



The ECU baseball team opened their season this past weekend at No. 12 South Carolina. Turn to the sports section to read a recap.....
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Professors discuss whether society is living "The Dream" or becoming a nightmare

Event addressed racial advancements made

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
NEWS EDITOR

A metaphor relating to the advancements and drawbacks in racial equality was discussed at THE DREAM event, held on Friday, Feb. 22.

Dialogue was shared among the audience and the speakers at Mendenhall Student Center's Hendrix Theater at 7 p.m.

Reginald Watson, professor of American and multicultural literature, and Corey King, assistant vice chancellor for student experiences, were the discussion leaders for the event.

Members of Alpha Phi Alpha, one of the sponsors, wanted the

event to spark interest in the listeners to excel.

"It is my hope today that these speakers will ignite something in you, some flame that will make you want to be leaders," said Deron Hall, member of Alpha Phi Alpha.

Watson and King were introduced by Kevin Berryman, member of Alpha Phi Alpha, who described the speakers past accomplishments.

King began the discussion about the topic by recalling his assumptions of what the main points of interest would be at the event.

"When hearing the title, I assumed that we were going to talk about Martin Luther King, Jr. and where we've come from," King said.

King did talk about where

he came from, but not so much about Martin Luther King, Jr. Corey King instead focused on sharing personal experiences of his mother giving him advice during his college years.

"You're smart in the books but dumb at life, because you think you did this by yourself," King said when impersonating what his mother told him.

"Don't forget the blood, sweat and tears that were shed for you to get here."

King also said that his mother told him to realize that he just wasn't taking test for himself, but he was also setting an example of those to come after him.

"When I graduated, I saw two sets of people; the people that paved the way for me, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

and Rosa Parks, and the faceless heads of the people that I paved the way for," King said.

King also shared inspirational words on why everyone should continue to dream.

"The moment we stop dreaming is the moment we lose hope," King said.

Watson took a different approach in talking about what "The Dream" meant to him by citing facts of African-American history and reciting passages from different black writers and poets.

"Blacks fought in the Revolutionary War because they had a dream that if this country got [their] freedom then they would in turn get their freedom," Watson said.

"The Dream is what has helped African-Americans sur-

vive."

Watson talked about the racial problem affecting society that ranged from the Three-Fifths Compromise all the way to the black-on-black crime and lack of education among some African-Americans today.

Watson made the conclusion that "The Dream" has not fully been fulfilled, but gave accounts of why he believes we are living the nightmare.

"I look at Obama and I have a little hope and think maybe 'The Dream' is being realized, and then I look at this campus and hear about nooses and hear words that still aren't right," Watson said.

Despite the efforts of Alpha

see **DREAM** page A3



Former ECU running back Chris Johnson tied a record at the NFL Combine in Indianapolis on Sunday. See how his 40-yard dash time compared to the other elite running backs in the nation.....
PAGE A8

Fairytale Boutique helps send local high school girls to prom



Formal gowns are still being accepted by the boutique until Feb. 28.

Donations still being accepted

NATALIE JURGEN
STAFF WRITER

The Volunteer and Service-Learning Center at ECU has established the Fairytale Boutique to help send the young women of Pitt County to the prom, regardless of their financial circumstances.

With the ever-increasing expenses of prom, many young women have simply not been able to attend.

To help these girls have the prom they deserve, the Fairytale Boutique has been collecting new and gently used gowns, shoes, accessories, corsage and boutonniere packages, dinner coupons and grooming packages to be distributed to girls in need from any of the six area high schools in Pitt County.

Initial research and planning for this project began back in the fall. Volunteer and Service-Learning Center staff were aware of similar projects around the country and the potential need for a similar giveaway in Pitt County.

The Volunteer and Service-Learning Center staff has been on each of the local news chan-

nels to promote the effort and marketing that has gone out to campus organizations and ECU faculty and staff. Their biggest marketing tool, however, has been word-of-mouth. Thus far the project has been successful, but the Volunteer and Service-Learning Center still needs 150 more dresses to reach their goal.

"We're hoping the community cleans out their closets, their sisters, friends and cousins closets, and come together to give young women in our area the chance to have a fairytale evening at their prom," said Jessica Gagne, Volunteer and Service-Learning Center staff member.

"People are shy about giving away the dress that holds so many memories. We'd like to encourage women to think about the new life and new memories that their used dresses and accessories will bring if donated to the Fairytale Boutique," Gagne said.

Local businesses have played an important role in this project as well.

The Shoe Crate, on Evans Street, has donated a large number of dress shoes to the

see **FAIRYTALE** page A3



Accessories such as necklaces and earrings are also needed to help these girls have a special night.



The stars came out to play on Sunday night for the 80th annual Academy Awards, which yielded some surprising—and international—results....
PAGE A5



Homegrown designer Jamil Blount shares his secrets of success, inspiration and fashion sense with the local community....
PAGE A5

Black Student Union honored their founding officers

Luncheon and Black Legacy Ball held

NIA RICHARDSON
STAFF WRITER

The Black Student Union hosted a reunion of past presidents and officers as it celebrated its 10th anniversary with a luncheon.

The luncheon featured past BSU presidents as well as the founders of the organization.

The event kicked off with a melody of welcome by the BSU Signature Sounds chorus.

Founding officers, Michael Sanders, Steven Carmichael and Marc Edwards, presented current BSU members with the history of the organization.

BSU was founded in 1998 by eight students; Sanders, Carmichael, Raymond McGill III, Ade B. Galloway, Christopher J. Williams, Kodi R. Michaux, Armstead L. Galiber, and Marcus J. Frederick. This group realized the necessity of having an organization that

addressed the needs of black students.

Taking advantage of opportunities to start such an organization, BSU was founded as an action group that came together and addressed situations involving black students that went overlooked by the university.

Issues such as the mistreatment of black housecleaning staff, the hanging of a noose in the Jenkins Art building, and discrimination of minorities at downtown clubs, were all dealt with directly by the organization.

"When we found out about a situation, we went straight to the source of the problem to try and figure out what was going on," Sanders said.

"Today's organization has a better way of achieving those types of situations. They have many more resources to connect with."

While BSU currently serves as a political resource for black students, it has also developed into a social networking organization.

"We talk about problems in the

black community, but we also talk about what going on with us at ECU," said Brent Richards, BSU member.

The organization has grown to a membership of 200 students, making it the largest organization at ECU, outside of SGA.

The luncheon featured keynote speaker Nell Lewis, former director of Ledonia Wright Cultural Center and author of the book "1 Day and 3 Hours."

Lewis spoke to the audience on the importance of young people having an understanding of past struggles in order to build a strong future.

"Whenever there is a gathering of truth-seeking young minds, there is power to impact a generation," Lewis said.

"We have to reflect on past accomplishments of success."

BSU also celebrated their anniversary with a Black Legacy Ball, held that evening in Mendenhall Student Center.

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



Patrick Dixon and Deatrice Lockhart pose at the Black Legacy ball.

PIRATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rivers scholar offers lecture Tuesday, Feb. 26 4 p.m. Bate, Room 1032
Julian Lethbridge, distinguished visiting Rivers professor, will present, "The Place of Literary Criticism Among the Disciplines." Free. Sponsored by the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Department of English, the Program in Great Books, the Office of International Affairs and the Office of the Provost.

Pirate Gladiators Wednesday, Feb. 27 5:30-9 p.m. Student Recreation Center
Pirate Gladiators is a one-day special event patterned after the famous television show where contestants battle the CRW Gladiators in a series of fun and combative events for a chance to be crowned Pirate Gladiator champion. Teams consist of two (2) players men's, fraternity, co-rec, or women's divisions. Co-Rec teams must consist of at least one member of each gender and one member of each gender must compete in each event that involves multiple participants. Competition will be conducted in four (4) preliminary events (PirateBall, Tug-o-War, Joust, and Touchdown). The top two (2) qualifiers (total points scored in preliminary events) in each division will move in to the final Challenge Round Obstacle Course where there will be one winner in each division. Prizes will be awarded to the winners in each division. For more information, please call 252-328-6387 or visit the Student Recreation Center.

New Music Festival Wednesday, Feb. 27- Sunday, March 2
This year's festival, our 8th annual celebration of the music of our time, features six concerts, master classes with visiting composers, performers, conductors, reading sessions of student composers' works and more!

Mandela's grandson visits ECU Wednesday, Feb. 27 5 p.m. Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms, ECU Campus
Prince Cedza Dlamini, the grandson of Nelson Mandela (former South African President and HM King Sobhuza II of Swaziland) will speak at ECU. Prince Cedza Dlamini will discuss problems such as HIV/AIDS, poverty, hunger and illiteracy, and his vision of creating a unified global world. He will also explain how students can become empowered to be leaders and make great changes. Sponsored by ECU Student Union.

National Broadcasting Society Meet & Greet 7-9 p.m. Bate 1032
NBS Annual Meet & Greet Social
* Guests include:
-Courtney Burlingame-WNCT, marketing director
-Carissa D. Etters- WNCT, executive producer
-Christine Kennedy - WITN, evening anchor
-Jamie Arnold - WITN, meteorologist
-Annette Newell and Phillip Williams of WNCT
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26 Tue	27 Wed	28 Thu	29 Fri	1 Sat	2 Sun	3 Mon
Equality on Campus: Panel Discussion on Sexual Orientation Drag Show (to follow) 9 p.m. Hendrix	Prince Cedza Dlamini Lecture MSC Great Rooms 5 p.m.	Black Student Union AIDS Benefit Fashion Show 7 p.m. Wright Auditorium	What in the World Do You Know?...About Africa 4 p.m. MSC Billiards	Diversity Retreat: Bridging the Gap 8 a.m. Minges Coliseum	Baseball Monmouth NJ 1 p.m.	"If I Am Missing or Dead" with Janine Latus 4 p.m. Hendrix Theatre
Blood Drive Host: Sigma Phi Epsilon 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. 505 E. 5th St.	Pirate Gladiators 5:30-9 p.m. Student Recreation Center	AFRO Punk Documentary 7 p.m. Hendrix Theatre	ExPrEsS Yourself 6 p.m. MSC Billiards	New Music Cameraa 3-5 p.m. A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall		
Pamper Party 4-6:30 p.m. MSC Great Rooms	Thin: Eating Disorder Documentary 4 and 7 p.m. Hendrix Theatre	National Broadcasting Society Meet & Greet 7-9 p.m. Bate 1032	The Remix: Intercultural Party 10 p.m. MSC Great Rooms			

FEATURED EVENT:

ExPrEsS Yourself 6 p.m. MSC Billiards

Diversity Week 2008 offers something for everyone

Variety of programs available to students

YAZID FINN
NEWS WRITER

Students looking for a different venue of activities should keep an eye out in the following days for events for Diversity Week 2008.

The week of events began on Saturday, Feb. 23, and will run through Saturday, March 1.

Diversity Week is a massive collaborative initiative directed through the SGA, in hopes to better promote diversity and equality on campus through a selection of separate events.

As Chancellor Steve Ballard has said, "diversity is a central value at East Carolina, and we are committed to creating a campus culture that reflects the world we live in."

Among the events already held included a movie held by the Muslim Student Association as well as the Motown tribute in Wright Auditorium.

"The purpose of Diversity Week is to plan events with the distinct student groups on campus to focus on each aspect of diversity, raise awareness and provide an opportunity to engage students, faculty and staff," said Jennifer Nnamani, secretary of diversity affairs for SGA.

True to these words, a

reception for Monday's event titled, "Post Secret," was held, showcasing a variety of anonymous desires and secrets of ECU students.

"On the surface we may be different through our race or gender, but on the smallest level we are made up of past experiences," said Ashley Arens, president of the Pagan Student Association. "Someone may look at a card posted and think to themselves that they can relate to what was said, that they feel that way too."

The cards and posts varied in size and detail, ranging from generic scraps of notebook paper written in pencil detailing a nervous habit to magazine cutouts to a narration in marker with a critique on religion.

The idea of Post Secret describes itself as an "ongoing community art project," in which anyone may anonymously mail in homemade post cards portraying their message to the world.

In the short week that

students were asked to turn in their secrets on campus, the mural held in Mendenhall Student Center showcased over 70 individual replies and is still accepting submissions.

"Before two years ago there was no real week like we have now," Nnamani said.

"There may have been a few events put together, but now there are just so many more organizations and groups involved in its development that it is incredible."

Other events that students should be on the lookout for later this week include the Drag Show in Hendrix Theater at 9 p.m. Tuesday, a speech by Nelson Mandela's grandson, Prince Cedza Dlamini, in the Great rooms at 5 p.m. Wednesday, and a free closing party with music and food titled "The Remix" at 10 p.m. Friday evening in the Great rooms.

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



Photo by Jessi Braxton

Over 70 secrets have already been posted on the Post Secret wall.



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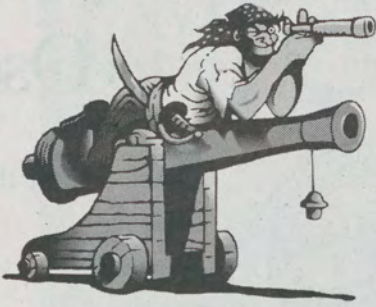
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Visit www.ecu.edu/career for a list of employers who will be attending the fair.

DREAM continued from A1

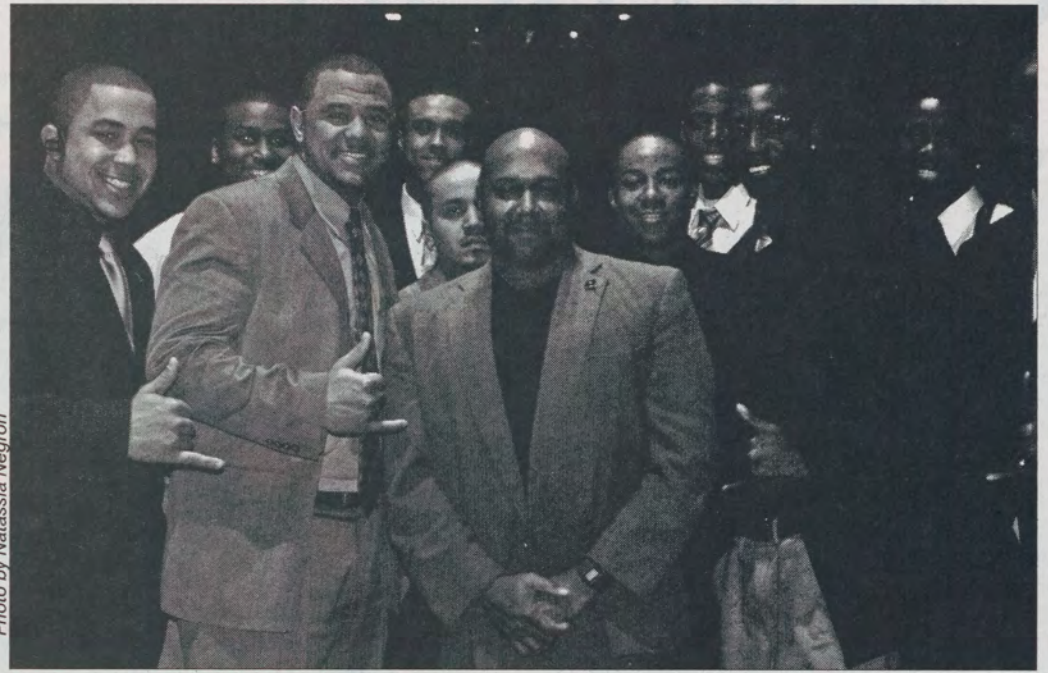


Photo by Natassia Negron

Members of Alpha Phi Alpha and Reginald Watson pose together after THE DREAM event.

Phi Alpha, *Expressions Magazine*, ECU Student Media and SGA in sponsoring the event, the turnout was less than expected.

Watson mentioned how difficult it is to get students to show up for educational lectures but easy to get a large turnout for entertainment.

"During Black History Month, we need to realize that it's not about dancing and having fun. We need to sit down and realize that 'The Dream' can become a night-

mare," Watson said.

The individuals that did show up for the event created an atmosphere of diversity, according to Guillaume Bagal, general manager of *Expressions Magazine* and member of Alpha Phi Alpha.

Andrew Griffin, SGA vice president, and his fraternity brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon, offered support.

One of Watson's last remarks was to encourage students to help those who don't have hope of fulfilling "The

Dream."

Watson said that he has encountered by children that would like to attend ECU, but feel that it is not in their reach.

"All of you that are in here are here because you care about 'The Dream' not being lost. When you get your degrees, you need to go across the tracks and help the children in West Greenville," Watson said.

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

FAIRYTALE continued from A1

project.

"We are no longer going to continue to carry dress shoes, so when we received information about the boutique it seemed like a good thing to do," said Rhonda Sawyer, owner of The Shoe Crate.

"Prom is very expensive, especially for high school students, and we wanted to help those that need it," Sawyer said.

Prom season begins April 26; the boutique will stop collecting donations on Feb. 28 so there will be enough time to get the dresses cleaned and altered before "the big night."

General invitations for girls

in the area have begun to circulate, and any girls interested in attending the boutique are asked to call (252) 328-2735 for an appointment time.

The event will be held March 1 and 2 above the Topsy Teapot in downtown Greenville.

Girls are asked to bring their high school identification to the event and will be able to choose their dresses once they arrive.

The Volunteer and Service-Learning Center staff members will then bring the dresses to Bowen Cleaners, who are donating their services, to be cleaned and de-wrinkled.

Once the dresses are ready,

they will be available for their new owners to pick up.

"It is amazing how something so small can make such an impact on girls in the area," said Shawn Moore, community partner coordinator for the Volunteer and Service-Learning Center.

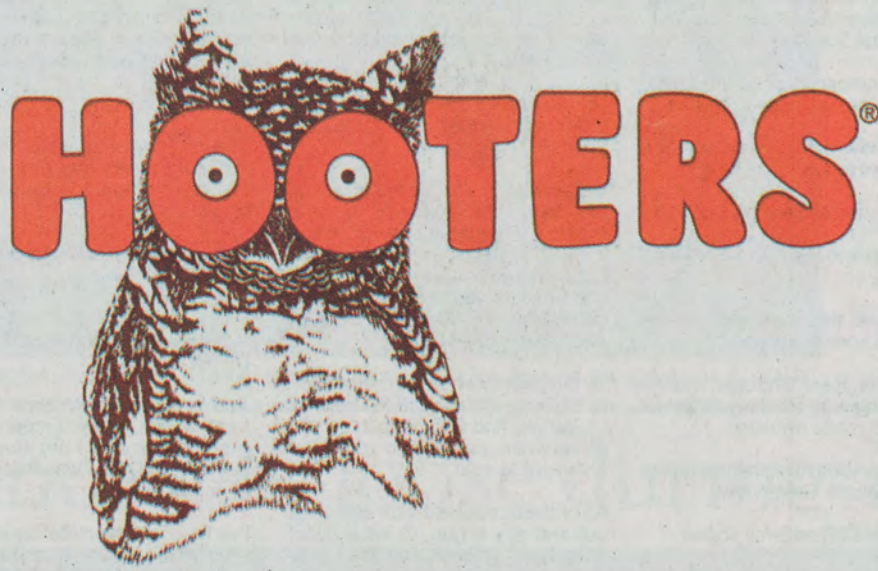
"It makes you think anything is possible."

Anyone interested in donating to the project or volunteering at the event is asked to stop by the Volunteer and Service-Learning Center in the Old Cafeteria Complex by Feb. 28.

This writer can be reached at news@theeastcarolinian.com

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Opinion

{Your procrastination destination}

RANT OF THE DAY

Stop using AIM and go to bed you big freak!

Why are cities so different?

Craziness from one city to the next

LISA ENSMINGER
OPINION WRITER

Which do you prefer? To live in a big city with many attractions and people, or in a small town with the basics and an average amount of people? This past weekend I traveled to Washington, DC for a concert and it was quite an interesting experience. Now, I am from an average size city, but DC is a pretty large place. The culture from Greenville to the big city life is extremely different. It's amazing to see the different types of people and lifestyles just a couple hours away.

There's so much going on in Washington, it's hard to soak everything in! Most people associate DC with politics and boring museums, but there is much more than that to explore. There is so much young life and attractions to see that I don't think you could ever get bored.

The variety of people living in such a city is amazing because it is a bunch of different cultures combined. From living in the small college town of Greenville, to visiting a large city was quite the change of pace for me. I had to observe everything that went on around me to really figure out what differences come with just a change of location.

One difference I noticed was the abundant eye of different people. Could you ever just sit in one location and people-watch for hours on end? Well, after the concert, my sister and I waited for our Metro to come. Now, this is the place to do some serious people watching. There were intoxicated people left and right falling on the ground, and serious displays of public affection among couples. I saw people with briefcases coming home from work late at night and bums asking for money. You name it, I saw it. The wide range of people was quite the conversation starter as we wondered where everybody came from.

The differences between the North and South are drastic. I must admit that I feel right at home when I travel up North; with their style and culture, but something about the south is comforting at the same time. The Northerners have a bad connotation associated with them most of the time, mostly rude, pushy, and minding their own business; and Southerners have the hospitality and friendliness connotation with a slow-paced lifestyle. These characteristics are noticeable by just experiencing both cultures.

The pace of drivers is an excellent example on the difference between the cultures. In North Carolina, I am the fast-paced driver passing people at all times because they usually go five or 10 under the speed limit. However, on my way up to Washington, DC it was a completely different story. I was the one being passed (probably because I was the annoying foreigner to the area), but I was going well over the speed limit (at least by 10), and people were passing me on the left and right! It was absurd. I guess the speedy drivers reflect the fast-paced lifestyle of the big city!

So, after observing and experiencing life in the fast lane, I come to ask myself, which do I prefer? This is quite the tough question for me to answer at this point, but the small college town is working for me at this point of my life. I love visiting big cities with varieties of restaurants and places to see, but the familiarity of a small area is comforting at the same time.

Different regions of the United States have so many things to offer that it's hard to pick just one thing I want to settle for. Right now I am going to take advantage of my ability to travel where I can, and see what the nation and the world have to offer.

If you have a friend or family member stationed somewhere else rather than your hometown, why not plan a trip to see what they have to offer. You may be pleasantly surprised and find yourself falling in love with a place you never imagined!

This writer can be reached at
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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. Log onto theeastcarolinian.com to submit a Rant of your own.

- My friend seems to think Obama could be the Antichrist.
- If the bus driver is kind enough to stop and wait for you while you are still a mile away, the least you can do is pick up the pace.
- Diversity or depravity?
- Blow is possibly the best movie ever. Johnny Depp couldn't look any hotter, especially in those aviators.
- I can't stand frat guys. Get a life.
- Apparently President's Day is less important than MLK Day...
- What part of "SOCIALISM FAILS" don't you understand?
- I'd rather go hunting with Dick Cheney than driving with Ted Kennedy.
- Government does not solve problems; it subsidizes them.
- What is going on with Student Health Services? I go in for pink eye, and they don't give me any meds! Any real doctor knows that you treat conjunctivitis with antibacterial eye drops. DUH!
- Greenville: a drinking town with a graduation problem.
- Once again the Pirate Rant gods have shined their light upon me.
- You were a terrible girlfriend and the sad thing is some other guy will one day date you.
- I hope you have fun talking crap to what few friends you have left.
- Congratulations on finally going downtown. It only took you two years.
- Have fun coughing all alone at night. I'll be out with someone who's worth it.
- Want to find out how much your professor makes? www.charlotte.com/universitypay/
- Destination 360 made my day when it finally played something other than rap this past Sunday!
- Why do companies offer "free gifts" when gifts are suppose to be free?
- The wise have something to say. The foolish want to say something.
- I pick my nose and eat my boogers.
- I don't want to date my boyfriend anymore.
- I love music that makes you grunt because it sounds so good.
- Dear Pirate Rant Chooser, thanks for choosing over 50 of my rants last Tuesday. It made my week :-)
- Is this a campus ministry or a taping for "Real World: Greenville?"
- Student Health rocks my socks!
- I can't wait until you come crawling back. I'll be waiting to step on your fingers and toes.
- FYI, your boyfriend wasn't the only one who noticed you throwing up your dinner. I don't think he believed your lie about it either, since he was
- listening outside the bathroom door.
- My best friend dumped me because of my rants about him.
- It's hard to make the things I did undone.
- I wish it would hurry up and get warm so I could lie out at the pool and get a tan without paying for it!
- A friend of mine is really starting to get on my last nerve!!!! Now I REALLY can't wait for SPRING BREAK!!!!
- DO NOT GO TO WALGREEN'S, EVER. THEY SUCK!
- Thanks to the four sorority girls on the third floor of the library who did nothing but talk about their sororities. I didn't get much studying done, but learning how much you hate each other was pretty entertaining!
- Is anyone else concerned that graduation is three months away, and they don't have a job either?
- Is it too much to ask for the Java City workers to be polite?
- If you're smooth and creamy like peanut butter, then girl I wanna layyya you down!
- Greenville sucks; especially when you have lived here your entire life!
- Nader for President!
- Why can't upperclassmen live in Umstead next year? I've lived in the same room for two years; it's my home!
- Does anyone else think that the Brewster stairs are uneven?
- When did fishing boots become a fashion statement?
- Who really needs to know about the cardiovascular system anyway? I'm just a nursing major.
- My mom just found out about my nose piercing. Great.
- I saw a teacher spell scissors, s-i-z-z-o-r-s. I'm not even kidding. Where do our school systems find these people?
- I shotgunned a beer before I went to the library to study for my last test. I got a "B."
- I would like to say thanks to the girl who sat at the table next to me at the library the other day. You made my first time studying at the library worthwhile by bending over your table and exposing your thigh to the whole room. Maybe I'll start studying at the library more often.
- To the person who is in denial about all the bugs and animals in Tyler Hall: I hope you find a cockroach on your pillow when you walk in your room one night as I did.
- All of these troubled kids who 1) go out and buy a gun, 2) kill a bunch of innocent people, and then 3) kill themselves, really just need to skip to step three and save everyone a whole bunch of grief.
- There are so many close-minded people down here!
- Sorority girls are as deep as a puddle
- on the ground after a light rain. When will I find a girl with some intelligence and substance?
- Breakfast needs to be served until at least 11:30 at West End! Who actually gets there before 9:30?!
- It's so hard to find real friends in college! Everyone is out for themselves and really couldn't care less about you.
- The only thing I did this weekend was think of Pirate Rants... I will get in the paper one day!
- Dear Frat Boy, ending a friendship over a pirate rant is lame. Grow up!
- I wanted to submit my away message as a rant and realized that I'd stolen it from last week's rants. Oops!
- People who are afraid of the dark have higher electric bills.
- Life's tough. Get a helmet.
- Would it seriously kill you to do the dishes? I mean, all of them are mine with the minor exception of cooking pans, and I would like to use them every now again, to, I don't know — cook?!
- Nothing like staying up all night feeling sick and having to listen to the girl from down the hall make out all night with your roommate.
- My grandma always tells me that the only thing open after 2 a.m. are some legs.
- Of course I'm better than you; I never faked a pregnancy.
- I peed in a stranger's laundry basket last year.
- Note to self: Never Google one of my professors again. I am now too creeped-out to go to class.
- To The Exchange who gave us a citation for beer cans: We will pick them up when you get recycling.
- Dear next-floor neighbors: people do live under you. Those people also like to occasionally sleep at hours such as one or 2 a.m. Maybe your soccer game could wait until daylight ... or be outside.
- Thanks.
- I saw a mother-daughter team with matching green and pink casts on their arms at Wal-Mart. Cue Psycho music!
- You peed on the couch and we all know it was you.
- People in my psych. class must be really stupid or I am a genius ... and I'm not a genius.
- Just because I have big boobs and I am blonde, doesn't mean I am in a sorority or that I am stupid. Quit stereotyping me. I was valedictorian of my class.
- I've lived in Greenville my entire life and I have never had a problem staying sober. You just don't want to.
- Change? What change? I wish democrats would be more specific when they say we need a big change.
- I mean, is it really that difficult to use your turn signal?

Saying goodbye to Oscar

I just don't care anymore

J.D. LEWIS
OPINION EDITOR

Sunday night was the 80th annual Academy Awards, but I had no desire to stay at home and watch the Oscars. The Oscars was an annual tradition for me, for about 10 years starting in 1992. Then George W. Bush was elected president, we went to war in Iraq, and the Oscars became nothing more than a showcase for liberal Hollywood pinheads to preach at we clueless simpletons.

I have no idea how the political Sunday night's ceremony was or was not, nor do I care. For too long we have been subjected to the enlightened opinions of so-called celebrities who think because they make lousy movies, and are paid millions of dollars for doing it, that they are more in tune to the issues of the day than the rest of us. Being an actor, after all, gives them some insight that a plumber or a maid wouldn't necessarily have ... doesn't it?

I haven't watched an entire Oscars telecast in about six years now because I just don't care about Hollywood's opinions. Does anyone really?

But wait, you may be asking, aren't you an opinion columnist? What makes your opinion any more valuable than anybody else's?

The answer to that is the same as to what makes Tim Robbins' and Susan Sarandon's opinions more valuable than anybody else's: absolutely nothing. I am no better than anybody else, and don't claim to be. My opinion on Iraq matters no more in the grand scheme of things than, say, Sean Penn's. Just because he could afford to jet off to Iraq and play footsie with Saddam Hussein doesn't mean he has any more knowledge of foreign affairs than a busboy wiping off tables at Outback.

My views on presidential politics, which you know I am more than happy to share, should carry no more weight than those of George Clooney or Oprah "Narcissus" Winfrey. I am no more worried about global warming than my grandfather was over global cooling, and Al Gore's Nobel Peace Prize is worth no more than my karate trophy ... and nobody nominated me for anything, I earned mine.

I am so glad that *Sicko*, another of Michael Moore's fictitious documentaries — this one about the American healthcare system — failed to win the best documentary feature prize. Too bad it was even nominated. One can only imagine how many holier-than-thou, anti-Bush diatribes would have peppered the self-absorbed windbag's acceptance speech. Moore may have a point, however. After suffering from diarrhea of the mouth for so many years, a better healthcare system might just be the thing for him.

When I offer an opinion on something, I do so as one of you. I try to talk to you, not down to you. I don't try to be something I'm not, and I don't expect to bring everyone over to my way of thinking. It's nice if I do, but I'm not going to lose any sleep over it if I don't.

One of my readers recently told me she loved me even though she didn't agree with my politics. That's cool. She can make up her own mind, and we can agree to disagree and still be great friends. Barbra Streisand would have looked down her large nose at me and said something unprintable.

And so, I am done with Hollywood. Oh, I'll still go to the movies and watch television, but as far as spending three hours on a Sunday night celebrating the accomplishments of a bunch of proselytizing radicals, I'm through.

This writer can be reached at
opinion@theeastcarolinian.com

Sarah Campbell
Editor in Chief

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Newsroom 252.328.9238
Fax 252.328.9143
Advertising 252.328.9245

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This writer can be reached at
opinion@theeastcarolinian.com

How to enjoy the Dog Park

And keep your dog safe

LARA OLIVER
OPINION WRITER

Probably everyone at ECU who owns a dog has heard of the recent attack on a dog at the Greenville off-leash dog park near the Tar River. For those not in the know: about two weeks ago, a misguided dog owner allowed a stray pit bull into the large dog area of the park. Almost immediately, it attacked another owner's puppy and locked its jaws around the little dog's head. It took a small group of men to pull the pit bull off of the smaller puppy, and after they did, it was obvious the puppy would suffer severe damage to the side of its face.

It's a sad, gruesome story for anyone who owns a pet, but it's not completely rare in Greenville. It's unfortunate, but our city has a problem with people breeding pit bulls for the purpose of hurting other dogs. That isn't to say there aren't friendly pit bulls out there. Believe me, some of the pit bulls I've met are so harmless, I'd leave my baby cousins alone with them. The problem is the owners, and the only people who can keep their own dogs safe are their owners.

What can an owner do? Well, for one, each dog owner should stay vigilant at the dog park. It's not just the actions of other dogs that can cause harm. A lot of pet owners don't seem to recognize violent or dominant behavior of their dogs in groups. It's not "just playing" when the other dog has to run off with its tail between its legs, whimpering with your dog running after it and its teeth bared; so don't pretend it is.

Another problem I see a lot at the dog park is small dog owners bringing their dogs into the large dog area. Sure, it may seem lonely in the small dog area and seem like a good idea to bring your pet to the large dog area, but in the end it can be pretty messy. Small dogs are defensive and get even worse around large dogs. This can lead to some pretty bad fights between a small, defensive dog and a couple of larger dogs. Plus, it's much easier to separate fights between dogs of similar size than small and large dogs.

So, for the sake of yours and everyone else's dogs, please keep an eye out. Keeping an eye on your pet at all times isn't difficult, and it might just save their life.

This writer can be reached at
opinion@theeastcarolinian.com

Features

{Campus Scene}

Horoscopes

Aries
Careful computation is required, and a good eraser. There may be a few items you'll have to take away from your list. Set priorities, so you can maintain hope you'll get them later.

Taurus
Set up your team to win. Make sure they know what needs to be done. Provide constant encouragement; this isn't going to be easy.

Gemini
You're into the difficult part. Your goal seems impossible. Don't lose faith and toss it out, make it into smaller chunks. Get there one step at a time.

Cancer
Jointly held finances are a hot topic now. This includes the household money, loans and investments. Don't even mention speculation. Don't risk security.

Leo
Somebody can find disagreement with just about everything that's said. Don't get into the middle of the conflict unless you must, to keep the peace.

Virgo
You're good at telling the difference between fact and fantasy. You may also find a few superfluous things you could do without. Exercise good judgment.

Libra
Not a good day to gamble. Don't even kid around. The odds are too high you'd trip over your own feet and hurt yourself. Watch where you're going.

Scorpio
Taking a little risk seems to be a worthwhile endeavor. It isn't, though. Wagers you make now are more likely to go the other way. Better zip your lip.

Sagittarius
It's good to make long lists. You're still in control, however. Situations change. You can scratch things off without ever achieving them. They're your lists.

Capricorn
Beware of false friends who are after your money. They may try to sell you something you don't need. Don't take their word for it; do your own research.

Aquarius
Not a good time to offer fanciful suggestions. Keep your dreams to yourself, for now. Keep working the job and you'll get there, eventually.

Pisces
Expand your search, but keep private what you're actually finding. You don't want to encourage a lot of competition. Hold onto your advantage.

Mendenhall Movies

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- Saturday 3/01 @ 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m. and midnight
- Sunday 3/02 @ 4 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Did you know: Black inventors?

Miriam Benjamin was a Washington D.C. school teacher and the second black woman to receive a patent. Miriam Benjamin received a patent for an invention she called a Gong and Signal Chair for Hotels. Her invention allowed hotel customer to summon a waiter from the comfort of their chair. A button on the chair would buzz the waiters' station and a light on the chair would let the wait staff know who wanted service. Miriam Benjamin's invention was adapted and used in the United States House of Representatives.

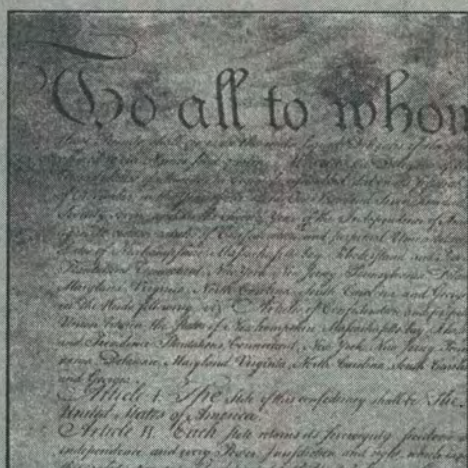
On May 9, 1899, John Albert Burr patented an improved rotary blade lawn mower. Burr designed a lawn mower with traction wheels and a rotary blade that was designed to not easily get plugged up from lawn clippings. John Albert Burr also improved the design of lawn mowers by making it possible to mow closer to building and wall edges.

Virgie Ammons was an inventor and woman of color who invented a device for dampening fireplaces.

In 1919, Alice Parker of Morristown, New Jersey, invented a new and improved gas heating furnace that provided central heating.

Today in history...

1869



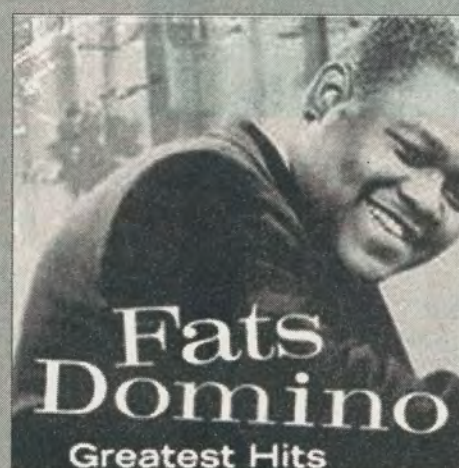
Fifteenth Amendment guaranteeing the right to vote sent to the states for ratification.

1926



Theodore "Georgia Deacon" Flowers wins middleweight boxing title.

1928



Singer "Fats" Domino is born.

Night of surprises

The Oscars yield star-tling results

ELISE PHILLIPS
FEATURES EDITOR

Hollywood celebrated its 80th birthday of the Academy Awards on Sunday, and in per-usual Hollywood style, the actors and actresses showed their talent and their fashion sense on the red carpet.

However, this year's Oscars

were anything but ordinary.

For starters, non-American actors and actresses swept the Oscars this year, a feat that has not been mastered since 1965.

Spaniard Javier Bardem took the Oscar for best supporting actor in his performance as a psycho-killer in *No Country for Old Men* (which also won best picture, best adapted screenplay and best director). Bardem thanked and kissed his actress-mother in an impassioned speech, totally in Spanish.

Englishman Daniel Day-Lewis nabbed the Oscar for best

actor in *There Will Be Blood*, which he played a tyrannical oil baron. Day-Lewis accepted the award in honor of his father, the late famous English poet Cecil Day-Lewis.

"I've been thinking a lot about fathers and sons in the course of this and I'd like to accept this in the memory of my grandfather, Michael Balcon, my father, Cecil Day-Lewis, and my three fine boys, Gabriel, Ronan and Cashel," said Day-Lewis when he accepted the award on Sunday.

The best actress trophy went to France's Marion Cotil-



Spanish native Javier Bardem bagged the trophy for best supporting actor, making his speech in Spanish.



France's Cotillard received the Oscar for best actress Sunday night.

lard, for her performance in *La Vie en Rose*, triumphing over American actress Ellen Page for the much-acclaimed film *Juno*. Cotillard struggled to make her acceptance speech in English, but did manage to emotionally say brokenly, "thank you life, thank you love, and it is true, there is some angels in this city."

Britain's Tilda Swinton won

best supporting actress for her role as a ruthless attorney in *Michael Clayton*, beating out nominee Amy Ryan in *Gone Baby Gone*. Saoirse Ronan in *Atonement*, Ruby Dee in *American Gangster* and Cate Blanchett in *I'm Not There*. She gave a gratitude-filled speech to George Clooney,

see **NIGHT** page A7

Audience lets loose during Motown tribute



The School of Music and the Office of Co-Curricular Programs and Cultural Outreach put on 'A Tribute to Motown' on Saturday night in Wright.

Show inspires attendees to dance down the aisles and sing along

SARAH CAMPBELL
EDITOR IN CHIEF

For those who attended the Tribute to Motown concert on Saturday, Feb. 23 the notion to jump up and dance wasn't just felt throughout the auditorium, it was encouraged. The audience was urged to forget their worries and enjoy a night of fun accompanied with great music.

"I used to be a music major so I came to see all of my friends play," said Joy Schaub, sophomore undecided major. Although the reason for attending the show varies from person

to person, whether it be to support friends and family, indulge in a night of classic Motown music or escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life one thing was certain, the performances left everyone with a song in their heart and a smile on their face.

Throughout the evening toes didn't stop tapping, hands clapped rhythmically along to the beat and fingers snapped in harmony. "The performance was amazing, absolutely phenomenal," Schaub said.

In order to introduce the concept and vision behind the twelfth annual concert, a brief documentary was shown to highlight the birth of the performance and demonstrate the evolution from a mere concert to a phenomenon.

Next, the concert opened with the Aretha Franklin classic "Respect" being belted out by the featured performer of the evening,

Queen Aishah.

"I think that the singer [Aishah] was wonderful, the show was very organized and the music was fantastic," said Patti Maye, who attended the event with her husband, Ollie, after winning tickets from her employer, Pitt Country Memorial Hospital.

The highlight of evening came when the song "Dancing in the Street" erupted from the stage. Audience members jumped to their feet and began to sing along without reservation. Soon the aisles were taken over by a crowd of dancers and a few brave members of the audience even ventured onto the stage.

Throughout the night vocalist Bill Crews and guest pianists Bill Ford and Jon Ozment accompanied Queen Aishah. Students and alumni from the School of Music also performed alongside Carroll Dashiell Jr., music director of jazz studies.

Other favorites of the evening included Motown classics "My Girl," "Super Pie Honey-Bun," and "Georgia on My Mind," along with a few mainstream hits.

"We had so much fun that we plan to attend more events hosted by the School of Music," Maye said.

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

For those who Havknot



Local designer brings fashion to the urban scene

VERONICA CARRINGTON
STAFF WRITER

For some, fashion is an alternate means of expression and ingenuity, but for Jamil "Deuce" Blount, it is a way of life. The 25-year-old creator of Havknot, a clothing line committed to the pursuit of individualism, has taken the young urbanites of Greenville by storm.

Havknot, which is an acronym for Hustle, Attitude, Victory, Knowledge, Mobility, Opportunity, Talent and Success, has been defined as not only a clothing line but for some, a description of societal life.

"Anyone who is lacking anything can be classified as a Havknot; it is not based on color, creed or social class," said Blount.

"A Havknot is someone who constantly strives to attain what they lack."

Blount believes that lack can be used as motivation for success.

After suffering a crippling knee injury while playing basketball for North Carolina Central University, Blount fell deep into a depressive state. After realizing that basketball was not his ticket to a future career, Blount channeled his energy into a dream held since childhood. Blount then quit school and returned to his roots in Greenville to pursue his vision of urban fashion design, but it was his plum-

met to rock bottom that helped fuel his dream.

"I picked up on my depression early, it was tough as an African-American man to come to face it but the darkness is what has lead me to the light of Havknot," Blount said. "Havknot started as a dream that I narrowed down into realistic goals."

Growing up in the projects of Greenville, Blount has tried to respect his impoverished roots by influencing his neighborhood to do positive things. Starting as just an experiment with fabric paint and oversized T-shirts, Havknot has now evolved into a cross genre urban and mainstream culture. With great respect to the enduring designs of Ralph Lauren, Blount seeks to remain timeless and classic as well.

"I don't want to be a fad or a trend, I want to be the 'in' thing from now on," he said.

The growth of Havknot has been truly astounding, it can be seen almost anywhere in Greenville and the surrounding areas but Blount has bigger ideas for the brand. Not only has the Havknot label been attached to clothing, the name

has also been recognized as the host some of the hyped parties in Greenville. Havknot is also soon to evolve into an executive janitorial service that will clean up recently finished construction sites for major corporations. A movie loosely based on Blount's life has also just been made and he hopes to use his struggle with depression and insolvency to inspire other young African-Americans to follow their dreams. The movie's release date is tentatively set for this summer.

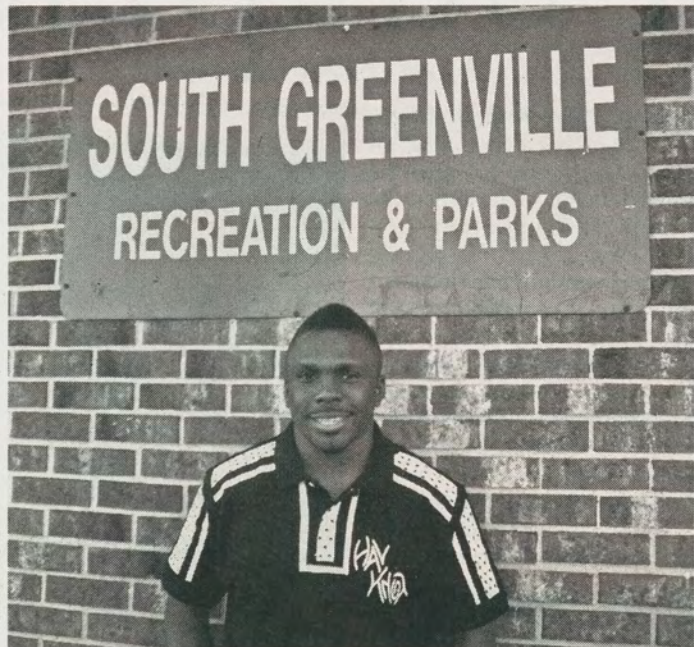
"I feel what Deuce is doing, he's making big things happen," said J'Davion Fields, a Pitt Community College student.

"He's made me look at my situation and try and make things better for myself."

As an inspiration to the impoverished African-American community, and with such mounting fame it would seem that Blount would be arrogant about his success. On the contrary, Blount remains humble and grateful to those who support him and all of his endeavors.

"If you don't have a Havknot tee, or pair of shoes or something...you just don't have my number yet," Blount said.

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



Jamil Blount, creator of Havknot clothing, grew up in Greenville.

The ECU Student Media Board invites applications for the 2008-2009 academic year.

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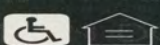
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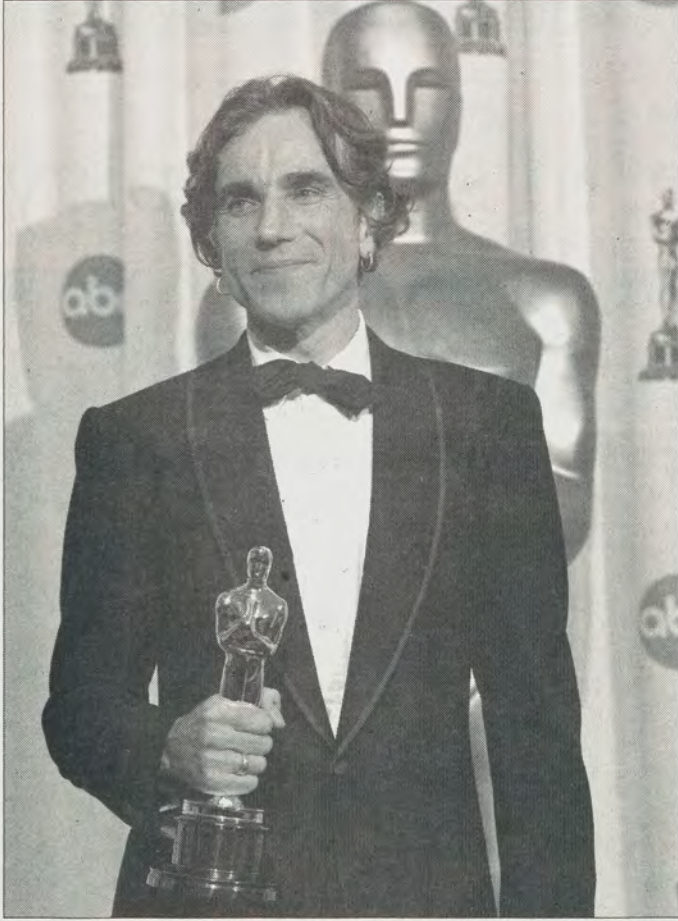
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NIGHT continued from A5



Photos by MCT

The British duo, Daniel Day-Lewis and Tilda Swinton both proudly display their Oscars for best actor and best supporting actress this year.

her co-star in the film, saying "George Clooney, you know, the seriousness and the dedication to your art, seeing you climb into that rubber bat suit from *Batman & Robin*, the one with the nipples, every morning

under your costume, on the set, off the set, hanging upside-down at lunch, you rock, man." Other wins on Sunday included *Juno* for best original screenplay, *The Counterfeiters* for best foreign language film,

Ratatouille for best animated feature film and *The Golden Compass* for best visual effects. If you managed to miss the Oscars this year, it was truly an international affair. For the most up-to-date

Oscar buzz, visit oscar.com for press releases, photos and biographies of this year's winners. This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Live like an insider



Citysearch.com gives users a guide to popular cities

ELISE PHILLIPS
FEATURES EDITOR

Going out of the city, state or even country this spring break? Have no idea where you'll be spending your days? Know where your nights will take you? Don't sweat it. Citysearch.com is the one-stop site to find all of the hot spots in cities all over the world. Whether you're going to San Francisco or Sydney, Citysearch has reviews on restaurants, bars, nightclubs, spas, hotels, department stores, shopping centers--the list goes on and on. Users of the Web site can read others' reviews of popular places in the area, find directions to the locations of their choice and see what that place specializes in. You can see pictures of the spot and even get links to other related places (like other restaurants or spas) in the same city you're interested in.

Named one of *Time Magazine's* Top 25 Web sites they "can't live without," Citysearch is a traveler's dream, living up to its mantra, "live like an insider."

For students, Citysearch has several budget features, including "best budget date spot," which lists options for users to pick a romantic place to spend the day or evening without breaking the bank.

You can also search restaurants and other locations by price and category (i.e.

under \$20, or ethnic food). For other fun spots, each city's page on Citysearch has an event calendar and a list of places travelers must go to when they visit their city. For example, if you're planning on spending a week in Atlanta, Citysearch has a "10 ways to show off Atlanta" feature that shows great "must-see" spots like the Georgia Aquarium, Zoo Atlanta or Six Flags over Georgia that narrows down a metropolis like Atlanta into an easy "to-do" list for traveling students.

Even more, Citysearch has a calendar of concerts and other events that users can browse and pencil into their day planners when they travel for spring break.

If you're driving around the city without anything but those confusing fold-up maps, Citysearch has you covered there as well. Choose the place you want to scope out, and click on the "map" link. Citysearch gives you directions to the spot you want to go to. The Web site also gives users the address and phone number of whatever place strikes their fancy.

No wonder Citysearch was chosen as one of the Web sites *Time* couldn't live without. It gives users a convenient and informative place to find out everything they want to know about cities all over the world.

If you have never used Citysearch before, consider using it this spring break. You will truly "live like an insider" with Citysearch.com.

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

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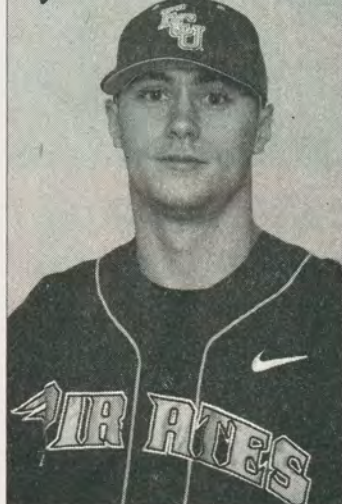
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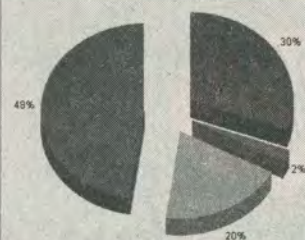
JAMIE RAY

Ray started off the 2008 season hitting well, and played a huge role in ECU's 13-4 victory over South Carolina Saturday night. Ray went 3-for-5 with two runs scored and three RBIs in the victory. The senior outfielder also extended his hitting streak to 18 games, as he recorded at least one hit in all three contests. He also scored two runs and reached base three times in the series finale. He was the Pirates' most consistent hitter over the weekend, recording a total of six hits in the three games.

"I'm seeing the ball really good. When you get to that point, it seems like every pitch you're seeing the ball so good you just put it in play and it finds a hole for you."
-Jamie Ray

Results from last week's online poll question:

What will be the determining factor in how well the ECU baseball team does this season?



- 48% - The young starting pitching
- 30% - How they play on the road
- 20% - Offensive consistency
- 2% - The Bullpen

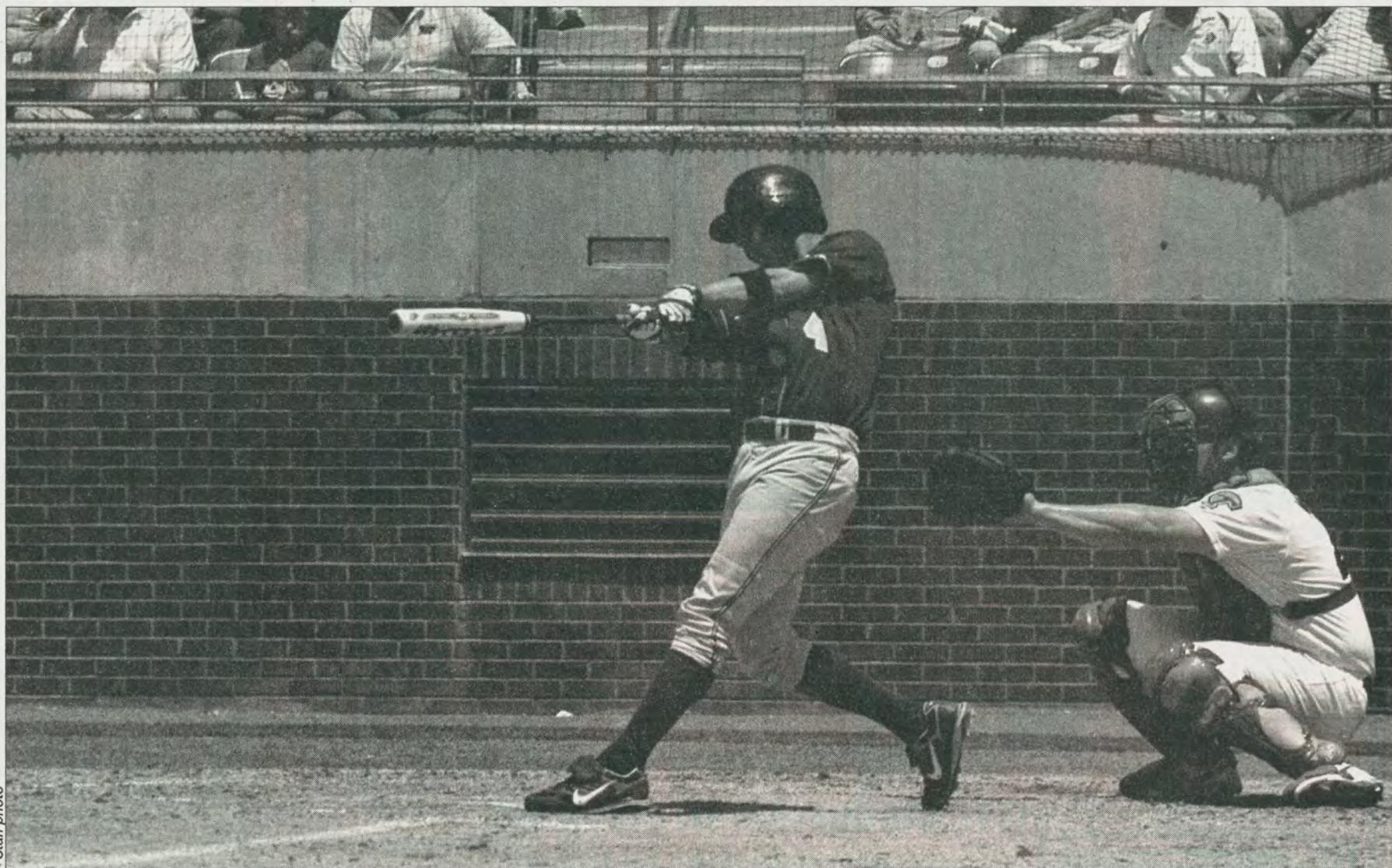
Online Poll Question

Which basketball team will go the farthest in the NCAA Tournament?

- A. Butler
- B. Memphis
- C. Drake
- D. Gonzaga
- E. Xavier

To vote on this week's poll question go to theeastcarolinian.com and submit your vote. Current results can be found by clicking on the view results button under the poll question. The final results will be posted in next Tuesday's edition of The East Carolinian.

Pirates endure rocky start to season play



ECU senior right fielder Jamie Ray continued his hitting streak against South Carolina, while leading the Pirates to a 13-4 victory against the Gamecocks Saturday night.

Pirates are 1-2 after first weekend

RONNIE WOODWARD
SPORTS EDITOR

The baseball series between No. 24 ECU and No. 12 South Carolina was anything but a normal way to start the 2008 season.

After the two teams exchanged blowout victories at USC's Sarge Frye Field on Saturday, Sunday's game needed

extra innings to decide a series winner.

The Gamecocks won the third and decisive game, 7-6, in 11 innings.

"It was odd, but that just shows that baseball is a strange game," ECU coach Billy Godwin said of the series as a whole. "Anything can happen on any given day."

In the third game, ECU took a 6-5 lead in the top of the 11th when Stephen Batts singled through the left side, scoring Drew Schieber.

Schieber led off the 11th with

a single and advanced to second base on a sacrifice bunt by freshman Dustin Harrington.

The Gamecocks answered in the bottom half of the inning, however, as All-Americans James Darnell and Justin Smoak scored the winning runs on a Kyle Enders' bases-loaded single, with one out, giving USC the series win.

"There's really nothing negative I can say about today, other than we didn't get the result we wanted," Godwin said after the third game.

The Pirates needed a late

surge to push the game to extra

innings. Down 5-4 in the top of the ninth, Schieber led off the inning with a double, sparking ECU's comeback.

Second baseman Ryan Wood scored Schieber three batters later on a fielder's choice, which sent the game into extra frames.

"I thought our kids battled hard and we didn't quit," said Godwin. "We were down a run in the ninth and Drew Schieber came up with a big hit, so I was encouraged by some of the

things I saw.

"We might not see another team that is this good offensively the rest of the year. They have a good club and for our guys to come in here and battle the way they did makes you somewhat proud, but it's about results and we've got to go out and get the results by winning games."

After the opening game of the series, it looked like things wouldn't be competitive at all.

The Gamecocks showed off their offensive firepower in

see **BASEBALL** page A11

Lady Pirates wrap up home schedule



LaCoya Terry had a career-high 35 points in a crucial 85-82 victory over UAB at Minges Coliseum.

ECU is now even in the conference

KATHERINE HARRY
STAFF WRITER

ECU played their final home games of the season this weekend at Minges Coliseum.

Thursday night the Pirates hung on to defeat rival UAB, 85-82.

Earlier in the season UAB defeated ECU in overtime, 84-77.

"I don't know what it is about UAB, it's always a good game," said ECU point guard Jasmine Young. "Usually we go into overtime ... it's a relief to be able to win in regulation."

The Lady Pirates realized the significance of Thursday's game and did what was necessary in order to come out with

the win.

Led by a career-best 35 points by LaCoya Terry and strong defensive play in the second half, the Pirates fought hard to ensure the outcome of the contest was different than their first meeting against UAB.

"I just wanted to win, all I was thinking was 'what do I have to do for my team to win?'" Terry said of her career-high.

UAB shot an outstanding 57 percent in the first half.

"There wasn't much we could do besides try to put a hand up and disrupt their jump shots," said Young.

ECU came out strong after the half, going on a 9-0 run to take the lead 50-43.

"That's what we talked about in the locker room ... trying not to give them so many open shots," said ECU coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener.

ECU held UAB to just 39 percent shooting from the field in the second half.

"Once we step up defensively it seems like we get our offense going," said Terry.

With just over a minute remaining, Terry made a lay-up, was fouled, and converted the free throw to give the Pirates an 82-79 lead.

Terry then connected on two more free throws to give ECU the 85-82 victory.

"I think our intensity usually changes the last couple minutes of the game," Baldwin-Tener said. "I wish we would play with that intensity all of the time."

"I thought our defense was horrible in the first half, I was happy we were scoring, because if not we would have been getting beat by 20 points," Baldwin-

see **BBALL** page A9

Johnson shows off his speed at NFL combine

Former Pirate ties record

ECU SID—Former ECU running back Chris Johnson put up the fastest 40-yard dash time of the 2008 NFL Scouting Combine, running it in 4.24 seconds on Sunday.

Johnson outpaced Arkansas' Darren McFadden, who ran it in 4.33 seconds and is regarded as the top running back prospect in the draft.

Johnson's mark tied the all-time mark registered at the Indianapolis combine. Rondel Melendez, a wide receiver for Eastern Kentucky, recorded the previous best in 1999—the first year the combine used electronic

timers.

Johnson, one of the nation's most versatile players, led Conference USA with 2,960 all-purpose yards as a running back, receiver and kick returner.

If his production hadn't already done so, Johnson's record-tying speed in Indianapolis essentially assures him of being the first senior running back selected, and a spot in the top two rounds.

On Monday, NFL.com had an online poll question asking, "Which was the most impressive performance at the combine on Sunday?" and Chris Johnson's 4.24 40-yard dash beat out Vernon Gholston's 37 reps in bench press, 74 percent to 26 percent.

TOP RUNNING BACK 40 TIMES

PLAYER	SCHOOL	TIME
Chris Johnson	ECU	4.24
Darren McFadden	Arkansas	4.33
Jamaal Charles	Texas	4.36
Chad Simpson	Morgan St.	4.42
Rashard Mendenhall	Illinois	4.45
Matt Forte	Tulane	4.46
Felix Jones	Arkansas	4.47
Jalen Parmele	Toledo	4.47
Jonathan Stewart	Oregon	4.48

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BBALL continued from A8



Lady Pirates' coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener talks to her team during a timeout at Minges Coliseum.

Tener said.

Terry was 7-7 from the line and, 13-24 from the field.

The defeat of UAB put the Pirates over .500 in conference play, but having a winning record is not their main focus.

"This win is huge because we still have an outside shot of finishing in the top four in the conference, and that's really what we want to do. The top four get a bye—that was our goal," said Baldwin-Tener. "The top four get a bye—that was our goal last year and that's our goal this year."

Gabriela Husarova had 13 points and five rebounds for the Lady Pirates.

Young had a career-best 13 assists while adding 10 points for her third career double-double.

"I was just trying to let the game come to me, I decided not to force any shots and let my teammates score," Young said. "They were getting to the basket better than I was so I just

made a conscious effort to try to get my teammates the ball."

After an exciting victory over UAB, the Pirates faced Memphis on Saturday afternoon.

"They embarrassed us so we'll definitely be ready for them when they come here," said Young.

The first time ECU and Memphis met in Memphis, the Pirates were defeated 69-50.

"They're a tough team, they beat us by about 20 last game," Terry said of Memphis. "We need to go out, play defense and make free throws."

In senior Nicole Days' final home game of her career, ECU lost a heartbreaker to the Tigers, 61-59, snapping the Pirates' three-game winning streak.

The loss gives ECU a record of 7-7 in the conference and 13-14 overall.

A jumper by Days, with only 20 seconds remaining, cut the score to 60-59 in favor of Memphis.

Terry then drove the lane for the game-winning lay-up and was called for the offensive charge with under one second to play.

ECU's team was called for a technical foul and Memphis went to the free throw line and converted one of two to seal the 61-59 victory.

ECU was led by Terry with 14 points and four boards.

Young had 12 points, a career-high nine rebounds, and five assists.

Days had 16 rebounds, which tied a career-high in her final home game. She also added 10 points for her fourth career double-double.

The Pirates will close out their regular season on the road this weekend where they will face Houston and Rice before traveling to Orlando for the Conference Tournament on March 6-9.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com

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Softball splits weekend play



The ECU softball team congratulates sophomore Charina Summer (14) after she crosses home plate.

Pirates improve record to 11-4

SETH STRINGER
STAFF WRITER

The ECU softball team played host to the Pirate Classic in Greenville this past weekend, splitting two doubleheaders, stretching its record to 11-4 with big wins over Appalachian State and Syracuse, and suffering two hard fought losses against Big Ten opponents Purdue and Penn State.

ECU failed to get its offense going once again this weekend and Britt Howell and Brook Swann were not enough to shut down the imposing Big Ten lineups of Purdue and Penn State. As expected, the Pirates took care of business against a 0-6 Syracuse team and a 1-8 Appalachian Ball Club, getting timely pitching from Swann and key contributions from Christina Merrida and Stacey Andrews behind the plate.

"We're continuing to beat the teams we should beat and we're competing with the teams that we're not expected to match up well against," said Pirates' coach Tracey Kee. "And to be right there with Purdue and Penn State says a lot about our team, but it also says we have a long way to go."

Coming off five straight wins, ECU entered weekend play with the hope to continue its good fortunes at home, but due to a depleted rotation with Toni Paisley sidelined, and factoring in the big bats of their big conference opponents, ECU did all they could to salvage two wins.

ECU started off the weekend Saturday in a pitcher's duel with Syracuse, jumping out of the gates early with a 3-1 lead. But Syracuse fought back to tie the game at three apiece with a two-run single in the fifth,

forcing coach Kee to pull a tired Britt Howell. Brooke Swann came in and shut down the Syracuse offense, not allowing a hit in 2 1/3. The game reached extra innings, and with the score tied in the bottom of the eighth inning, Jessica Johnson stepped up to the plate with a runner on third and one out. Opting for the intentional walk, Syracuse pitcher Angie Sagnelli threw an errant pitch, driving in the winning run for the Pirates, and securing the unorthodox win at 4-3.

The Pirates entered their second matchup of the doubleheader against a 6-2 Purdue team with Swann continuing her work on the mound. ECU once again mounted an early lead at 1-0 after a bases loaded walk in the first, but the Boiler-makers rallied back, scoring two in the fourth and taking the lead into the bottom of the seventh inning. ECU began the inning with a leadoff hit from Jillian Gallagher. After a sacrifice bunt and passed ball put her at third base, ECU's Charina Summer drove in the tying run with a chopper to third. ECU would load the bases, but the heart of ECU's lineup failed to drive the runners in forcing another extra-innings affair. In sudden death fashion, Purdue advanced the runner to third and a single through the left side brought home the winning run as ECU suffered a loss for the first time in seven games. Brooke Swann gave up two earned runs and seven hits in the pitcher's duel.

ECU entered Sunday's play with Swann once again on the mound, but her start would not last four innings as she allowed two earned runs and kept the Pirates in the game. Howell entered the game fresh from Saturdays play, but with the game tied at three in the top of the seventh, Howell became unraveled, giving up six runs behind six hits and one error to put the game out of reach

at 9-3.

Even with the tough outing, coach Kee only had positive things to say about Howell.

"As a freshman, she's had a lot of pressure thrown on her and besides the last inning against Penn State, she's actually done a great job holding big opponents," Kee said. "They made adjustments on her and she has work to do, but she's always given us the chance to win each ball game. Penn State was just the wake-up call we needed."

Responding to coach Kee's speech following the Penn State loss and looking at finishing the weekend under .500, the Pirates responded and capped off Sunday's doubleheader with a commanding 8-2 win over in-state rival, Appalachian State.

Brooke Swann pitched seven innings, striking out five and allowing two runs on five hits. Stacey Andrews was the force behind the plate as she went 2-4 with an RBI triple and two-run homer that clinched the victory for the Pirates, pushing their record to 11-4.

The Pirates heart of the lineup failed them both days as the Pirates continued to strand runners, and Charina Summer and Christina Merrida were the lone constants throughout weekend play for ECU's offense, combining for 12-28 behind the plate with six runs scored and four runs driven in.

Swann extended her record to 6-2 and team leading ERA to 1.56, earning ECU's two victories for the weekend.

ECU hosts the Pirate Clash this weekend as the Pirates will take on Radford Friday afternoon at 2 p.m. at the ECU Softball Field. Delaware, Fordham, Liberty, Towson and UNC Greensboro round off the field of schools scheduled to play.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com



Celebrating Diversity! Diversity Week 2008

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, February 26th

Living with Diversity through the Arts: Colors in Diversity

-Asian American, bisexual, and female musician Magdalen Hsu-Li presents music from her latest CD, Smashing the Ceiling and talks about identity issues-

Reception to follow

Location: Multipurpose Room, Mendenhall Student Center

Time: 4:00-5:30pm

(Office of Co-Curricular Programs and Cultural Outreach)

4 Little Girls

-a documentary of the notorious racial bombing of an African-American church during the Civil Rights movement-

Location: Ledonia Wright Cultural Center

Time: 6:00-7:30pm

(Ledonia Wright Cultural Center)

Equality on Campus: Panel Discussion on GBLT issues

Drag Show (To Follow)

Location: Hendrix Theatre

Time: 9:00-11:30pm

(ECU Prism, formerly known as B-Glad, Diversity Week 2008 Team)

Wednesday, February 27th

La Tragedia de Macario

- documentary ... followed by an open forum -

Location: Bate 1015

Time: 6:00-8:00pm

(ECU Spanish Club, Diversity Week 2008 Team)

Thursday, February 28th

Black Student Union AIDS Benefit Fashion Show

Location: Wright Auditorium

Time: 7:00-9:00pm

(Black Student Union)

AFRO Punk

-a documentary about racial identification in the punk scene; panel discussion to follow-

Location: Hendrix Theatre, Mendenhall Student Center

Time: 7:00-9:30pm

(Student Union Popular Entertainment Committee and Student Union Films Committee)

Friday, February 29th

What In The World Do You Know...About Africa?

Location: Mendenhall Student Center Bowling and Billiards area

Time: 4:00-5:00pm

(Jazz Band to follow)

(African Student's Organization, Diversity Week 2008 Team)

ExPrEs Yourself

Location: Mendenhall Student Center Bowling and Billiards area

Time: 6:00-7:00pm

(Diversity Week 2008 Team, ECU Expressions)

The Remix: Intercultural Party

Location: Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms

(FREE Entry with ECU-One Card)

Time: 10:00-1:00am

(Diversity Week 2008 Team)

Saturday, March 1st

Diversity Retreat: Bridging the Gap

Location: Minges Coliseum

Time: Contact the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center

for registration fee and information 328-6495

(Ledonia Wright Cultural Center)

FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL:
The Student Government Association at 328-4742.

BASEBALL continued from A8



Stephen Batts slides in for a run in the Conference USA Tournament last season. Batts' 29-game hitting streak ended against USC.

Saturday's afternoon game, winning 22-5.

Smoak, Darnell, Reese Havens and Phil Disher, who all play infield for USC and have earned the reputation as one of the best infields in the entire nation, combined for 15 of USC's 21 RBIs in the opener.

Havens is the leadoff batter for the Gamecocks, while Darnell, Smoak and Disher occupy the three, four and five spots in the batting order.

"They're tremendously dangerous," Godwin said of USC's batting order. "That's probably the most potent hitters as I've seen in college baseball and you pick your poison when you throw to those guys."

ECU responded in the second game of Saturday's doubleheader, winning a blow-

out of its own, 13-4.

Jamie Ray and Brandon Henderson led the charge offensively for the Pirates.

With the game tied at two in the third inning, Ray cleared the bases with a 3-RBI triple, and then scored on an overthrow, which gave ECU a 6-2 lead.

Henderson put the game out of reach two innings later with his first career grand slam, giving the Pirates a 12-3 lead.

"It was one of those where when you hit it, you can tell it's going out," said Henderson.

Junior College transfer Daniel Holder, who relieved true freshman starter Seth Maness in the fifth inning, was the winning pitcher in the Pirates' lone victory of the weekend, as he only allowed one run in 4 1/3 innings pitched.

"This is a big difference from what I'm used to pitching in," Holder said of the atmosphere. "I went from playing in front of 50 people to 5,000. They're a good team and we're a good team. That first game clearly wasn't us and we came out and played a lot better in the second game."

Godwin said that he had never been a part of a game like the first one of the series, which USC dominated from the start.

The Pirates had a team meeting after it, and responded well in the nightcap of the doubleheader.

"I just talked to them and said that when the scoreboard comes on at 7 p.m., the score is 0-0 and we have a fresh start," Godwin said. "This is a pretty veteran team and they bounced back. We

talked a little bit about the things that we needed to make adjustments with and I have to give all the credit to our players; they came out and played well."

The Pirates will be on the road again at Elon on Wednesday, before hosting Monmouth this weekend in the first home series of the 2008 season.

With many newcomers playing key roles this season, ECU will try to learn from its opening-weekend experience in Columbia, S.C. from here on out.

"To get some of the freshmen and young guys out here in an environment like this and to have performed the way they did, is going to be a positive for us," said Schieber.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com

Women's tennis remain undefeated



The ECU women's tennis team is 7-0 so far this Spring.

ECU extends winning streak to seven

ECU SID—ECU overcame an early doubles loss and faced eight separate match point serves in singles play before rebounding to post a 4-3 non-conference women's tennis victory over Elon in the opening match of a split doubleheader last Thursday at the ECU Tennis Complex. The Lady Pirates completed the twinbill sweep by blanking North Carolina Central 7-0 in the nightcap.

The pair of victories extended ECU's season-opening win streak to seven straight while the Phoenix and Eagles fell to 5-4 and 1-6, respectively.

In the opener, Elon jumped out to an early 1-0 team advantage with a pair of doubles victories. Despite an 8-3 win by Hannah Priest and Varinia Soler over Whitney Butcher and Paige Kensrue at the No. 2 position, the Phoenix clinched the point by taking the No. 1 and No. 3 matchups - using similar 8-3 triumphs by tandems Deanna Bailey/Anna Milian and Jenn Tucci/Hayley Wahl against Alex Smith/Brooke Walter and Jessica Cook/Tamara Sachs.

East Carolina and Elon each opened singles play by matching two-set wins. The Lady Pirates' Luiza Borges handed Laura Graybill a 6-2, 6-1 setback at No. 5 and Sachs defeated Wahl 6-3, 6-1 at No. 6 to account for ECU's victories while the Phoenix used Bailey's

6-4, 6-3 decision over Cook at No. 1 and Milian's 6-3, 6-2 win over Mireia Gol at No. 3 to hold a 3-2 edge with two matches remaining.

Walter and Soler were both down in their matches at the No. 4 and No. 2 slots, facing a combined eight match point serves but rallied back to secure the win for East Carolina. After splitting their first two sets (6-3, 4-6), Tucci took a 5-4 lead in the third set but Walter fought back from six match point tries to claim a 7-5 victory. After falling 6-3 in the opening set to Kensrue, Soler battled back from a 6-5 deficit and survived two match points in the second set before notching 7-6 and 6-3 triumphs to clinch the team victory for the Lady Pirates.

In the nightcap, East Carolina dropped just two points in outscoring North Carolina Central 24-2 in three doubles matches before taking all six singles battles in straight sets. Borges (No. 1), Sachs (No. 2), Priest (No. 3), Smith (No. 4), Zandy Overcash (No. 5) and Kristin Gordon (No. 6) each notched singles victories.

The Lady Pirates matches with Campbell and Mount Olive were cancelled because of rain.

ECU will now play UNC Greensboro Friday and Appalachian State Saturday morning before UNC Asheville, Winston-Salem State and Virginia Tech next week in Greenville.

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Greenville Recreation & Parks

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Part-time Sales & Marketing Positions: Wireless Internet Provider looking for a few part-time employees to be part of Sales Team. Great opportunity for College Junior or Senior in Marketing Degree Program! Job duties consist of marketing research, coordinating marketing programs, and communicating product effectively to potential customers. Candidates should be computer literate with good communication skills, phone voice with lots of energy. To apply send resume to swarner@wavelengthmail.com

Undercover Shoppers. Get paid to shop retail/dining establishments. Need undercover client to judge quality/customer service. Earn up to \$150 a day. Call 800-731-4975.

Summer staff needed! Tomato Patch Pizzeria on OBX needs servers, hosts, cooks, dishwashers, bartenders, and management. Housing available one block from beach. Apply online obxpizza.com or contact Linda at 252-599-0865.

OTHER

RETREATMYRTLEBEACH.COM SPRING BREAK/GRAD WEEK 1-800-645-3618 VISIT US AT MYSPACE.COM/RETREATMYRTLEBEACH100 AND UP FOR THE WEEK!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ECU STUDENTS: Are you looking for a fun and exciting place to live next year off campus? Come to **ECU's Annual Housing Fair** and meet local housing managers to find out more information about the endless amenities offered at the various complexes around Greenville. There will be **free refreshments, various giveaways** and our own WZMB will be providing music. Come join us, **Tuesday, March 18th (if not raining; if raining is March 20th)** from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Mendenhall brickyard. Sponsored by North Campus Crossing, The Apartment Group, Riverwood Apt., Cooper Beach Townhouses, ARAMARK, WZMB, and Center for Off-Campus and Community Living.

WINTERFEST '08

FEBRUARY 28

AT NORTH CAMPUS CROSSING

FREE
ADMISSION

FREE
FOOD & DRINK

LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT
TSUNAMI
WAVE RIDERS

Be Our Guest at the Fest!

February 28th, 7-10pm

Winter Fest 2008 is here and we're excited about all of the great things that happen at North Campus Crossing. You're invited to come out and see for yourself. Bring your board shorts and bikinis! Enjoy the heated pool, hot tub, great food and live entertainment from Tsunami Wave Riders. And best of all, it's absolutely FREE. Drop by, bring a friend, come hungry and enjoy a night in Pirate's Paradise.

3800 Bostic Drive
Greenville, NC 27834
Tel: 252-752-1212
NorthCampusCrossing.com

FOR A LIMITED TIME GET \$600 in GIFT CARDS THRU MARCH 9 WITH EVERY NEW LEASE

*\$300 VISA gift card provided to new residents at the time of lease acceptance by NCC. The remaining \$300 VISA gift card is provided at the time of move in. North Campus Crossing does not discriminate against race, sex, religion, national origin, disability or familial status. © 2008. All rights reserved. Visa and the Visa logo are registered trademarks of Visa.