



## Students and community members devote Monday to celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Many people gathered on College Hill for the Candlelight Vigil and to march down the hill and 10th St in honor of Dr. Martin Luther Jr.

### Events encourage unity among students, faculty and the community

**KIMBERLY BELLAMY**  
NEWS EDITOR

An array of different events were held on Monday to honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The celebration of his accomplishments toward equality began at 7:30 a.m., and the last event started at 7 p.m.

The day started with a community unity breakfast at the Murphy Center at ECU. Dr. Dudley Flood, a retired specialist in school desegregation from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, was the keynote speaker for the event.

The event was in collaboration with the Greenville Chamber of Commerce.

Shortly after the breakfast began, students began gathering for registration for the annual MLK Day Challenge at 8:15 a.m., sponsored by the Volunteer and Service Learning Center.

The sponsors of the event seemed pleased with the turnout of students who participated on their own merit and the number of student organizations that got involved.

"We had 142 students participating from groups such as Alpha Phi Alpha, NAACP, Ladies Elite, Kappa Alpha Psi, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Black Student Nursing Association, Black Student Union, Delta Sigma Theta, Sigma Gamma Rho, Omega Psi Phi, the Center's FOCUS program, Zeta Phi Beta, who acted as site leaders for us, and a large number of students with no organization affiliation," said Shawn Moore, community partner coordinator.

The challenge compels students to work with individuals and groups that they normally wouldn't have the chance to interact with by completing community service together.

"The MLK Day Challenge is an event that lends itself

to working with people outside your circle. This year a number of participants took the opportunity to work with students that were not from their own organization," Moore said.

The event aims to continue the collaboration of different groups, even after the challenge is over.

"The Center staff hopes this trend will continue and that students will open themselves to meeting new people while serving in the community during this event," said Moore.

A candlelight vigil and march at 5:30 p.m. at the bottom of College Hill followed the MLK Day Challenge.

The march also served the purpose of bringing individuals together to reflect the goals of Dr. King.

"The participation of these diverse students reinforced the efforts of Dr. King. The students recognized a need for unifying and working towards acceptance and tolerance for all," said Ameena Mohyuddin, assistant director of student activities and major events.

Despite the extremely cold weather, a large number of people still decided to participate in the march.

"About 250 participants marched down college hill and 10th St. Although the weather was terrible, by the turnout it seems that people did not let that deter them from coming together as a community," Mohyuddin said.

The events closed with "Celebrating Dr. King Through Words, Songs, and Storytelling" at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium.

Dr. Shirley Carraway, retired superintendent of Orange County Schools and ECU alumna, was the keynote speaker.

Not all of the events that paid tribute to Dr. King took place on Monday. Some of the events began as early as Jan. 17.

"Beyond Beats & Rhymes: Hip-Hop and Manhood," was shown in Hendrix Theater of Mendenhall Student Center on Thursday at 7 p.m.

While most may assume that the movie was just

exposing different issues in the music genre, the movie also had ties to Dr. King's efforts to eliminate discrimination.

The film focused on issues of civil rights that even in today's society we are challenged with: homophobia, sexism, etc. It reminds us that although we have overcome significant challenges, that the struggle isn't over," Mohyuddin said.

"We still deal with issues of ethnicity, religion, etc. and in order to work through these, we all need to unite and recognize the need for a collective understanding and commitment to accepting one another."

Some of the people that played a significant role in organizing these events were David Dennard, associate professor of history and MLK day committee chair, Lathan Turner, assistant vice chancellor for Intercultural Student Affairs, Toya Jacobs, associate director of the Intercultural Student Affairs, and Louise Toppin in the School of Music, among a few others.

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



ECU's Men's and Women's basketball teams both had crucial Conference USA matchups over the weekend. The sports section has a full recap of how each of the team's did.....PAGE A9



How did ECU's 2007 football season stack up compared to the rest of the teams in the Carolinas? Turn to the sports section to find out....PAGE A9



Credit cards can be a tempting way to save money in the short term, but in the long run it could end up costing more than you think....PAGE A6

## Mendenhall Student Center set to undergo \$26 million reconstruction starting this spring

Same services will be offered

**YAZID FINN**  
STAFF WRITER

The Mendenhall Student Center (MSC) will begin an estimated 24-month reconstruction period this May.

The student initiative has been in the process of review for over five years, and was only given the green light this past year.

According to Corey King, assistant vice chancellor of student experiences, the project is costing well over \$26 million.

"Students voiced concern in regards to the lack of space in Mendenhall," King said.

"The university has grown, and a need for space has grown with it."

MSC is looking to offer students the same services regardless of the venue location.

"Our goal is to provide the same level of services when we are not in Mendenhall Student Center," said Melanie Bunch, director for ECU Student Center Operations.

As such, efforts have been made to "pilot some other locations" and see what Greenville has to offer in terms to space for students.

One such plan is the use of the local AMF Bowling facility for students, in which the university will rent out lanes for student use.

While Hendrix Theater will also be closed during the duration of the MSC construction, the university is providing students with multiple choices to quench their movie thirst.

Campus 31 TV, sponsored by the Student Union will air premier movies in a manner likened to HBO for all student housing television.

For students and adults not living on campus, free movie tickets will be given out to students for a local Greenville theater.

Accommodations will be made to transport students to and from their new destinations for recreation.

"ECU Transit is working with us to get students out there to these new locations," Bunch said.

Student employment will remain in many of the same forms enjoyed currently, with the exception of the computer lab.

"We will still have ushers, production crew and event assistants," said Audra Thomas, associate director of operations.

Following graduation this spring, MSC will begin phasing out all nonessential offices, continuing through the summer.

"After graduation we are only taking reservations in regards to the summer orientation," Bunch said.

Students looking for organizational space and reservations will be taken care of in a similar process they are accustomed to.

"Reservations for meetings and space will still be available through the event planning office," Thomas said.

"While we currently schedule in Bate, we are

see **MENDENHALL** page A4



The appearance of Mendenhall will soon be revamped.

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Page A11

NEWS.....Page A2

FEATURES.....Page A6

SPORTS.....Page A9

OPINION.....Page A5

CLASSIFIEDS.....Page A12



# News

{ Campus & Community }

## PIRATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Polar Bear Plunge**  
**Thursday, Jan. 24**  
**6:30-9 p.m.**  
**SRC Outdoor Pool**  
 The 12th Annual "Polar Bear Plunge" will be held on Thursday, Jan. 24, beginning at 7 p.m. at the ECU Student Recreation Center. ECU Students, faculty and staff reveal their wild side by taking a jump into the icy waters of the outdoor pool in the heart of winter. The first 500 jumpers will receive a T-shirt, and students are entered into a drawing for a variety of prizes including a \$250 Best Buy gift certificate. At the conclusion of the jump, food is available in the SRC Concourse. The event started in 1997 as a part of the grand opening week for the Student Recreation Center. The first jump started with 35 participants and has steadily grown to a high of 467 in 2006. The Plunge is sponsored by Campus Recreation & Wellness, University Unions/ Mendenhall Student Center, and Campus Living & Dining. Registration begins at 6:30 pm on SRC Court #1 and all participants should bring their ECU One Card to sign up. Prize drawings are expected to begin at 8:15 p.m.

**Lecture to focus on coastal vulnerability**  
**Friday, Jan. 25**  
**3:30 p.m.**  
**Rivers W105A**  
 Susan L. Cutter, geography professor from the University of South Carolina and director of the Hazards & Vulnerability Research Institute, will present "Coastal Vulnerability and Resiliency." Free. Sponsored by ECU's geography department, the Coastal-Maritime Council and the Center for Natural Hazards Research.

**Distinguished Professor Allen Blustine**  
**Tuesday, Jan. 29**  
**8-10 p.m.**  
**A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall**  
 Mr Blustine is one of America's most distinguished clarinetists, with an impressive career of performing and recording around the world. He is a member of the Speculum Musicae, New York Chamber Soloists, and the Festival Winds.

**Graduate Health Programs Conference**  
**4-6:30 p.m.**  
**Health Sciences Campus**  
 This is an event for students who are interested in a masters or doctorate in medical or health fields. Representatives from various departments at ECU will be presenting on their programs and application processes.

**Correction:**  
 An error was made in the Jan. 17 features article titled, "Project HEART honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday." The article stated that the event was in collaboration between Project HEART and the Volunteer and Service Learning Center. The event was actually in collaboration with the Intergenerational Center. The East Carolinian is dedicated to providing accurate information. Errors can be reported to Sarah Campbell, Editor-in-Chief, at editor@theeastcarolinian.com.

## 24Thur

**Polar Bear Plunge**  
 6:30-9 p.m.  
 SRC Pool

**Regious Arts Festival**  
 Noon- 9 p.m.  
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church

**Live Music: The Influence**  
 10 p.m.-2 a.m.  
 The Corner

## 25Fri

**Jazz at Night**  
 8-10 p.m.  
 MSC Great Rooms

**Student Union Comedy Show**  
 8-10:30pm  
 Wright Auditorium

## 26Sat

**Late Night Arts Institute**  
 Photography: Ben Lustig  
 7-10 p.m.

**Late Night Art Institute**  
 Painting  
 7-10 p.m.

**Swimming Duke**  
 1 p.m.  
 Minges Aquatic Center

**Men's Basketball Tulane**  
 7 p.m.  
 Minges

## 27Sun

**EYO Chamber Music Concert**  
 2-4 p.m.  
 A.J. Fletcher Music Center

**Women's Basketball Marshall**  
 2 p.m.  
 Minges

**Ladies Elite Informational**  
 6-7 p.m.  
 MSC Room 15

**Mozart Concert**  
 3-5 p.m.  
 A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall

## 28Mon

**Apollo Auditions**  
 6-9 p.m.  
 MSC 244

## 29Tues

**Distinguished Professor Allen Blustine**  
 8-10 p.m.  
 A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall

## 30Wed

**Live Music: The New Familiars**  
 MSC Pirate Underground

**Graduate Health Programs Conference**  
 4-6:30 p.m.  
 Health Sciences Campus

### PIRATE NATION WEATHER

**Thursday Jan. 24:**  
 Hi: 48F  
 Low: 21F  
 Wind: building NW 10 - 15 mph  
 % Precipitation Probability: 30%  
 General Weather: mostly cloudy with a chance of light rain

**Friday Jan. 25:**  
 Hi: 41F  
 Low: 24F  
 Wind: NW 5 - 10 mph  
 % Precipitation Probability: 5%  
 General Weather: sunny

**Weekend Jan. 26-27:**  
 Hi: upper 50s  
 Low: upper 30s  
 Wind: westerly 3 - 8 mph  
 % Precipitation Probability: 25%  
 General Weather: slight warming; partly cloudy with chance of light rain

Forecast presented by ECU GeoClub and Geography's Atmospheric Science Program.

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**SPECIALS**

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 Kids Night  
 Kids 9 & under eat free

**WEDNESDAY**  
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**THURSDAY**  
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 Karaoke Night

**FRIDAY**  
 Free Happy Hour Appetizer Bar  
 Seafood and Steak Night

**SATURDAY**  
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 Chicken and Rib Night

**SUNDAY**  
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 Karaoke

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**\* Featured Event**  
**Polar Bear Plunge**  
 6:30-9 p.m.  
 SRC Pool



# East Carolina University Campus Recreation & Wellness

## JANUARY 2008 UPCOMING EVENTS

### ADVENTURE

1/26 - 1/27 Winter Canoeing Workshop  
Sign-up deadline 1/23  
Pre-trip Meeting 1/24  
\$15 members/\$20 non-members

1/31 Adventurous Pirates  
Route Setting on the Climbing Wall  
8:00 PM, FREE

2/2 Beach Day Hike - Hammocks Beach SP  
Sign-up deadline & pre-trip meeting 1/30  
\$20 members/\$25 non-members

### FITNESS

1/7 - 1/23 FREE Group Fitness

1/7 - 1/23 The Gold Rush  
Registration: Begins Jan. 7  
\$40.00

1/14 - 3/7 Exercise Wisely Session I  
M/W/F, 12:05-12:50 PM, SRC 240  
Registration: Begins Jan. 7  
\$25.00 for non-members

1/15 - 3/6 Aqua Fitness for Faculty & Staff Session I  
T/Th, 5:30-6:20 PM, SRC Pool  
Registration: Begins Jan. 7  
\$25.00 for non-members

1/23 Body Attack 59 Super Launch  
7:00-8:00 PM

1/23 - 2/29 The Body Attack Challenge  
Registration: see class schedule  
Instructor Interest Meeting  
4:00-5:00 PM, SRC Conference Room

### WELLNESS

1/15 Folic Acid Awareness  
11:00 AM-3:00 PM, Todd and West End  
Dining Halls

### MEMBERS

1/7 - 1/13 Faculty/Staff Free Week  
1/22 - 1/23 AM Coffee/Juice Bar  
7:00-9:00 AM, SRC Rotunda

### INTRAMURALS

1/14 5-on-5 Basketball  
5:00 PM, MSC Multi-purpose room

1/14 Bowling  
5:00 PM, MSC Multi-purpose room

1/30 Racquetball  
Singles and Doubles  
Online Registration, Deadline 11:00 AM

### ADAPTED SPORTS

1/29 Wheelchair Rugby  
7:00-8:00 PM, SRC Sports Forum

### SPECIAL EVENTS

1/23 The Rec Showcase  
See program area calendars for activities.

1/24 Polar Bear Plunge  
7:00-9:00 PM, SRC Pool

### YOUTH & FAMILY

1/26 Parents' Night Out  
8:00-10:00 PM, SRC  
\$10 members/\$15 non-members

### LIFESTYLE ENHANCEMENT

1/22 Free Body Fat Testing/Meet our Trainers  
4:00-7:00 PM, SRC 210  
FREE for members

1/23 - 2/6 Self Defense  
Wednesdays, 8:00-9:00 PM, SRC 240  
\$10 mem/\$20 non-mem

1/26 POWER: People On Weights  
Equity Results  
10:00 AM-12:00 PM, SRC Classroom  
FREE mem/\$10 non-mem

1/29 - 4/15 Hatha Yoga: Body, Breath & Spirit at Lunch\*  
Tuesdays, 12:00-1:00 PM, SRC 238  
\$70 mem/\$85 non-mem

1/29 - 4/15 Kripalu Yoga\*  
Tuesdays, 5:30-6:45 PM, SRC 238  
\$70 mem/\$85 non-mem

1/30 - 3/5 Pilates: Beginning Mat\*  
M/W, 4:00-5:00 PM, SRC 238  
\$70 mem/\$85 non-mem

1/30 - 3/5 Pilates: Intermediate Mat\*  
M/W, 5:15-6:15 PM, SRC 238  
\$70 mem/\$85 non-mem

1/30 - 3/5 Intro to Flamenco Dancing (5 classes)  
Wednesdays, 5:30-7:00 PM, SRC 239  
\$42 mem/\$60 non-mem

1/31 - 4/17 Kripalu Yoga\*  
Thursdays, 12:00-1:00 PM, Brody 50M  
\$70 mem/\$85 non-mem

1/31 - 4/17 Hatha Yoga: Relax and Release\*  
Thursdays, 4:00-5:15 PM, SRC 238  
\$70 mem/\$85 non-mem

1/31 - 3/6 Intro to Scottish Country Dancing  
Thursdays, 5:15-7:00 PM, SRC 239  
FREE mem/\$15 non-mem

1/31 - 4/17 Hatha Yoga: Body, Breath & Spirit\*  
Thursdays, 5:30-7:00 PM, SRC 238  
\$70 mem/\$85 non-mem

1/31 - 3/27 Stepping Into Health  
Thursdays, 12:00-1:00 PM, SRC 210  
FREE mem/\$20 non-mem

Registration for classes begins January 7  
\* First class for members is FREE!

### HOURS OF OPERATION

SRC Hours  
Monday - Thursday 6 am - 11:30 pm  
Friday 6 am - 10 pm  
Saturday 8 am - 10 pm  
Sunday 8 am - 11:30 pm

Main Office Hours  
Monday - Thursday 8 am - 6 pm  
Friday 8 am - 5 pm

The Adventure Center  
Monday - Thursday 3 pm - 9 pm  
Friday 1 pm - 6 pm

The Climbing Wall  
Monday - Thursday 3 pm - 9 pm  
Friday 3 pm - 6 pm

Jones Fitness Pointe  
Monday - Thursday 11 am - 11 pm  
Friday 11 am - 6 pm  
Saturday 12 pm - 8 pm  
Sunday 12 pm - 11 pm

Abbreviated hours are in effect for holiday and break periods. Please consult the web page or Hotline (328-6443) for specific information.

# Financial aid distribution becomes more efficient



Photo by Lizz Wells

Students were able to access their financial aid funds sooner than in the fall semester.

## Students received aid faster

DAVID WILDER  
STAFF WRITER

Students are spending less time in the Financial Aid Office this semester due to a more efficient administrative effort in distributing financial aid.

"Before classes started, we disbursed \$18.8 million into students' Higher One accounts," said Dr. Judith Bailey, senior executive of enrollment management.

Last semester there were two main areas of concern - the training of new staff and adjustments to Banner, according to Sheryl Spivey, interim director for student financial aid.

"Fall semester was the first semester under the new Banner system and as with any system you have refine processes," Spivey said.

"Inadequate staff training was a significant issue," said Dee Bowling, interim director for student financial aid.

"Training has been offered to staff and will continue to be as part of financial aid's process improvement plans."

Staff training began in November and will continue through June, alongside a newly developed regular training schedule.

"The University brought Banner consultants on site to facilitate training for staff," said Bowling.

"Ms. Spivey has planned additional training for staff through June 2008. She is also implementing an annual training schedule which will incorporate changes in systems procedures as they occur as well as any changes in federal/state guidelines," Bowling said.

Students' questions and concerns seemed to be addressed sooner than in the past.

"Wait times for students needing to speak

with staff in the financial aid office have been reduced, so lines did not form like in the fall that started upstairs in financial aid and ended downstairs in the hallway near the One Card Office," Bowling said.

"So far this semester the line has not reached the bottom of the stairs in the Financial Aid Building, according to Bailey.

One reason for that improvement was that there was consistently more staff to assist students than last semester.

Some grants that were delayed in processing are expected to be disbursed by the end of this week.

"We are continuing to disburse state grants and loans as they are approved," Bailey said.

Continuing to recognize problems areas in the aid process will continue to be a goal for the financial aid office.

"We will identify weak areas and make changes as needed to better service our students," said Spivey.

"This is a process that will take place every new fiscal year. Our review starts in December and will continue through February."

Students can also help make the financial aid distribution process easier. Many students' failure of accepting financial aid online was one of the main problems that the financial aid office was forced to help with.

"Students should be encouraged to make sure that they renew their FAFSA," Bailey said. There is not a deadline for submitting a FAFSA, but it should be done as soon as possible.

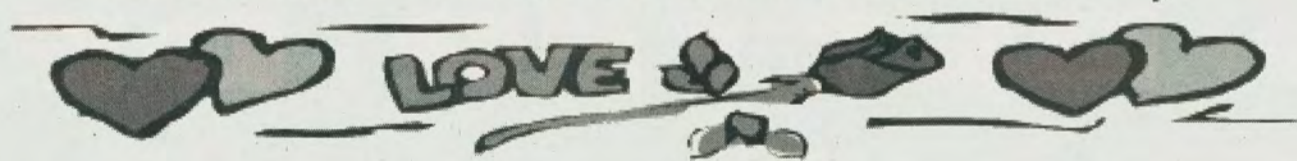
Last year more than 15,000 ECU students received a total of about \$148 million. That total included loans, grants and scholarships. About 21,000 students received financial aid this year.

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

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# MENDENHALL continued from A1

working on getting all academic buildings with classroom space on hand for students," Bunch said.

The university will continue to identify space of use for students around the city for banquets and dances.

Students being understanding about these changes will aid in a smooth transition during this time.

"We want students to be flexible and understanding that this is something beneficial for them to make this investment—it is not

always an immediate reward," Thomas said.

Ledonia Wright Cultural Center is also contracted under this project – however it will remain until their new building is constructed.

For further information in regards to the Mendenhall Student Center construction project, students may log onto [ecu.edu/newmsec](http://ecu.edu/newmsec) and visit the FAQs page.

This writer may be contacted at [news@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:news@theeastcarolinian.com).



Photo by Robyn McLawhorn

Students will have to resort to using rooms in Bate and open classrooms instead of using spacious rooms in Mendenhall.

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{ Let the Good Times Roll! }

## Ask a Terrorist!

Alright, let me think...

YAZID FINN  
OPINION WRITER

Anyone else hear about that publicity stunt al-Qaeda pulled recently? Everyone who is anyone had the chance to submit their very own personal question to one of the top dogs himself, Mr. al-Zawahiri. Mr. Number-Two will get back to everyone with answers in what we suspect will be their next video. I only wonder if they will create their own YouTube account for their little Q & A — they would at least be more interesting than the porn flood that has taken over the site.

Got to hand it to these guys, they know how to reach their base. Bandwagoning on the success of the CNN YouTube political debates, individuals were to submit concise, focused questions that would not be altered. Questions were to remain as they were submitted, whether "friendly or hostile," so said As-Sahab, the media outlet helping to organize the event. I have my fingers crossed that Anderson Cooper will be moderating.

But really, what is al-Qaeda trying to accomplish? Earn cool points with the teens these days? If that were the case, just team up with Microsoft and release a new hit videogame. I know bin Laden has the money to produce it.

Are they trying to reach out to their supporters and sympathizers? Did they run out of ideas? Are their writers' guilds on strike too? I am pretty sure that if you worked your way to the top of an organization like al-Qaeda, you would have at least brought some fresh ideas to the table. Learn from Bill O'Reilly; he writes his own material. If you rely on union laborers to do your work for you, be prepared for a lot of negotiations before they head out into the field. It is no wonder you never get anything done anymore.

I did not want to risk repeating others' questions, as I knew As-Sahab would have their hands full with banal questions like, "Yo, where you guys hiding?" or "Where Osama at?" I went with down-to-Earth questions, like "Why do some many kids like Applejacks if they don't taste like apples?" and "How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Roll pop?" If al-Zawahiri does not pick this one, the world may never know...

This writer can be reached at  
opinion@theeastcarolinian.com

## I'd rather read Playboy

... for the articles

LARA OLIVER  
OPINION WRITER

I'm reading a magazine. It has a beautiful woman on the cover, articles on respectful and modern chivalry, an interview with a hilarious comedienne, and almost all the advertisements feature women dressed in a classy-not-trashy way.

Guess what? I'm reading a men's magazine. I know, I know. Men's magazines are all built to objectify women, make men into drooling idiot masses and just push back feminism to the 1940's, right? Well, I've got a question for you: opened up a *Cosmopolitan*, lately?

*Cosmopolitan* advertises itself as "The #1 Women's Magazine" and I've seen enough of them poking out of binders, framed in bathrooms at house parties and strewn over coffee tables and tanning salon floors to believe that they're right. I see more girls reading *Cosmo* on a weekly basis than any other magazine in circulation, and that makes me very sad.

Ever taken a good look at what's inside *Cosmo* lately? Articles for women "hunting" for a man, calling another woman "skanky" for having a bad hair day and the most insipid articles I've ever read. I dare you to find a piece in *Cosmo* that isn't about fashion, sex, or over-the-top danger stories about how YOU will be raped TOMMOROW if you don't prepare yourself because ALL men want to RAPE you. It's enough to make any woman who considers herself a feminist want to gag. Is this how women see themselves? Is this how women want to see themselves?

I guess it is, because about five years back there was a great little women's magazine called *Jane*. *Jane* stressed putting your personal health above how you look, being politically engaged and making the most of your life at all times. Guess what happened? It sold horribly. Horribly, that is, until three years ago when it changed format and became a *Cosmopolitan* clone. Business has improved ever since, and it's now one of those popular impulse-buy magazines we see at the check-out.

So, men's magazines stress how intelligent and awesome women are while women's magazines stress how important sex and eye shadow are. You tell me which one is hurting feminism.

This writer can be reached at  
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## THIS IS WORTH 1,000 WORDS...

This photo, entitled "Because You Said It Wouldn't Take Long," is a silver gelatin print shot with 35 mm black and white negative film in Wilmington, NC.

"This photo was taken to make a statement about time and waiting," said photographer, Lizz Wells, Photography Editor for The East Carolinian.

We welcome student, staff, and faculty photos for publication. Please email them in .tif format to [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com) and include 'This is Worth 1,000 Words' in the subject line, along with a brief description of the medium and subject. We reserve the right not to print inappropriate images.

## PIRATE RANTS

The *East Carolinian* does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants. Questions regarding Rants can be directed to J.D. Lewis, Opinion Page Editor, at [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com). Log onto [theeastcarolinian.com](http://theeastcarolinian.com) to submit a Rant of your own.

Dear Idiot, Why would you write about the Linksys wireless? How about you pay for my Internet from now on?

Read the syllabus! The answers to the stupid questions you ask are there! Stop wasting my time with your ignorance and illiteracy!

He may not have had to influence anybody per se, but his status was influence enough. We all know what goes on around here.

I had an amazing break ... only to come back to the same bull. I can't wait to leave again.

Drunk driving is definitely NOT cool. I don't know why you'd joke about it. Your dumb self swerving to miss your air freshener could've put you head-on with another car, killing people. The sad thing is YOU are probably the one that would survive.

You buy me food, give me money and then complain about being broke. You're stupid to not realize I take full advantage of your lack of brain cells.

My girlfriend is bossy ... but I love her.

Nexttime you're in the Rawl computer lab, make sure you turn down your loud rap music because you were disturbing everyone around you.

I wanted you so badly, and now that I am single you don't want me.

I love Cookout in Raleigh, so I was super excited when I saw one was coming to Greenville, but what I would like to know is who decided to put it on the opposite side of town from ECU??? That was stupid!!! Cookout is great for drunks, and that's too far to go!

It irks me every time I go to your page to see that she is ranked higher on your Top Friends than I am.

I just want to add my two cents to the woman whose roommate is gay and annoyingly loud with her girlfriend. What dorm are you in? What's your room number? What's your roommate's sleeping schedule?

My roommate gives me horrible anxiety. I cringe and look out the window every time I hear a car drive by thinking it is her. Is that bad?

Don't get mad at me for eating two slices of your leftover pizza when you drank all of my wine on more than one occasion. Thanks, roommate.

At first I thought I was a slut, but now I realize that I'm just thinking like a guy.

Why is the plural form of goose is geese, but the plural form of moose is not meese?

If global warming is such a problem, why is it still so cold?

I can write a more eloquent and mildly offensive Pirate Rant than anyone on this campus.

The financial aid office is where time and patience go to die.

I feel weird when I go without wearing a bra.

I love tranquilizers!!

Sometimes when your boyfriend calls at 4 a.m., you just shouldn't pick up the phone. Others are trying to sleep.

So far I have had all of my Pirate Rants published in TEC. I feel accomplished.

You can close your eyes to the things you don't want to see, but you can never close your heart to the things you don't want to feel. Right now I wish I could.

Fear knocked on the door. Faith answered it. There was nobody there.

That's what she said.

How come the only TV that ever seems to have sound in Mendenhall is the one showing BET? I hate rap!

While you were having your loud conversation right next to me in Wright Plaza, I farted. Take that, personal space intruders.

Women have very inconsistent standards, and yet they expect us to live up to all of them.

I've listed 101 reasons why you are the perfect one for me ... and have not found one reason why you are not.

Hey now, how is it my fault that you caught me cheating on you? You were not supposed to be back for a good 30 minutes. By that time I would have been done!

Why is it always the smallest guys downtown that try to start fights? I know life must suck since you are short, but getting your butt kicked would make it suck worse!

Boycott Student Health Services!!! They'll check your pulse and tell you that you have a malignant tumor, and if you have appendicitis, they think you're pregnant.

Why do all the freshman girls look like Barbie?

I am SICK of your stupid cat. It just ripped a hole in my brand new shirt!

No, it's not weird to save Pirate Rants! I cut them out and keep them in a plastic cup on my desk!

Where do you buy your Flintstones vitamins??? I LOVE those things!

I think smoking is unattractive, and yet I find you attractive.

Thank God I have found a new roommate. I'm so sick of having the air conditioning on high during the winter, listening to rap music that makes the dishes rattle, and hearing the ticking noise of their phone when they text at 4 in the morning.

To the girl or boy wondering where all the lesbians on campus are, let me introduce you to some of my friends.

It's so sad that you couldn't wait until the end of class to chew tobacco. Thanks for being a "Southern Gentleman" and passing your spit bottle right in front of my face. Have fun when you have half a face in 10 years.

## The craze about New Year's Resolutions

What can you do to keep that resolution going?

LISA ENSMINGER  
OPINION WRITER

It's that time of year again when you notice the gym is a little more packed than usual, and the salads are flying off the dining hall shelves. People are making more trips to the library, and the new "you" is in the works. What could this possibly be? It's time for those ever-so-famous New Year's resolutions we set at the beginning of each year.

But how long will we continue with this buzz? Not too long for the majority of us. Many have the best intentions of losing ten pounds by spring break (that killer bathing suit bod, of course), or of really motivating themselves to go to the gym five times a week ... but this slowly but surely weakens as the year progresses.

So, why do these good intentions of ours fade so quickly? Let's be real; it is the month of January. It's bitter cold outside, and we don't often have the most beautiful weather either (should I mention dreadful rain instead of pretty snow?). Therefore, lack of motivation is quite common, and staying in our cozy room or apartment sounds a lot better. It's just too much effort to simply change into fitness clothes and travel to the gym when we are nice and warm inside.

Many of us often set unrealistic goals for ourselves or expect to achieve our goal in a short period of time. Some examples include quitting smoking, losing 20 pounds, saving money, or even studying during the time of a rerun episode of "Grey's Anatomy" (thanks to the writers' strike, the winter is even longer now!).

January 1<sup>st</sup> has come to symbolize starting a fresh and exciting year and setting our personal goals. Goals such as losing 20 pounds or saving money obviously take more than one day, but that date may imply that it needs to be done then and now! We often give up and slowly acquire our old habits in a matter of weeks due to frustration and lack of progress.

How can we keep our intentions going for more than a week? You simply need motivation from others and yourself to accomplish your individual goals for the year. It is important to have outside sources, as well as yourself, pushing you each and every day to really achieve what you want.

Writing your goals down and involving a friend in your goals would be a very helpful tactic, because then it is surrounding you at all times. Don't forget to reward yourself at the end of the week with something pleasurable or relaxing; it will inspire you to keep on moving.

So, this year make a difference and keep your New Year's resolution. You will be pleasantly surprised with your outcome, and maybe start a new habit for yourself every year!

Sources for this article include

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## Sticks and stones may break my bones

But words may never hurt me?

MARGOT ROGERSON  
OPINION WRITER

During a recent LPGA golf telecast from Hawaii, analyst Kelly Tilghman made a comment heard around the world. The commentator was subsequently suspended for two weeks after her racist comment regarding Tiger Woods.

So what happened? Tilghman and her co-host, Nick Faldo, were discussing Tiger's dominance in the area of professional golf. They discussed how any newcomers might be able to challenge that dominance. Faldo said that they would have to gang up on Woods, while Tilghman's comment was, "... lynch him in a back alley." Although meant as a joke and

said with a smile, the commentator's words are nothing less than offensive and grossly inappropriate.

In punishment for her comment, Kelly Tilghman was suspended for two weeks, although at the outset it seemed as if the Golf Channel was not going to reprimand their lead anchor.

Let's refer back to April 2007, and Don Imus's controversial comments about the Rutgers basketball team. He later said that his words, although poorly executed, were only meant as a joke. In the end CBS Radio fired Imus and cancelled his show.

Why shouldn't Tilghman be fired as well? Her slip of the tongue was equally as contentious. Are more people willing to forgive a woman? Or is it because of her numerous apologies and public forgiveness by Tiger Woods' agent? Imus

apologized as well and was forgiven by the Rutgers team. He still lost his job, however.

With competition for media positions at an all-time high, does the country have to settle for commentators that cannot restrain their speech to the politically correct?

I understand that they cannot all be perfect all of the time. Some nonsensical commentators make the best ones (e.g., John Madden), but comments of such a severe nature as this cannot go unpunished or with just a slap on the wrist. What does that say to future media correspondents? You can be allowed to say whatever you want as long as you are sorry and the recipient of the comment is a good enough sport to forgive you? I hope not.

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# Features

{Campus Scene}

## Horoscopes

**Aries**  
Your research is apt to lead you back in a familiar direction. Instead of discovering something entirely new, you're getting a different perspective. Amazing, isn't it?

**Taurus**  
It's going to be a lot easier to achieve long-term objectives during the next few weeks. Well, it'll be good during the whole coming year. The next few weeks are awesome.

**Gemini**  
Take care of household chores and errands before continuing to explore the vast unknown. Practical matters, like food and shelter, come first.

**Cancer**  
Consult an expert on a matter you've been worrying about. This might cost you a little now, but you'll save a lot in the long run. It's a good investment.

**Leo**  
More work is coming in. You simply can not do it all. Luckily, you don't have to. Move yourself into management. You'll enjoy the view better from there.

**Virgo**  
A brilliant solution emerges to a household problem. You may not think of the answer yourself. Your participation, however, is crucial. Explain the situation and then listen carefully.

**Libra**  
Somebody else provides the answer you've been seeking. Break out of your reverie and let your friends know what's on your mind. At least one of them can help.

**Scorpio**  
Slow and easy does it. Hold out for what you want. Be tough and determined to succeed, just like your competition. They won't give you any slack.

**Sagittarius**  
Making money will be easier for the next several weeks. You could make a lot of it, too. Consider possible methods, and things you can buy and sell.

**Capricorn**  
You'll be happier for the next several weeks, you'll be glad to hear. Venus, for love and well being, is going through your sign. It looks good on you.

**Aquarius**  
You'll be wanting to spend more time alone for the next few weeks. You have a lot to think about, without interruptions. Set it up so you can.

**Pisces**  
The situation is getting better, and so is your attitude. The hardest part is over now, and you've got some welcome help. Delegate as much as you can.

## Did you know?

In every episode of Seinfeld there is a Superman somewhere... usually in Jerry's living room.

A desert snail can sleep for 3 years.

Hershey's Kisses are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it's kissing the conveyor belt.

Clans of long ago that wanted to get rid of their unwanted people without killing them used to burn their houses down - hence the expression "to get fired."

The world's most expensive spice is Saffron. The price ranges from \$40 to \$60 per ounce.

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history. Spades - King David; Clubs - Alexander the Great; Hearts - Charlemagne; and Diamonds - Julius Caesar.

10 percent of the Russian government's income comes from the sale of vodka.

It's possible to lead a cow upstairs... but not downstairs.

The three most valuable brand names on earth: Marlboro, Coca-Cola, and Budweiser, in that order.

Pound for pound, hamburgers cost more than new cars.

Hitler slept in and could not be woken when the beaches of Normandy were stormed. He refused to send reinforcements for over 48 hours.

There are arctic legends that speak of a time when man could understand and speak with whales. In fact, many legends worldwide speak of a time when people and animals understood each other.

## North Carolina natives make name for themselves

The Piedmont sounds of the Avett Brothers

JESSICA DUNLOW  
STAFF WRITER

From Concord, N.C. comes a fresh and unique sound. The sounds of the banjo, guitar and bass entertain the ear and the lyrics tantalize the mind. This marks the arrival of a new sound and a new hometown secret ready to be discovered.

The Avett Brothers, whose

roots are solely in bluegrass and heavy rock, grew up in the suburb of Charlotte and attended a high school in the area. After graduating, the oldest brother, Scott Avett, left Concord to attend ECU. Scott eventually graduated from the ECU School of Art and Design and still paints portraits available on [www.scottavett.com](http://www.scottavett.com).

Scott and his younger brother, Seth, decided to form a group with their combined banjo and guitar talents. After finding Bob Crawford, a bass player hailing from Winthrop University, the

boys set out to make music. Little did they know that the sound they were making would be impossible to classify. Referred to as "rock-a-billy," "bluegrass rock," "Screamo-grass" and many more, the Avetts are a unique find.

Their first album, titled *A Carolina Jubilee* was released in 2003 from indie label Ramseur Records. The CD introduced future crowd favorites like "I Killed Sally's Lover" and "Pretty Girl from Annapolis," which reached a few town friends, but

see AVETT page A8



Hailing from Concord, the band has become popular in the state.

## Way more than 'ECU Idol'

Student Emily Louise Minor tries out for *American Idol*

KATHERINE HARRY  
STAFF WRITER

Season seven of the world-famous *American Idol* began last Tuesday with a 2-hour premiere. Many viewers tuned in to the ever-popular show to see the talented or hideous potential idols, but the next "American Idol" may be closer than you think.

Emily Louise Minor, sophomore elementary education major, auditioned for *American Idol* this past summer.

"My family jokes that I have been singing since before I could talk," said the 19-year-old Wilmington, N.C. native.

"Singing is my passion; I can't function properly without it. Whenever I am stressed or something isn't going right, sometimes I just have to crank the radio up and sing my heart out; it's almost therapeutic. So to be able to do that as a job, for the rest of my life, would be amazing."

Minor has always dreamed of being a famous singer.

"I can remember telling my mom when I grow up that I was going to sing. I think she responded with a 'yeah right' or something like that. She said one day I was singing in the backseat of the car, I believe I was still in a car seat, and I hit a certain note in a song and she realized, 'Oh my gosh, my kid can sing!'"

Minor still sings in the car all the time, although Emily said her parents "are not singers."

Minor's great-grandmother, however, had the opportunity to sing for the president and her grandmother sings and plays the violin.

Minor began taking singing lessons at the age of 9, but quit taking lessons at age 15 to pursue cheerleading.

"[Trying out for *American Idol* is] something I always wanted to do, but never thought the timing was right. After coming to college and living on my own, I decided that I was old enough and mature enough to take that step, not knowing where the adventure would take me. Finally, this summer, after much encouragement from family and my sorority sisters, I made the move," Minor said.

Minor tried out for *American Idol* this past summer in Charleston, S.C. Minor and her mother drove to Charleston for the auditions and had to wake up early to wait in line for registration. They came back the next day for auditions.

"I was so nervous" Minor said.

"In Wilmington, we have a very small town attitude, so growing up there weren't many people in high school that were phenomenal singers. In Charleston, it was very intimidating because suddenly I wasn't the only one with talent. So I was pretty nervous and often a little discouraged, because I was no longer the big fish in a small pond."

Minor currently sings with a Greenville-based band called "The Johnny Dollar Band" on weekends. She says it is with this

see IDOL page A7



Emily Minor, an ECU student and NC native, displayed her talents for the hit reality show, *American Idol*.

## Small piece of plastic can equal big problems

Be smart with your future now

ERIN EDWARDS  
STAFF WRITER

While college years may spell independence for some people, many students can become burdened with debt. While it may be tempting to spend money now and pay it off later, problems with credit cards in college may have you paying debts off many years in the future.

Having a credit card is almost unavoidable, but debt is not. Credit cards offer protection with purchases and provide convenient support in emergencies, as well as provide stability in buying a home, paying for school and even getting a job. However, with credit comes responsibility, and it is important to uphold payments in order to avoid mounting debt and to keep your credit score within a respectable range.

There are responsible ways to keep track of your credit and to prevent yourself from having to dig your way out.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, credit scoring is a system creditors use to help determine whether to give you credit. It also may be used to help decide the terms you are offered or the rate you will pay for a loan.

"The best and easiest way to keep yourself out of debt is



Understanding your credit score can help save you money later on.

to pay your bills on time," said Dean Smith, associate director of finance administration at ECU.

"The process is simple, but many do not understand credit. Regardless of education, many lack the formal training and skills to deal with credit and finance."

Smith also refers to credit reports as a "financial checkup," deeming it important for people to keep up with it on a regular basis.

Credit is based on a FICO score, an acronym for the Fair Isaac Corporation, a publicly-traded corporation that initially developed the most widely used credit score model in America. This model ranges credit scores from 300 to 850, with over

60 percent of scores varying between 650 and 799. Credit scores between 750 and 800 are considered to be excellent; credit scores from 720 and 750 are good to excellent; those ranging from 690 to 720 are considered good, while borrowers with credit scores ranging from 620 and 690 are fair credit risks. Any credit score below 620 is considered poor.

There are many key components that go into calculating one's credit score, including how you pay your bills (preferably on time), the amount of money you owe and the amount of credit available, the length of your credit history, the mix of

see CREDIT page A7

## "Kings" of the music scene

*Riot on an Empty Street* is a timeless favorite.

CAT POTTER  
STAFF WRITER

There have been so many new releases in the past couple of months that are worthy of recognition but even so, there is only one album I could think of that I couldn't help but rave about before any of the others.

The album I'm referring to is *Riot on an Empty Street* by Kings of Convenience. This album was released July 27, 2004, and over three years later, I am still listening to it as if it were just released yesterday.

*Riot on an Empty Street* is without a doubt one of the best albums I have ever heard. Kings of Convenience has become one of my favorite musical duos based solely on this release and an album released a couple of years before it titled *Quiet Is the New Loud*.

It is very rare that I am still listening to an album years later, but with the music on this collection I can't help but listen to it at least once a day. For an album that was as impressive on me as this one has been, I am always surprised that many have never heard

it, or even heard of Kings of Convenience.

Trust me when I say that if you feel like your musical world is missing something, it is most likely this band and this album.

*Riot on an Empty Street*, though not rightfully placed into any particular musical genre, would best be categorized as a sort of acoustic/indie/alternative endeavor.

The album begins with a song called "Homesick" which sets the tone for a mostly mellow album. The first few lines of the song contain the lyric "two soft voices blended in perfection," and that is exactly what this song is.

The harmony in the song is absolutely perfect, and if comparisons must be drawn it would unquestionably stand alongside the renowned and established Simon and Garfunkel in similarity and musical elegance.

Track two, titled "Misread," is a bit racier and slightly more upbeat. The guitar and piano parts work together brilliantly to create a song that will undoubtedly have you tapping your toes to its infectious beat.

Track number five is a different sort of audible treat. It features the vocal talents of the

see CONVENIENCE page A7



Scanned Image



**CREDIT** continued from A6

credit (if you have credit from car loans or mortgages) and any new credit applications that you have applied. These factors can generally help build your score, but incorrectly keeping up with your credit and forgetting these components can also ruin your credit, giving you a lower score and making it harder for creditors to grant you aid.

For students that are seeking help with learning about credit and finance in general, Smith recommends the Student Financial Literacy Program. The program is generated by the Center for Student Leadership and Financial Engagement (CSLCE) and follows a particular curriculum in educating students about their credit scores and how to maintain financial stability in order to prepare for their future.

Smith says this curriculum and the schedule for the spring 2008 semester will be updated soon on the CSLCE Web site.

The program follows a mission statement, "Built on the belief that leaders must possess a fundamental knowledge of personal finance. Financial liter-

**Keeping a good score**

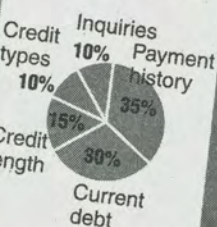
Did you know that closing accounts could hurt your credit score, a measure used by lenders to determine creditworthiness?

► **The longer you have had established credit**, the better for your overall score since your past payment history can be used to predict your future actions; if you want to close accounts, avoid touching those with long track records

► **Another factor lenders consider** is the ratio of debt to available credit; when you close accounts with high credit lines, your remaining debt will take up a larger proportion of available credit, which could lower your score

**Personal Finance**

Scoring Factors used to determine scores



© 2006 MCT Source: How Stuff Works Graphic: Pat Carr

ary, on its most basic level, gives you the knowledge to take care of yourself, so that as a leader you may take care of others. The credibility and confidence one gains from possessing the knowledge to successfully navigate the major financial decisions of life transcends to your credibility and confidence as a leader in your community."

A credit card is not free

money. Although just a small piece of plastic, there are many responsibilities it brings and many consequences if the accountability is not followed. If one is responsible and keeps up with the process, they can secure themselves financially for their future.

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

**IDOL**

continued from A6

band that she "discovered a lot of her 'singing personality' and stage presence."

Minor also prefers to sing in front of large crowds.

"To be honest, I would rather sing in front of a large crowd of strangers than in front of my family and friends. The way I see it is, if I blow it in front of a large crowd, chances are I am never going to run into those people again. If I blow it in front of my friends and family, well, I'm stuck with them and their opinions," Minor said.

"As far as what happened after my audition with Simon, Paula and Randy... well, you'll just have to watch the show to find out!" Minor said.

American Idol airs on Fox Tuesday and Wednesday nights at 8 p.m.

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

**CONVENIENCE**

continued from A6

increasingly popular singer, Feist, who makes her first appearance in "Know-How" and then closes out the album with the last track, "The Build-Up."

"Know-How" is one of the best tracks on the entire album both musically and lyrically and a wonderful lead into the lyrical perfection of the songs that follow.

"Sorry or Please" and "Love Is No Big Truth" are metaphorical masterpieces. "Sorry or Please" addresses the ambiguity in a relationship and does so through lyrics such as "Your increasingly long embraces/Are they saying sorry or please/I don't know what's happening/Help me."

Finally, the album's "best" track, or catchiest perhaps, would be track number eight, "I'd Rather Dance With You." I challenge anyone to listen to this song without moving a muscle. It is impossible. The

beat of the song is contagious, and after three and a half minutes you will find yourself playing it again...and again.

Most of the album's tracks address love and relationships, but not in the way that many artists choose to do so. The lyrics are not boring. They are not repetitive. They are not simple. The words are complex. They are beautiful. They absolutely describe how most of us have felt at some point or another in a way that we could have never expressed. If the words don't do it, the music will.

I don't care when this album came out because it is timeless. You are doing yourself a musical injustice if you don't hear it. I guarantee you will not be disappointed.

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

**PULSE:**  
housing edition

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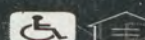
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**AVETT** continued from A6

that was the extent of their fame.

By the time their second full-length album, *Mignonette*, was released in 2004, the band had picked up a significant following around North Carolina and began their New Years tradition of playing sold-out shows to music-hungry crowds. True Avett fans understand that when there is a concert, they will be there in the front rows screaming and dancing along with the boys on stage.

"They're hard to understand until you see them perform live," said Mandy Buie, ECU junior. "Even though their talent is heard on their CDs, it is impossible to not like them when you see them live."

After the success of *Mignonette*, the Avetts cranked out *Live, Volume 2* in 2005, *Four Thieves Gone: The Robbinsville Sessions* and *The Gleam: EP* in 2006, before releasing their extremely popular *Emotionalism* in May of 2007. Praised by magazine edi-

tors and music critics for their lyrical wit and honesty, they are beginning to pack houses across the United States and have played shows in Great Britain.

"Their songs touch on a wide variety of real issues that affect real people," said Caleb Seamone, an ECU junior and native of Concord, N.C.

North Carolina and Greenville have a spot in the Avetts' hearts, and that love is displayed through their music. "Pretty Girl from Cedar Lane" chronicles the lost love of a girl who resided on Cedar Lane off 10th Street. "The Lowering" mentions lonely days in Greenville, and 40 East is named after the long stretch of highway between Concord and Greenville.

The band will play at Merle Fest in April, so support a fellow Pirate's musical exploits and become part of the unique movement that is the Avett Brothers.

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



Contributed Photo

Native to North Carolina, the Avett Brothers give a unique performance every time they take the stage.

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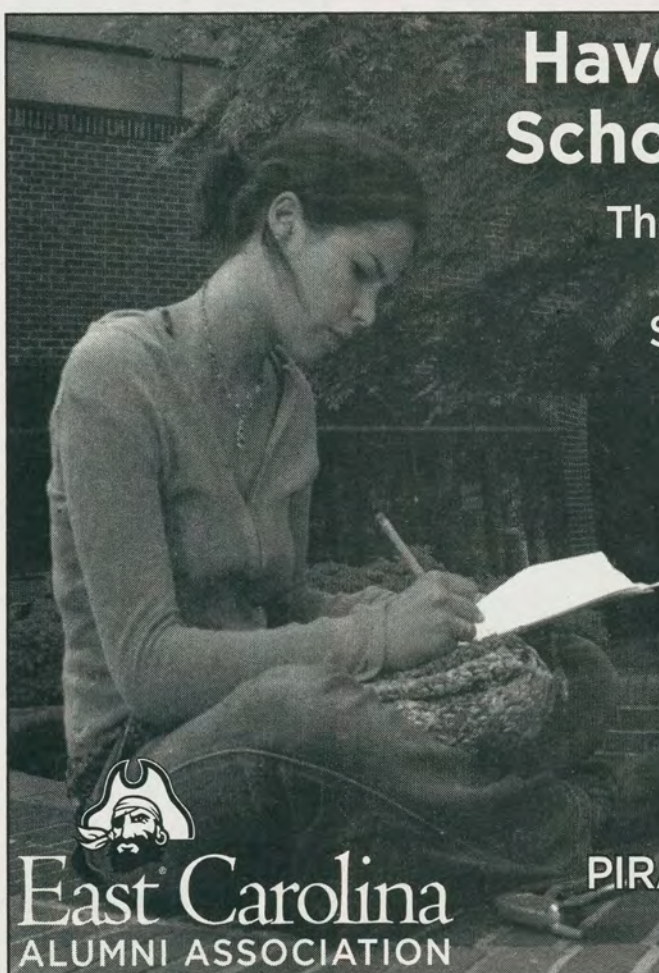
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**3:10 to yuma** 9:30 pm

Jan 26 **3:10 to yuma** 7:00 pm  
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**3:10 to yuma** midnight

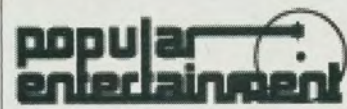
Jan 25 **3:10 to yuma** 9:30 pm  
**good luck chuck** midnight

Jan 27 **good luck chuck** 4:00 pm  
**3:10 to yuma** 7:00 pm  
**good luck chuck** 9:30 pm



Jan 25 **jazz at night**  
8:00 pm  
msc great rooms

Jan 26 **bingo**  
midnight  
multi-purpose room



Jan 25 **the new familiars**  
9:00 pm  
In mendenhall's pirate underground

student union programming board

Jan 25 **bruce bruce** comedy show  
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wright auditorium

late night arts institute:

Jan 25 **Photography Class** 7:00-10:00 pm  
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Pick up your application at the mendenhall student union office (room 236). Applicant must have a 2.5 gpa or higher and will need to be free for the summer of 2008. Applications are due to the student union by January 31st. Interviews will be February 5th-6th. Committee chair applications are due January 31st and require a 2.25 gpa. Chairs include: popular entertainment, cultural awareness, marketing, spectrum, visual arts, films, and barefoot.



**student union**



## ON TAP...

A look ahead to the weekend in sports

### Men's Basketball

Saturday vs. Tulane

7 p.m.  
TV: WITN

The Pirates will be looking to win their fourth home contest out of the last five when they face Tulane. Having been competitive of late, ECU will be looking to turn that energy into another upset victory. Doing so will be easier said than done however, as the Green Wave rank among the best in Conference USA in defense.

\*\*\*

### Women's Basketball

Sunday vs. Marshall

2 p.m.  
TV: WITN

Fresh off their first Conference USA win of the season, ECU will be looking to start a winning streak when it faces Marshall Sunday afternoon. The Thundering Herd rank third in C-USA in offense, but a lousy 11th in defense. Jasmine Young will be looking to lead the Pirates to victory after putting together one of her most complete performances of the season against Tulsa, netting 23 points, five steals and four assists.

\*\*\*

### Results from last week's online poll question:

What was your favorite play of the Pirates' 2007 football season?



44%—Ben Hartman's game-winning kick against Boise State in the Hawaii Bowl

20%—Rob Kass' 34-yard touchdown pass to Juwon Crowell as time expired against UTEP

20%—Chris Johnson's 96-yard kickoff return to open the second half against UCF

17%—Ben Hartman's game-winning kick against UNC

# Ranking the Carolinas: A look back at the season's best teams

Wake Forest grabs top spot

RONNIE WOODWARD  
SPORTS EDITOR

Now that the 2007 college football season is over, it's time to do some comparing.

Since not all of the college football teams in North Carolina and South Carolina are in the same conference, *The East Carolinian* is ranking which teams from the Carolinas had the best season.

Here are the top five:

**1. Wake Forest (9-4)**

The Demon Deacons backed up their surprising 11-3 2006 season with another solid year in 2007. I know that Clemson beat Wake Forest 44-10 this season, but you

have to look at the whole body of work, not just one game. Unlike Clemson, all four of Wake Forest's non-conference games were against Division I-A teams, and the Deacons won three of them. Three of the Deacons' four losses came against teams that were ranked at the time, and the fourth was the season-opener at Boston College, which was unranked at the time. The Demon Deacons won the 2007 Meineke Car Care Bowl in impressive fashion, dominating the second half en route to a 24-10 victory over No. 25 Connecticut, which vaults Wake Forest past Clemson and into the top spot of the Carolinas poll.

**2. Clemson (9-4)**

Clemson finishes as the second best team in the Carolinas due to its lack of quality wins. The Tigers only had only one win over a team that was ranked at the time, and that

was a season-opening 24-18 win over an overrated Florida State team. Clemson lost two of its last three games, including its bowl game—a 23-20 loss to Auburn in the Chick-fil-A Bowl. A win in that game would have definitely made Clemson the best team in the Carolinas, but the lack of a real quality win drops them to the runner-up spot.

**3. ECU (8-5)**

Skip Holtz did one of the best coaching jobs of his career this fall. Holtz, despite losing one of the best quarterback-wide receiver duos in school history, displayed his offensive expertise by turning Chris Johnson into a national superstar and guiding the Pirates to multiple shoot-out wins in ECU's best season since 2000. ECU capped the memorable 2007 season with a surprising 41-38 win over No. 24 Boise State. Johnson had a NCAA bowl-record 408 all-

purpose yards and Ben Hartman kicked a game-winning 34-yard field goal that gave ECU the win and vaulted the Pirates onto the national scene. The Pirates went 1-1 against teams from the Carolinas, with a 34-31 win over North Carolina on Sept. 8 and a 34-20 loss to N.C. State on Oct. 20. Both games were played in Greenville.

**4. South Carolina (6-6)**

Steve Spurrier's Gamecocks won six games this year, but did not earn a bowl berth. What South Carolina did do is play one of the toughest schedules in the nation however, including games with each of the top-two teams from the final AP poll. USC won at Georgia, which finished the season No. 2 in the nation, and lost to eventual national champion LSU two weeks later, early in the season. The Gamecocks didn't finish strong at all after starting the season 6-1, losing their final five games by an aver-

age of almost 10 points.

**5. N.C. State (5-7)**

The Wolfpack edges out Appalachian State for the final spot in the rankings, despite the Mountaineers winning the Division I-AA National Championship for the third-straight year and somehow receiving five votes in the Division I-A final AP Top 25 poll. The reasoning for that decision is because of the one common opponent between the two, Wofford. N.C. State beat Wofford, 38-17, while ASU lost to Wofford, 42-31, in the regular season. After a rough 1-5 start to the Tom O'Brien era, N.C. State won four of its last six, including wins at ECU and Miami, and a win over No. 15 Virginia. Three of the Wolfpack's five wins came against teams from the Carolinas.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com

# Pirates rally back in second half, but fall short against Knights

Slow start dooms ECU

KELLEN HOLTZMAN  
STAFF WRITER

"Resilient" is not a word that would have often been used to describe ECU men's basketball in head coach Mack McCarthy's previous two seasons as an assistant coach.

Then again, nothing about this year's version of the Pirates is reminiscent of the past.

ECU came all the way back from a 22-point first half deficit to UCF Saturday night before clutch free throw shooting led the Golden Knights past the Pirates, 71-66, at Minges Coliseum.

"I feel bad for the kids," said McCarthy. "When they give that kind of effort you would like to see more tangible rewards, but if they don't let it get to them they will be fine. So far this year, they've been very resilient."

UCF led 63-58 when sophomore Gabe Blair drove the baseline with :51 seconds left and missed a one-hand dunk attempt. However, Blair grabbed his own rebound and converted a layup to cut the lead to 63-60. ECU nearly forced a potential game-saving turnover but the Pirates failed to corral a loose ball and were forced to put the Knights at the free throw line.

UCF standout guard, Jermaine Taylor, sank both free throws to cushion the Knights' lead. Taylor was a perfect 8-8 at the line and finished with a career-high 32 points, going 11-16 from

the field.

"He's a great athlete," McCarthy said of Taylor. "He gets out in transition and finishes. He can make the three. He has great work ethic. He's a physically and mentally tough kid."

Sam Hinnant nailed a fade-away three to tighten UCF's lead to 65-63 with :15 seconds remaining, but senior guard Dave Noel calmly pushed the Knights' lead to four at the free throw line. Freshman Brock Young's three point attempt failed to draw iron on ECU's ensuing possession.

ECU came out hot in the second half but UCF guard Mike Battle stifled an early run with a three, upping the Knights lead to 45-33.

The Pirates went on a 16-4 run to complete the comeback and tie the game at 49. A John Fields rebound of a missed Young layup set up the tying basket. Fields kicked the ball out to the perimeter to Sam Hinnant who found sharpshooter James Legan open for a triple at the top of the key.

Legan led ECU with 20 points in just 20 minutes played. All six of the junior college transfer's field goals came from behind the arc.

"Coach told us to keep fighting and not to fold and we didn't," said Legan. "We listened to coach and we came out and played hard in the second half and made up for the bad start we had."

The Houston, Texas native drained an off-balance shot

see MEN'S page A10



Sophomore John Fields soars above the rim attempting to disrupt UCF's Chip Cartwright's shot.



The Pirates stepped up their defense Sunday against Tulsa, forcing 20 turnovers in the second half alone.

# Lady Pirates celebrate first conference win

Defense plays key role in victory

HART HOLLOWAN  
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Pirates basketball team earned their first conference win of the season last weekend by defeating Tulsa Sunday afternoon after slipping in overtime to SMU Friday night.

After dropping an early lead to Conference USA power SMU, the Pirates (7-11, 1-4) lost in overtime, 73-68.

After ECU's tough loss, SMU moved into second place of C-USA while the Pirates remained winless in the conference.

ECU looked to bounce back against a tough Tulsa (7-11, 3-2) squad Sunday after-

noon, but it took a big second half rally—and outstanding defense—to finish off the Golden Hurricanes.

The Pirates came out a little flat, and Tulsa took an early 7-0 lead as the Pirates had a tough time getting going offensively. The Pirates first field goal of the game didn't come until five minutes into the game. But after that, they seemed to settle into the flow of the game and pulled to within one with 12:00 to go in the first half.

After a Tulsa timeout, the Hurricane pulled away again and with 8:00 left in the first half, they had doubled The Pirates score at 16-8. So the Pirates had to dig in and

see WOMEN'S page A11



**MEN'S** continued from A9

with a hand in his face to give the Pirates their first lead of the game, 52-51. Young added two more to give ECU a three-point lead, but Taylor responded with two free throws and a backdoor lay-up to regain the lead, which would never be relinquished by the Knights.

ECU didn't find the bottom of the net in the first half until the 13:40 mark, courtesy of a John Fields bucket. UCF snatched their largest lead of the night at 29-7, when Taylor landed his third emphatic dunk in a row.

Taylor had 20 points in the first half alone.

The Pirates put together another 16-4 run late in the half capped off by a three from Legan to trim the lead to 33-23. Taylor answered with a three of his own just before the buzzer sounded to silence the Minges Maniacs and kill ECU's momentum.

"They've got to get better at getting out of the gate," McCarthy said of his team's slow start. "We've had that problem a few times this year.

I think we're much better when we play with a little edge, a little chip on our shoulders. Maybe we were a little too relaxed tonight."

Hinnant continued his steady play on the wing for the Pirates, with a 13-point performance.

ECU returns home on Saturday to face a Tulane team that should prove to be a formidable opponent. The Green Wave (12-6, 2-2) boast an undefeated record against the SEC this season with wins over Auburn, Georgia and in-state rival, LSU. Tulane's two conference losses came against UAB and Southern Miss.

The Green Wave is led by senior forward David Gomez and sophomore point guard Kevin Sims. Gomez averages 13.8 points per game while Sims averages 12.3 points and nearly four assists per contest.

Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m. inside Minges Coliseum.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com



Brock Young played a vital role in the Pirate's comeback during their meeting with the Knights.

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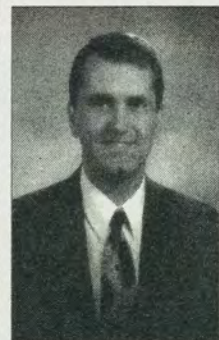
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## "That's Right."



**WOMEN'S** continued from A9

ECU guard Jasmine Young scored an impressive 18 points in the second half against Tulsa.

junior LaCoya Terry tied the game at 20-20 with 3:00 left. But an 8-0 run by Tulsa put some distance between them and the Pirates before freshman Allison Spivey hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to send the Pirates into the locker room on high note and only trailing by five at the half, 28-23.

The Pirates came out for the second half and initially showed signs of life. Junior Gabriela Husarova scored the opening basket of an assist from Terry. But after a 6-0 run by Tulsa extended its lead to nine points, it was obvious the Pirates were in danger of letting the game get away from them.

ECU coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener decided to put on the pressure and the Pirates jumped into the full-court press. It turned out to be just what the Pirates needed as they used their superior athleticism to cause turnover after turnover and convert them into layups. Terry completed the comeback after converting a 3-point play the

Pirates a 37-36 lead that they would not relinquish the rest of the game.

"Defensively we didn't play all that bad, we held them to 28 points in the first half and any time you hold some one under 60 I think you've done pretty good," Baldwin-Tener said. "But on offense [Tulsa] played that zone which is such a bear to try to break down. In the second half we put Gabby [Husarova] at the foul line and she was able to get some shots and that helped us open up their defense a little."

Down the stretch, the Pirates kept the pressure on—causing 20 turnovers in the second half, which led to 22 ECU points.

Deep into the game junior Jasmine Young took over as she scored 18 of her game-high 23 points in the second half. The Pirates ended the game with a 10-4 run to capture the 62-53 victory.

Young added four assists to her 23 points, while Spivey had 11 points and five assists. Husarova and Terry added nine and eight points, respec-

tively, and senior Nicole Days brought down six boards to lead the team.

After the game, Baldwin-Tener was impressed with her team, especially on the defensive end of the court.

Young said the turnover battle, especially in the second half, guided the Lady Pirates to their first conference victory of the year.

"I think that was a great turnaround for us when we decided to press and cause some turnovers," she said. "We made the ball more important in the second half, we didn't turn it over, we scored when we needed to and we made defensive stops. So that was big for us and we needed to get that monkey off our back to be able to close games out."

The Lady Pirates will return to action this Sunday for a home game with Marshall.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com

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## aRe you iN?

## OTHER

**ATTENTION ECU Students:** Students, faculty and staff who have contributed 100 or more hours of volunteer service to the community in the 2007 calendar year are encouraged to apply for membership to the Servire Society. As part of our Centennial celebration, the Servire Society will recognize students, faculty and staff who have demonstrated a commitment to "volunteer" their time and talent to the community external to ECU. The first recognition ceremony will be held in March 2008- an appropriate time to celebrate this Centennial effort. All members will receive a certificate and a pin as a symbol for the honor of being selected for membership. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to nominate their peers or to nominate themselves for membership to the Servire Society. Details about the criteria, the selection procedure, and nomination/ application forms are available at [www.ecu.edu/servire](http://www.ecu.edu/servire)

## Friends of Sheppard Memorial Library

# BOOK SALE

Friday, Feb. 1, 9 am-8 pm  
Saturday, Feb. 2, 9 am-6 pm  
Sunday, Feb. 3, 1-3:30 pm\*

\*Bag Day—\$5 per paper grocery bag of books

## LOCATION

Greenville Convention Center, 303 SE Greenville Blvd.

[www.NORTHCAMPUSCROSSING.com](http://www.NORTHCAMPUSCROSSING.com)



## 3 CONVENIENT WAYS TO VISIT & LEASE

- **NEW!** Downtown Storefront location (Between Chico's & Matt Holder Hairdressing)
- **NEW!** Website: [www.NorthCampusCrossing.com](http://www.NorthCampusCrossing.com)
- **NEW!** Five-Star Resort Community (3800 Bostic Drive, Greenville, NC)

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