawn somehow! This is a mystery that must be investigated!

I've been sitting on my bed for the last two hours, just thinking, and I feel like I've accomplished more doing this than anything I've done this whole semester.

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'THE DA VINCI CODE,' DECODED



Tom Hanks plays the lead role.

Rating the blockbuster

AARON BORREGO
STAFF WRITER

Well ladies and gents it is time for me to take a step into the unknown as I attempt to review the current installment of what is chapping everyone's built-in seat. Brought to you this week is The Da Vinci Code.

Starring Tom Hanks, Audrey Tautou and Ian McKellen amongst others, this drama flick has a great plot and plot delivery in the simple fact that this is something people actually believe and follow.

The cast, plus the simple fact that this movie has already managed to ruffle the proverbial feathers of the religiously inclined, made me want to see what everything was all about. It is a movie based on theories. This movie was not necessarily based on facts, but the views and opinions of those

involved.

As we have all learned, such works are called fiction my friends, and it can be quite fun. So to the ECU student spouting off about religious dogma, paradigms and ramifications to which it may harm people for questioning such matters: sit down, be quiet and let everyone else enjoy the movie around you.

The notion of finding other ways to explain the unexplained is what this movie is about. Finding the true Holy Grail and meaning behind titles is left up to interpretation. The movie does a great job of giving the average person the history of The Da Vinci Code, which seems to be pretty important to the movie plot.

I like the symbolism throughout the movie; after all, The Da Vinci Code is all about interpreting what is in his work and in our environment. This is quite a fast paced movie after the initial 20

minutes of screen time. I'm sure people will find this movie very entertaining and full of twists and turns as I did.

OK, so if you haven't seen the movie yet but plan to I will not give away the secret to the code. I can, however, mention some points of interest. Tom Hanks looks old but still gets the hot foreign and bilingual lady to like him. Doc Oc from Spiderman 2 is a bad religious person who dictates the next crazy religious fanatic. The poet from A Knights Tale is a bad boy who needs a painful garter belt and apparently some punishment.

I recommend people go see this movie; it may just get you to think about everything we have been taught to believe since birth. I give it an A for the way it presented a sensitive subject matter to mainstream audiences.

This writer can be contacted at
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Summer is heating up



A summer couple on the beach.

And not just weather

MEREDITH STEWART
SENIOR WRITER

Summer school has begun, the weather is trying to stay warm, local pools are beginning to get crowded and even though the first official day of summer has yet to come, people are definitely not waiting for it. Bikinis and board shorts, suntan lines (or no suntan lines) and many good friends remind most people of summer time.

This more relaxed time of year opens yet another door to meet new people and find that fun person who enjoys the same summer activities as you do. Whether you love hanging out by the pool, having cookouts, going to the beach or going to concerts it's great to have your friends there. But, it's more interesting to have a small love interest there too.

It's a wonderful feeling to know someone is thinking about you throughout their day. It's always nice to receive a text or phone call just to make sure you are having a good day. It lets the other person know they are on your mind but at the same time don't want to invade all their space. That's a subtle way of breaking the ice, for any of those interested in summer dating. It would be nice if you could have a platonic relationship with someone who you cared about, but did not want to date. Who says you can't go to dinner, hang out, go to parties together, watch movies and chill all summer without being "involved" with someone?

Alina Panchuk, sophomore political science major says, "I like it even when my friends send me messages during the day, [because I am] glad to know they are think-

Cell phone carriers go head-to-head

A quick comparison of features and plans

LIZ FULTON
STAFF WRITER

If you are one of the eight remaining people on earth that still does not have a mobile phone, it might be in your best interest to keep reading. Those sporting a "Zack Morris-esque" telephone might also want to take heed of the new developments in person-to-person communication.

I set out on a journey to find out which provider really did have the best overall cellular coverage and packages. My hope is to provide answers for the social butterflies that cannot live without making at least 20 calls a day.

Financially, the best bet for a calling plan at \$40 monthly goes to U.S. Cellular. With their local plan, the subscriber receives 1,100 anytime minutes and includes the perks of voice mail, call waiting, caller id and text messages for 10 cents a pop. The only setback comes when calling people outside of the local area. There is a charge of 30 cents per minute that is even applied when you sign up for expanded local calling.

Cingular and Verizon both offer 450 anytime minutes for \$39.99 monthly with unlimited mobile-

to-mobile minutes. Cingular customers are allowed 5,000 night and weekend minutes and Verizon offers unlimited night and weekend minutes. Neither charges for roaming or long-distance.

Alltel does a little bit better with 500 minutes for \$39.99 a month and offers unlimited nights and weekends and mobile-to-mobile calling. Sprint-Nextel offers only 400 anytime minutes but their free nights and weekends begin at 7 p.m. They also have no roaming charges and offer free long distance.

Calling plans are irrelevant if the networks are no good. Every provider claims to have the best network and by looking at national maps, they all look about the same. For those who would rather gnaw on their own foot than not be able to text message in the Brewster building, Sprint-Nextel consultant Nathan Wood said he "nearly always has service in Brewster."

"I was once in the basement of Christenbury Gym with my BlackBerry and I had service," said Wood.

"My girlfriend even gets service by the river with her Sprint-Nextel phone."

The actual reliability of a network is a relative crapshoot. A person can listen or read testimonials all day long but it's their own personal experience that will really validate the claims of the companies.

The thing to keep in mind is whether or not you will ever need to talk to people who live in places like Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands. If it is something you don't want to agonize over then choosing Cingular's all-over network practically eliminates the possibility of roaming charges. Verizon also offers a plan like this, as does Sprint-Nextel. U.S. Cellular and Alltel allow for people to choose whether or not they want just local coverage or an extended network. While it does offer the appeal of a more customized plan, it is easy for confusion to set in.

U.S. Cellular offers local calling with more minutes for less money but in a smaller calling area. You can upgrade to a regional plan or ultimately a national plan. The regional plan is needed if you plan to talk to anyone in the Greensboro area because it is not in the local plan.

If you want to save a bit of money when connecting with a new cellular phone plan it is beneficial to have an expired plan so a deactivation charge from a previous plan will not be acquired. These can be fairly costly; for example Cingular charges \$175 to get out of your contract. Also, take advantage of promotions such as free phones and holiday specials. It probably will not be long before companies start running Arbor Day specials

that will waive the activation fee if you agree to plant a tree.

Along with promotions are the special features that are only available with certain companies. Alltel has just introduced "My Circle" that allows users to choose 10 numbers regardless of which cellular carrier they use and the calls are free. This service is only free on plans that cost \$59.99 or more but who you call can be changed at any time.

Sprint-Nextel is famous for their walkie-talkie Nextel phones. By November, Sprint will introduce its first walkie-talkie phone. They also sell exclusively the Samsung Blade, rated one of the top five phones of the year, with a design similar to the Motorola Razzr. Cingular subscribers are the only ones able to purchase the Razzr in black and also can take advantage of the Rollover service. This allows for unused minutes to carry over to the next month and it builds up the number of anytime minutes that can be used.

For the media savvy and technology loving phone user, Verizon offers services such as "ringback" tones, which play a song for the caller to hear before the phone is answered. They created a package for \$6.95 that includes "ringback" tones along with unlimited text, picture and video messaging.

see CELL PHONE page 7

see SUMMER page 6

Summer from page 5

ing about me and making sure I'm staying out of trouble."

Summer commonly brings trouble to relationships, however. If you met at school the two of you will more than likely have to go back to your home towns, and the distance could be a problem. Some couples choose to stay in town, maybe work or attend summer school.

There are hot guys and girls at the pools during the summer, partying and carrying on so it's kind of hard not to meet some new people. Little clothing, cold drinks, tons of parties and really cool people

can lead to jealousy, tension and serious problems in a relationship.

The singles dating game can be a complicated process, but it's also very fun and exciting to meet someone new, get to know them, pursue something or just decide to be friends. Summer is a great time to explore the dating world and possibly learn a little something about your own needs wants and desires. If you are finally getting a break from school then you should focus on doing things that truly make you happy.

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

Mark A. Ward

ATTORNEY AT LAW
Board Certified Specialist in State Criminal Law



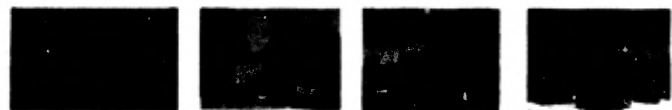
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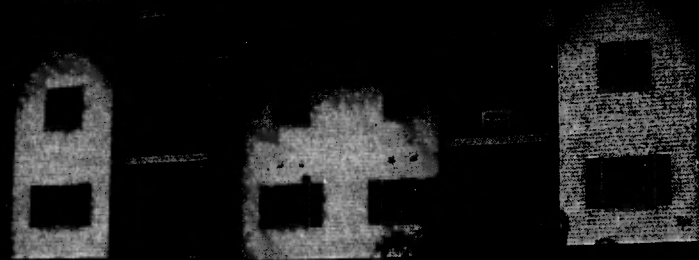
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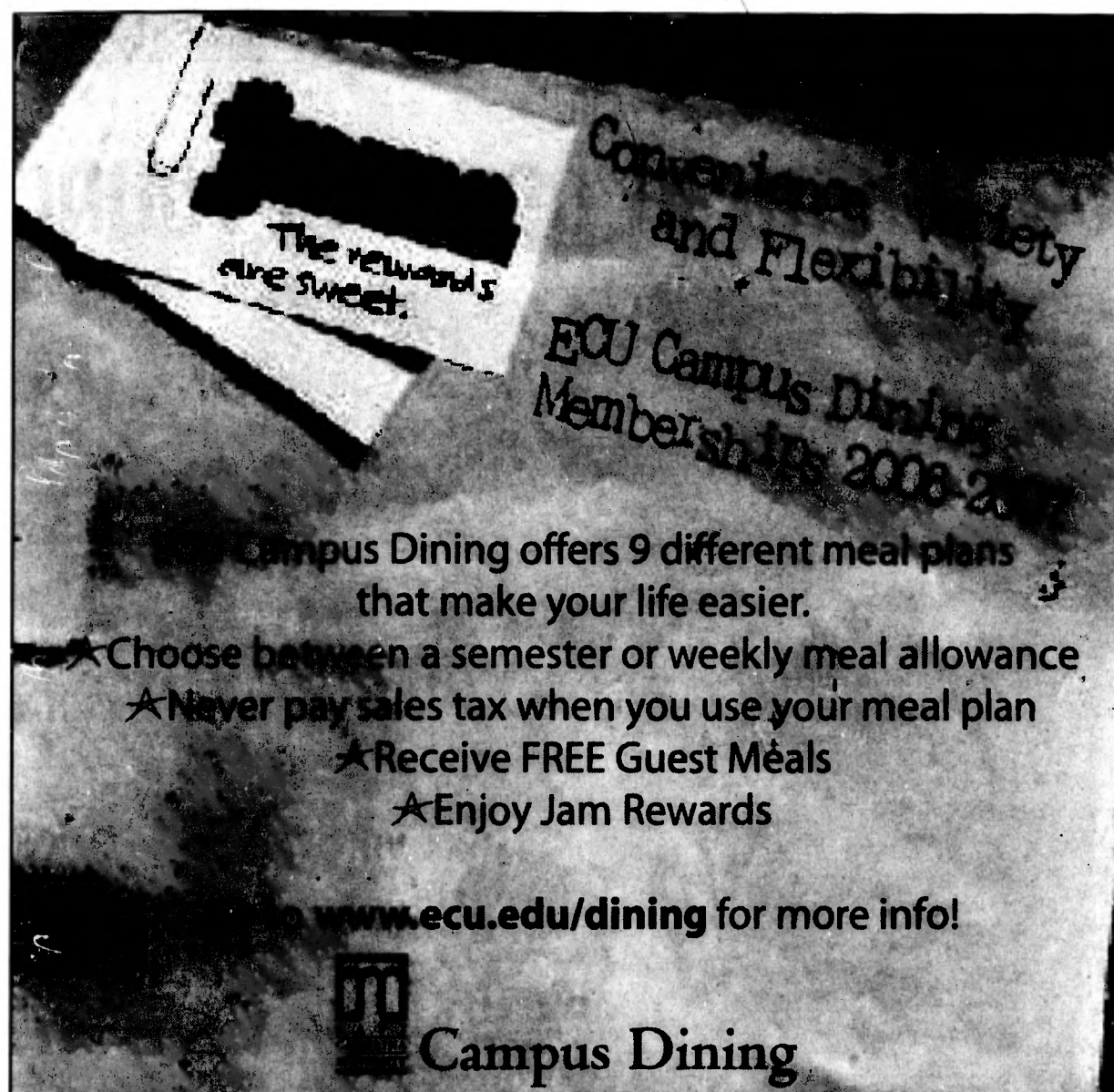
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Cell phone from page 5

Unfortunately for U.S. Cellular, they have no really desired features that differ from any other service. They do offer free nights beginning at 7 p.m. and have a walkie-talkie service called Speed Talk.

Phones are becoming more than just calling devices and can be used to take pictures or listen to music. The base price is roughly \$50 and can run as much as \$500. This price is reduced when you sign a two-year service agreement or send in the mail-in rebates.

With so many similarities between all of the different phone companies, a big deciding factor is customer service. Verizon hands-down has the best with their greetings of welcome to everyone that walks into the store and the way that the sales associates come on the floor to help the customer.

The employees at Sprint-Nextel are very easy to talk to and upbeat. Unfortunately, because of their recent merger, answering simple questions is a very difficult process. It would be best to hold out until all of the kinks are worked out and the networks are fully combined.

Alltel also has a pleasant staff and are able to knowledgeably answer any questions I had. The general atmosphere of the entire

store is very welcoming and people are helped promptly.

Cingular and U.S. Cellular close at 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. respectively, which makes it somewhat difficult to get there if you have to work long hours. The Cingular person was very helpful and even suggested that buying a phone on eBay or at Wal-Mart was better than buying it at the store.

My experience at U.S. Cellular was by far the worst. The people are not eager to assist and the man who did help me had about as much enthusiasm and appeal as a pair of wet socks. He gave a summary of the plans and practically pushed me out of the door.

With all different aspects weighed and measured, it seems to me that the best carrier to go with is Verizon. Although they just opened in Greenville on April 1, they have the best staff, the biggest selection of phones and features and a wide choice of calling plans.

Finding the right plan can make you feel like you have literally been put through the ringer. Hopefully this will make it a little easier to choose the right plan for you.

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

Best of Chris Isaak

Music with a twist

SARAH CAMPBELL
SENIOR WRITER

After spending three semesters of my life here at ECU and taking various music appreciation classes, I have to say that my musical taste has evolved. Now I crave music from all walks of life, rather than just the popular music that is played on the radio.

When I got the opportunity to listen to Chris Isaak's latest album, *Best of Chris Isaak*, I jumped at the chance to experience something new. His name sounded familiar, but other than that, I knew virtually nothing about him or his music.

Shortly after popping his new album into my CD player, I was transported to a simpler era, one where music was made for listening. His sultry, sensual voice reminded me of music greats like Frank Sinatra, while his laid back style rivaled that of Michael Buble.

The instrumentation used throughout the album provides a unique sound, which keeps your foot tapping and the pulse racing the entire time. Isaak used a variety

of genres, including blues, jazz, country and rock to weave an intricate web of sound.

I enjoyed the entire album, but there were a few songs that were stuck in my head long after I stopped listening. One of these songs is "Wicked Game," which opens with a musical landscape similar to that of a western theme song.

Isaak's bluesy rendition of "I want you to want me" took me back to one of my favorite movies, *10 Things I Hate About You*. Isaak offers a new spin on this old favorite by playing with the tempo and melody.

Overall the entire album offers music lovers of all genres something unique by incorporating an assortment of musical styles. *Best of Chris Isaak* is one of the few albums that I can listen to from start to finish, time and time again.

For more information about Chris Isaak's albums, tour dates or biographical information visit his Web site at chrisisaak.com.

Album Grade: A

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

Sports Briefs

Josh King transfers to Eckerd College

Former ECU shooting guard Josh King transferred to Eckerd College, according to the school's Web site. King decided to transfer after ECU Head Coach Ricky Stokes alerted King that his scholarship would not be renewed.

The five-foot, 10-inch, 170-pound guard had offers from smaller schools coming out of high school, but chose ECU for the opportunity to play. King averaged 17 points and appeared in 17 games as a sophomore.

King will play for Tom Ryan in St. Petersburg, Fla. The Tritons play in the Sunshine State Conference Basketball Tournament. Eckerd went 21-8 last season.

King led Trinity High School to the 3A State Championship in 2004 and was the North Carolina Player of the Year as a senior. He touts the N.C. record for career three-pointers, single season three-points and most threes made in a game. He is third on the career points list for N.C. high schools.

Turco hired as defensive line coach at Newberry College

TURCO

Former ECU graduate assistant football coach Kevin Turco was hired by Newberry College to be an assistant with the defensive line, according to an announcement from the team's Web site.

Turco followed Skip Holtz from South Carolina and spent two years as an offensive staff assistant at ECU.

Turco, a former Marine, graduated from Western New England in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in history, and completed the requirements for a master's degree in education from the University of Saint Mary in 2003. He was a quarterback and played special teams for Western New England for the 1994 and 1995 seasons, prior to his enlistment with the Marines.

He started his coaching career at Western New England College. He was the defensive line coach at the University of St. Mary (Kansas) and St. Peter's College (N.J.). He also coached at Westfield (Mass.) High School.

Pirates face Tulane in opening round

ECU looks to make case for eighth straight NCAA tournament bid

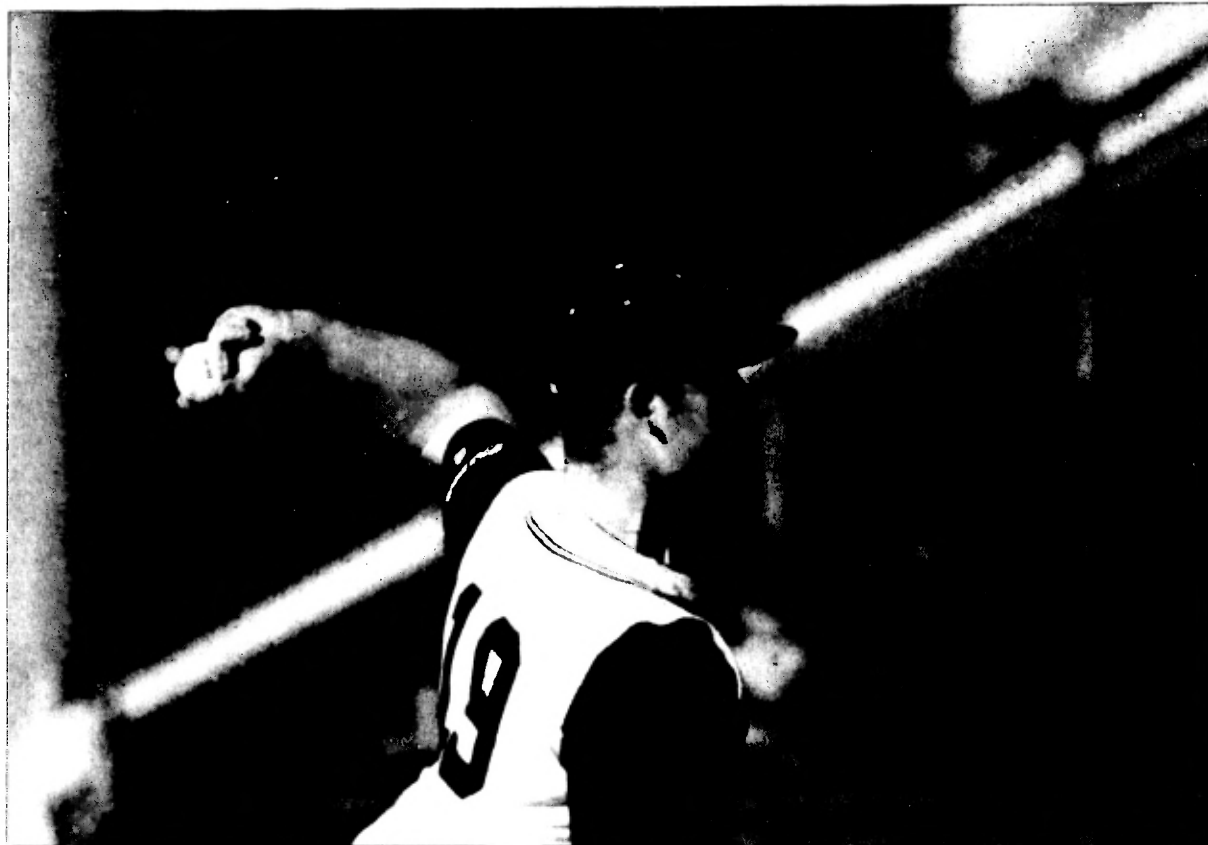
ERIC GILMORE
SPORTS EDITOR

ECU will try to earn their eighth consecutive NCAA tournament bid by winning the 2006 Conference USA baseball tournament, hosted by top-ranked Rice University in Houston, Texas. The Pirates open up the double-elimination tournament against Tulane at 10 a.m.

The Pirates (32-24, 10-14) have dropped four straight games, including being swept by Memphis in the series finale. According to early projections, ECU's NCAA at-large chances have vanished. In order to continue the NCAA regional streak that dates back to 1998, ECU will have to win the tournament for the first time since it was in Kinston in 2002.

ECU, the No. 6 seed, faces ^{SD}defending co-champion Tulane, winners of 17 of their last 19 games. Tulane (39-17) took two of three games from ECU in a weekend series April 28-30.

ECU dropped a crushing loss in game one of the series when Kevin Rhodes and Chris Powell combined to give up five runs in the top of the ninth inning to lose 9-5. Senior Brody Taylor, who was named a second-team All-Conference player on Tuesday, pitched an eight-hit complete game to earn a dominant 13-3 win in game two.



Brody Taylor, senior pitcher, will start on the mound as ECU tries to conquer the 2006 C-USA tournament.

In game three, Tulane junior first baseman Mark Hamilton belted a three-run home run off of Dustin Sasser to take a 6-4 win.

Billy Godwin will rely on senior catcher Jake Smith (.351), who has 16 doubles, 12 home runs and 63 RBIs. Senior first baseman Adam Witter has 14 home runs with 42 RBIs.

Harrison Eldridge ranks second on the team in batting (.343) and stolen bases (11) while freshman

Brandon Henderson has a slugging percentage of .524. Dale Mollenhauer has tallied career highs in runs and home runs. Junior Ryan Tousley currently has a 15-game hitting streak and needs one to tie a team season-high.

Mark Hamilton leads Tulane offensively and was announced C-USA Player of the Year. Hamilton started all 56 games for the Green Wave, leading the team in home runs (17) and RBI (61). He is bat-

ting .332 with a team-best .644 slugging percentage and a .461 on-base percentage. Hamilton has a team-high in multiple-RBI games with 16 and has recorded multiple hits 21 times.

Tulane redshirt freshman Warren McFadden is batting .391, while sophomore right-hander Sean Morgan is 8-4 with a 3.32 ERA and 116 strikeouts as the top starter

see **BASEBALL** page 9

Hurricanes not worried about road playoff games

(AP) — Two wins in Buffalo this season should give the Carolina Hurricanes plenty of confidence going into Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals, but coach Peter Laviolette says now isn't the time for his team to put its fate in history.

"The players on the ice will decide who wins the game, not past history," Laviolette said after Tuesday's brief skate-around at the RBC Center.

Road games are tough for any team, he said. Winning teams don't care where they play.

"I think the buildings become louder. You look at our building last night. It's not an easy place for Buffalo to come in and play," Laviolette said. "In the same sense, I think

that you get through it and then, eventually, when you get into the game a few shifts, it's just back to hockey. It's who executes and who plays with a purpose."

The Hurricanes and the Sabres enter Wednesday night's game with their best-of-seven series tied at one game each. The Hurricanes evened the series Monday night with a 4-3 win by capitalizing on the best power play in the Stanley Cup Playoffs, converting on two of five chances.

They will have to win at least one of the two games in Buffalo to regain home ice advantage.

Carolina seemed quite capable

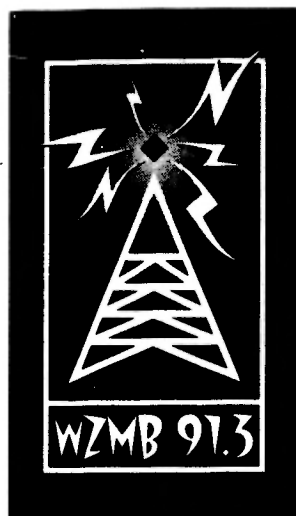
see **HOCKEY** page 9



Ray Whitney celebrates one of his two goals in Monday's game.

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Baseball from page 8

and junior closer Daniel Latham is the conference's all-time leader in saves (33).

ECU is set to face Morgan in the opening round because both coaches could bring their aces back for the Sunday championship game. If the Pirates win over Tulane, they would play the Marshall/Houston winner on Thursday at 4 p.m. If the Pirates lose,

they will play Thursday at 10 a.m.

Shane Matthews (5-3, 5.25 ERA) will start on Thursday. No. 2 seed Houston will likely throw ace Brad Lincoln against Marshall. If ECU advances, Dustin Sasser (5-6, 4.35) should be ready to go on Friday.

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

Hockey from page 8

of handling the road during the regular season. The Hurricanes won 21 games away from Raleigh, tying a franchise record; the team was fifth in road power plays at 18.8 percent (47 for 250) and tied for eighth in penalty kills (83.1 percent). They outscored opponents 141-133 on the road.

In the first round of the playoffs, the Hurricanes moved past Montreal by winning three games at the Bell Centre after losing two games at home to start the series. They split a pair of road games in New Jersey to return home to the RBC Center to take that series in five games.

Defenseman Glen Wesley, whose save of Jay McKee's third-period one-timer Monday proved to be crucial in the Carolina victory against Buffalo, said getting away

from home has some upside, especially for players who may try too hard to keep the home fans happy.

"When you go on the road, there's no distractions. There's better focus," Wesley said. "I think, sometimes, it hurts you at home a little bit where you try and get too cute and try and make the perfect play or make the perfect pass for the fans instead of just doing the simple things and doing the right things you should be doing."

If that happens, the Hurricanes could come back to Raleigh with a chance to close out the series at home and move on to the Stanley Cup finals.

"We've got to find a way to get home ice back," Wesley said. "We need to play our best game of the series tomorrow night."



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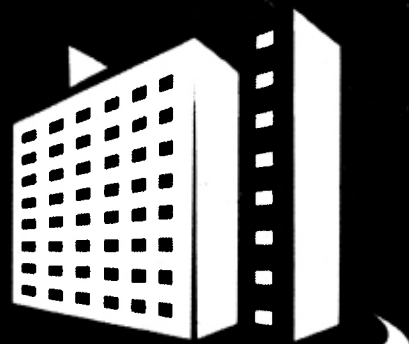
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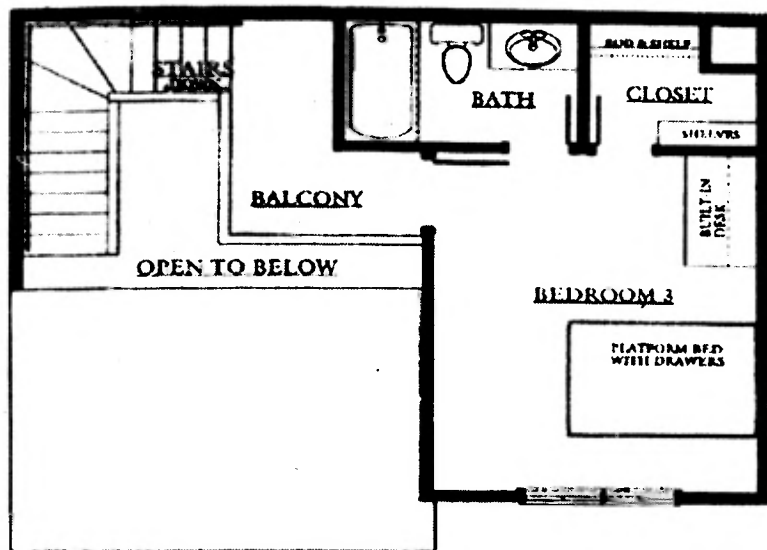


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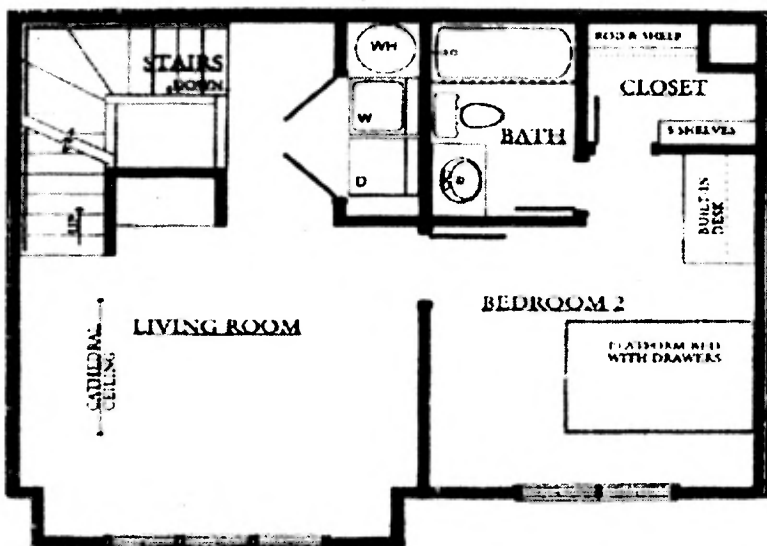
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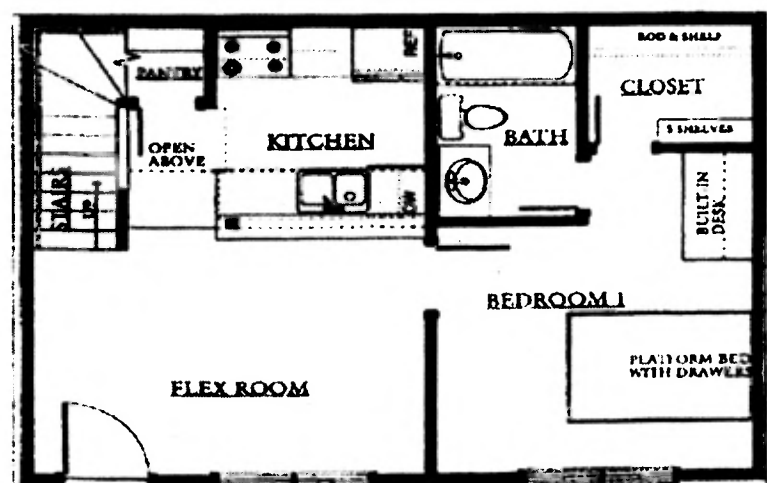




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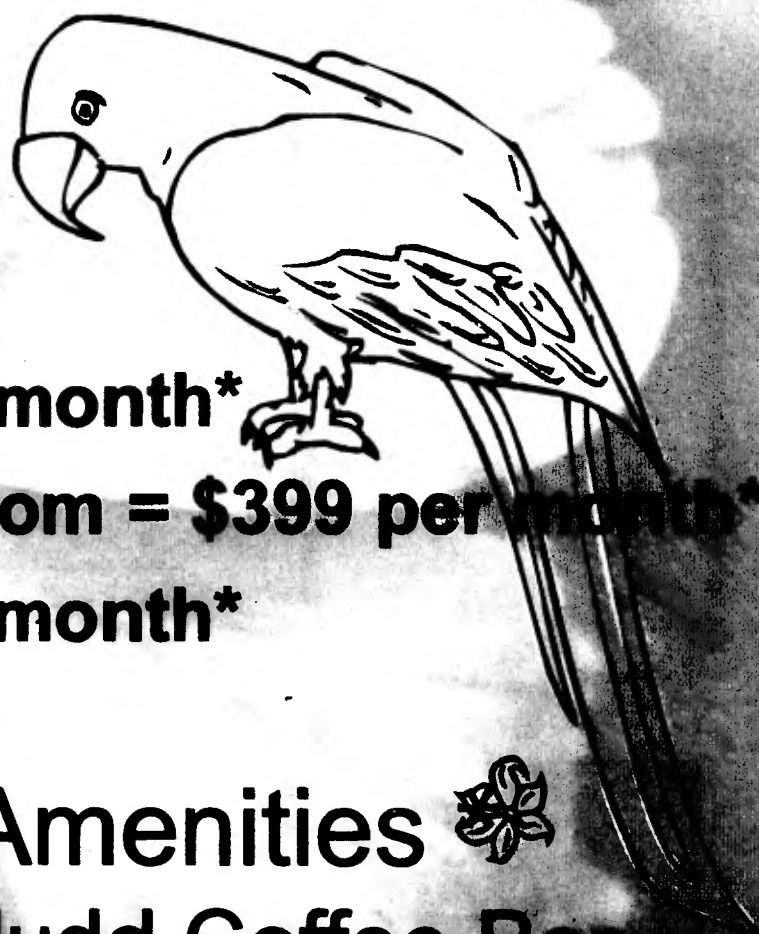
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