



Judicial Board sees changes in near future

Faculty participation anticipated

NATALIE JURGEN
STAFF WRITER

Students may be seeing a change in the ECU Judicial Board in the near future. Currently, ECU's board is one of 12 processes that are run entirely by students. These students work with the Office

of Student Rights and Responsibilities to hear cases that involve any violations with ECU's student code of conduct. At every student's hearing, the advocate for accused students presents the student's case and the attorney general presents the university's case. After hearing each case, a panel of five student board members decide whether or not the student is responsible for the violation. If the student is found responsible, the panel then impresses any necessary sanctions. However, if administration imposes the changes it has pro-

posed, the board will no longer be entirely student-run. "Currently, students make decisions on behalf of the university," said Abey Dessie, attorney general. ECU is concerned that, since the university is not directly involved with the decision-making, case decisions can later lead to legal problems involving the university. Ultimately, the university can be held responsible for sanctions made by students. At this point, students have the power to implement consequences as severe as expulsion. ECU would also like to work with the students as a system of

shared governance. With the way the system is currently set up, the university feels as though it does not have the say it deserves. This past summer the current policy was reviewed and eight recommendations for review were made. Committees were assigned to evaluate the task force as a whole and decide what changes can be made. As a result of this, if the administration gets its wish, the board will move from being entirely student-run to having one faculty and one staff member sitting in on the meetings. The administration hopes

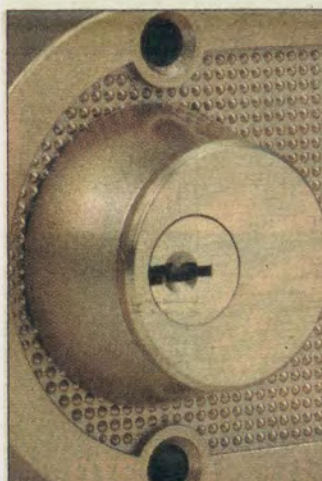
that in implementing this change, the process will be sped up and students will hear the outcomes of their cases sooner. Student board members are concerned, however, that speeding up the process too much may potentially remove students due process rights. "We feel that it is a good idea to speed up the process, however, we don't want to remove the detailed process that works so hard to protect the student's rights," said Thomas Myers, advocate for accused students. see JUDICIAL page A4



One of the three men's basketball players who was honored before Saturday's Senior Night game against Houston hit two clutch free-throws in the ECU win. Turn to the sports section who it was..... PAGE B1



The ECU baseball team had its first home series of the 2008 season at Clark-LeClair Stadium this past weekend. Sports has a recap of the three games, including a series MVP..... PAGE B1



Safety is an important factor when deciding where to live, turn to features to read about the dangers that may be lurking near your residence..... PAGE A6

Domestic violence lecture triggers an emotional response

Janine Latus shares her family's story

DAVID WILDER
STAFF WRITER

Former journalist, Janine Latus, gave an emotionally-charged speech Monday and shared personal insights found in her novel, "If I Am Missing or Dead: A Sister's Story of Love, Murder and Liberation" with a crowd in Hendrix Theatre.

Before the speech began, Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs, director of the women's studies program, told listeners that the speech they were going to hear could be very valuable to them.

"The information that you will receive in the next hour could save a life," Dudasik-Wiggs said.

Last year, there was an estimated 77 domestic violence-related homicides in NC, according to the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Latus spoke about the abusive relationships in which her sister was involved in, which ended tragically.

"Today, Ron Ball and I are romantically involved, but I fear I have placed myself at risk in a variety of ways. Based on his criminal past, writing this out just seems like the smart thing to do. If I am missing or dead, this obviously has not protected me."

These words were found taped inside the desk drawer of Latus's younger sister, Amy, 10 weeks before she lost her life to domestic violence.

Latus's speech also touched on her own experience with abusive relationships, saying her husband had been violent. She told stories of broken ribs, a broken nose, black eyes and

rape. She said a parent physically abused her after she babysat his child, and Latus's father was not sympathetic. "Never tell anyone, or they'll think you're a slut," her father told her. She offered advice to the crowd, saying, "It's far better to be without a man than to be with a bad man." "One in four American women will be battered," Latus said. To demonstrate the statistic visually, she had one-fourth of the crowd stand up. And although most people have a stereotype in their minds about who gets battered, a lot of middle class American women get battered, according to Latus.

The first signal of potential domestic violence is often control, Latus said.

"Women in abusive relationships often tell themselves, 'The reason I'm putting up with this is because I can't be alone,' but let me tell you, liberation is glorious," Latus said.

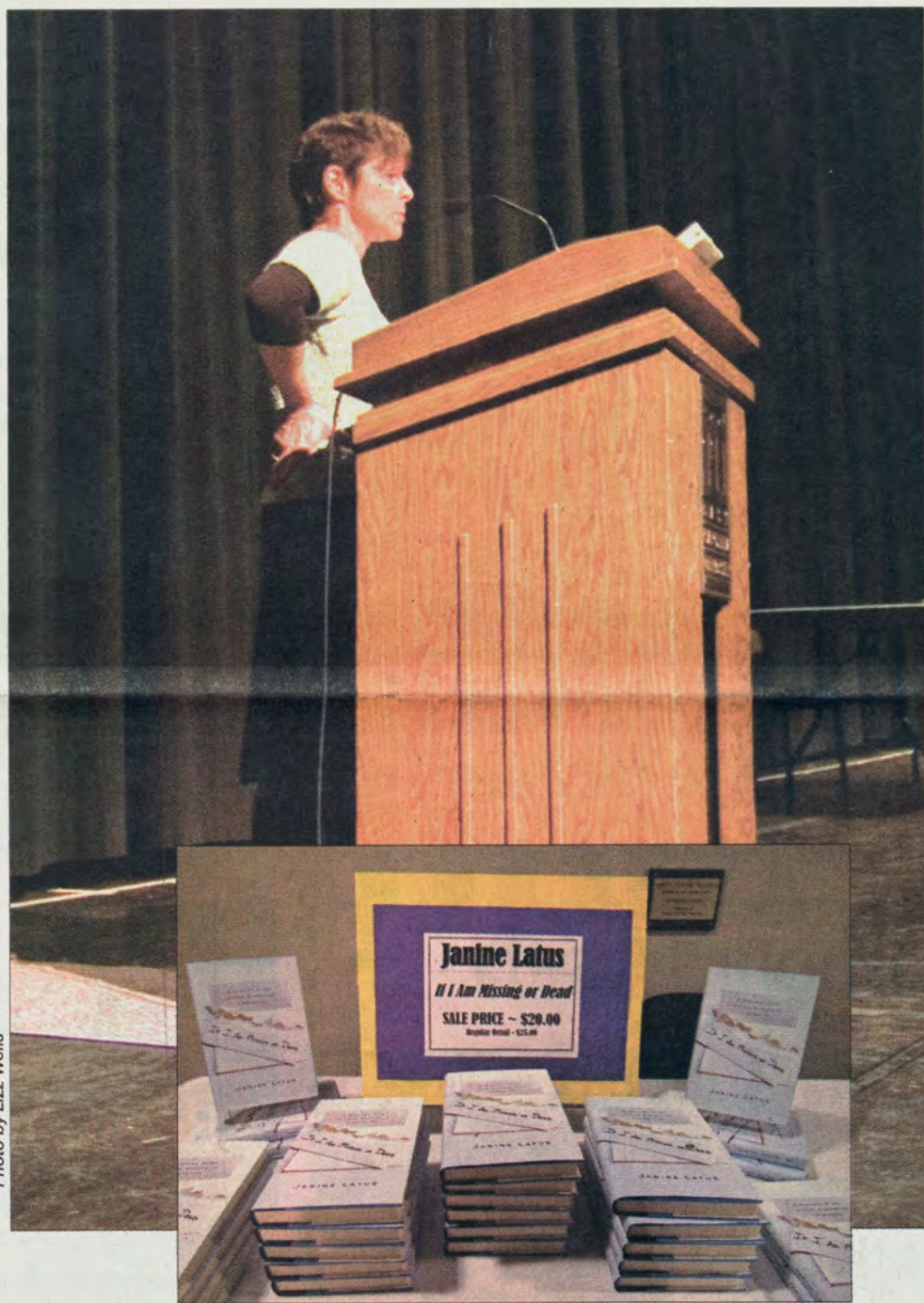
Latus's novel began as an article in *O, The Oprah Magazine*, and has been translated into five languages.

"Her speech was sad and scary, especially since I'm a woman. But it was definitely worth coming to," said Cristina Graziano, marketing major.

Amy's Courage Fund, part of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, collects resources to donate to victims of domestic abuse.

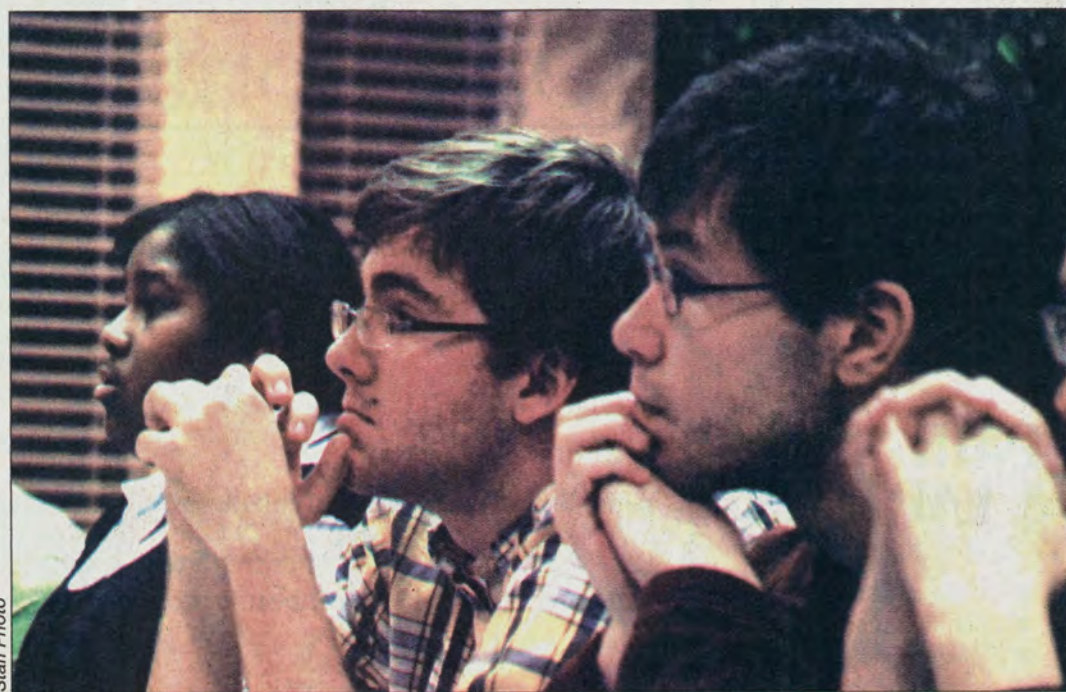
The Web site is amyscourage.org.

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



Janine Latus gave a lecture in Hendrix Theatre yesterday about the deadly affects of domestic violence.

House of Organizations and the Student Senate meet collectively



Students listen intently during a weekly SGA meeting, a number of speakers joined the meeting this week.

Three speakers join the groups to discuss pressing issues

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
NEWS EDITOR

Members of both, the House of Organizations and the Student Senate united to hear from three different speakers that touched

on topics ranging from dining changes to the loss of student involvement in SGA. The organizations meet in Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms at 5 p.m. at the time in which the House of Organizations normally conducts their business independently. The meeting started by Todd Johnson, associate vice chancellor of campus living and

dining, informed the members about the upcoming changes in dining, specifically concerning Todd Dining Hall. Todd Dining Hall will be closing about two weeks for school ends to start on renovations of the serving area. An exact date of when the

see SGA page A4

Great Decisions draws to a close

State Department visits ECU

YAZID FINN
STAFF WRITER

Renee Earle, one of the Diplomats in Residence for the United States' Department of the State spoke at a lecture on March 1.

The lecture was part of a series titled Great Decisions 2008, sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Eastern NC and ECU.

The series began Jan. 19 and has run every Saturday since from 10 a.m. -12 a.m., and will conclude March 8 on the topic of private philanthropy.

A Diplomat in Residence is a senior Foreign Service officer, appointed every year to cover and speak at particular universities and colleges by the U.S. State Department.

The lecture was divided into two halves, with the first half devoted for Earle to speak briefly on the progression and the direction of what the Department of the State hopes to achieve in the coming years in regards to "transformational diplomacy" aboard.

This included the United States' involvement in Africa and the creation of sustainable

aid for the country and opening talks with the 25 million Muslims in Europe.

"We are beginning to look at Africa as more of a strategic partner," Earle said.

"We are also trying to show Muslims that our current 'War on Terror' is not a 'War on Islam.'"

In addition to speaking about their work abroad, Earle mentioned the U.S. State Department is looking to change their "stereotypical thought of diplomats."

"We may think of white, males, from a school on the East Coast but we want someone who looks like America, talks like America and may not come from an international studies discipline," Earle said.

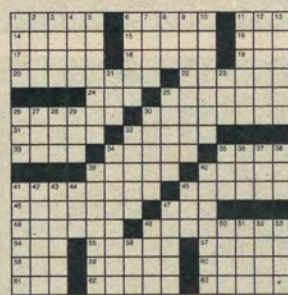
The second half of the morning allowed for members of the audience to present questions to the speaker.

"Are we [the United States] trying to infuse Western culture overseas?" said freshman Nadia Shazly.

Earle replied, "Yes and no. When we are overseas and we introduce ourselves, we present an image of the United States.

see DECISIONS page A4

Crossword



..... Page A9

su | do | ku

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..... Page A9

NEWS.....Page A2
FEATURES.....Page A6
SPORTS.....Page B1
OPINION.....Page A5
CLASSIFIEDS.....Page A10

PIRATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rivers scholar offers lecture
Tuesday, March 4
5:30 p.m.
Bate Room 1032
 Julian Lethbridge, distinguished visiting Rivers professor, will present "The Function of the Humanities at the Present Time," with an introduction by ECU interim provost Marilyn Sheerer. Reception to follow. 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.

ECU historian holds book signing
Wednesday, March 5
7 p.m.
Barnes and Noble
 Gerald J. Prokopowicz, acting chair of ECU's history department, will read from and sign his new book, "Did Lincoln Own Slaves? and Other Frequently Asked Questions about Abraham Lincoln (Pantheon, 2008)."

Chat with the Chancellor
Wednesday, March 5
5-6 p.m.
Mendenhall Hendrix Theater
 It's an occasion for your questions! Come join us at this event for open dialogue with Chancellor Steve Ballard. Reception to follow in MSC 221. Examples of possible topics:
 *campus safety
 *parking
 *campus dining
 *hard waiver insurance
 *open to all students!!

Writers Reading Series
Wednesday, March 5
7 p.m.
Greenville Museum of Art
 The Writers Reading Series of Eastern North Carolina welcomes two nationally acclaimed poets, David Wojahn and Mark Cox. Pulitzer prize finalist David Wojahn is the author of many collections of poetry, including Interrogation Palace. He is the recipient of many awards and fellowships, including a Guggenheim and National Endowment for the Arts. He teaches at Virginia Commonwealth University and in the low-residency MFA program at Vermont College. Mark Cox, author of the forthcoming collection, Natural Causes, is the recipient of many awards for literary achievement. He chairs the Department of Creative Writing at UNC-Wilmington and teaches in the Vermont College MFA in Writing Program.

Health Career Fair/Mixer
Wednesday, March 5
6-8 p.m.
Todd Dining Hall Sweetheart Room
 MAPS will be hosting a health career fair/mixer for ANYONE interested in MD, PhD, RN, OT, MPH, PT, PA, Rehab, Health information systems, and Clinical lab with student representatives from each department. Please come out if you are interested in any health career!!

Documentary: "This Side of the River"
Self-Determination and Survival in the Oldest Black Town in America
Thursday, March 6
6-8 p.m.
Hendrix Theatre
 Settled by freed slaves in 1865 and incorporated in 1885, Princeville, NC is the oldest town in the United States founded entirely by African Americans. Come watch the documentary of Princeville and ask questions of the panelists including one of the directors, the current Mayor of Princeville, and our own Dr. David Dennard!

4Tue
Guest Recital:
Lynn Rice
8-10 p.m.
 A.J. Fletcher Music Hall

5Wed
Chat with the Chancellor
5-6 p.m.
 Hendrix Theater

6Thu
Documentary: "This Side of the River"
6-8 p.m.
 Hendrix Theatre

7Fri
Opera Production: "The Magic Flute" 2-4 p.m.
7-9 p.m.
 A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall

8Sat
Live Music: Sin For The Fallen
Red Rooster
10 p.m.

9Sun
Baseball
Georgia Southern
2 p.m.

10Mon
Spring Break!

Health Career Fair/Mixer
6-8 p.m.
 Todd Dining Hall
 Sweetheart Room

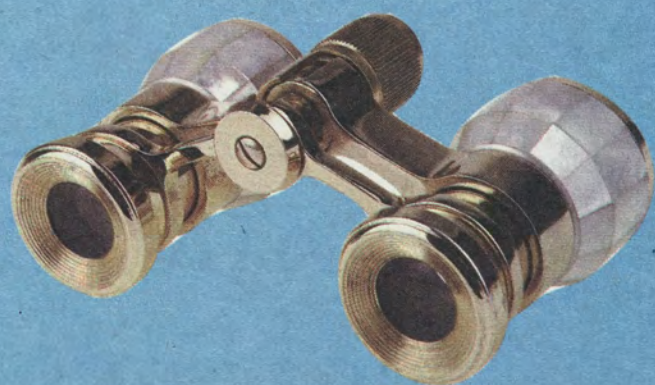
Baseball
Pittsburgh
5 p.m.

Baseball
Michigan
3 p.m.

Eastern Youth Orchestra Spring Concert
7-9 p.m.
 A.J. Fletcher Music Hall

FEATURED EVENT:

Opera Production: "The Magic Flute"
2-4 p.m.
7-9 p.m.
 A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall



PIRATE WEATHER

Tuesday Mar.4:
 Hi: 78F
 Low: 52F
 Wind: S 15 - 20 mph
 Precipitation Probability: 80%
 General Weather: cloudy with increasing chances of rain throughout the day

Wednesday Mar.5:
 Hi: 67F
 Low: 53F
 Wind: W 10- 15 mph
 Precipitation Probability: 10%
 General Weather: mostly sunny

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



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DISCUSSION PANEL WITH STUDENTS AND STAFF AFTER THE FILM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH AT 7:00PM
MENDENHALL STUDENT CENTER, HENDRIX THEATRE

Brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon host Blood Mobile



Tuesday, Feb. 26 the Blood Mobile came to a fraternity house for the first time in ECU history.



Throughout the day the Brother of Sigma Phi Epsilon drew in a crowd of around 76 people to donate blood, unfortunately time due to time constraints only 61 bags were filled. The blood drive was much more successful than expected since the original goal for the day was a mere 30 pints.

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The Porcupine Tree releases the new and juicy

Band releases and showcases complexities in four songs

BRIAN MAZUROWSKI
STAFF WRITER

The Porcupine Tree is a progressive rock band with a knack for creating atmospheric diatribes with similarities ranging from the Rolling Stones to the progressive rock titans Tool. The Porcupine Tree recently released a singles EP that was previously only available exclusively at their live concerts and online store. Though Nil Recurring isn't a new full-length album from The Porcupine Tree, calling the album leftovers wouldn't give it the proper justice it so deserves. It is rather a hidden gem of unreleased material.

The Porcupine Tree is a band that mixes metal, psychedelia and old fashion rock 'n' roll in order to create chilling, sentimental hymns.

The Porcupine Tree offers songs that are easy to listen to, but extremely complex in nature. A systematic changing of any conceivable time signature in The Porcupine Tree, makes the band exciting, yet somewhat soothing for listeners. The Porcupine Tree's songs are often lengthy like many other progressive bands, but rather than being routinely incomprehensible and chaotic like many other artists in their genre, The Porcupine Tree manages to channel their creativity into a fluent and relaxing listening experience.

The songs that are featured in their new release, Nil Recurring, are melting pots of all the most formidable features of rock music.

From start to finish, Nil Recurring maintains a level of intrigue that doesn't eclipse the great sound of the music. Rather than being a doldrum of art rock expletives, it is a cleverly put together showcase of easy-to-listen-to progressive rock.

Although The Porcupine Tree as a band has been together since 1987, they constantly progress and grow as a group of musicians. The older these individuals get, the more explorative and compelling their music becomes, and Nil Recurring is no different.

In only four songs, The Porcupine Tree manages to do what many bands cannot do in a lifetime of music: making hits that are not only amazing and well written, but also edgy and new. The Porcupine Tree sticks to their dark, brooding progressive rock roots on this EP, while keeping the listener ever so contently entertained.

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



Scanned Image

Popcorn equals lower ticket prices

Study shows that the snack keeps tickets cheaper

MCT-What's a movie without popcorn?

According to a new economic analysis, it would be a lot more expensive.

As one price goes up, the other comes down. So rather than cursing the cost of your next bag of buttered popcorn, take comfort in the fact that it subsidizes your ticket and helps fill seats, say researchers at the University of California-Santa Cruz and Stanford University.

Moviegoers aren't being gouged at concession stands, the researchers conclude. Rather, the high cost of snacks helps keep ticket prices down, which allows more people to attend.

The researchers' analysis, based on data from thousands of showings at 43 multiplex the-

aters in 30 cities in a five-year period, answers the question of why a couple of hours in the dark with Daniel Day-Lewis costs only twice as much as a big box of Milk Duds.

They say that some die-hard

choices. He can make money through admission tickets. Or he can make money through concessions," said UCSC economist Ricard Gil.

"If he wants to make money on the ticket, that may deter a lot of people from coming in. So, instead he charges a higher total price on people who are willing to pay for the whole movie experience. And he's able to charge a lower price for the guy who can barely afford it."

The same principle of economics, called price discounting, is reflected in the price of nachos at sports stadiums and wine at the opera. It also explains why products such as razors and video game consoles are cheap but replacement blades and video games are not.

If movie popcorn were free, Gil estimated, each ticket could cost at least 25 percent more, boosting the price of a \$10 show to \$12.50.

At that price, families might as well stay home with their DVDs and Jiffy Pop.

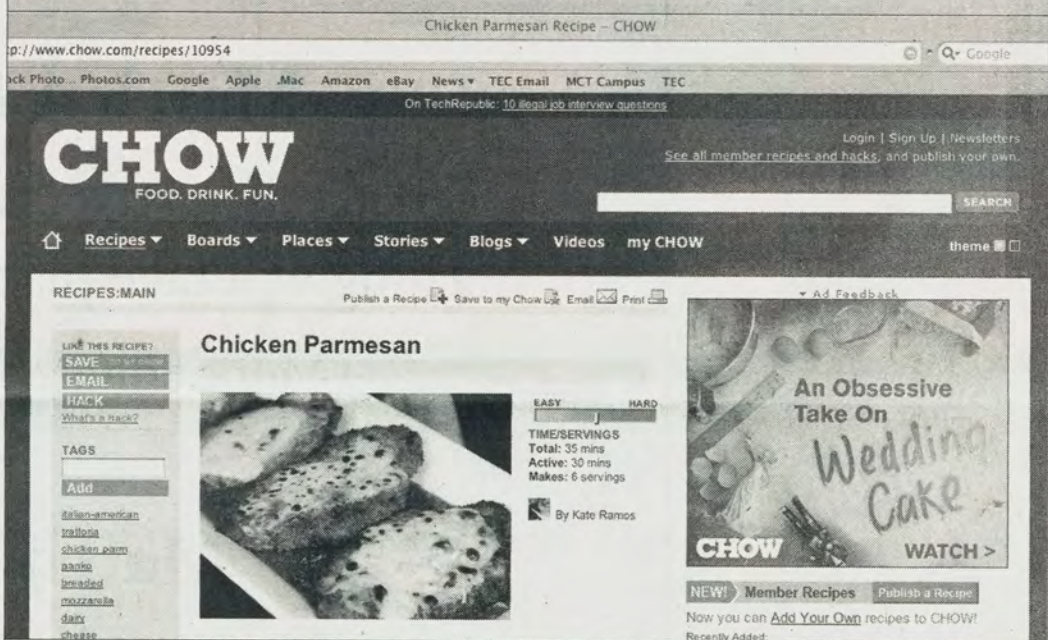
film buffs will watch movies and eat popcorn no matter what the cost.

But, for many of us, the ticket price matters. We'll skip the snacks, thank you.

"The theater owner has two



Set the table at chow.com



Web site is a food-lovers dream

ELISE PHILLIPS
FEATURES EDITOR

Although most college students' idea of dinner is a bowl of Ramen washed down with a 20 ounce Coke, there are other options than McDonald's dollar menu when it comes to food.

Most of us don't have the luxury of going home every weekend to our mom's roast beef, so learning how to actually put food on the table can come in handy—and Chow.com can help. The Web site has recipes even for those of us who manage to burn our morning oatmeal.

The Web site declares to its users "Come to us for recipes, instruction, news, entertainment, discussion, and advice. And come

often—we update the site daily."

Users of the site can browse recipes by ingredient, course, type of cuisine and occasion. Categories include foods from crunchy, quick and easy to ideas for parties, after-school and hangover snacks. Chow even has an alcohol tab, which gives browsers ideas for alcoholic beverages.

If you want to go out to eat, Chow has discussion boards with feedback about restaurants in cities all over the world. The boards include tips about where to dine, what to eat and even menus from restaurants in the area users are interested in. Chow even lets users post questions about where and what to eat when traveling.

Named one of the top 50 Web sites by Time magazine in 2007, Chow's recipes are easy to follow and give users a list of

all ingredients needed in a step-by-step format. The site also includes videos that first-time cooks can follow so that there are no mishaps in the kitchen. The videos don't only include recipes, Chow also gives users tips on "how-to" tasks like how to pit olives, peel hard-boiled eggs, grind coffee, etc.

Visitors to Chow can register to receive free daily recipes, and users can sign up for "The Digest," which includes lists of the best places to eat, according to the site.

Whether you're a kitchen maven or a first-time cook, Chow.com has something for everyone. With its easy-to-use format, Chow can make those Ramen noodles a thing of the past.

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

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M.A.P.S.

Health Fair Mixer

March 5, 2008

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Todd Dining Hall Sweethearts

Representatives from the following programs will be in attendance:

- Physician Assistant Studies • Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy • Health Services & info. Mgmt.
- Rehabilitation Studies • Clinical Laboratory • Science
- School of Nursing • School of Medicine • Doctoral Programs

For additional information email
Landon Williams LTW0702@ecu.edu
Ann Gelle Carter ASC0508@ecu.edu

See you there!

ECU Student Government Association 2008-2009 ELECTIONS

Positions Available

SGA President
SGA Vice President
SGA Treasurer
SGA Secretary

SGA Undergraduate Student Senators
16 seats available by specific college and undecided students

Important Dates

March 4 & 5, 2008

Candidate Filing

Filing will take place in the SGA Office
(Mendenhall Student Center)

March 6, 2008

Compulsory Meeting

Mendenhall 221
6 pm-7:30 pm

All candidates must attend!

March 17, 2008 (8 am)

Candidates Campaigning

Candidates can begin campaigning at 8am on March 17th.

March 24, 2008

Election Debate

Location: TBA

March 25 & 26, 2008

Voting

Polls will be set up at Wright Plaza from 9am-5pm each day.
Student can also vote online at OneStop from any location

For more information stop by the SGA Office in Mendenhall Student Center or call 328-4SGA (4742)

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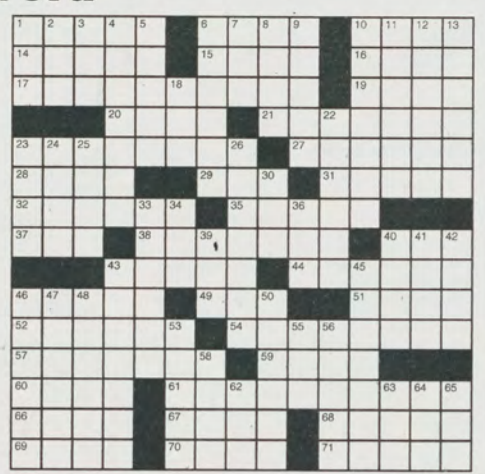


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Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Used a broom
6 Lion's do
10 States further
14 Impatiently
longing
15 In a short time
16 Bound forward
17 Self-assertive
and forceful
19 Kent's girlfriend
20 New Mexican
artist colony
21 Pungent gas
23 In a state
of excited
anticipation
27 Sleepyhead
28 Char
29 Put in stitches
31 Blue ducks
32 Noisy turmoil
35 Secret cache
37 Asner and
Ames
38 Put on, as
clothes
40 Destiny
43 Run the
sprinkler
44 Biochemical
catalysts
46 Inert gas
49 Yule mo.
51 Islands off
Galway
52 Vandyke and
gatee
54 Quantity of
cargo
57 Ham it up
59 Part of U.A.R.
60 Sub shop
61 "Desperate"
66 Cleveland's lake
67 Manufacture
68 Ingenuous
69 Min. parts
70 Lyric poems
71 Look scornfully



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Solutions



- DOWN
8 ... Scotia
9 Adversary
10 Permitted
11 Actress Durbin
12 Writer DeLoe
13 Simple weapons
18 Drunkard
22 ... of honor
23 U.S. tennis
stadium
honoree
24 Internecine
conflict
25 Practical
classes
26 Employes again
30 Came in first
33 Neighbor of
Kenya
34 Wager
36 Wolfed down
39 Turner or Knight
40 Greek harp
41 Arabian
sultanate
42 Hiking housing
43 Frets
45 Lusaka man
46 Dwellings
47 Midnight rider
48 Celtic language
50 Follows in
pursuit
53 Stupid person
55 Anger
56 Hooks
58 Warty
amphibian
62 4-stringed guitar
63 Compete
64 Actress Arden
65 Sun. talk

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6	8			7				9
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8	2		1					4
		4	6		2	9		
		5			3		2	8
			9	3			7	4
	4			5			3	6
7		3		1	8			

BUCCANEER

ECU SPRING CLASS OF 2008

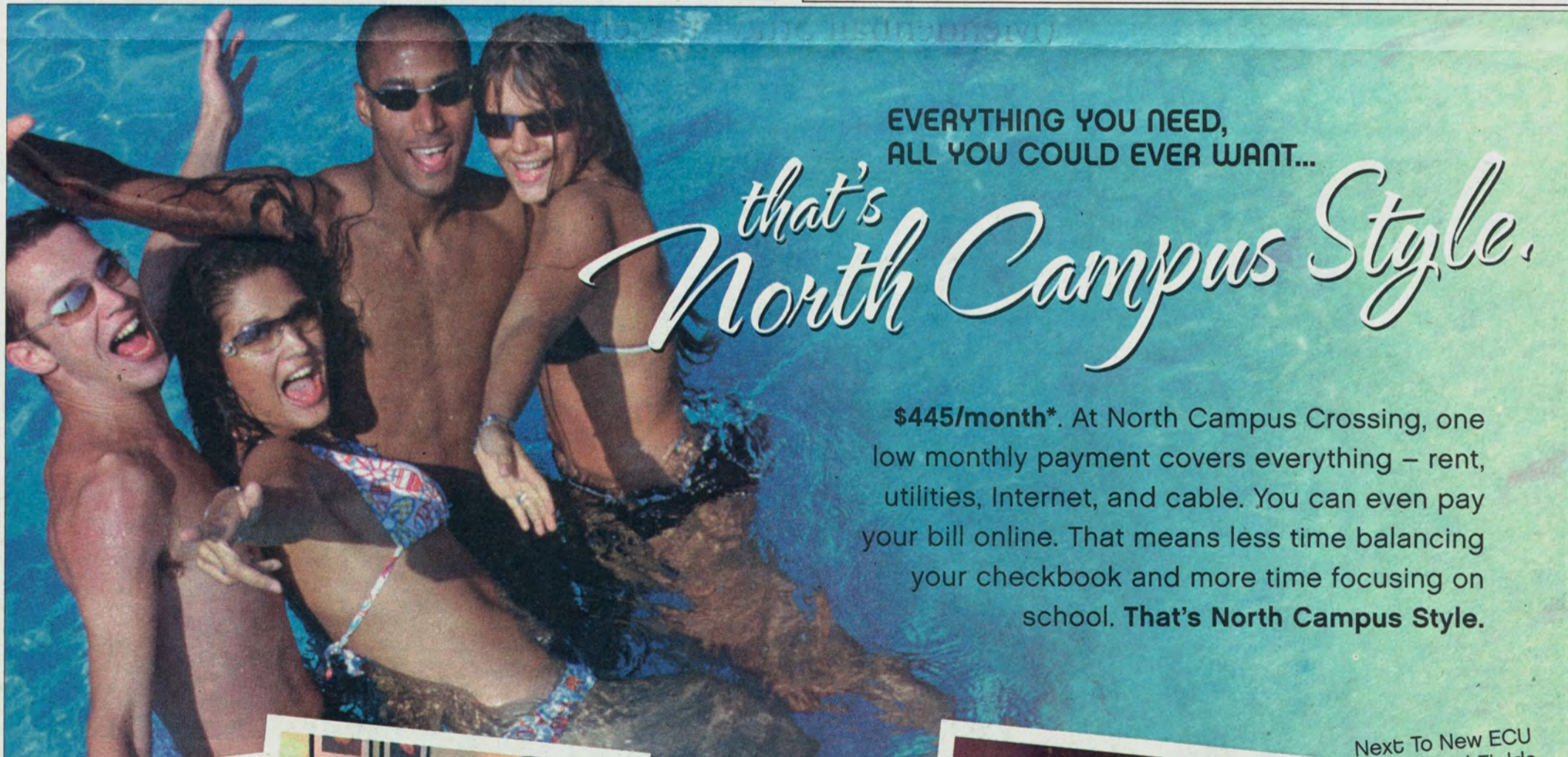
So many things will be cherished and remembered about times shared at ECU...

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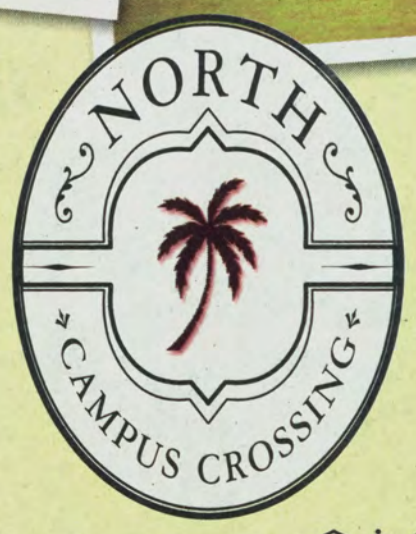
\$445/month*. At North Campus Crossing, one low monthly payment covers everything – rent, utilities, Internet, and cable. You can even pay your bill online. That means less time balancing your checkbook and more time focusing on school. **That's North Campus Style.**



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{ECU's Inside Source}

Seniors enjoy their grand finale

MOST VALUABLE Pirate



Justin Bristow

Junior baseball pitcher Justin Bristow threw a complete game two-hit shutout Sunday in a 6-0 victory in the rubber match against Monmouth. The win was Bristow's first of the season, while becoming his first shutout and complete game as well. He faced 31 batters on the day and struck out six while walking only one. The shutout was the first one in almost two years in Clark-LeClair Stadium. The last was thrown by Brody Taylor against Houston on April 2, 2006 in a 3-0 ECU win. The Auburn transfer has given up only two earned runs in his two starts this season, and is leading the Pirates with a 1.29 ERA

THEY SAID IT

"I'm never going to forget this place. I have a lot of memories. I made 14 extra brothers; they're always going to be in my heart."

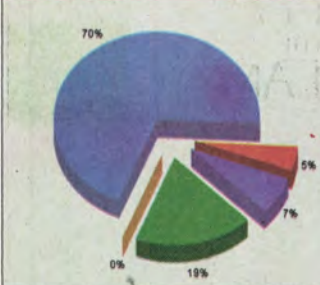
-ECU senior basketball player Darrell Jenkins

"I try to set the tone for the team. If we can get an early lead, we can take some pressure off our pitchers. And when we have a fresh pitchers on the mound, we know that if we put some runs on the board, our ball club we'll be in good shape."

-ECU baseball leadoff hitter Harrison Eldridge

Results from last week's online poll question:

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



- 70% - Memphis
- 19% - Gonzaga
- 7% - Xavier
- 5% - Butler
- 0% - Drake



Senior Cory Farmer connected on two free-throw attempts which put ECU ahead in the final seconds.

Pirates prevail in final home showing

KELLEN HOLTZMAN
STAFF WRITER

Trailing heavily-favored Houston 88-82 with 22 seconds left, the ECU basketball team searched for the crunch-time composure that has eluded it all season long.

This time, ECU turned to senior Cory Farmer, who was fouled driving to the lane.

The Charlotte native calmly knocked down both free throws to put ECU ahead for good, 84-83, and secure the upset win.

"We work on free throws at least ten minutes a day," Farmer said of his late-game heroics. "It's just about confidence. I knew I was going to make them."

It was Farmer's tight defensive play that ensured victory for the Pirates. Farmer shut down the Cougars' star guard, Robert McKiver, on the final play of the game.

The win was particularly emotional for Farmer and his fellow seniors, Taylor Gagnon and Darrell Jenkins, all of whom donned their home gold jerseys for the final time in Minges Coliseum.

"I'm never going to forget this place," said Jenkins. "I have a lot of memories. I made 14 extra brothers; they're always going to be in my heart."

Houston (21-7, 10-4 Conference USA) entered the match with hopes of solidifying its resume for an at-large NCAA tournament berth; Houston's only conference losses had come to Memphis and UAB before Saturday night's shocking loss to ECU (10-17, 4-10 C-USA).

Junior Sam Hinnant went off for eight 3-pointers, netting a game-high 30 points and out-dueling McKiver, who finished

with 29 points.

"It was really just for the seniors tonight," Hinnant said. "We talked about this game for the past week."

The Cougars clawed their way back from a 12-point half-time deficit to finally tie the game at 75-75 with 4:21 left to play.

Forward Dion Dowell stepped outside and nailed the go-ahead three for Houston with 3:08 remaining.

Dowell added a free throw nearly a minute later to give the Cougars an 80-76 advantage, matching their largest lead of the game.

But 3-point specialist James Legan answered with back-to-back treys to regain the lead for the Pirates, bringing the Minges Maniacs to full voice.

Houston pulled ahead with three free throws to set up the final, frantic minute.

"I thought it was really good that the guys got a little bit more of an award for their perseverance," said ECU Coach Mack McCarthy. "We have been blown out a few times, we had a four-game losing streak and a five-game losing streak, and bounced back in the middle of that to have a couple of good outings against Tulsa and Southern Miss."

The Pirates played their best offensive half of the season in the first, lighting Houston up for 49 points and a 50 percent field goal percentage.

ECU jumped out to an 8-0 lead behind a long-distance jumper from Farmer and held the lead for the majority of the half behind Hinnant's dazzling shooting display.

Cougars' guard Kelvin Lewis cut ECU's lead to 44-37 with 1:25 left to play in the first before the Pirates seized momentum for the second half.

Photo by Robyn McLawhorn

see BASKETBALL page B3

ECU has a 'safe' home-opening weekend



ECU coach Billy Godwin (28) watches as freshman Trent Whitehead (9) dives in head-first for one of the Pirates' 11 runs Saturday afternoon at Clark-LeClair Stadium.

ECU wins first series in Greenville

SETH STRINGER
STAFF WRITER

Key contributions from ECU's starting pitchers and timely hitting from the heart of the lineup overshadow a Pirates opening loss to Monmouth, as ECU rebounded this weekend to take two of three from the Hawks, improving the team's record to 3-4.

After dropping two of three to South Carolina and coming off a tough loss to Elon, ECU backed up their preseason hype

with two convincing wins to close the weekend on a high note.

ECU's starters allowed only two earned runs on the weekend, coming through in the clutch and stranding runners in scoring position, setting the table for a balanced ECU lineup that has been anything but consistent seven games into the season.

Anchored by an impressive complete game, two-hit shutout from Justin Bristow, ECU's starting pitching proved to be too overpowering for the Monmouth lineup.

Monmouth's lone success came off of ECU's bullpen, as the Hawks capitalized on a ninth inning two-run homerun in

Friday's opening contest, winning 4-3.

ECU's T.J. Hose provided a solid outing, striking out seven and allowing seven hits and one earned run, but the offense sputtered out of the gate as the Pirates were held hitless until the fourth inning, failing to come through with a bases-loaded situation in the sixth inning.

It was not ECU's day behind the plate but a win looked apparent until Monmouth's Rick Niederhaus's two-run homer gave the Hawks their first victory of the year, and stretched ECU's losing streak to three.

Prior to ECU's afternoon game on Saturday, the players and coaches felt the affects of

their late inning loss the night before, knowing that the next two contests were important to set the tone for a winning ball club.

"There was a lot of disappointment in the locker room last night but I felt like after coming in this morning and addressing them that they are all on the same page and in this together," said Billy Godwin, ECU coach. "We need to do this one game at a time and I told them that we couldn't get back to .500 today because that was impossible. We need to focus on each day separately and we'll be fine."

Inspired with a new day and a different mindset, the Pirates came through early in Saturday's contest, putting up seven runs in

the first three innings, showcasing their patience at the plate and speed on the bases.

ECU's lineup combined for nine walks on the day, accounting for the team's 11 runs on ten hits.

Centerfielder Harrison Eldridge anchored ECU's lineup, stealing three bases and giving the heart of the lineup all the opportunities to drive him in.

"I try to set the tone for the team," Eldridge said. "If we can get an early lead, we can take some pressure off our pitchers. And when we have a fresh pitcher on the mound like Seth Maness, we know that if we put some runs on the board, our ball

see BASEBALL page B6

Photo by Jessi Braxton

ECU wins Pirate Clash championship

Pirates improve to 16-5

KATHERINE HARRY
STAFF WRITER

The Pirates' softball team continued their early success this past weekend, sweeping the Pirate Clash tournament with a 5-1 record.

ECU defeated Radford 5-1 and Liberty 7-3 on Friday afternoon.

Saturday afternoon, in ECU's first meeting with Fordham, the Pirates fell 11-6.

But the Pirates rebounded to defeat Delaware 10-0 with a no-hitter from junior Brooke Swann.

The win over Delaware made ECU the No. 3 seed, facing second-seeded Towson at 11 a.m. Sunday in the semifinal contest.

The Pirates scored two runs in the top of the first when Jessica Johnson's double to center scored Christina Merrida and Erin St. Ledger.

Towson responded with a run in the bottom of the half to narrow the gap to 2-1.

ECU then pulled ahead in the fourth with three more runs to take a 5-1 lead.

Towson scored two more runs in the bottom of the sixth, off of two hits and two walks to cut the score to 5-3.

ECU finished off Towson, 8-3, in the top of the seventh inning.

The Pirates' Merrida stole second after her single followed by another double from Johnson that scored Merrida.

A single up the middle by Stacey Andrews scored freshman Jillian Gallagher, who was running for Johnson.

Vanessa Moreno advanced Andrews and Cristen Aona to third. Angel Barella then singled to right field to bring Aona in for the score.

Swann had four strikeouts while allowing three earned runs on seven hits.

Johnson had 12 putouts on the day, which is the second-most by any ECU fielder this season.

Charina Sumner, Merrida



Photo by Jesi Braxton

Tournament MVP Brooke Swann (9) was the winning pitcher in both of ECU's games on Sunday. On the weekend, the Pirates' No. 1 pitcher went 4-1 with one save.

PIRATE CLASH RESULTS

FRIDAY

VS. RADFORD
VS. LIBERTY

W 5-1
W 7-3

SATURDAY

VS. FORDHAM
VS. DELAWARE

L 7-6
W, 10-0 (5)

SUNDAY

VS. TOWSON (SEMIFINAL)
VS. FORDHAM (CHAMPIONSHIP)

W 8-3
W 6-2

and Johnson combined to go 7-for-11 with 5 RBI and three runs scored.

Facing Fordham in the Championship game of the Clash Tournament, ECU took the lead in the third inning when Kauai Tom scored on a Ram's error.

Fordham responded in the fourth inning when they had bases loaded and Jessica Weckeman connected for a two-run single, scoring Puccio and Pellichio.

see **SOFTBALL** page B4

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Men's tennis handles Coastal Carolina



Pirates have won two in a row

ECU SID—The ECU men's tennis team posted five straight-set singles wins along with a doubles sweep on the way to a 6-1 non-conference victory over Coastal Carolina Saturday afternoon at the ECU Tennis Complex.

In singles action, top-seeded Jaroslav Horvath opened play with a 6-0, 7-6 (3) triumph over Dmitry Vlaskin to push his team-best spring record to 8-3 while Aleksey Kochetov followed with a 6-4, 6-4 decision against David Mellis at the No. 3 position.

Henrik Skalmerud snapped a five-match losing string by putting together a 6-1, 6-3 win over Plamen Tzvetkov at No. 4, Bryan Oakley handed Joseph Withers a 7-5, 6-3 setback at the No. 5 slot and Stephen Whitwell posted a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Carlo Checchia at No. 6 to complete the Pirates' scoring efforts.

Coastal Carolina (6-7) earned its only win of the match when Ernesto Ramos defeated ECU's Henrique Viana 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 in a No. 2 meeting.

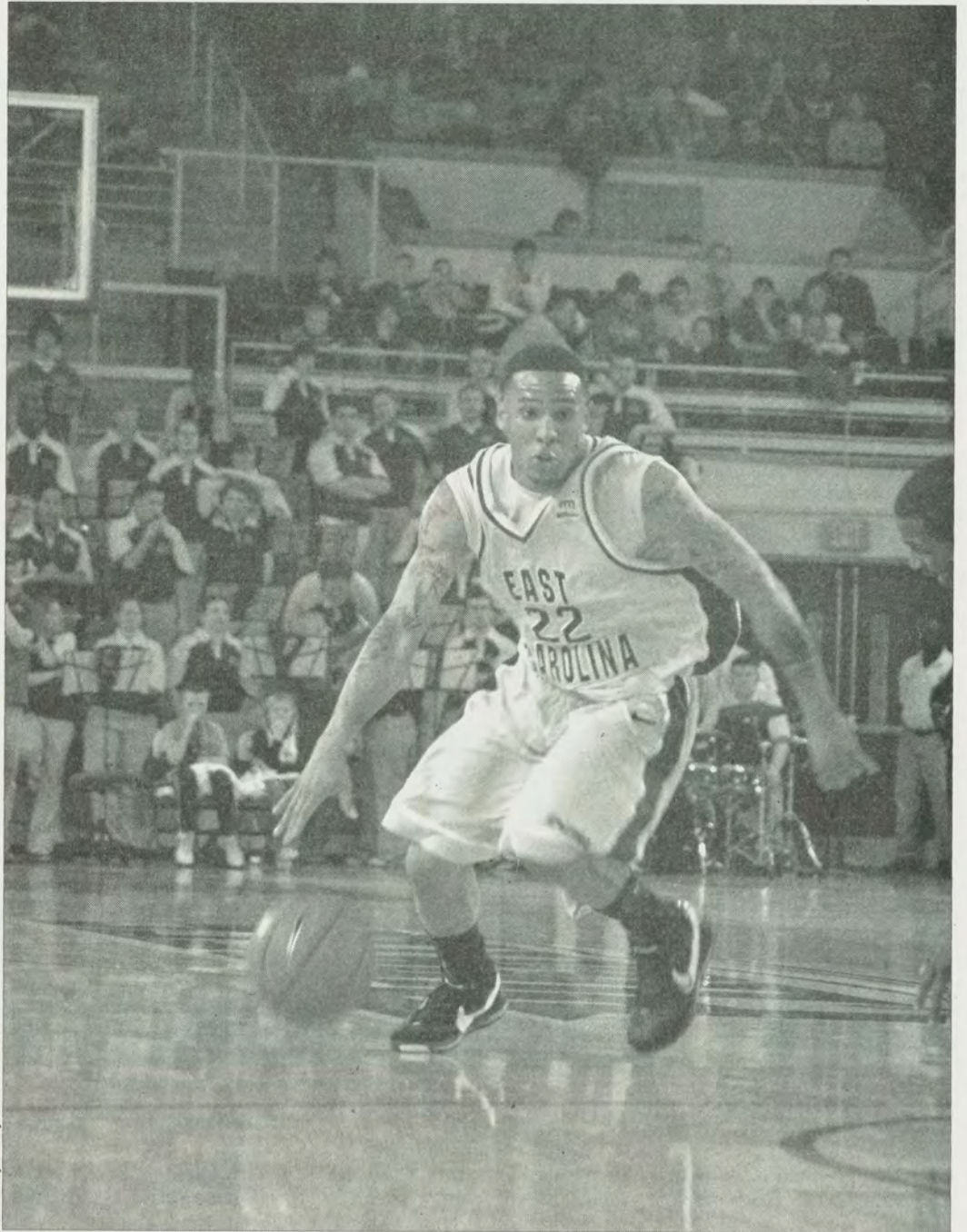
East Carolina (7-6) enjoyed a strong start, sweeping doubles play to garner the opening point. An 8-2 victory by Horvath and Viana at the No. 1 position over Coastal Carolina's Ramos and Tzvetkov was followed by an 8-6 win by the tandem of Oakley and Whitwell over John Hairston and Withers at No. 3 to secure the tally. In addition, Horvath and Kochetov outlasted Mellis and Vlaskin 8-7 (7) in a No. 2 matchup.

The Pirates will be back in action Wednesday, March 5 to face UNC Asheville and Winston-Salem State in a split doubleheader beginning at 12 noon at the ECU Tennis Complex

Staff photo

Junior Aleskey Kochetov hits a backhand at ECU's Tennis Complex.

BASKETBALL continued from B1



ECU guard Darrell Jenkins (22), along with Farmer and Taylor Gagnon were honored on Senior Night.

Freshman Brock Young converted on a runner in the lane and Hinnant followed with a 3-point dagger with 45 seconds left to up ECU's lead to 49-37 at the intermission.

Farmer finished with 13 points on the night while Legan and Fields had 10 each. Fields added 10 rebounds to earn a double-double for the Pirates.

After dismantling Matt Doherty's SMU squad on Wednesday, ECU has two straight victories heading into

an important road swing that could have huge C-USA tournament seeding implications.

"We have proven we can continue to improve as the conference season goes on," McCarthy said of his team's road woes. "Now we have to prove that we can win on an enemy court."

It appears McCarthy may have earned himself a contract extension, having already surpassed last season's win total and creating an overall more competitive environment.

However, no decision will be made on the head coach's future until the conclusion of the season.

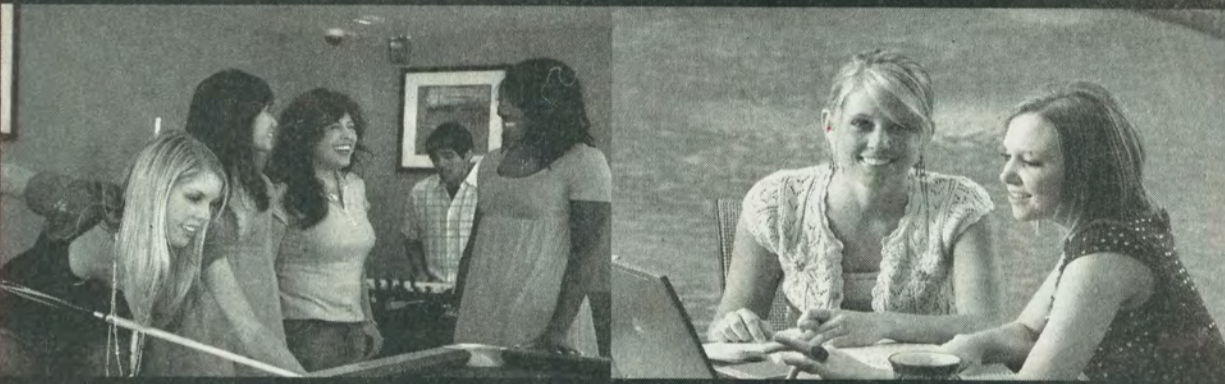
To a man, McCarthy's players remain loyal to their head coach.

"Being a senior next year, I really don't want to see another coach in here," said Hinnant. "Coach Mac, he's like a big brother to me... he's really good to us and I hope he gets the job."

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com

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SOFTBALL continued from B2



Photo by Jessi Braxton

Pirates' junior infielder Jessica Johnson connects on a pitch during tournament action on Saturday.

Tom provided a three-run homerun for ECU with a hit over the left field fence, scoring Vanessa Moreno and St. Ledger.

In the seventh the Pirates tallied two more runs to seal the victory with an RBI double by St. Ledger and a double steal play that allowed Suzanne

Riggs to score.

Swann completed her tenth game of the season, winning four games over the weekend.

Andrews had a huge weekend for the Lady Pirates batting 8-for-14 with seven RBI, six runs, two doubles, a home run, three stolen bases and two sac bunts.

ECU will travel to Orlando

this weekend to open conference play.

The Pirates will play a three-game series against the UCF Knights. The teams will play a doubleheader on Saturday and one game on Sunday.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com

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BASEBALL continued from B1



ECU centerfielder Harrison Eldridge was one of the main offensive weapons in the Pirates' series victory over Monmouth.

club we'll be in good shape." ECU's lineup delivered and Maness followed suit, striking out seven batters and giving up one earned run on five hits in 5 1/3 innings pitched.

Maness didn't need all the run support, but the Pirates' lineup produced top to bottom as the Pirates won 11-2, snapping their three-game losing streak.

Sunday's rubber match proved to be another lopsided victory, as Justin Bristow pitched a two hit shutout gem, giving the Pirates a much needed 6-0 win.

Bristow only had to deal with three base runners all game, improving his record to 1-0 and team-leading ERA to 1.29.

Behind the plate, Eldridge once again shined in the leadoff spot, going 2-for-3 and swiping three of ECU's seven stolen bases for the day.

ECU's win on Sunday capped off a weekend where the Pirates outscored the Hawks 20-6, walking away with two

key victories for a squad still battling to reach .500.

There were many standouts for the Pirates' offense this weekend, but none stood out more than Eldridge and Ryan Wood, as the duo combined to go 8-for-19 from the plate, swiping ten bags and driving in four runs.

ECU will hope to continue its success as the team hits the road for a pair of mid-week games against Old Dominion and Virginia Commonwealth, before heading home for the Fourth Annual Keith LeClair Classic this weekend.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com

Football begins spring practice

ECU SID—Fourth-year head coach Skip Holtz and the ECU Pirates officially opened the 2008 spring practice period with its initial workout Friday at Hight Field inside the Cliff Moore Practice Complex.

Holtz led his 122-member roster through a two-hour workout in shorts and helmets under sunny skies and cool temperatures. The session, the first of 15 scheduled practices, will culminate with the playing of the Purple-Gold Spring Game April 12 at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

"As far as first days go, this was certainly a good one," Holtz said. "It's always exciting to move into another phase of preparation and I thought we made the transition well from our winter workouts with the same work ethic and high level of enthusiasm. There's only so much we can get done in shorts, but it was a productive and positive start to what I feel can be an outstanding spring."

The Pirates will return six starters on offense, nine on the defensive side of the ball and welcome back a total of 50 let-terminers from last year's team.

Headlining the list of returnees are 12 seniors who were members of the season-ending depth chart in 2007.

Starting linebacker Pierre Bell (shoulder) is among the list of seven Pirates who will miss the spring practice period to complete rehabilitation work after undergoing surgery either last fall or during the off-season. The other six players are linebacker Jeremy Chambliss, defensive end Marcus Hands, receiver T.J. Lee, offensive lineman Doug Polochak, running back Norman Whitley and center Fred Hicks.

In addition to continued fundamental work, Holtz' primary goal during the workouts will center around filling five offensive openings and two defensive slots.

"One of the things we obviously want to accomplish at the end of the spring is to establish a depth chart to where we put our best 22 on the field to give us the best chance to win," Holtz said. "Another goal is to enhance depth at as many positions as we can, so the spring is a great learning tool for the younger guys. For them, the additional reps many of our underclassmen got during our bowl preparation period in December has already proven to be invaluable."

Holtz also indicated that Pinkney and juniors Rob Kass and Brett Clay will open spring drills competing for the top quarterback position after the Pirates utilized a two-man rotation last fall.

After planning on spending its first two practice sessions in shorts and shells, Holtz indicated ECU would conduct its first full-pad workout on Wednesday.

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