



The ECU softball team hosted UTEP for a conference series this past weekend. Turn to the sports section to see how the Pirates did.....A7



The Pirates' baseball team headed to Houston to play Rice over the weekend, hoping to reverse the recent losing trend against the Owls. See if they were able to do that.....A7

Senator Barack Obama speaks of the change our country needs

Thousands crowd Minges Coliseum to hear his words

NADIAH SARSOOR
STAFF WRITER

Democratic presidential candidate, Senator Barack Obama, drew thousands of people to Minges Coliseum on Thursday, April 17, to hear him speak.

Greenville did not fall short on Obama's campaign trail. He stopped at ECU to promote his campaign and was greeted with a round of applause from what Obama called an "unbelievable crowd."

He has now been running for 15 months. Since he first decided to bid for president, he said he has been asked why he is running that early and at such a young age.

"I'm running because of what Dr. King called the fierce urgency of now, because I believe there's such a thing as being too late; that hour is almost upon us," Obama said.

Senator Obama has labeled himself as a candidate seeking change. Obama said he betted on the American people because he believed the "American people are hungry for change."

"I'm here to report that my bet has paid off, the faith in the American people has been vindicated, because everywhere I go, people are saying we're ready for change," Obama said.



Senator Barack Obama connected his speech with the students of ECU by addressing the possibility of lowering the price of college tuition.

A string of proposed changes was covered at Thursday's event. Obama touched on his views toward foreign policy, the education system, the economy, health insurance and taxes.

On the issue of foreign policy, Obama continued to denounce

the war in Iraq but stressed on the importance of winning the war in Afghanistan.

"We are fighting two wars now, one war we have to win in Afghanistan going after Al-Qaeda and Bin-Laden" Obama said.

"One war that I believed should have never been authorized."

Obama said he will not hesitate to "strike against those who want to harm us." However, he said it also means "using the military wisely."

He (Obama) also said he

believes it's essential to not only "meet with our friends but with our enemy."

This way we can tell the [enemy] where America

see OBAMA page A4

Special Populations Prom held by ECU Ambassadors

Event promises "A Night with the Stars"

JIMMY GALLOWAY
STAFF WRITER

The ECU Ambassadors held the "Special Populations Prom" on Saturday, April 19, from 7-9 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club on Firetower Road.

"[The Ambassadors] see the need for social activities for the special population in Pitt County," said the Ambassadors' press release about the event. "Through a partnership with other campus organizations, we can provide a night for those who never have experienced that special milestone event. It is our goal to make this night one where they feel like royalty."

The theme of the event was "A Night with the Stars," which was evident from the red carpet leading to the door, to the star-studded curtains lining the gym where the dancing took place. There was a giant statue of an Oscar by the entrance, and each table had a roll of "film" and award statuettes on it.

In the gym, there was a stage with "Hollywood" across the top in big letters. DJ Tyler Richardson provided the music for the evening.

Olive Garden and Longhorn Steakhouse catered the event at no cost. Bear Rock Café, McAlister's Deli and

Boss Hog's Backyard BBQ donated tea and drinks.

The Boys & Girls Club allowed the Ambassadors to use their building for free.

"We thought about using the Murphy Center, since it's close to campus, but then we thought of everyone having to use the elevator," said Leslie Wheeler, community service sub-chair, when asked why the Ambassadors chose the Boys & Girls Club.

"[The Boys & Girls Club] is very accessible."

She also said the size of the Boys & Girls Club gave them plenty of space, not only for the main dance room, but also for a hair and makeup room, and a guest room.

Discovery Church donated curtains and other decorations, and Salem United Methodist Church raised more than \$800 for the event.

Zeta Tau Alpha donated more than \$100, as well as makeup and hair supplies. The entire chapter also came out and did hair and makeup for attendees before the prom started.

According to community service chair, Theresa Esslinger, more than 100 organizations responded to the Ambassadors' requests for donations, and they raised well over their fundraising goal of \$2,500.

see PROM page A2



The Special Populations Prom offered a Hollywood atmosphere to attendees.

African Student Organization to host Africa Night

Event celebrates the impacts of African culture

CHAUNTE' RUCKER
STAFF WRITER

The African Student Organization (ASO) is hosting Africa night, which will illustrate how Africa has impacted different cultures beginning with a banquet and panel of speakers on Friday, April 25.

The two-day event sponsored by Student Union also includes a drama presentation, fashion show and cultural show on Saturday, April 26.

ASO is working in collaboration with the Student Association of Latino and Spanish Affairs (S.A.L.S.A.), Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

Performances by the Wesleyan Dance Team and the MOTO Makasi Dance Team are scheduled.

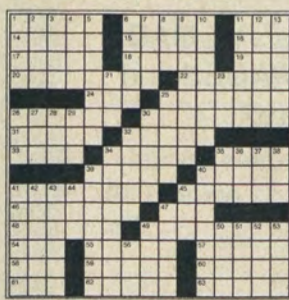
This year's theme, "Africa Starts Here," is centered around



The African Student Organization has performed African dances at a number of events during the year.

see AFRICA page A3

Crossword



.....Page B5

PIRATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pirate Entrepreneurs Kickoff Meeting
 Wednesday, April 23
 6:30-8:30 p.m.
 MSC 221
 Pirate Entrepreneurs is a new social network for ECU students, faculty and staff from all departments. You'll be able to network with entrepreneurs, angel investors and other people interested in working in the fast-paced and highly rewarding world of start-ups. Come on out, enjoy some free food, hear our featured guest speaker and get the help you need to start your own business. Registration and meal begins at 6:30 pm Guest Speaker begins at 7:00 p.m.

Commuter Lunch and Learn
 Wednesday, April 23
 11:30am-1pm
 MSC Multipurpose Room
 Agenda
 11:30 a.m.: Sign-in starts
 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Lunch & Video (Identity Theft)
 12:30-1 p.m.: Survey

Artist Elin O'Hara Slavick
 Wednesday, April 23
 5:30 p.m.
 Speight Auditorium, Jenkins Fine Arts Center
 Elin O'Hara Slavick, author of *Bomb After Bomb: A Violent Cartography* (Charta, 2007), and professor of art at UNC Chapel Hill, will present her work.

Spring Sidewalk Sale
 Thursday, April 24
 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Wright Plaza
 Annual Barefoot Spring Sidewalk Sale features great discount prices on ECU imprinted apparel, including Nike! The all-you-can-carry old edition textbook sale is always a hit! Stop by to shop, outside on the Wright Plaza near the entrance to the Student Store and Wright Place. In case of inclement weather, the sale will be held inside the store.

Barefoot on the Mall
 Thursday, April 24
 Noon-6 p.m.
 Campus Mall
 The Student Union Program Board will host the annual Barefoot on the Mall. The event will include student organizations, novelties, give-aways, and inflatables. This year's musical performers will be: The Jealousy Game, The Urban Sophisticates, Wrong Way, and Mae. The event will also include step team demonstrations and the winner of "Who's Got Talent?"

AfricaNight '08
 Saturday, April 26
 7-10 p.m.
 Hendrix Theater
 Showcase the African culture and history through dance, drama, poetry, step, fashion shows etc. Goals of this year's event include to demonstrate that we all have some ties, in one way or another to Africa, emphasize that Africa is in need of individuals who are passionate about ending its current crises and learn ways in which we can get directly involved in relief projects for Africa as students of ECU. Tickets are on sale at the Mendenhall ticket office. ECU students (w/1card): \$5 in advance; \$7 at the door. General Public: \$7 in advance; \$10 at the door.

Lab for Queen Anne's Revenge open shipwreck
 Saturday, April 26
 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
 West Research Campus
 Conservators who work on recovering artifacts from the probable Queen Anne's Revenge shipwreck will open their lab to the public. Canons, wine bottles, ceramics, and ship timbers will be on display.

22 Tue

Baseball
 UNC Wilmington
 6 p.m.

23 Wed

Pirate Entrepreneurs Kickoff Meeting
 6:30-8:30 p.m.
 MSC 221

Commuter Lunch and Learn
 11:30am-1pm
 MSC Multipurpose Room

Artist Elin O'Hara Slavick
 5:30 p.m.
 Speight Auditorium, Jenkins Fine Arts Center

24 Thu

Barefoot on the Mall
 Noon-6 p.m.
 Campus Mall

Billy Taylor Jazz Bones Concert
 8-10 p.m.
 Greenville Hilton

International Association of Jazz Educators Jam Session
 10-11 p.m.
 Greenville Hilton

25 Fri

Four Seasons Concert: Season Finale
 8-10 p.m.
 A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall

26 Sat

AfricaNight '08
 7-10 p.m.
 Hendrix Theater

Lab for Queen Anne's Revenge open shipwreck
 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
 West Research Campus

27 Sun

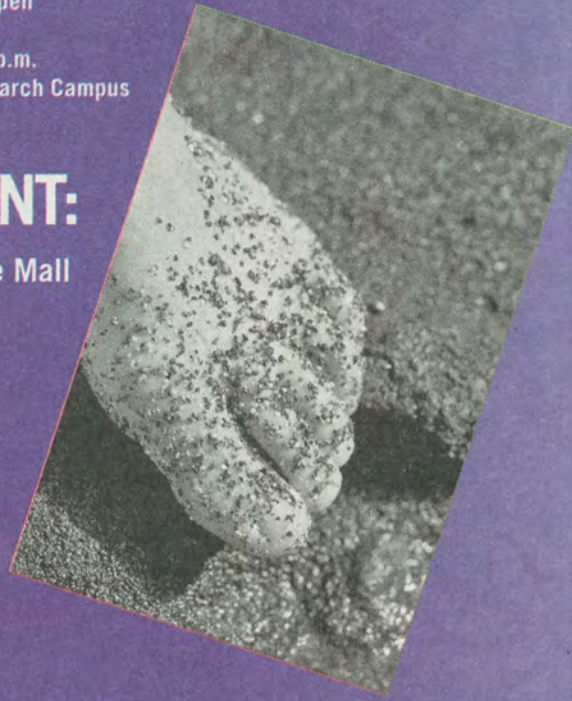
Chambers Singer Concert
 9-11 p.m.
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church

28 Mon

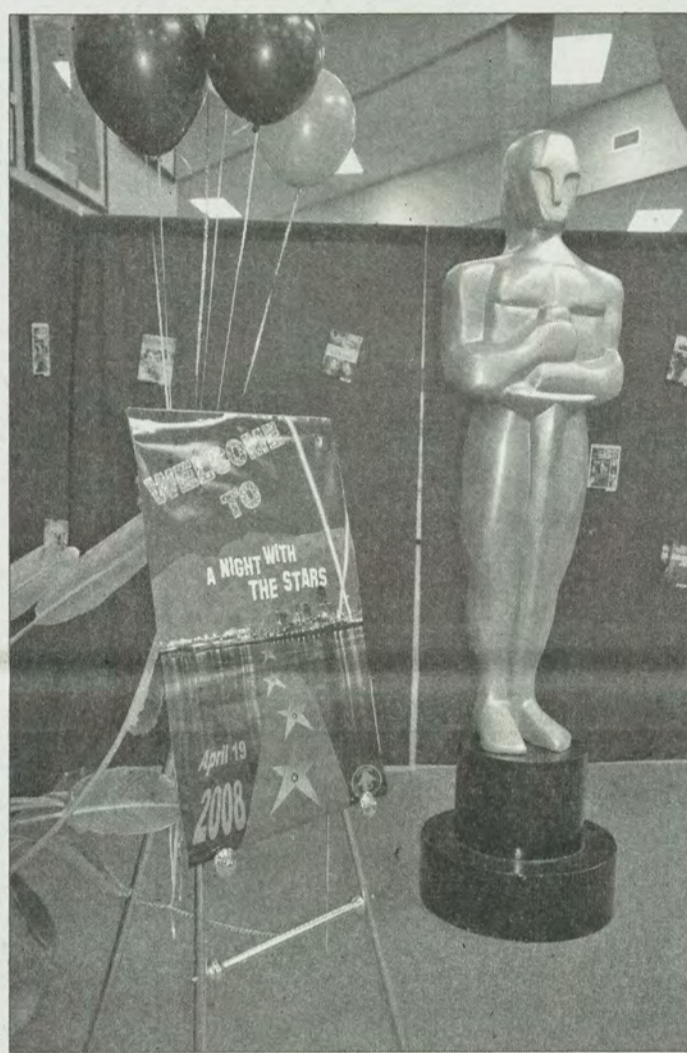
Guitar Ensemble
 8-10 p.m.
 A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall

FEATURED EVENT:

Barefoot on the Mall
 Noon-6 p.m.
 Campus Mall



PROM continued from A2



Decorations reflected the theme of, "A Night With the Stars."



The event emulated the elements of a high school prom with a night of dancing and dinner for everyone.

They had hoped to get 100 percent participation from student organizations, with just a \$10 donation from each organization, but some organizations chose not to respond. Despite that, more than 72 individuals and organizations donated to the event.

"We even had one person call from Charlotte wanting to donate," Esslinger said. "We have not had many people say 'no' at all. It's been amazing the support we've had from the community," Wheeler said.

The idea to have a prom for the special population of Greenville first came up last

November. It was proposed in December and planning began in January.

"We did this [prom] on a small scale in my hometown," Wheeler said.

"It was more fun for me than my real prom."

While one generally thinks of a prom as consisting of high-school students, for this Special Populations Prom, guests of all ages were welcomed.

By 7:25 p.m., the gym was crowded with dancers and guests. Esslinger officially welcomed all revelers at 7:30; King and Queen were unveiled at 8:15, and the prom contin-

ued until 9 p.m.

"[Their families] are just really thankful," Esslinger said.

The ECU Ambassadors is a student-run organization of student leaders. The ECU Alumni Association sponsors them.

It is their mission to serve the ECU community of students past, present and future.

They hope to make the Special Populations Prom an annual event with the support of ECU, the Alumni Association and local businesses.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com



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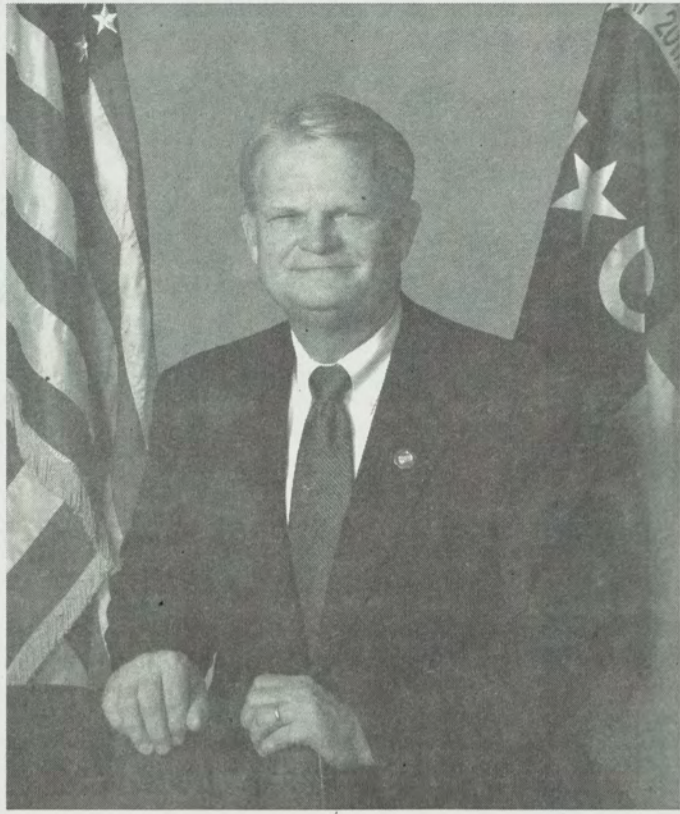
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AFRICA continued from A1

the message that we are all tied in one way or another to Africa.

"People will realize they have more of a connection to Africa than they thought before," said Akua Nti, senior health fitness major.

"I have friends and family coming from out of town."

Guest speaker, Sylvester Odeke, MA, MD and panel speakers Shahna Arps, Ph.D and Seodial Deena, Ph.D will address the country's issues surrounding poverty, lack of education and its political system.

According to Will Avery, freshman journalism major, many students will find the event interesting and are planning to attend.

"I know a student in my class who is definitely going," Avery said.

ASO was formed during the spring semester of 2006.

Currently, the organization's board includes President Uchechi Anumudu, Vice President Akua Nti, Secretary Oyelowo and Damon Percy as treasurer.

"Many don't know that Africa is in need of passionate youth like ECU students. We want

to find avenues to help the people of Africa and ways to get involved in current projects," Anumudu said.

The banquet will be held at 6 p.m. in the Murphy Center on a first come, first served basis.

It is free entry, however, reservations must be made by e-mail to uba0708@ecu.edu or afn0723@ecu.edu.

The "Africa Starts Here" presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Hendrix Theatre of Mendenhall Student Center.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door for ECU OneCard holders and \$7 in advance or \$10 at the door without a OneCard.

Proceeds from the event will benefit UNICEF in Kenya.

An ongoing war in Kenya has led to broken families, destroyed communities and many deaths.

The relief funds will specifically help to rebuild damages and help citizens who have been affected by the war.

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

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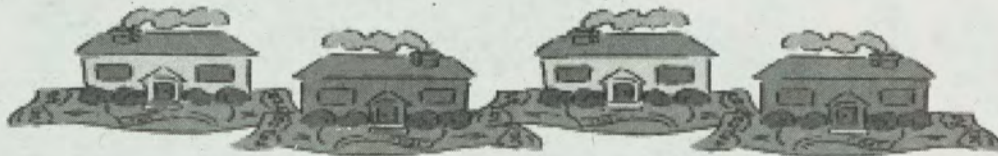
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OBAMA continued from A4



Students, residents of Greenville and visitors from out of town wait patiently for Senator Obama to arrive.



Photos by Robyn McLawhorn

Senator Obama shared his plans for stimulating the economy.



U.S. Rep. Mel Watt (left) and U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield express their support for Senator Obama before he delivers his speech.

stands, according to Obama. On the issue of the economy, Senator Obama said he believes "in the economy that works from the bottom up."

Obama mentioned how across America there has been a "great loss in manufacturing jobs" and a "strategy to ensure having new jobs for the 21st century."

He said this could come about through green economy. Obama continued to call for a health reform stating, "47 million people don't have health insurance."

As for the education system, Obama said, "despite our slogan [for education] millions of children are left behind."

The senator expressed his thoughts about how tax cuts can be changed to effect the less fortunate.

Obama called for a halt against giving "tax breaks for companies shipping jobs overseas but give them here in America."

He also added not to give the tax breaks to the "wealthy

but to ordinary people."

Democratic congressman G.K. Butterfield has endorsed Senator Obama and was present at the event.

"Not only does he understand our country but he understands the world," Butterfield said. Obama is "going to make the right choices" for this country, according to Butterfield.

John Conyers, of the fourteenth congressional district of Michigan, has also waved his endorsement to Senator Obama and believes he will win against McCain even though recent polls did not show a great gap.

"There isn't that big of a difference but it seems inevitable that he is getting the nomination," Conyers said.

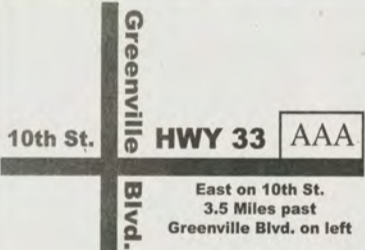
Obama closed referring back to why this campaign started.

"People want to change their frustration to hope," he said.

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

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Thursday, May 1	8 am to 7 pm
Friday, May 2	8 am to 5 pm
Saturday, May 3	11 am to 3 pm
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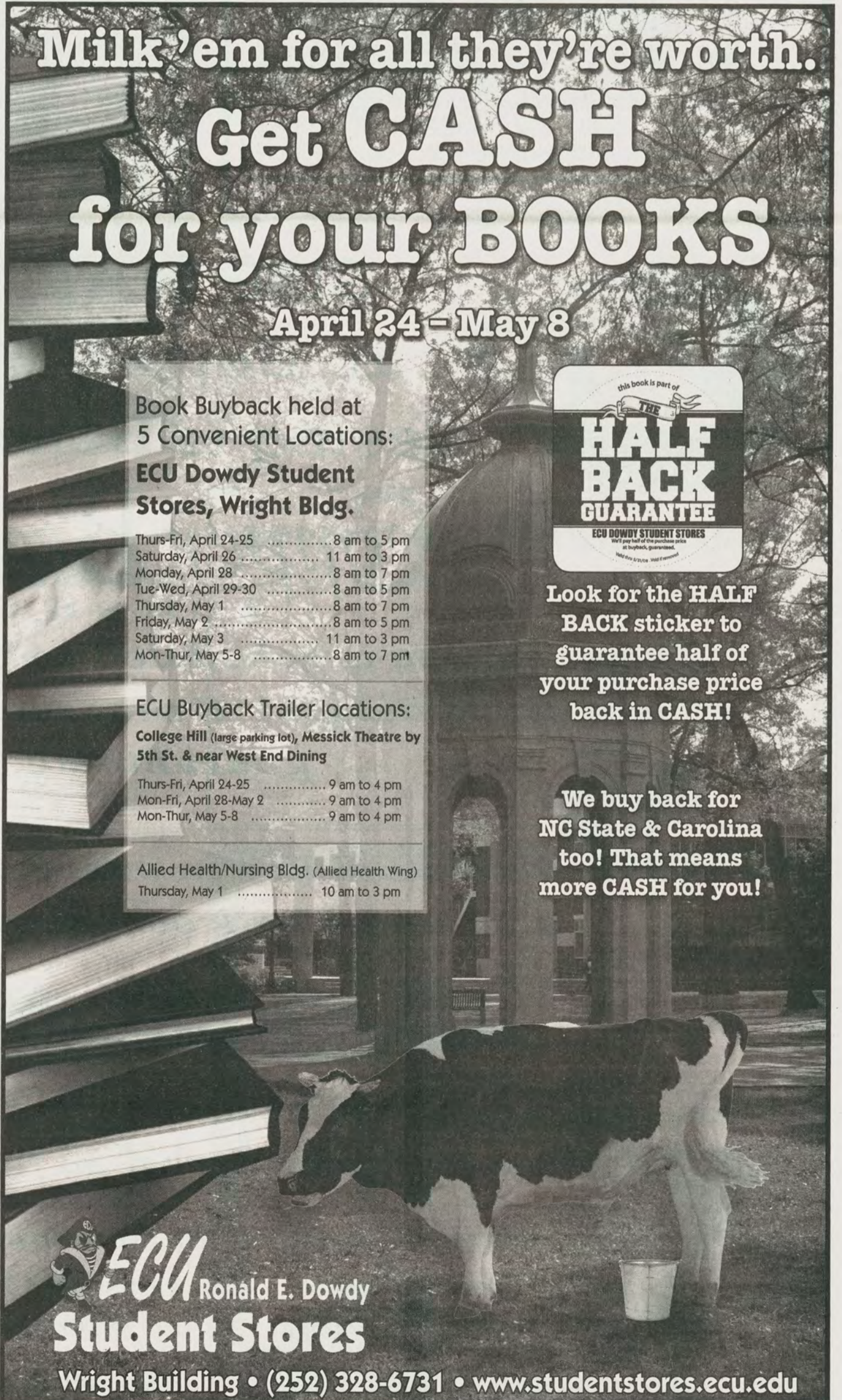


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Barefoot on the Mall '08 'Another Year, Another Foot'

April 24, 2008
12-6pm

Featuring:
Mae
Wrong Way
The Urban Sophisticates
The Jealousy Game
With: DJ J Lee

Opinion

{Your procrastination destination}

RANT OF THE DAY

Why do you drive a purple jeep...ya FREAK!

Pain at the gas pump

Democrats all bark, no bite

J.D. LEWIS
OPINION EDITOR

It's time to revisit one of my favorite topics, rising gas prices ... or as I like to call it, rape at the pump.

Oil jumped to a record \$117 per barrel yesterday. The excuse this time? A Japanese oil tanker was fired upon by an unidentified ship, no doubt piloted by more pesky Muslim terrorists, off the coast of Yemen. Hundreds of gallons of oil were lost, and the dictators and terrorists behind OPEC and the thieves running the oil companies would have us believe that the Japanese tanker was carrying enough oil to supply the whole world and that those hundreds of gallons lost, in the grand scheme of things, will have a major impact on supply. And I stopped eating because mom burned the biscuits.

Something has occurred to me since Republican presidential candidate John McCain has proposed suspending the federal gas tax for the summer. Previously I wrote about the Democrats in Congress trying to make oil company CEOs out to be the bad guys in all of this—and they are guilty as sin—but what Congress fails to do is acknowledge its own hand in inflicting pain at the pump.

As usual, the Democrats are all bark and no bite. While threatening to revoke billions of dollars in tax breaks to the oil industry in the face of record profits, not one Democrat has proposed suspending or even just lowering the federal gasoline tax ... and they won't. If the oil companies are making record profits, then the government is also making a record profit in tax revenue, and asking a Democrat to let go of someone else's money is like asking someone with diarrhea not to poop: It ain't gonna happen. If the general population were only half as dumb as the Democratic Party thinks we are, we'd all have to wear padded helmets and have drool running down our faces.

If the government isn't going to help us, then maybe it's time we started taking matters into our own hands. Show me a person being robbed under any other circumstance who isn't going to fight like hell.

This writer can be contacted at
opinion@theeastcarolinian.com

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Someone tell me I'm wrong

Please!

ALEX LAROCCA
OPINION WRITER

A friend of mine informed me yesterday that ECU is changing its grading system and it will be implemented this semester. Now I know I probably shouldn't be writing a whole article about something I only heard about, but I went to the school's Web site and typed in a search to try to find out. Although it didn't say anything specifically about a change, I did in fact see the proposal for a change in our grading.

In case you haven't heard (and I hope you haven't), the system could be changed to an A+, A, A- system, with different GPA values for each grade. That's right, each one has its own GPA value, meaning that your GPA will fall ... just like mine! Now, as I mentioned, this is just something I heard from a friend, and I couldn't find much on the subject. But, on a more honest note, I am writing this hastily and couldn't do too much research on the subject; I leave this to anyone who is reading this.

If you are reading this and it scares the crap out of you, please go online and don't stop searching until you can write some sort of comment online telling me what an idiot I am to scare you.

I don't want to get all charged about the administration and how much this would really, really suck before I even find out if it is true, but just in case ... why? Perhaps this is a great idea and it could make ECU a much more difficult institution, placing it higher than it has ever been amongst the academically-challenging universities ... but I don't want that.

In all honesty, I'm not sure if I have even made an A+ here at ECU. I'm not sure if that's a good thing or a bad thing, but I always have just wanted to make that A. If this new system is in fact true, that would mean everyone would have to start trying a lot harder around here. Not only that, but I am getting the feeling that our athletes are in a lot of trouble.

So prove me wrong, people, and write back to me about how stupid I am for writing this. Of all the times I have gotten negative feedback, I have never wanted it more.

This writer can be contacted at
opinion@theeastcarolinian.com



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.

This rant will be published on my birthday. Could I ask for a better gift from the Pirate Rant Chooser?

The show must go on. Outside, the dawn is breaking on the stage that holds our final destiny.

Some people should not reproduce.

I hate it when a guy stands so close to a urinal it looks like he's making love to it. They're called germs, pal.

Today I saw a ginger squirrel, and he didn't have a soul ... just like me.

My roommate is crazy, and he came at me with a cheap shot. What is sad is that he won.

To the girl who wants to have a threesome. I'd love to help you out.

\$17 to see the circus? Someone is out of their mind!

Last Thursday was an eventful day for Greenville. Obama came to town, and an old warehouse mysteriously burst into flames.

Over 10 percent of all my stress is from drivers not using their turn signals!

How about the mayor pro-tem who spoke before Obama? Seriously, that was embarrassing.

When I graduate, I'm going to miss everything about my roommates but their farts.

I hid four \$100 bills around campus and no one has found them yet.

Why are the financial aid people so mean?

I couldn't concentrate at the Obama rally because of all the short skirts!

I'm having "Grey's Anatomy" withdrawals. Thank God it comes back on Thursday night!!!

To the guy who tried to hit on me on the street corner Friday night by telling me he was an ECU football player: How does feel to know that not everyone knows or cares who you are?

I wonder how many rants are submitted each issue of TEC.

When will the Joyner water wall be turned on?

I want to be a professor; what a cake job with great pay, benefits and hours!

ECU should have a Ranting 101 elective course.

Does anyone else feel like they are in a room full of asbestos while sitting in Brewster?

So, do you have to do your "step shows" in the middle of THE busiest part of campus?

Are you honestly going to wear that sweater vest?

Hillary Clinton is a three-bagger: One for her, one for you in case hers breaks, and one for whoever might come along and look in the window.

I have water running into my apartment and my slumlord will not fix it.

Your sister is better in the sack than you.

I wish ECU offered a graduate degree in theatre.

Why are my worst grades in my easiest courses?

As I walked home from class, my neighbor was drinking his first beer of the day. It was 5 p.m. in India.

Why are they called apartments when they are built together?

At this point, I really don't know if my brain can hold any more information.

Postsecret.com is the best.

UNC and Duke are basketball schools. ECU is a football school. Wake Forest can be both. WTF is NC State?

Jarvis girls, it's called a courtesy flush. Try it!

Forget about pooping in every building. My goal is to have sex in every academic building on campus ... before my girlfriend graduates in May!

I photocopied my face in the basement of Joyner ... right after my butt.

Dear Pirate Rant Chooser, thanks for being amazing at what you do.

I'm sad "Pirate Rants" isn't listed on Wikipedia.

And by "decent guy," I mean one who is remotely intelligent, at least moderately attractive, and who cares about something besides sex and beer.

How the hell do you get a reserved seat at the library?!

There's a new game: Who can go downtown every night before each of their final exams and still pass class?

Why can't we have 10-plus pages of Pirate Rants and one page of the other stuff?

Screw Obama, Clinton and McCain. I'm voting for Pedro!

Exactly how many more graphs can the economics department throw at me?

Oscar Wilde was right; work is the curse of the drinking class.

Why do the trustees want to build a new chancellor's residence when he's never on campus?

Instead of building a new softball complex, ECU should build a new track complex. The track is so small we can't have home races.

I love looking at pictures of random people on Facebook.

Summer is almost here

A time to relax and reflect

JESSICA DUNLOW
OPINION WRITER

Well, guys, it's finally here; the week we have all been waiting for and dreading ... hell week. I don't know about you, but this week is going to be exceedingly stressful for me, from classes wrapping up, to campus organization banquets, this week puts me and many others in overdrive. So I tend to enjoy the idea of reveling in what is to come. What will be the benefit of all of our hard work and dedication? Summer. Now, if summer for you means the whole week-and-a-half break that you get before resuming summer school, take advantage! Relax and do as little as possible. Get a tan, have some laughs, and hang around with family and friends. For those of us who are going to be working all summer, be sure to take some time for yourself. Working for 'The Man' takes a lot of energy, and yes, he tries to suck the fun out of everything. Don't let it get you down, because our time is now! Try to escape. When you're sitting in the library during hell week and exam week, take a minute. Take a long, deep breath and imagine how great it's going to feel walking out from that last exam. There'll be no more professors to give out assignments or force you to memorize something that you're not quite sure why you should in the first place ... at least for a week.

Graduates: I bet you are excited! The only advice I can give you is to enjoy the last bit of freedom you have. If you're going directly into the work force or if you have a killer internship that you worked so hard to get, take that week or so that you have for a nice break, and reflect on the four (or for some three to six) years that you spent at ECU, your second home. At the risk of sounding completely sappy and like a person who enjoys chick-flicks (which I do on occasion), the memories you made here are some of the best you will ever have. I know, I know, so cliché. Think of it this way, however: when you look past the bad stuff—the fights, the ends of relationships, the failed classes, the crappy jobs—you had a blast here. Your friends and education are the foundation you need to make it in the "real world," although I like to agree with John Mayer in believing that there is no such thing. So; you will put down this paper, go back to your studying, or maybe have a short daydream about what your summer will be like, and continue to function through the last full week of classes. Do it. By all means, finish that extra credit and the final papers—just do me one favor: step outside your confines for a moment and enjoy the thought that one day you will be out in the so-called "real world." Things will not be as they are now, so appreciate college one last time, future graduates. For the rest of us, think about it this way: we have one, two or three years left, but they sure will go by fast. Take a deep breath! This year is coming to an end; summer is nearly here.

This writer can be contacted at
opinion@theeastcarolinian.com



"Look, I promised you a place in the country, and as far as I'm concerned, I've held up my end of the bargain."

Sarah Campbell
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Taking time off from school

It's really not worth it

LARA OLIVER
OPINION WRITER

As the school year draws to a close, the majority of the ECU student body is caught up in the excitement of the future. Whether you're a senior looking past graduation and what your career will be or a sophomore who's now successfully halfway through college, there's a lot going on and a lot of future planning.

There's a small portion of people I know, however, who are finishing up this year and planning to take a "year off" from school. I'm not talking about taking a year to study abroad or do volunteer work, I mean the quit-school-and-work type of taking a year off. I have just one word for everyone who is planning to do this for the 2008-09 school year: DON'T.

I know what it's like to be in a rough spot financially with school and having to work multiple jobs, just to make ends meet on a tightly budgeted college kid's life. I know that it may seem like a good idea to take that time off, save some money up and return to school "when the time's right." I know because I did it myself after my freshman year.

In the summer of 2005, I quit school, started working as an IT specialist for \$10 an hour, and thought I had it made. I was saving \$200 a week, had plenty of money for spending on myself

and kept on saying, "Yeah, I'll register again next semester. This way I won't have to work when I return to school." I kept postponing applying so often that it got to the point where I believed that you really didn't need a degree to make it in the world, despite what everyone said. I decided I'd stick to my career and work my way up through hard work instead of having a degree.

Well, my boss had other plans. You know how they always tell you that a degree is the most important thing you can have in a job hunt nowadays? Well, it's also the most important thing you can have to keep a job, too. North Carolina isn't a right-to-work state, so your employer can fire you at a moment's notice without any reason or repercussions. When my employer found someone who had the same level of skills as I did, but with a degree, he let me go.

Luckily, he fired me four weeks before the deadline for me to register for fall semester. I came back to ECU crestfallen. I had to use most of the money I saved up just to pay for rent, utilities and my groceries, so my plan of saving up so I wouldn't have to work while at school completely fell through. I was also much older than all my peers and a little bit bitter over my past situation, so it made it difficult for me to re-adapt to college life.

Thanks to working my butt off, taking 21-credit-hour semesters and signing up for summer

classes, I'm back on schedule for graduating next spring. I also learned how to balance jobs, low interest school loans and scholarships, so the temptation of taking time off to work won't be so enticing this time.

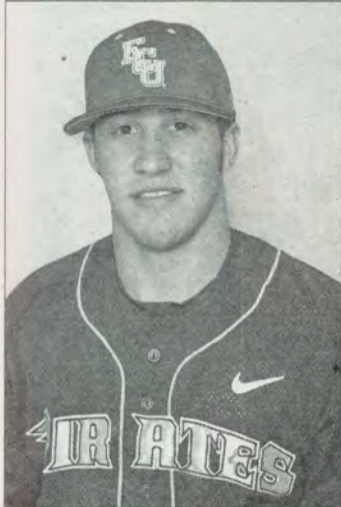
My situation may not seem that dire, and you might be wondering why I'm warning people to stay in school and not let the fear of money pull you out. I know there are probably plenty of people reading this who either know someone who took time off or took time off themselves from school. Well, guys and girls who came back to school, we're pretty much in the minority. Of the 20 people I knew of who took time off from school to work after their freshman year, I'm the only one who returned. Everyone else either got so caught up in work, paying off their student loans for a degree they'll never get or various other distractions, that they're now to the point where they feel it'd be completely useless to return to school, despite how much their parents push them to return.

So kids, please hear me out. If you're having trouble paying for school or just feel down-trodden by the process, go to college part time and work full time, or try to take classes at a community college after work. Please just don't completely drop out of school. It's a decision I've regretted, and I know you will too.

{ECU's Inside Source}

MOST VALUABLE Pirate

Dustin Harrington



Dustin Harrington is this week's most valuable pirate after a stellar performance against The Citadel in ECU's midweek victory last week. In the game, Harrington knocked in the winning run in the bottom of the 10th inning with a bases-loaded single to left field to give the Pirates a 4-3 win. For the game, he was 2-for-4 with 2 RBIs. Even through Rice swept ECU this past weekend, Harrington proved to be a bright spot in the series, collecting at least a hit in each of the three games. On Sunday, he went 2-for-3, while scoring one run in arguably his best performance of the weekend.

Pirates outlasted by UTEP in conference series



Photo by Jessi Braxton

The Pirates had lost five straight Conference USA games prior to beating UTEP, 2-1, Saturday afternoon in game one of a doubleheader with the Miners.

ECU breaks five-game losing streak

KATHERINE HARRY
STAFF WRITER

Despite ECU's defeat of UTEP Saturday afternoon and the breaking of a five-game losing streak in Conference USA, the Pirates fell victim to a tough UTEP team twice this weekend. The Pirates defeated the Miners 2-1 in the series-opening game Saturday afternoon.

UTEP went up 1-0 in the top of the first on a single by Amber Bennett.

However, ECU scored its two runs in the third inning on three hits and one UTEP error.

After loading the bases with one out, Paige Baggett scored the first run for the Pirates when Christina Merrida forced an error. Vanessa Moreno broke the tie with an RBI single for the game-winning run, which was scored by Angel Barrella.

Moreno had ECU's only RBI of the game and one of the

Pirates' three hits in its only win of the weekend.

Junior pitcher Brooke Swann improved her record to 18-15 with the victory while striking out one and giving up one run and four hits.

In the second contest of Saturday's doubleheader, UTEP came out strong scoring their first run after connecting on three singles, but were slowed down by an ECU double play.

In the Pirates half of the first, Moreno responded with a long shot over the left field fence

to tie the game 1-1.

The home run was Moreno's second in conference play and fifth of the year.

The Miners scored two more runs in the top of the third to seal the 3-1 victory.

Swann took the loss for ECU, pitching four innings before turning the game over to freshman Suzanne Riggs.

At the plate, Moreno and Charina Sumner combined for three of the seven Pirate hits, with an RBI and a run scored.

Sunday afternoon, in the final

game of the weekend, the Pirates fell to a late rally by UTEP.

ECU went up 1-0 in the bottom of the third when Angela Barrella ripped an RBI single to score Sumner. Sumner singled with two outs earlier in the inning and advanced to second on a wild pitch, putting a runner in scoring position for Barrella's single.

The Pirates then continued their early offensive surge when they took a 2-0 advantage on

see **SOFTBALL** page A8

C-USA Baseball Standings

Rice	13-2
Houston	8-4
Tulane	6-5
East Carolina	8-7
Marshall	7-7
Southern Miss	6-6
Memphis	4-8
UCF	4-11
UAB	3-9

C-USA Softball Standings

Houston	15-2
UCF	14-6
Marshall	10-9
Tulsa	9-9
UTEP	8-10
UAB	8-10
Southern Miss	7-11
East Carolina	6-11
Memphis	4-13

Baseball team loses momentum in battle against conference leader Rice

Pirates swept for first time all season

ECU SID/staff reports—Rice has simply had ECU's number as of late.

Despite having plenty of momentum—11 wins in their last 15 games—heading into the weekend's pivotal Conference USA series with conference leader Rice, the No. 23 Pirates were swept by the No. 11 Owls, losing all three games at Rice's Reckling Park.

Rice beat ECU all four times the two teams played last season, and after the sweep this past weekend, the Owls have now won nine straight against ECU.

The last time the Pirates won a game in the series was March 24, 2006, in Houston.

ECU came very close to breaking that recent trend Saturday night, however.

Chad Mozingo drew a bases loaded walk in the bottom of the 10th inning that scored Diego Seastrunk and gave Rice a 5-4 victory over ECU Saturday night at Reckling Park in C-USA action.

With the score knotted at 4-4 heading into the bottom of the 10th, Harrison Eldridge seemed to make an outstanding sliding catch in right-center, but the officials ruled it a hit and Seastrunk was credited with a leadoff double. Aaron Luna then drew an intentional walk and then Rick Hague laid down a sac bunt to move the runners to second and third. After another intentional walk, this time to Adam Zornes, loaded the bases, Mozingo drove in the winning run on a walk.

Cole St. Clair improved to 6-2 on the season for Rice, after working 2.1 innings of relief allowing one hit with two strikeouts. Starter Chris Kelley lasted four innings giving up

three runs on 10 hits with four punch-outs. Bryan Price (1.0, 2 H, 1 R, 1 BB, 1 K) and Matt Evers (2.2 IP, 1 H, 3 K) bridged the gap to St. Clair.

Josh Ruhlman suffered his second loss of the season for ECU falling to 3-2. He allowed one run on three hits with five walks (three intentional) and two strikeouts. Freshman Seth Maness went 6.1 innings, allowing four runs (all in the first frame) with seven strikeouts and one walk.

ECU jumped out to an early 1-0 in the first inning on three consecutive hits. With one out, Ryan Wood singled up the middle, which was followed by a single by Stephen Batts putting runners on first and second for Corey Kemp. Kemp extended his current hit streak to 16 games with an RBI single to right-center that scored Wood.

Rice answered the Pirates in the bottom of the first by putting a four-spot on the board for a 4-1 lead.

ECU pushed across a pair of runs in the fifth cutting into Rice's lead at 4-3. Harrison Eldridge led off the frame with a double down the right field line and came home on Wood's single down the right field line. Batts followed with another single to put runners on first and second for Kemp who walked to load the bases for Henderson. Henderson reached on a fielder's choice scoring Wood.

ECU knotted the game at four in the sixth inning on Wood's sac fly to center that scored Dustin Harrington from third. Harrington singled up the middle to led off the frame and moved to third on Trent Whitehead's single to right field.

Rice continued its momentum after Saturday night's victory with a 7-1 victory Sunday afternoon, completing the series sweep. Matt Langwell tossed his



Photo by Jessi Braxton

Ryan Wood went 3-for-4 with 2 RBIs and 2 runs against Rice in Saturday's 5-4 extra inning loss.

first collegiate complete game Sunday afternoon in the victory. He improved to 4-0 on the season after scattering seven hits and allowing one run with four walks and five strikeouts.

Justin Bristow dropped to 5-2 on the season after pitching four innings, allowing five runs (all earned) with two walks and three strikeouts. Freshman Seth Simmons worked three innings in relief allowing two runs on three hits with one walk. Brett

Butts made his seventh appearance of the season pitching the eighth inning, recording one strikeout.

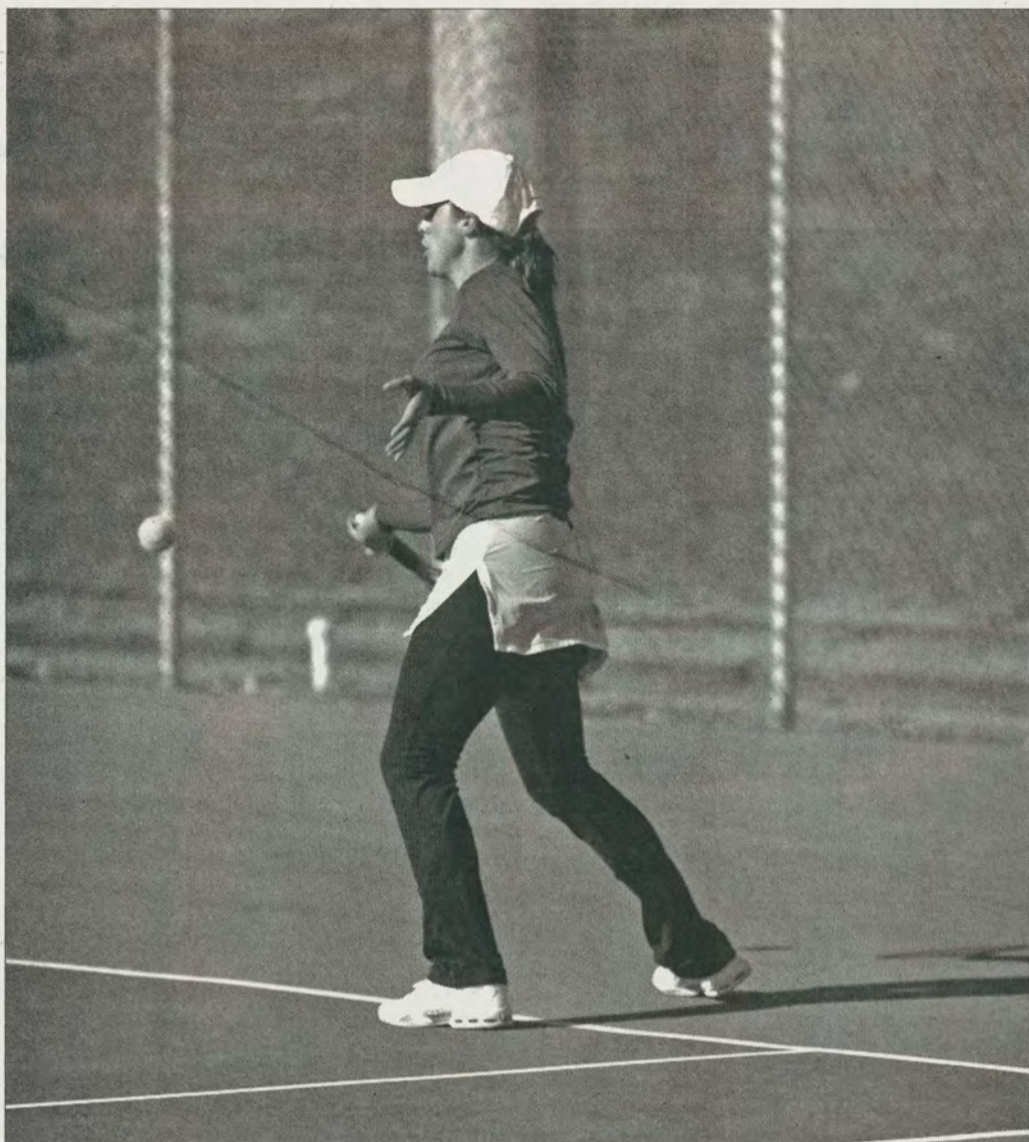
The Owls jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the fourth inning thanks to five consecutive hits. J.P. Padron singled up the middle with one out then moved to second when Diego Seastrunk singled through the right side. Aaron Luna continued the hitting barrage with a single of his own to left field that scored

Padron and was misplayed by Trent Whitehead, putting runners on second and third. Rick Hague followed with a single through the left side that scored Seastrunk just before Adam Zornes capped the scoring with a single to left field that plated Luna.

Padron extended the Owls lead to 5-0 in the sixth inning

see **BASEBALL** page A9

Tennis loses in C-USA Tourney quarterfinals



The Lady Pirates beat UAB 4-2 in the opening round of the tournament before falling to Tulsa.

Pirates beat UAB, fall to top-seeded Tulsa

ECU SID—ECU's season came to an end as the Lady Pirates dropped a 5-0 decision to top-seeded Tulsa in the quarterfinal round of the Conference USA Women's Tennis Championship Tournament Friday afternoon at the John E. Hoff Courts.

Eighth-seeded ECU closed out its fourth-consecutive winning season with a 17-6 record.

The top-seeded Golden Hurricane of Tulsa (21-5) went on to win their second-consecutive C-USA Women's Tennis Championship on Sunday when they ousted No. 2 Marshall, 4-1.

TU fell behind early when it lost the doubles point, but rallied back to take singles victories at Nos. 1, 2, 4 and 5 for its second women's tennis title in program history.

Against ECU, Tulsa quickly extended a 1-0 lead after doubles play by capturing four singles matches in straight sets. Agostina Sontoro and Rebecca Row cruised to 6-0, 6-0 and 6-0, 6-1 wins over Tamara Sachs and Brooke Walter at the No. 6 and No. 4 positions, respec-

tively. Thalia Diaz-Barriga followed with a 6-1, 6-3 defeat of Varinia Soler at No. 2 before Marta Marcinkowska handled Luiza Borges 6-3, 6-4 at the No. 5 slot.

Diaz-Barriga and Marcinkowska teamed up for an 8-4 triumph over Borges and Mireia Gol to open the doubles action at No. 2, while Alexandra Kichoutkin and Carla Zabaleta clinched the tally moments later with a similar 8-4 victory over Alex Smith and Walter at No. 1.

ECU did not leave the C-USA Tournament empty-handed, as it recorded an opening round 4-2 victory over UAB on Thursday.

The Lady Pirates overcame a doubles point loss with four singles wins, advancing to their third quarterfinal appearance in four years in the tournament after recording the 4-2 win over ninth-seeded UAB.

see TENNIS page A11

SOFTBALL continued from A7



Photo by Jessi Braxton

Brooke Swann pitched a complete game in ECU's win on Saturday, allowing one run and four hits.

a Barrella double that scored Merrida in the fifth inning.

Barrella finished the game 2-for-3 with two RBIs. Jessica Johnson was the only other Pirate to record multiple hits in Sunday's decisive game.

With the Pirates up 2-0, there was a short delay in the game following the fifth inning due to lightning. UTEP benefited from the delay.

The Miners came out

swinging after the delay and ECU never recovered. UTEP plated four runs on five consecutive two-out hits.

The rally was all the Miners' needed in a 4-2 win, taking the series from ECU.

Swann took the loss for the Pirates, pitching in her 23rd complete game of the season. She gave up eight hits and struck out five.

The Pirates are now 30-23

overall and 6-11 in conference play, while UTEP improved to 27-19 overall and 8-10 in C-USA.

ECU will host Campbell Wednesday at 4 p.m. in a non-conference double header.

The Pirates will also travel to Memphis over the weekend for a conference series.

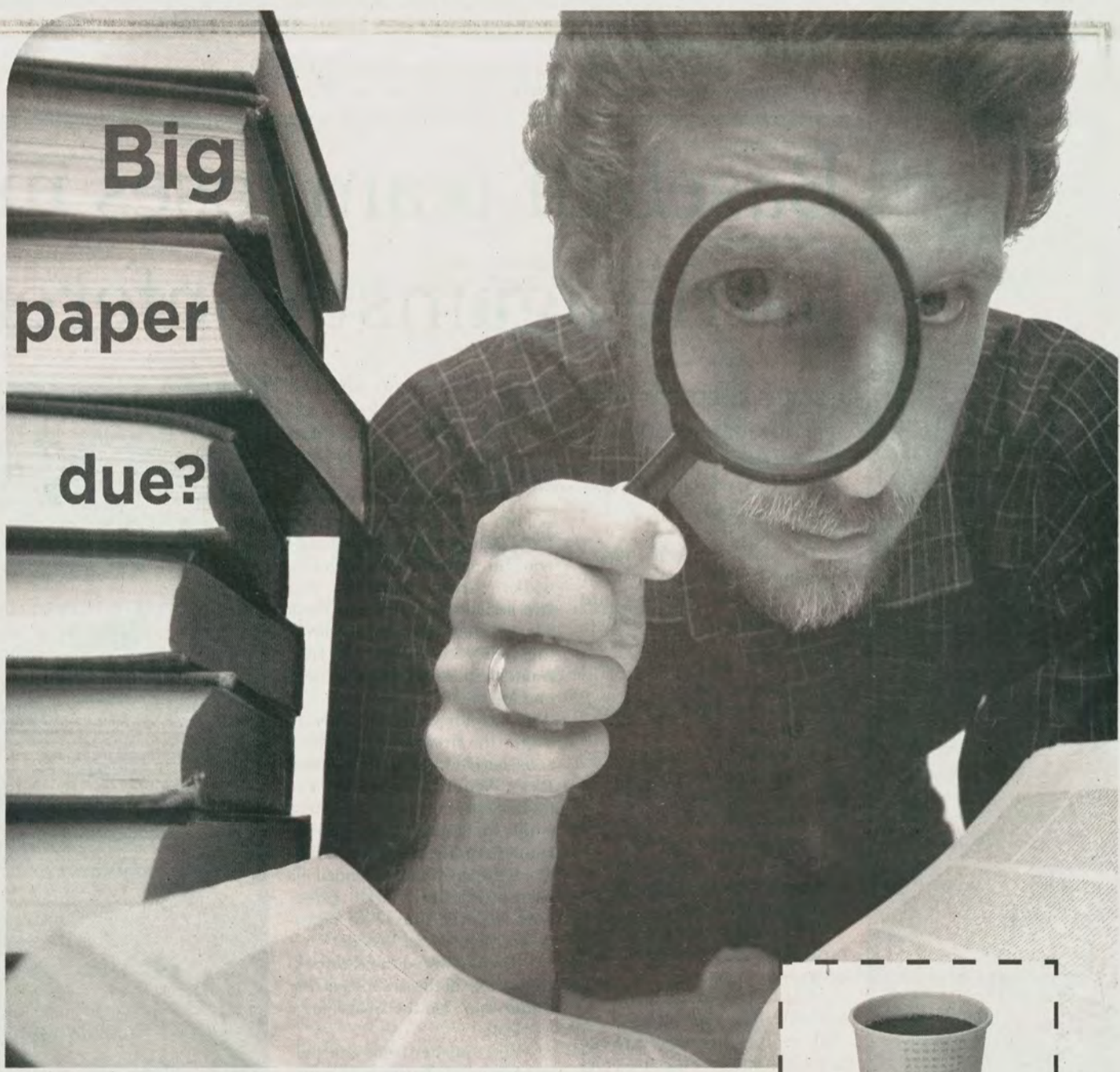
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BASEBALL continued from A7

with a two-RBI double to left-center field that chased Bristow from the game. Doug Simmons drew an opening frame walk then moved to third on Jared Gayhart's double down the right field line.

Stephen Batts put the Pirates on the board, 5-1, in the sixth with an RBI single that scored Dustin Harrington from second base. Harrington led off with a single through the left side then moved to second on Ryan Wood's walk setting up Batts' at-bat.

Rice pushed two more runs across in the seventh on three hits to take a 7-1 lead.

Offensively, the Pirates collected seven hits with Dustin Harrington and Kyle Roller each collecting two. Corey Kemp saw his 16-game hitting streak come to an end after going 0-for-3 at the plate.

Rice also won the series opener Friday night, 10-3.

Adam Zornes collected four hits, drove in three and scored a pair of runs, while Ryan Berry allowed two runs in 5 2/3 innings to help No. 11 Rice to the series-opening win.

Berry (5-2) picked up his fifth win of the season after giving up eight hits to the Pirates, with four strikeouts and two walks. Matt Evers closed out the sixth allowing one run on one hit before being lifted for Bobby Bell, who worked an inning with three punch outs. Bryan Prince (1.1 IP, 2 K) and Lucas Luetge (0.2 IP, 2 K) finished the game for the Owls (29-10, 11-2).

T.J. Hose dropped to 2-4 the year after pitching five innings where he allowed five runs on nine hits with two walks and four strikeouts. Brad Mincey made his 19th appearance of the season going two innings where he allowed three runs on four hits with two walks and two strikeouts. Bailey Daniels (0.1 IP, 3 H, 2 R) and Matt Laney (0.1 IP, 1 K) worked the eighth inning.

With the scored tied at zero in the bottom of the fourth inning, Rice plated three runs to take a 3-0 lead and never looked back. J.P. Pardon singled to center to start the frame then moved to second on Aaron



ECU's senior pitcher T.J. Hose delivers a pitch.

Luna's second hit of the night. Freshman Rick Hague followed with a double down the left field line that scored Pardon and put runners on second and third with one out. Zornes singled to left field scoring both Luna and Hague.

CU got on the board in the top of the fifth, cutting into the Owls lead, 3-1. With two outs, Ryan Wood singled to left then moved to second on a Berry wild pitch. Stephen Batts drove in his 36th run of the season with an infield single that scored Wood.

After Rice added another run in the bottom half of the fifth, ECU drew with two, 4-2, once again with two outs in the sixth inning.

Jamie Ray recorded his second hit of the game with a single to center then scored when freshman Dustin Harrington doubled down the right field line.

Rice would plate two runs in the bottom of the sixth,

making it 6-2 behind Zornes' leadoff home run to left center off of Hose.

After a Pirate pitching change, Chad Mozingo doubled to left center which was followed by a Comerota bunt single that put runners on first and third for pinch-hitter Doug Simmons, who reached on a fielder's choice that scored Mozingo.

ECU plated its final run of the game in the seventh when Harrison Eldridge and Wood recorded back-to-back doubles drawing within three, 6-3.

Rice would score a pair of runs in the seventh and eighth innings to cap the scoring at 10-3.

ECU will look to rebound from the sweep with two mid-week games.

The Pirates will host in-state rival UNC Wilmington at 6 p.m. and play at Campbell Wednesday night.

ECU's next conference series is May 2-4, when it hosts UAB.

SGA Cabinet and Elections Committee 2008-2009

The East Carolina University Student Government Association is now taking applications for SGA Cabinet and Elections Committee positions for the 2008-2009 academic year.



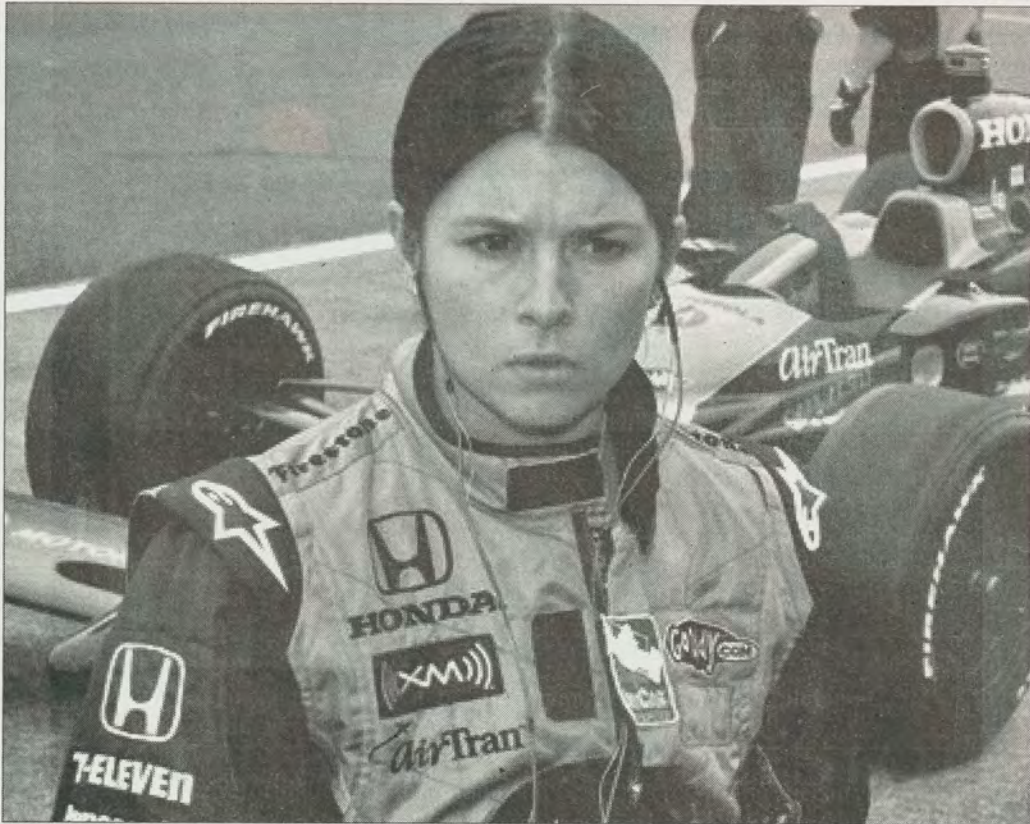
The Elections Committee has the sole responsibility of publicizing, conducting and supervising all elections for SGA Offices and SGA referenda in accordance with the SGA Constitution and Elections Rules.

The SGA Cabinet works with the SGA Chief of Staff in advising the Student Body President and the Executive Council (Student Body Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary) on matters relating to the duties of their respective offices.

Application Deadline:
Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Application Available:
SGA Suite (MSC 101) or online at <http://www.ecu.edu/sga/>

Patrick makes history with IndyCar victory



Danica Patrick prepares for the Indy Japan 300 on Saturday. Patrick went on to win the race.

She records first female win ever

AP—Danica Patrick was always sure a woman could win a race. And now the questions about her will surely stop.

Patrick made it to the place she wanted to be for so long — Victory Lane. She became the first female winner in IndyCar history Sunday, capturing the Indy Japan 300 in her 50th career start.

"I'm glad it finally happened," the 26-year-old driver said. "But I would be lying if I told you I

didn't think it would be me."

Her owner was ecstatic, insisting more victories await. Her family could not congratulate her enough. All of which made Patrick a bit teary.

"When it actually happened, maybe it was a little anticlimactic," she said. "Then the emotions came out and that was a little girly of me."

Win No. 1 was a long time coming. Patrick finished a career-best seventh in the standings last year when her best finish was second in the race at Detroit's Belle Isle. Her first IndyCar race was in 2005

at Homestead-Miami.

"I've been asked so many times when and if I can win my first race," she said. "And, finally, no more of those questions."

Patrick was welcomed by her family near the podium.

"There was a lot of 'I love you,' and 'congratulations,' Patrick said. "My dad said it was the best day of his life."

Michael Andretti, co-owner of Andretti Green Racing, called his driver a "fantastic person."

"I'm thrilled for her that the monkey is finally off of her back," said Andretti, co-owner of Andretti Green Racing. "We

have all believed in her and she proved today that she is a winner. Frankly, I think this is the first of many."

At the 2005 Indy 500, Patrick nearly won the pole and became the first female driver to lead the race. She wound up fourth, the best finish by a woman at Indy and a result that helped her claim rookie of the year honors.

Sunday's race, which was delayed a day because of a wet track, was won by a combination of cool composure and shrewd strategy. Patrick took the lead from pole-sitter Helio Castroneves on the 198th lap in the 200-lap race.

"When I had to talk into my radio after the race, all I could say was 'Thank you,'" said Patrick, who finished 5.8594 seconds ahead of Castroneves on the 1.5-mile Twin Ring Motegi oval.

"It was a fuel-strategy race, but my team called it perfectly for me," Patrick said. "I knew I was on the same strategy as Helio and when I passed him for the lead, I couldn't believe it. This is fabulous."

Patrick started from the third row and made her final pit stop under caution on the 148th lap, along with Castroneves and Ed Carpenter. All the leaders were taking it easy, saving fuel after the ensuing restart and Patrick stayed within sight,

realizing she would have a chance when the top contenders headed to the pits late in the race.

Patrick was as low as eighth place on the 189th lap, but Carpenter pitted with about 10 laps to go and she went from fourth to second after Dan Wheldon and Tony Kanaan pitted on the 196th.

After flying for about 12 hours to attend the finish of the last race in the Champ Car World Series Sunday in Long Beach, Calif., Patrick, appearing refreshed and relaxed, gave a lot of the credit for her win to team engineer Kyle Moyer.

"I knew that the last stint was going to be important, that was a good call from the pits from Kyle Moyer, who calls my races, to pit on the end of the yellow flag," she said. "It was going to be close on fuel, but we were in the process of giving ourselves the best opportunity possible."

"As soon as we went green after that yellow flag, it was all about saving fuel."

Patrick said she began to look for Castroneves with about 10 laps to go.

"I knew I was P2 (position two) by then. Five laps later, I see he's backing up, saving fuel," she said. "I was like, 'Hey, kick it up a notch and get by.' If this is what it comes down to, you better not think to yourself

I wish I had tried a little bit harder."

"It probably would have happened whether I would have pushed or not because it seemed like he was running out of fuel quite a bit at the end. But it was really very nice to drive by him at that point."

Even then she said she wasn't sure she was going to win until Moyer came on the radio and told her, "You can use as much fuel as you want. Bring it around, the checkered flag is yours."

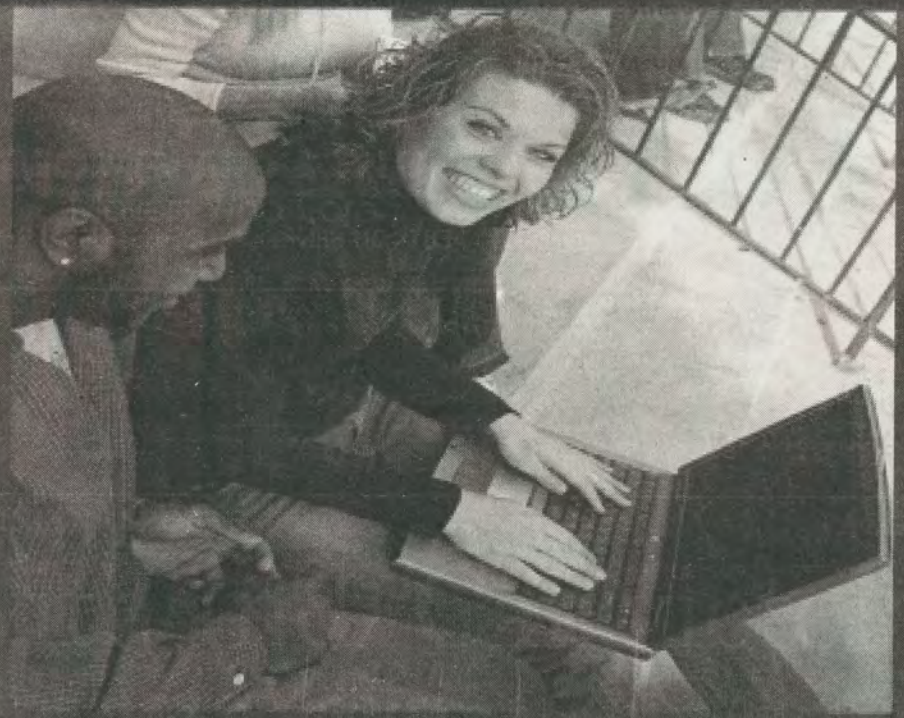
Patrick said, "That was a big relief. A long time I've waited for this. I wish it would have happened a long time ago, but I'm not going to argue with the program. It happened the way it was supposed to happen and I believe everything happens for a reason."

Scott Dixon finished third, 10.0559 seconds behind Patrick. Wheldon was fourth and Kanaan fifth.

In Japan, Castroneves, awarded the pole position after qualifying was rained out Friday, said Patrick ran a great race.

"With five laps to go, I was saving fuel," Castroneves said. "When Danica passed me, I realized she was the leader. She did a great job, passed me fair and square and that shows you how competitive our series is."

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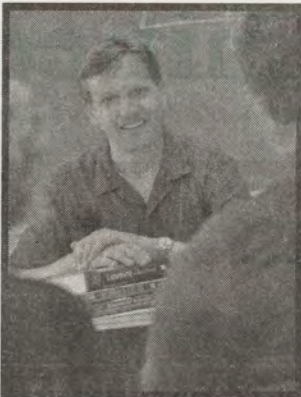
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◆ The more courses you evaluate, the better your chances at winning! Watch your email starting April 14th to take advantage of this great opportunity!

The subject line of the email will be "Important: ECU Student Opinion of Instruction Survey (SOIS), Spring 2008, Reminder (date sent)".

For more information, or questions and concerns regarding the survey, contact Chuck Rich at 328-9486, or via email at richc@ecu.edu.

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TENNIS continued from A8



Senior Mireia Gol recorded ECU's first point against UAB by defeating Antonia Nugent 7-5, 7-5.

Mireia Gol sparked ECU's comeback by posting the Lady Pirates' first point to trim an early 2-0 deficit in half. After Gol's 7-5, 7-5 victory over Antonia Nugent at the No. 2 position, Tamara Sachs, Brooke Walter and Varinia Soler each rallied for three-set triumphs to secure

the team win. Sachs handled Ceylan Engin (4-6, 6-0, 6-0) in a No. 6 match, while Walter defeated Jenny Cape (6-7, 6-2, 6-3) at No. 4, and Soler hung on for a 6-4, 5-7, 6-1 victory over Gulsah Esen at No. 2 to enable ECU to advance.

The Blazers used wins at the No. 1 and No. 3 doubles

slots to open the match with a 1-0 lead. Evelien Strikjer and Nugent handed Alex Smith and Walter an 8-5 setback before Cape and Seden Soyalp ended pairs play early with an 8-6 triumph over Hannah Priest and Soler.

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	Thursday & Friday, May 1 & 2	9 A.M. to 7 P.M.
	Saturday, May 3	9 A.M. to 6 P.M.
	Monday-Thursday, May 5 - 8	9 A.M. to 7 P.M.
	Friday & Saturday, May 9 & 10	9 A.M. to 6 P.M.

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	Monday-Thursday, May 5 - 8	9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

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	North Campus Crossing Tuesday, May 6	10 A.M. to 1 P.M. & 2 P.M. to 4 P.M.
	The Exchange Wednesday, May 7	10 A.M. to 1 P.M. & 2 P.M. to 4 P.M.

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Classifieds

TUESDAY APRIL 22, 2008 PAGE A13

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3 Bedroom House located 2 blocks from ECU. 1206 Forbes Street. \$775/month. Pets allowed with deposit. Call 355-3248 or 714-3294. Available August 1st.

Summer sublet available in a 3 bedroom apartment at North Campus Crossing. May 9 - July 31 lease with possibility to renew. May rent is FREE! June and July would be \$485 a month. Fully furnished apartment and all utilities included. Great pools!! Call 804-908-2145.

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Summer Sublet needed in a 2 bedroom apartment in Sunchase Apartments. Female roommate preferred. May-June lease with possibility to renew. May rent is FREE. June and July would be \$450 a month. Fully furnished apartment and all utilities included. Contact Raina at (336) 965-2084 if interested. Email: rkr0625@ecu.edu

Male roommate to share home with indoor dog. Approximately 15 minute drive to ECU. \$400 security deposit. \$400 rent. Furnished/unfurnished. Leave message @ 252-341-6998.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Space available for your organization to set up an information table at the Job Fair & Community Outreach that will be held May 31st at 3105 S. Memorial Drive, Greenville, NC 27858. A paintball tournament, rock climbing wall, and other activities will also be available. Call Kevin Whitaker at 919-622-8727 to register or for more details.

Panhellenic would like to invite all ECU Faculty to the Panhellenic Faculty Breakfast on Thursday, April 24th in Wright Place (at extra seating area in back) from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Come out and meet Panhellenic women on our campus and let us thank you with breakfast for being such a great faculty!

Pirate Entrepreneurs is having an event on Wednesday, April 23 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Mendenhall 221. Pirate Entrepreneurs is a new social network for ECU students, faculty and staff from all departments. At the event, you'll be able to network with entrepreneurs, angel investors and other people interested in working in the fast-paced and highly rewarding world of start-ups. Come on out and enjoy some free food, hear our featured guest speaker, Denise Ryan, and get the help you need to start your own business. Pirate Entrepreneurs - Do it for the booty!

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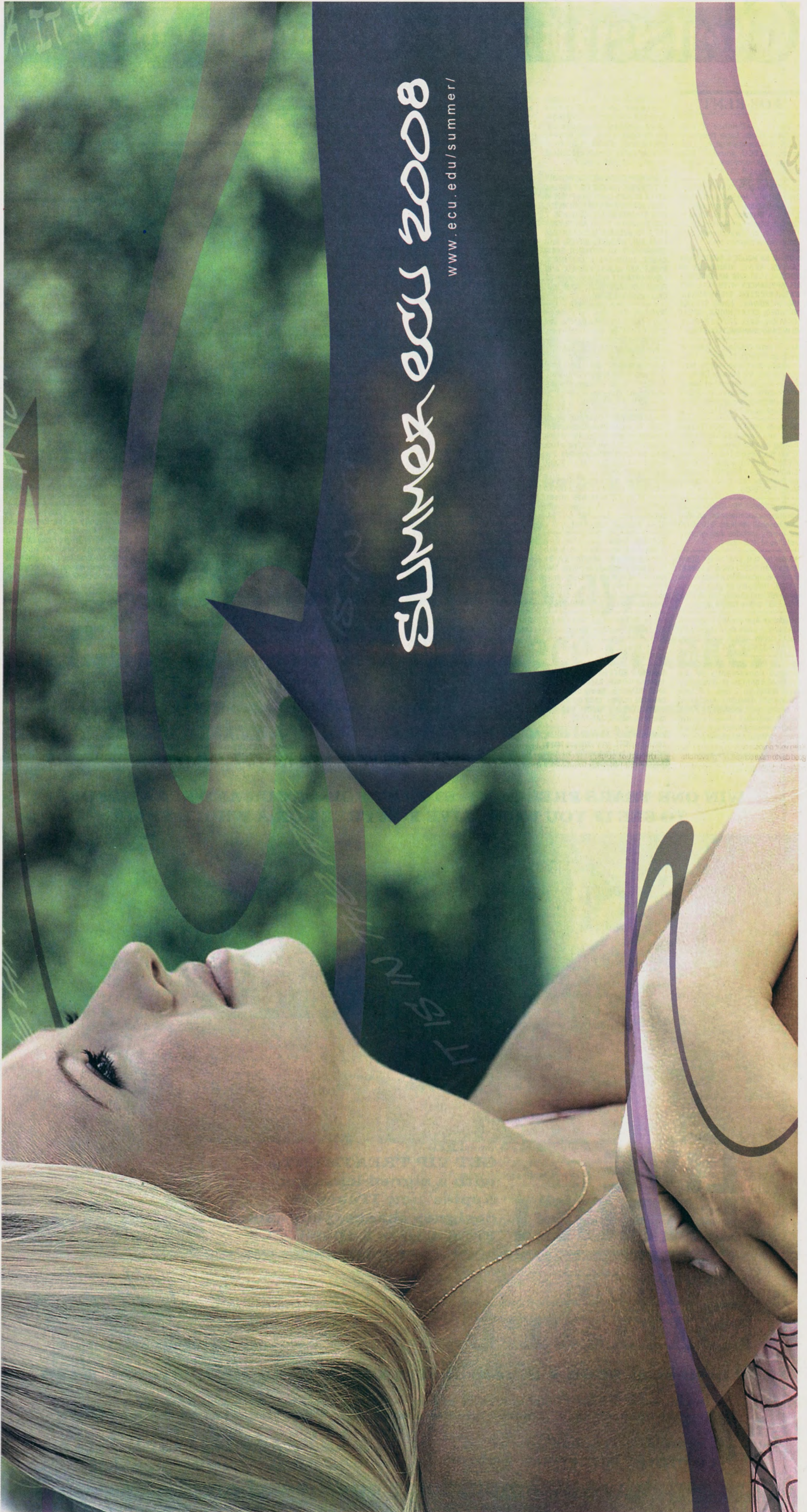
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Features

{Campus Scene}

Horoscopes

Aries
When one door closes, another opens. That's optimistic thinking. The one that opens may be quite a distance away, however. Expand your search.

Taurus
You're getting more convinced and less interested in changing your mind. So explain your position to the ones who don't get it yet. You could make a few converts.

Gemini
You can't get where you want to go without personal effort. Even if somebody picks you up and carries you over there, you'll have to give directions. You're in charge.

Cancer
A fantasy is shown to be totally without substance. If your money's involved, avoid a deal that sounds too good to be true. Keep digging for the whole truth.

Leo
It's not a very good day to try to sell an idea, or anything else. Buying household items goes well, though. You should find excellent bargains.

Virgo
Can you take a "well day"? You shouldn't be stuck inside. You ought to be out exploring the countryside. Do what you can.

Libra
Not a good day to go shopping. You're liable to get a lot of stuff you don't really need, won't fit, or isn't the right color. Tomorrow will be better.

Scorpio
A situation that seems insurmountable is going to melt away. You'll find the perfect way to make the mountain into a molehill. It'll be worth the cost.

Sagittarius
It's a safe bet that things will not go exactly according to plan. If you had any false assumptions or weak links, they'll become apparent. Proceed with caution.

Capricorn
Pay your fair share, but you don't have to pay a lot more than that. Save some back for hidden expenses you'll be discovering soon.

Aquarius
Keep your philosophy to yourself; it's not a good day to make converts. Don't even offer advice. Indicate you hear and understand what's said.

Pisces
Nobody said it was going to be a rose garden out there. Even if it is, roses have thorns. The point is, proceed with caution.

Did you know?

The oldest known goldfish lived to 41 years of age. Its name was Fred.

In 1976, a Los Angeles secretary formally married her 50-pound pet rock.

In 1980, the Yellow Pages accidentally listed a Texas funeral home under frozen foods.

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

Mr. Rogers is an ordained minister and was a sniper in Vietnam.

The average person falls asleep in seven minutes.

Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our ears and noses don't stop growing.

The liquid inside young coconuts can be used as substitute for blood plasma.

1 in every 4 Americans has appeared on television.

Dentists have recommended that a toothbrush be kept at least 6 feet away from a toilet to avoid airborne particles resulting from the flush.

The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.

Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin.

The most common name in the world is Mohammed.

The word "samba" means "to rub navel together."

Dinner brings a taste of Mardi Gras to ECU

"Rendez-vous" and the French Club unite for food and fun

MICHAEL MCANDREW
STAFF WRITER

On April 11, two of ECU's student foreign language organizations got together to break bread, or rather to roll crepes.

The ECU French Club and student organization "Rendez-vous" recently united to bring ECU the Francophiles under one banner, and celebrated the end of another successful academic year by having a well-attended potluck dinner at Ledonia Wright Cultural Center.

"This is just [so that we can] get together, speak some French and enjoy ourselves," said Ben Hinton, a junior French and communication major, about why the clubs decided to have the get together.

Students who attended the potluck, held in the LWCC's gallery area, were in for an evening of erudite conversation topped off with delicious crepes. Crepes, a popular French dish, are a traditional Mardi Gras treat consisting of a thin, cooked pancake rolled up with cheese, fruit or other delicacies.

Crepes are eaten on Fat Tuesday for good luck in the following year.

Faculty advisor Marylaura Papalas was the brain behind organizing the event, coalescing the two organizations to both avoid redundancy and increase membership.

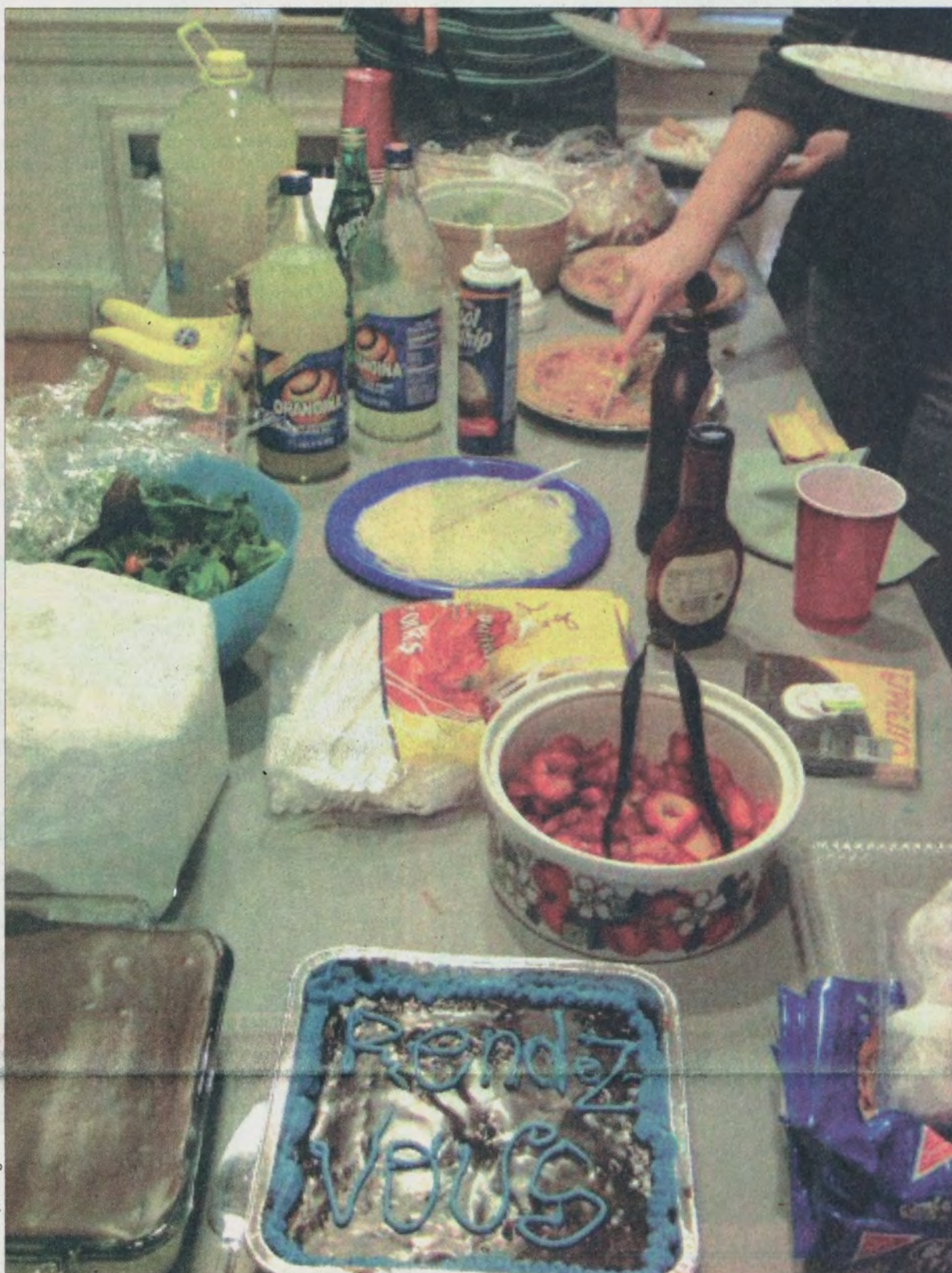
"Rendez-vous" is now ECU's French club, primarily focused on the language and culture of francophone countries, though all with any interest are welcome to join regardless of their proficiency in French.

"Rendez-vous" meets in Joyner Library on Wednesdays at 6 p.m., and is looking forward to holding many other events in the fall of 2008.

"Vouloir, c'est pouvoir" is the motto of the Rendez-vous. When asked for further clarification, he said, "Where there's a will, there's a way," said Paulo Martinez, vice president of the club.

For more information about the French Club, visit their group on Facebook.

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



The ECU French Club, or Rendez-vous, came together last Wednesday for a dinner at Ledonia Wright Cultural Center.



The dinner featured crepes, a French pancake-like food rolled up with fruit or cheese.



Members of Rendez-vous pose for a shot at the dinner Wednesday at Ledonia Wright.

ECU/Americorps program plan week of recruitment and education

Project HEART celebrates AmeriCorps week

BRIAN MAZUROWSKI
STAFF WRITER

ECU's Americorps/Project HEART is a volunteer service comprised of people from throughout the Greenville community. Project HEART is an attempt to increase literacy and the number of academically successful students in North Carolina.

Project HEART, which stands for High Expectations for At Risk Teens, is a program aimed at aiding at-risk students by developing better study habits and encouraging progressive learning.

The program's goal is to volunteer hope and to increase the number of academically successful

students locally by offering assistance in studying and tutoring. The Project HEART volunteers aim to help struggling students in the local community and to encourage academic growth in North Carolina.

The project began in 2000 with 48 tutors providing services to 480 at-risk middle grade students in Edgecombe, Martin, Nash, Pitt and Wilson counties, and now serves more than 9,000 students across the state in grades 3-12.

"Project HEART aims to increase the number of students who succeed academically, reduce the dropout rate and increase the number of students who graduate from high school in four years," said Kenneth Taylor, the volunteer coordinator for Project HEART.



Americorps week starts May 11, and ECU's Project HEART will celebrate their accomplishments.

see AMERICORPS page B4

Big Man on Campus earns big rewards

Delta Zeta supports worthy philanthropy

VERONICA CARRINGTON
STAFF WRITER

The sisters of the Zeta Lambda Chapter of Delta Zeta have done many things throughout the year to support their philanthropy, the speech and hearing impaired. Most recently, they hosted the "Big Man on Campus" charity pageant, where each fraternity sponsored a member to participate, and the winner earns the title of "Big Man on Campus."

After seeing the success of the pageant at NCSU, the sisters of Delta Zeta decided to bring the cause to the Pirate Nation. This was the pageant's inaugural year, but Hendrix Theater was chock-full of onlookers and pageant contestant supporters.

Taylor Rigsby, Delta Zeta chairman of fundraising, felt that the pageant was a great way to get the Delta Zeta name out, at the same time supporting Gallaudet University School for the Hearing Impaired.

"The most fun part of planning the pageant was meeting all the contestants. I made all of them come to my apartment and show me their talents; they are all great guys that didn't care about embarrassing themselves," Rigsby said.

The Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center at Gallaudet University works hard to bring resources to children who are severely deaf or hard of hearing. The goal of the school is to provide an education that is academically exigent and yet fully accessible. In this way, the students develop an encouraging sagacity based in self-worth and literacy.

The pageant was not only fun for the contestants, but for the planners as well. The sisters of Delta Zeta hope to establish this pageant an annual event, and hope to continue supporting their philanthropy as well.

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

Restaurant fuses Asian cuisines together

Wasabi 88 has it all—from Thai to Chinese

FATEN HUSNI ODEH
STAFF WRITER

If you're looking for a new place to wine and dine, Wasabi 88 is the place to go. Located in the shopping center behind Oh Charley's, it's a fun and fresh place to go out and have a good time. Wasabi 88 is unlike any other Asian restaurant in town.

From a variety of appetizers, sushi, Asian dishes and desserts to choose from, patrons have trouble contemplating over the mouth-watering dishes, including the spicy basil stir-fry and the broiled sea bass.

As a person who is not so keen on seafood, I took the big leap and tried the sushi. The sushi was wonderful, along with all the other dishes I tasted.

Most surprising about Wasabi 88 is the owner—29-year-old ECU alumni, Dai Nguyen.

"I love cooking and creating dishes. The thing I'm going for is Asian fusion, and to bring elegance to [an] Asian restaurant," Nguyen said.

Indeed there is an elegant theme about

Wasabi 88. Nguyen's restaurant is a place where visitors would want to dress to impress. Though there is not a dress code, it is what some would call "fancy."

With its dim lighting, candles on the table and soothing jazz music streaming, it is definitely a good place to have an intimate dinner date.

Wasabi 88 is also different from other Asian restaurants in the area because its menu is not limited to one Asian country. And that's what Nguyen was going for.

"All in all, I wouldn't classify it as Japanese-Vietnamese or Thai. It's a little bit of all so that you have a variety to choose from," he said.

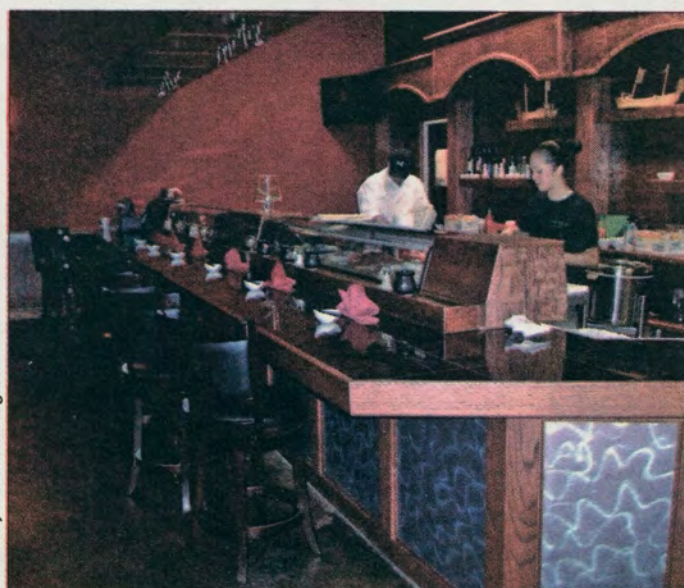
Nguyen emphasized that quality was the restaurant's No. 1 concern and, judging by happy diner Maiya Lor, an Asian American from Greenville, he

definitely achieved that goal.

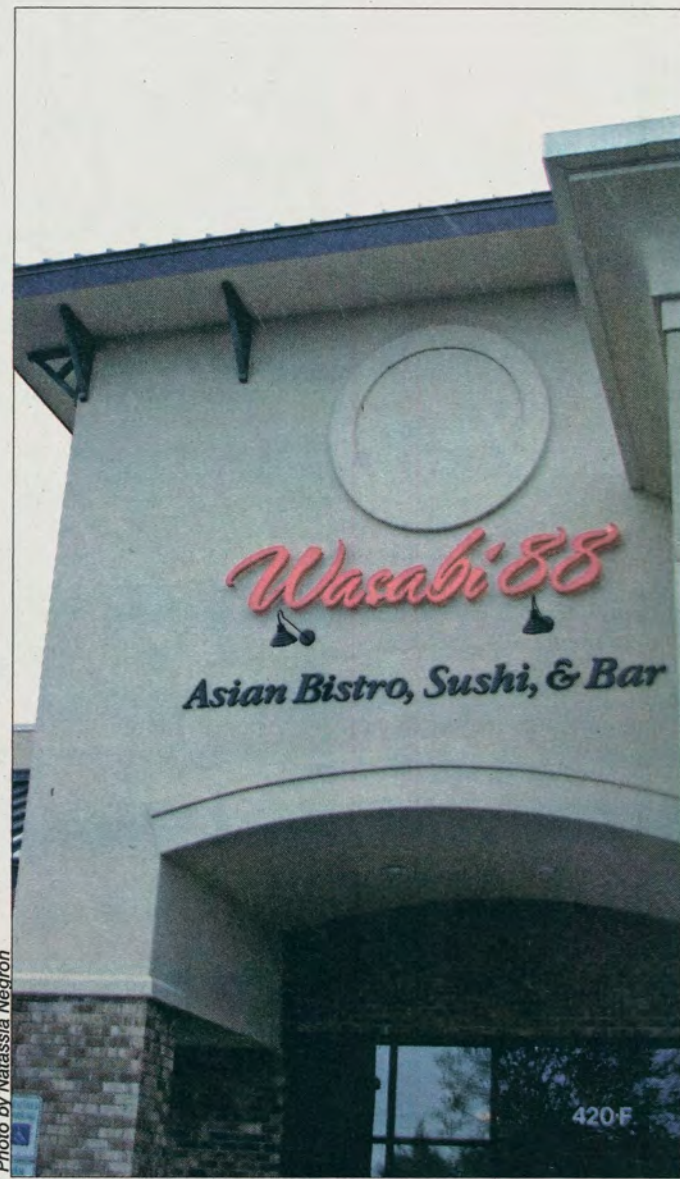
"I liked it because it's top quality, as I often cook Asian cuisine, I would not be able to imitate Wasabi 88's dishes at home," Lor said.

Wasabi 88 is located on 420 F Arlington Blvd.

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



Wasabi 88 features a sushi bar and tasty dishes from the Orient.



The restaurant is located near O'Charley's on Arlington Blvd.

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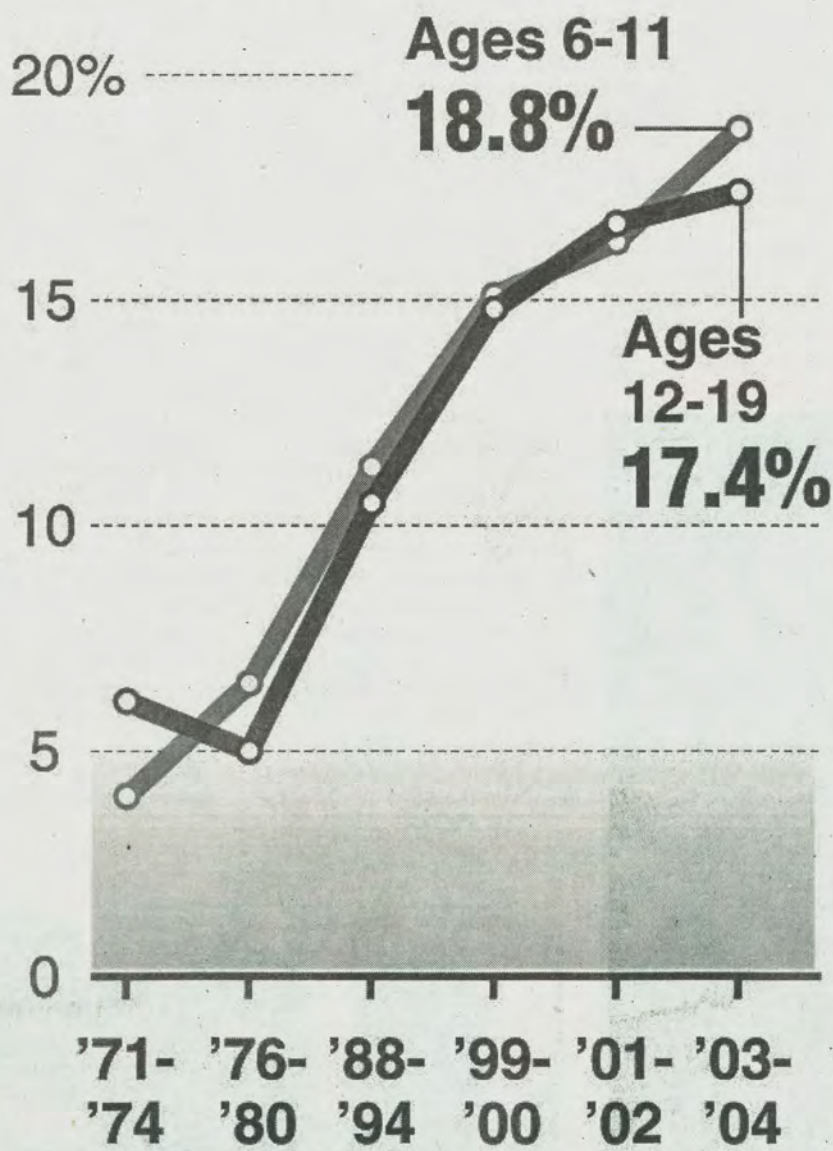
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Brody students host 'Hamstring Hustle'

Obese kids

The percentage of children in the U.S. who are overweight has increased steadily.



© 2007 MCT
 Source: National Center for Health Statistics
 Graphic: The Kansas City Star

School of medicine reaches out to children battling childhood obesity

FATEN HUSNI ODEH
 STAFF WRITER

Obesity is increasingly affecting children all over the world, with an estimated 400 million suffering with obesity, according to the World Health Organization in a 2008 Reuters article. ECU Brody School of Medicine students took it upon their hands on April 13 to attempt to defeat this atrocious disease with an event titled "Hamstring Hustle," which took place at the Greenville Town Commons.

"Every year we host a 5K race and this is our fourteenth year of doing so," said Wylie Carhartt,

a Brody School of Medicine student who helped co-sponsor the event.

The Medical Student Counsel at Brody School of Medicine votes every year on a fundraiser for a specific cause, and this year's focus was on prevention of childhood obesity.

The race began at 2 p.m., but runners had to be at the location earlier to register.

"We started at 12:45 p.m. with registration, and about 100 people or so registered," said Tammy Jernigan, a Brody School of Medicine student who also co-sponsored the event.

People from different age groups joined in the race to fight and bring awareness to obesity. According to Jernigan, people from ages eight to 73 registered for the race, and even a hand

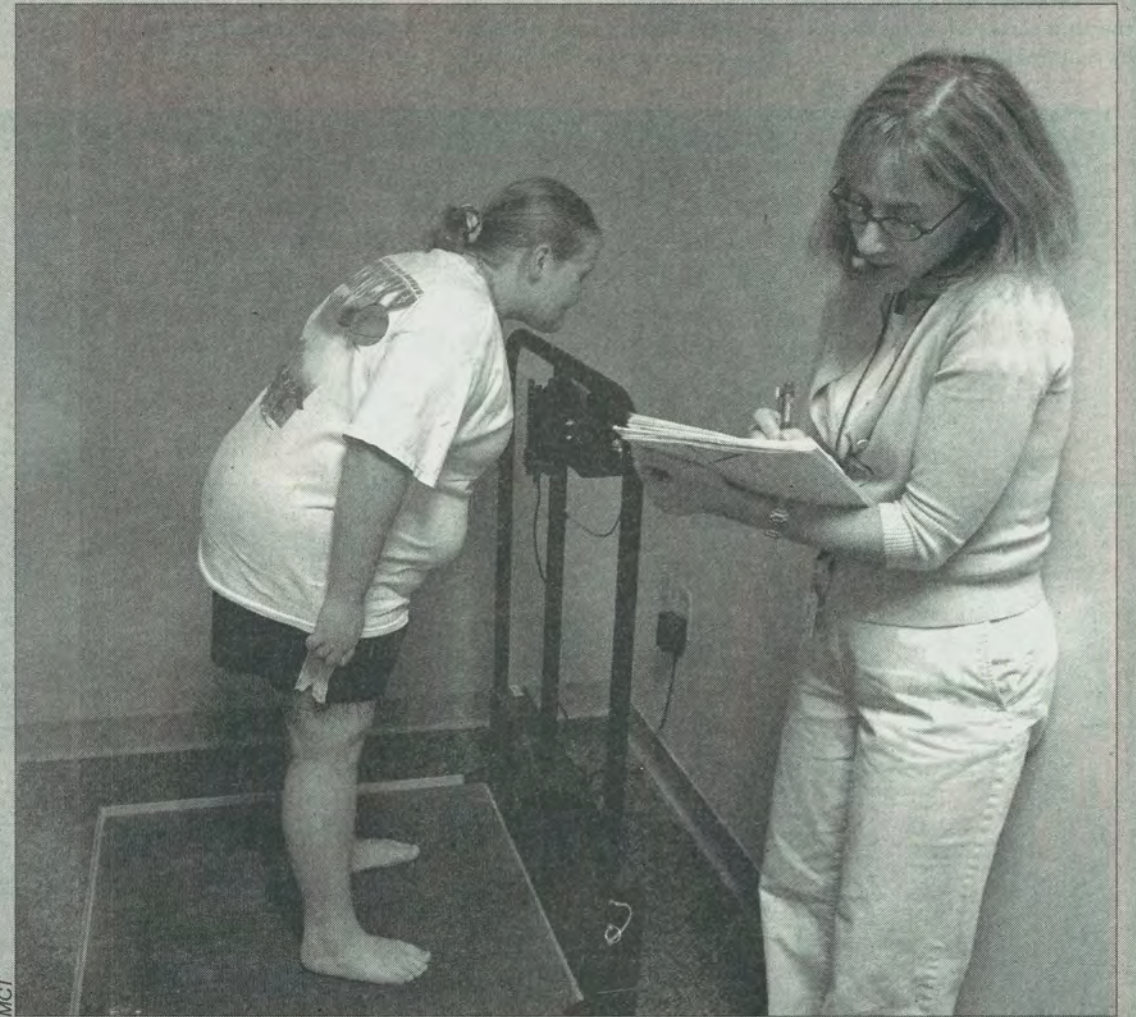
cyclist placed in the top five. There were medals given to men and women of different age groups for first, second and third place.

Many people within the Pitt/Greenville County area were involved with the Hamstring Hustle. Local businesses, including Panera Bread and Lowes Food Store, donated food and beverages.

"We're just happy about the support Pitt County and the community gave," Carhartt said.

Though childhood obesity is on the rise, participants of the Hamstring Hustle hope to change the future of the next generation's health.

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



The growing number of obese children in the United States caused Brody SOM students to sponsor the event.

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ECU Campus Dining

Hours of Operation: April 14 - May 8

Todd Dining Hall closes after dinner on Sun., April 13th for renovations (reopens Fall 08)

<p>The Galley (all-you-care-to-eat) Monday-Friday: Breakfast: 7:00am-9:30am Continental Breakfast: 9:30am-11:00am Lunch: 11:00am-2:00pm "Lite" Lunch: 2:00pm-4:30pm Dinner: 4:30pm-8:00pm Late Night: 8:00pm-10:00pm Saturday and Sunday: Brunch: 10:30am-2:00pm "Lite Lunch": 2:00pm-4:30pm Dinner: 4:30pm-8:00pm Late Night: 8:00pm-10:00pm</p>	<p>West End Dining Hall (all-you-care-to-eat) Monday-Friday: Breakfast: 7:00am-9:30am Continental Breakfast: 9:30am-11:00am Lunch: 11:00am-2:00pm "Lite" Lunch: 2:00pm-4:30pm Dinner: 4:30pm-8:00pm Saturday and Sunday: Brunch: 10:30am-2:00pm "Lite Lunch": 2:00pm-4:30pm Dinner: 4:30pm-8:00pm</p>
<p>East Point Plaza Mobile Pepsi Wagon (Serving drinks, snacks and grab & go meals) Monday - Thursday: 11:00am-2:00pm and 5:00pm-7:00pm Friday: 11:00am-2:00pm</p>	<p>Tyler Hall Mobile Pepsi Wagon (Serving drinks, snacks and grab & go meals) Monday - Thursday: 11:00am-2:00pm and 5:00pm-7:00pm Friday: 11:00am-2:00pm</p>
<p>The Croatan Monday-Thursday: 7:00am-10:00pm Friday: 7:00am-7:00pm Saturday: 10:30am-7:00pm</p>	<p>C3 Express at Carol Belk (through April 28th) Monday-Friday: 7:30am-3:00pm</p>

All other locations are open normal hours of operation as posted.

For a complete listing of dining locations, hours, and information on the Todd Dining Hall renovation project please visit www.ecu.edu/dining.

Hours are subject to change without notice.

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Harold and Kumar are back

South Korea and Al-Qaeda unite

(MCT)
John Cho and Kal Penn, who portray the troublemaking twosome at the heart of the 2004 cult hit *Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle*, admit they were just a little jumpy about the sequel. The new film, *Harold & Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay* (opening April 25), in which our boys run afoul of Homeland Security and air marshals all while befriending President Bush, toss political topicality into the original movie's mix of sex, drugs and sliders.

"I was a little worried that we might invite trouble," said Cho, who is seated with Penn and co-star Neil Patrick Harris in an Austin hotel the day after the film screened at the South by Southwest festival.

"I thought maybe it was so controversial that we'd end up with a big, stripped-down version of the movie."

"I think the *New York Times* legitimized us to an extent," Penn said. "I was a little cautious, but I was a lot less worried [after their story said] the issue of Guantanamo has become this pop-culture phenomenon that's very different from what it means politically. There's political satire in this film, but it is not a political film. It does not take a stance. It's just meant to be fun and I hope that's what the audience gets out of it."

But, perhaps they protest too much.

White Castle, which was ostensibly about a late-night search for the perfect greasy burger, was also seen as a socio-political breakthrough: It proposed the unusual by putting

two Asian-American guys at the center of a Hollywood slob comedy. In fact, Cho, 35, who's of Korean descent, and Penn, 31, who's of Indian descent, initially had some reservations about that film, too.

"When a white guy hands me a script and says, 'I've written this for you,' you get suspicious about how they're going to treat your race and whether it's going to be a script that doesn't deal with [race] or deals with it," Cho remembers.

"It started to deal with it, and I thought, 'Oh, this is interesting.' They are dealing with it in a way that feels real to me, and it is funny. And it's making fun of [race], which is a part of life, rather than doing it in a Black-History-Month style."

Penn says he loved the *White Castle* script immediately but did not think there was any way it

would be made.

"I've had too many friends who are filmmakers who told me stories about how their universally appealing scripts that happened to have characters—that were neither white nor black—who were always told by studios that if they wanted financing, you're going to have to change the characters to white or black. Thankfully, I was completely wrong."

Harris thinks the younger movie-going audience, at which the "H&K" franchise is aimed, has fewer hang-ups about Asian stars than some in Hollywood might think.

"I think it speaks well for the younger generation that I don't think they [care] about the racial makeup of the leads," he said. "I don't think they even think about that. It just seems like [the studio] cast

two hilarious dudes."

The producers' gamble seemed to be a losing one at first. "*White Castle* didn't do well," Penn said. "It was marketed in a very traditional way. It was marketed as an ethnic movie and it was also marketed as a stoner movie. That immediately categorized it as something that I think it really wasn't."

Cho remembers that some older Asian-American viewers weren't amused.

"Some Asians interpreted Harold as a stereotypical nerd role," he explained. "And I thought of him as an 'Everyman.' This is a kind of cinematic paradigm. They saw it through the prism of race, though younger people are more easily able to look past that."

But, just when it seemed like *White Castle* was going to be "H&K's" last fast food run, word-of-mouth after the DVD release kept the buzz alive.

"People were buying it; giving it to friends," Penn said. "It created this huge wave of folks who supported the film and the characters. That's what allowed us to do the sequel."

So, now they are back, once again with co-star Harris, who plays a wild-eyed, sex-crazed version of himself. Along with his CBS sitcom "How I Met Your Mother," *Harold & Kumar* has given the 34-year-old actor

credibility with a generation that barely remembers him in the title role of the early-'90s television show "Doogie Howser M.D."

The *White Castle* script was written with him as a character long before he agreed to be in the movie.

Though the two films' sophomore sensibilities might raise concerns about typecasting, the stars do not seem to have trouble landing other parts. Cho appears occasionally as the hip-hop-spouting accountant Kenny in "Ugly Betty" and plays Sulu in the upcoming *Star Trek* movie directed by J.J. Abrams. Harris says *White Castle* helped him nab "How I Met Your Mother."

Penn, who also can be seen in Fox's hit series "House," says he never would have been considered for the dramatic film *The Namesake* without Kumar's cavalier cool.

"The deciding factor in [*Namesake* with director Mira Nair] letting me audition was her 14-year-old son, who was a 'Harold & Kumar' fan, who every night before bed said, 'Mom, please audition Kal Penn for the part.'"

So, this means there may be a third "H&K" movie, right?

Harris laughed: "Only the box office will tell."

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



John Cho and Kal Penn are back for the release of 'Harold & Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay.' The film is full of political humor.



One scene from the April 25 release of the new 'H & K' film.

AMERICORPS continued from B1

Project HEART is in conjunction with several different volunteer services in the community including the national volunteer service AmeriCorps, as well as local community colleges, private colleges and universities, school districts, Boys & Girls Clubs of America and other local organizations in eastern North Carolina.

AmeriCorps volunteer services will be celebrating AmeriCorps week May 11-18. AmeriCorps week is a week dedicated to recruitment and education about what the AmeriCorps volunteer service does. Greenville's Mayor Pat Dun, will be taking part in some of the activities during AmeriCorps week.

"Mayor Pat Dunn will be 'shadowing' one of our Project HEART tutors that day at Wahl-Coats [elementary school] on May 12," said Project HEART director, Betty Beacham.

This week will offer an opportunity for AmeriCorps volunteers both past and present to shine and discuss their experiences with the program. Recently, a Project HEART Alumni Chapter has also been started at ECU, offering veterans of the program a way to stay in contact with the program and people involved.

ECU students are encouraged to take part in Project HEART and applications for the 2008-9 school year are now being accepted.

The ECU AmeriCorps/Project HEART office is located in Ragsdale 104A. More information about the program can be found at ecu.edu/cs-educ/projectheart.

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 1 Self-satisfied
 5 Makes a move
 9 Teens' big nights
 14 Small speck
 15 Coagulate
 16 Delight
 17 Wipe out
 19 Greek letter
 20 Fond du ____ WI
 21 Impede
 22 Type of eel
 23 Hiker's path
 25 Aftershock
 27 Insignificant
 29 Exterior
 33 Quibble
 36 Unit of work
 38 Poet Alan
 39 Pie ____ mode
 40 Basketball stat
 42 John Lennon's love
 43 Tranquil
 45 Society page word
 46 Crafts' partner
 47 Cheer
 49 Scottish Gaelic
 51 Cash in
 53 Neptune's realm
 57 Leading
 60 Poe's middle name
 62 Back then
 63 Triangular formation
 64 Follows too closely
 66 Balance sheet item
 67 Somme summers
 68 Hawaiian bird
 69 Sufficient room
 70 Nephew of Claudius
 71 Tiny army?

DOWN
 1 Small silvery fish
 2 Grinding tooth
 3 New York city
 4 Precious one
 5 Breakout of a sort
 6 Loud sounds
 7 Schlepper
 8 Multi-speaker sound system
 9 Raises in rank
 10 Contrition
 11 Concluded
 12 Bucks beginning
 13 Dispatch, Biblical style
 18 Inactive
 24 Diminutive devil
 26 Gathering, as of troops
 28 Start a new lawn
 30 Borodin's prince
 31 Concavity
 32 Love god
 33 Pocket change
 34 Out of the weather
 35 ____ avis
 37 Tonic's partner
 40 Precede
 41 More comely
 44 Inconsistent
 46 NRC forerunner

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Solutions

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48 Make tidy
 50 Dance partner?
 52 Gladden
 54 Consumed
 55 Go-between
 56 Honkers
 57 States further
 58 Dickens' Uriah
 59 Site of Napoleon's exile
 61 In addition
 65 Gasteyer of "Mean Girls"



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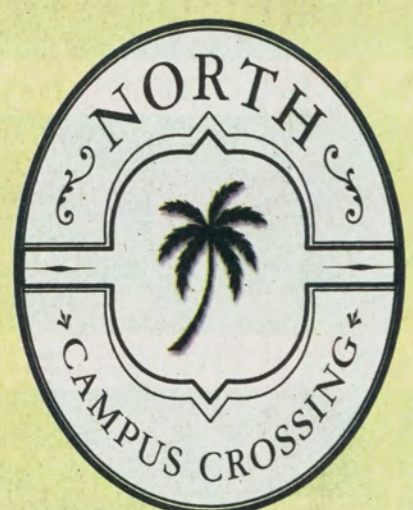
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