

EastCarolinian SUMMER EDITION

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WEDNESDAY MAY 28, 2008

New legislation proposed by two representatives will provide benefits for graduate students across the nation...**Page 5**



Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon solidified their nuptials on April 30, and other Hollywood couples are following suit...**Page 5**



The ECU baseball team is preparing for an NCAA tournament run...**Page 9**

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Vigil held for Chinese victims

Sunset ceremony draws members of the community

> ELISE PHILLIPS EDITOR IN CHIEF

Members of Greenville's Chinese-American community, ECU faculty and staff, ECU students and others gathered last night to remember the thousands of Chinese who died in the earthquake on May 12, which left the Sichuan province of the country devastated.

The vigil, sponsored by the ECU Chinese Association and the Greenville Chinese School, took place in front of ECU's Joyner Library on the mall at 8 p.m. Participants gathered for a candlelit ceremony that included speeches by the mayor of Greenville, the principal of the Greenville Chinese School and other Chinese-American members of the ECU faculty. The president of the ECU Chinese Association, Chengcheng Li, opened up the night with words of comfort for the crowd assembled.

"Our hearts are bleeding for those who lost loved ones and homes and pray that comfort will go to the hearts, minds and bodies of our Chinese brothers and sisters," Li said.

Latest figures from USA Today report that the death toll in China has reached over 67,000, with thousands more missing from the earthquake that registered 7.9 on 5

see CHINA page 2



Jianming Chen holds a candle to remember the victims of the disaster.

Greenville residents lace up their walking shoes



Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NC sponsor the Million Step March program.



Members of the community gather to participate in the event's activites.

Million Step March makes a stop at ECU

ELISE PHILLIPS EDITOR IN CHIEF

On April 1, North Carolinians put on their tennis shoes in Asheville, NC and joined a statewide effort called the Million Step March, sponsored by insurance company Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC).

Since that day, members of the Million Step March team and participants have walked over 400 miles and stopped in various parts of the state hosting events at nonprofit organizations, schools, parks and worksites in order to educate

NC citizens about the importance of physical activity.

The goal of the march is to show North Carolinians that even taking small measures—like walking—can greatly benefit their health.

Thousands have participated in the Million Step March, which stopped in Greenville on May 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to celebrate National Employee Health and Fitness Day.

"We've walked all the way from Asheville to show that anyone can start a healthy habit, one step at a time," said Kathy Higgins, BCBSNC's vice president of community relations who helped to lead the march. "We're pleased to have the people of Pitt County join

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the Richter scale.

After Li spoke, Dr. David Conde, senior associate vice chancellor for special initiatives in the Office of the Provost at ECU spoke about rebuilding areas hit hardest by the earthquake that demolished the area a mere 16 days ago.

"We...need to come together to honor the dead and rebuild what was lost on that fateful day of May 12," Conde said.

A speech by Jianming Chen, an ECU faculty member of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology gave a moving speech all in Chinese which undoubtedly touched even members of the audience that didn't understand the language. A moment of silence followed Chen's speech.

Greenville Mayor Pat Dunn also offered words of condolence and comfort to the crowd gathered.

"On occasions like this we realize how connected we are," she said. "We also realize that in a twinkling of an eye, things can change. There's no doubt that many of you know someone who knows someone who died in this tragedy. On behalf of our city, I say thank you for being here, reaching out and caring about this tragedy."

Xiaoming Zeng, principal of

the Greenville Chinese School, was the last person to address the crowd. He told members of the audience that there was something they could do to help victims of the tragedy in China: help build a school for the children whose school building had been wiped out by the quake.

"May 12, 2008 is a day all of us will remember," he said. "Near to 7,000 school buildings were lost or damaged. Without schools, [children's] dreams will become nightmares."

Zeng and Li collected donations for the school, which will be built in an area of China hit hardest by the natural disaster. According to Li, members supporting the project collect about \$3,000 last weekend at Greenville's Sam's Club, and will be out collecting donations for the school this weekend as well. All of the money collected will be put into the Greenville Chinese School Earthquake Fund and be used to fund the building of a school in China.

"Rebuilding is a long-term project," Zeng said. "It may take an entire generation to do this."

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

THE EAST CAROLINIAN • NEWS W

ECU student wins TRU teen of the month contest

Pledges to be tobacco-free

NATALIE JURGEN NEWS EDITOR

Julia Stephenson, a freshman communications major from Washington, NC, was recently named a winner of the Tobacco Reality Unfiltered (TRU) Teen of the Month Contest.

TRU is the teen tobacco prevention movement funded by the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF).

In order to enter the contest, all entrants had to be between the ages of 12 and 18 and take the TRU pledge to remain tobacco-free.

A variety of entry forms were accepted, such as videos, essays and artwork. Stephenson's entry was an original poem.

After reviewing a number of submissions, a winner was chosen from each of the four regions in NC: west, central west, central east and east.

"I was motivated to enter the contest when I saw an article



about it in my local newspaper," said Stephenson.

Each TRU teen of the month also stars in their own tobacco prevention commercial.

Stephenson's commercial will air on networks such as MTV and Comedy Central.

"My family and friends are very excited for me," Stephenson said.

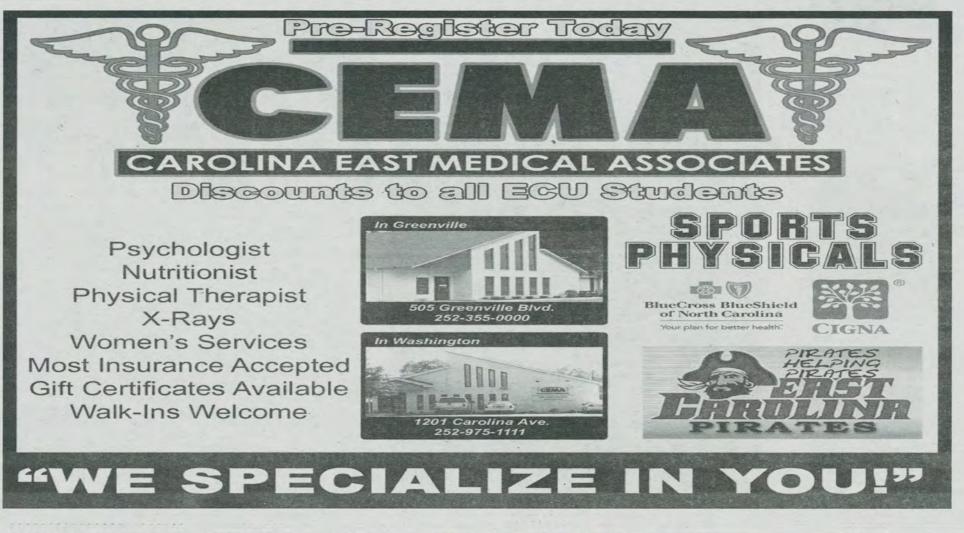
Stephenson believes that it is important for students to have their own individual outlook and make their own decisions.

"The message in my poem is for kids and teenagers who experience peer pressure," Stephenson said. "It lets them know you don't have to smoke to look cool." TRU uses testimonials of real NC teens as well as hard-hitting facts to dissuade youth from using tobacco. This grassroots initiative includes the TRU media campaign, as well as a grant programs to organizations working in all 100 counties to reduce teen tobacco use.

The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund makes NC stronger, both physically and economically, by funding programs that promote preventive health. Created by the General Assembly in 2000 to allocate a portion of NC's share of the national tobacco settlement, HWTF has invested \$143 million to support preventive health initiatives and \$102 million to fund prescription drug assistance programs.

"Any student interested in helping prevent teen tobacco use should contact a TRU grantee, which is a TRU movement leader," said Megan Hauser, Youth Tobacco Prevention Coordinator for NC.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com



WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008

THE EAST CAROLINIAN • NEWS

Two ECU professors win national award



Samuel Tibbs received the Charles H. Dow Award for his work on May 16.

Finance professors honored in New York

STAFF REPORT

ECU College of Business Associate Dean Stanley Eakins and Assistant Professor Samule Tibbs, along with William DeShurko, president of Ohio-based 401 Advisor, LLC wonv the Charles H. Dow Award last week for their work on a paper titled, "Using Style Index Momentum to Generate Alpha.

The paper examines how individuals can look at the stock market's past performance to predict future gains or losses.

Easkins, Tibbs and Deshurko were each awarded plaques and a \$2000 cash reward in New York City on May 16. More than 300 people attended the awards ceremony.

The Charles H. Dow Award has been given 11 times since 1994, and is named after Charles H. Dow, the founder of The Wall Street Journal, creator of the Dow Jones Industrial Average, co-founder of Dow Jones & Company and journalist.

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

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people across the state who are part of this walking campaign."

The event was held on ECU's campus, with the Student Recreation Center providing free blood pressure and Body Mass Index screenings and a 20-minute "strength lab" fitness workout for those who attended the march.

Other activities at the event included healthy cooking and physical activity demonstrations, a bicycle riding exhibit that made fruit smoothies for participants and a one-mile walk around campus.

'We're working hard to create a culture of wellness in the Greenville area; not only for ECU employees but throughout the community as a whole," said Chancellor Steve Ballard, who attended the event. "The Million Step March helps to accomplish that goal by showing that even simple activities like walking can have a profound impact on individual health.

Pitt County Schools Superintendent Dr. Beverly Reep and Pitt County Health Director Dr. John Morrow also attended the event.

Pitt County Schools commemorated the arrival of the Million Step March as well by having a march of their own-Falkland Elementary, Chicod School and the Community Schools and Recreation After School Program, which totaled more than 1,700 students-each walked one mile to support the march, an estimated 3.4 million steps.

More than 200,000 miles have been logged onto the Million Step March's interactive Web site, betterhealthnc.com, since the beginning of the effort. The site gives participants in the march a chance to track their daily physical activity and win prizes. They can also check the Million Step March's progress and blogs by the march's team members.

By the end of the campaign, members of the Million Step March will have walked over 600 miles across NC, an estimated 1.3 million steps.

The Million Step March's next stop will be in Fayetteville, NC before ending on June 12 in Wilmington, NC

For more information about the Million Step March or BCBSNC, visit betterhealthnc. com or bcbsnc.com.

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Opinion

RANT OF THE DAY Does anyone else find it strange that my roommate stays up until 5 a.m. on Adderall

watching animal porn?

{ www.theeastcarolinian.com }

911: used and abused

Or call someone who cares

J.D. LEWIS OPINION EDITOR

Before leaving the workforce and returning to college full-time, I spent eight years as a 911 operator. A local newspaper reporter and I were once going to team up and write an exposé of the public abuse of the 911 system, but my then-supervisor quickly dismissed the idea because, in his view, abuse "isn't that big of a problem."

That is easy to say when you're not the one sitting in the communications center for 12 hours dealing with it.

Out of compassion for dispatchers everywhere, it is time to say some things that have long needed to be said. 911 is for emergencies only.

It is not to find out if your favorite officer is on duty; to inquire if some useless relative is in jail; if the police have a warrant for your arrest or to report power outages. Yes, these are all inconveniences, but hardly emergencies.

Do not call 911 to ask for the number to the jail or anywhere else. It is not 411. The nine and the four are diagonal from each other on totally opposite sides of the keypad. No matter how hard you try, you are not going to hit the nine by mistake when going for the four.

A frequent response to "911" is "I've got the wrong number." No, 911 is only three numbers, and for a wrong number you need at least four more.

As equally unfathomable as the whole wrong number bit, is the outright denial.

I didn't call 911.'

You obviously did, or I wouldn't have answered and said "911."

"This ain't really an emergency ... " is another oft-quoted comeback. You don't really need to call 911 then, do you? "...But I didn't know who else to call."

Dispatchers are not God, Dr. Phil or Abigail Van Buren. If anything other than a crime, fire or serious medical problem is on your mind, then 911 is not the number for you.

This ain't really an emergency..." is often followed by "but I tried to call the other number (the non-emergency line), and didn't nobody answer."

Well, "didn't nobody" call because I was sitting right there the whole time, and the phone never rang, so you obviously didn't try too hard. To the dispatcher, this is just another way of saying "I'm too lazy to look the number up in the phone book.

Also, when calling 911, the first thing out of your mouth should never be "How are you doing?" If you are calling 911, yours or someone else's life and/or property should be in grave danger; a roaring blaze should be consuming everything in sight; or you or someone else should be in agonizing pain and/or close to death. In any case, the welfare of the dispatcher is not germane to the situation, nor should you care who answers so long as someone does.

'Who's speaking?" is another frequent response to "911." Tell me what that has to do with anything? If straits are so dire that I need to call 911, I really don't care to whom I am speaking as long as they send me some help.

More than once a shift, a dispatcher is treated to "Can I ask you a question?" You just did. Another response is, "This might be a stupid question ... " If you feel compelled to say that, then it most likely is. Someone may be trying to call the police while hiding in their closet from an axe murderer, and you're tying up the 911 line with a question you know is stupid to begin with

The 911 number, being for emergencies only, is apparently a mind-boggling concept.

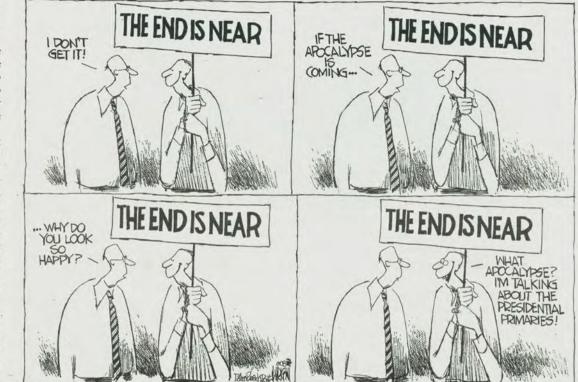
Webster defines an emergency as "an unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state that calls for immediate action" and "an urgent need for assistance or relief."

Per Webster, none of the aforementioned constitutes an emergency. Other occurrences such as reporting larceny days after the fact, and car accidents from two weeks ago (because your insurance company wants a report), are not emergencies either.

Finally, though I could write an entire book on this subject, the most annoying fingernails-on-the-blackboard response to "911" for a dispatcher is, "I hate to bother you...'

Then don't.

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 Elise Phillips, Editor in Chief, at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com. Log onto theeastcarolinian.com to submit a Rant of your own.

To the lady who left her underwear here last night: If you want them back, you're going to have to come get them. I don't want my girlfriend to find them.

no longer invest time thinking about the past, but the last time I saw you made me realize it was ALL my fault.

Despite the look of fear on your face, even I know how strong a person vou are.

Hope that helps.

Bikes are made for riding...unless you're taking it for a walk.

I'm going to have to answer to God for that one

The stick thing was not cute, just weird.

Do I really look that unapproachable? Please someone talk to me before I stop trying to talk to people for good.

You are the best one of the best ones

So, the other day I go to use the ladies room in Christenbury before my bus comes, and after turning on the lights, I saw all the cock roaches scatter! Don't we pay enough tuition that we should be provided with restrooms that are bug free? That is disgusting!

I wonder if it's easier to get rants into the paper over the summer because there are fewer students in Greenville or if students write them from home.

Come on, Hillary, give it up!

If Hillary DOESN'T win, I'm moving to Canada

Boys act like they have never seen a girl in a bikini before

Physics is ruining my summer.

Someone said, "I go to State." To them I would say, "I'm sorry, you have my condolences."

Must...have...college...basketball!

I prank called my grandma the other day!

Does anyone else find it strange that my roommate stays up until 5 a.m. on Adderall watching animal porn?

My boyfriend seems to think that my friend looks like a "horangatang." I wonder if he really knows its orangutan.

My roommate has a wizard's sleeve...at least that's what her boyfriend told me.

I'm afraid of getting VD just from talking to you.

Elise Phillips Editor in Chief

Natalie Jurgen Veronica Carrington News Editor Features Editor Kellen Holtzman Jessi Braxton Sports Editor Photo Editor James Porter Matthew Parker Production Manager Web Editor 252.328.9238 Newsroom 252.328.9143 Advertising 252.328.9245 Serving ECU since 1925, the East Carolinian prints 9,000 copies every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the regular academic year and 5,000 on Wednesdays during the summer. "Our

Fax

View" is the opinion of the editorial board and is written by editorial board members. The East Carolinian welcomes letters to the editor which are limited to 250 words (which may be edited for decency or brevity). We reserve the right to edit or reject letters and all letters must be signed and include a telephone number. Letters may be sent via e-mail to editor@ theeastcarolinian.com or to the East Carolinian, SelfHelp Building, Greenville, N.C. 27858-4353. Call 252-328-9238 for more information. One copy of the East Carolinian is free, each additional copy is \$1.

Features

Did you know?

President Kennedy was the fastest random speaker in the world with upwards of 350 words per minute.

In the average lifetime, a person will walk the equivalent of 5 times around the equator.

Odontophobia is the fear of teeth.

The 57 on Heinz ketchup bottles represents the number of varieties of pickles the company once had.

Cats sleep 16 to 18 hours per day.

Karaoke means "empty orchestra" in Japanese.

The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies.

The first known contraceptive was crocodile dung, used by Egyptians in 2000 B.C.

Rhode Island is the smallest state with the longest name. The official name, used on all state documents, is "Rhode Island and Providence Plantations."

The sound of E.T. walking in the 1982 movie was made by someone squishing their hands in jelly.

One in 5,000 North Atlantic lobsters are born bright blue.

The word "lethologica" describes the state of not being able to remember the word you want.

The sentence "the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter in the English language.

A rhinoceros horn is made of compacted hair.

The shortest war in history was between Zanzibar and England in 1896. Zanzibar surrendered after 38 minutes.

Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

New bill will provide incentives for recent grads

Serve your country and get benefits

ELISE PHILLIPS EDITOR IN CHIEF

On May 22, North Carolina representative David Price (D-NC) and Connecticut representative Christopher Shays released legislation that peaked the interest of Congress, and if passed will benefit college and university students across the nation.

The bill proposed, the Roosevelt Scholars Legislation (H.R. 6160), will provide incentives for graduate students to serve in federal positions after graduation. These incentives include paid tuition, support for room and board and a monetary stipend.

In turn, Roosevelt Scholars would be required ' to complete an internship for a federal agency while in school and upon graduation, serve three to five years in a federal service job.

The idea for the bill is modeled after the ROTC program, which provides students benefits while in school in exchange for service in a military branch after graduation.



Representative David Price sponsored the bill.

"To attract tomorrow's leaders to public sector positions, we need to provide resources, like tuition assistance, in order for these jobs to compete with the salaries available to top-notch employees in the private sector," said Rep. Shays. "The Roosevelt Scholars program will create a

Wet

Representative Christopher Shays did also.

new scholarship to fund graduate-level study in exchange for a federal service commitment in targeted, 'mission critical' occupational areas across the federal government. I can't think of

see NEW BILL page 8

Celebrities catch the love bug this summer

Hollywood starlets meet their match

VERONICA CARRINGTON FEATURES EDITOR

Many were surprised by Nick Cannon and Mariah Carey's recent nuptials, however, Carey told *People* magazine in their May 19 issue that since the pair both got matching tattoos a few weeks before the wedding, no one should have really been shocked.

According to *People*, the wedding took place at Carey's Bahamian estate on April 30, after the couple's brief. courtship that started in March.

Cannon and Carey are said to have connected during a meeting for Carey's newest video "Bye Bye" where Cannon was cast as Carey's love interest.

According to the Associated Press,

the pair has thought about having kids—"its part of the whole purpose of getting married," said the couple.

Cannon and Carey aren't the only A-listers tying the knot this summer. Ashlee Simpson and Pete Wentz were also married at Simpson's Los Angles home on May 17. Simpson's father Joe performed the non-denominational ceremony, according to *People*.

Pete Wentz's English bulldog was the ring bearer, and Jessica Simpson was her sister's maid of honor.

Simpson, who is already pregnant with Wentz's child, told *People* that she was never the type to dream about her wedding when she was growing up, but changed her mind once she got engaged.

It seems wedding bells will

see **CELEBRITIES** page 8



Celebrities Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon recently became Mr. and Mrs.

THE EAST CAROLINIAN • FEATURES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008

Obama is praised worldwide

Music made in his honor can be heard across the globe

(MCT)

Since the exhaustingly long Democratic primary opened for business, a niche art form has blossomed in the black diaspora; the Barack Obama praise song.

The rhythms and melodies range from Jamaican reggae to Kenyan benga, but that pulse of a people's collective hopes racing into the ether is unmistakably familiar: "Yes, We Can" sounds the same in Luo as it does in English.

By the time Puerto Rico puts a wrap to this extended season of American political theater with its June 3 primary, some globetrotting multi-cultural record label-say, Putumayo or Mango--should have the goods for a compilation titled "Obama-mania: World Music Edition."

Track one could be the latest endorsement ringing out of Jamaica: "Barack Obama," a hastily assembled hard-steppin' reggae tune by the aging yet evereerie crooner Coco Tea. The 48year-old's grizzled lilt is a voice from a lost generation of digitized mid-80s pop, a period in reggae history that rarely gets its dues outside of Jamaica.

Heretofore, the closest the singer ever hot-stepped towards politics was his seminal satire, 'New Immigration Law," an enduring acknowledgment of what every ex-pat Rasta knows: "The government you just can't depend on." Documenting offense after offense, the song's ultimate message is less apolitical than anti-political--the singer is in line with a long Rastafarian tradition that views the Western political system as irredeemably corrupt. So to hear this chap waving hosannas for the "next president of the United States" is a bit of a shocker.

The musical euphoria flows from Coco Tea's zealous repetition of the words "Barack Obama, Barack Obama, Barack Obama." It's a few cliches shy of a "Satur-

see OBAMA page 8



Presidential candidate Barack Obama is greeted by a myriad of supporters. His fan base spans the globe.

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Blu Moon Film Festival offers exposure for new filmmakers

Day filled with workshops for members of the local film community

> NATALIE JURGEN NEWS EDITOR

ECU and the Magnolia Art Center presented the 2008 Blu Moon Film Festival on Saturday, May 3.

This day long event offered a variety of workshops and panel discussions, followed by a red carpet gala final screening of the prize-winning films in the A.J. Fletcher Music Building at 7 p.m.

The event drew a crowd of over 150 people from the eastern part of NC.

The Blu Moon Film Festival dates back to 2003 when then senior, Jesse Strong, fashioned the idea to encourage film, audio and visual-art students at ECU to get involved with something new.

The theme of this year's event was to display ECU and Eastern NC student films and give students and community members a chance to gain knowledge from working professionals.

Film categories ranged from drama, comedy, broadcast and documentary.

Nearly 50 submissions were received from NC high schools, ECU, UNCW and universities in Virginia.

A variety of free panel discussions were offered throughout the day on Saturday. Available for discussion with event-

goers were Mitchell Block, producer of the

new PBS series "Carrier;" Destin Cretin, make a living and start a career." award-winning filmmaker and graduate student at San Diego State University; Aaron Syrett of the NC Film Commission; Steve Channing and Cynthia Hill from the Southern Documentary Fund and Barbara Trent from the Empowerment Project.

Free workshops such as The Independent Production for Documentary and Narrative, The Making of Award-Winning Short Films, Career Opportunities for Film/Production in North Carolina and The Power of the Media were available beginning at 9 a.m.

The workshops were about exposing students to working professionals in NC and places like California," said Dr. Erick Green, one of the event organizers. "Each panelist is a working professional and has a different perspective on how to do films,

Thirteen films made it to the final screening and winners in each category were chosen by a combination of juries comprised of students and faculty.

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In addition to these winners were the audience-choice winner, Steve Maguire and the grand prizewinner, Marisa Deluca.

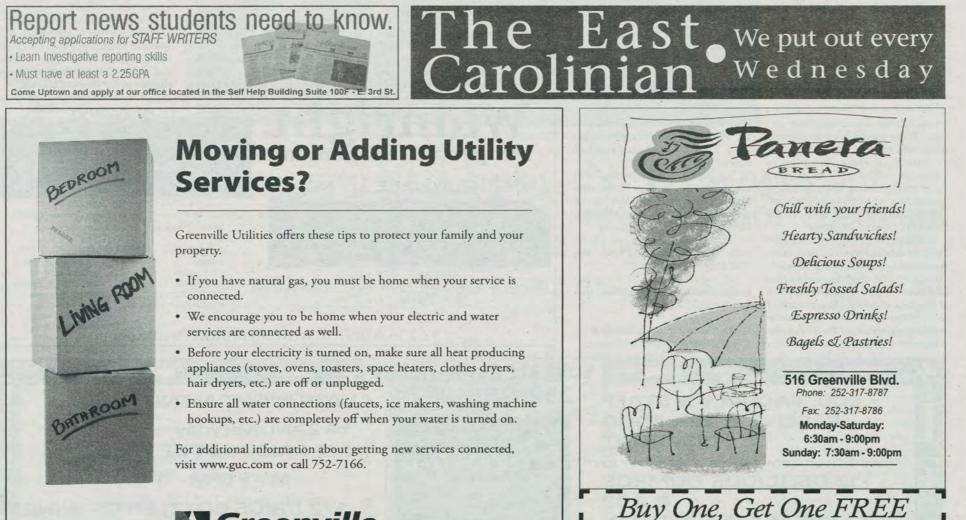
Prizes ranging from \$50 to \$250 were awarded to those who were showcased and others won specific awards after their films were screened.

Plans for an even bigger and better Blu Moon Film Festival in 2009 are in the works, which will hope to include all of NC.

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

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THE EAST CAROLINIAN • FEATURES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008

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a better investment the federal government can make than in training and invigorating its future leaders."

Any student attending an accredited institution as a fulltime graduate student studying an approved concentration would be eligible for the program. Some of these "approved" concentrations include law, science, engineering and public health. Students going to school for their master's or doctoral degrees would be eligible as well.

Because of the federal government's hiring crisis, the bill would be a winner for the federal government who needs to fill critical jobs with younger, talented individuals. According to a recent study by the Partnership for Public Service, the federal government will need to fill 193,000 "mission critical" positions by 2009. According to the proposal for the Roosevelt Scholars program, the federal government is competing for an increasingly smaller pool of individuals that specialize in widely desired fields. "In the face of a dwindling

professional workforce, we must

act now to recruit the scientists, engineers, and other high-level experts who make our government work," said Rep. Price. "Our initiative would mobilize the country's colleges and universities to address this very acute challenge."

The bill would also benefit graduate students, who, without scholarship assistance, would be facing tens of thousands of dollars in debt after graduation. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, students going to school for master's degrees averaged a total of \$32,900 in debt after graduation. Students receiving higher-level degrees incurred anywhere from about \$41,000 for doctorates and MBA's to over \$125,000 for M.D. degrees, according to the center.

If passed, the bill would pay for an individual's educational needs up to \$60,000 a year.

For more information about the Roosevelt Scholars Legislation, visit ourpublicservice.org.

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

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day Night Live" skit, but more importantly, it's a testament to the pervasive, border-leaping intensity of Obama's message--and a sign that the rock-hard forces of reggae cynicism and disillusionment can indeed be brought low.

Sail southward to the cheerier shores of Trinidad and you get swamped with "Barack the Magnificent," a dazzling calypso-fest in which trumpeting synthesizers emote the kind of love for Obama that you'd be hard-pressed to squeeze out of even his most fervent supporters. When it comes to grassroots enthusiasm, you can't compete with a synthesizer, and nobody knows that better than the musicians of Trinidad and Tobago, including the soca legend in question, Mighty Sparrow.

Over something like five decades, Mighty Sparrow has made a livelihood critiquing American imperialism. Much more than the happiness junkie Coco Tea, he's an informed voter with a command of political fine print reflected in amazingly well-researched lyrics like "The Foreign Relations Committee can attest to his tenacity." Not the kind of prose that's easy to squeeze into a Calypso meter. Another great line: "On the Senate Veteran's Affairs Committee, he's a giant." It's entirely possible that two or three of those proper nouns have never before been mentioned in a Calypso song. Plus, it's hard to top this as a health care platform: "Providers must give a heck."

Steer your browser toward the Kenyan Serengeti, and the ardor hits a fevered pitch. Of all the Kenyan contributions to Obama-mania, the most thrilling might be the dreamlike "Obama," by Tony Nyadundo, a middle-aged bandleader seeking to revive traditional-esque ohangla music with pattering drum beats and topical storytelling.

On "Obama" -the title track from his sixth record--he weaves quite a tale, which according to East African Standard reporter Caroline Nyanga translates as such: On his first trip to Kenya, the senator and the humble musician met one another, and so impressed by the singer's immaculate English, Obama decided to give the guy 100,000 Kenyan shillings (U.S. \$1,600, roughly) to buy a guitar and spread his message. Here's how Nyanga characterizes the anthem's reception: "Revelers in Kenvan dancehalls usually go into a frenzy

and dance with abandon as soon as Obama's song rends the air."

Yet the best song in the Obama catalogue may well have been the first. On their "Obama," the half-American/half-Kenyan foursome Extra Golden sing their praise for the senator, but mostly their thanks. During his 2006 tour of East Africa, Obama helped the band's Kenyan members get a visa to tour America, thereby routing them around that prickly New Immigration Law that Coco Tea was harping about.

The Extra Golden tune is a refreshing contribution to the Obama cannon--unlike the rest, it's penned in thoughtful appreciation for the politician, dealing in results already delivered, rather than change anticipated.

There are other picks, too. Ghana's Blakk Rasta has an ominous crunk-dancehall sound for the candidate, mostly warning Obama to mind his safety, because there are racists out there.

Suffice it to say that John Kerry never had a beer named after him, whereas Obama is exalted in every hop and grain in "Senator," a frothy and occasionally lethal substance sold cheaply in the slums of Nairobi.

CELEBRITIES continued from page 5

soon toll for Penelope Cruz and beau Javier Bardem as well. Bardem proposed to Cruz while they were vacationing in France, according to whosdatedwho.com. The decision of marriage came from Bardem. According to whosdatedwho.com, the wedding is set to take place a few days before Christmas.

Taking their vows this summer will be Alicia Keys and her music producer boyfriend, Kerry 'Krucial' Brothers. *Star* magazine claims that the couple booked Oheka Castle on Long Island for a ceremony on July 4. Keys and Brothers have never spoken openly about their relationship even though the pair have been songwriting partners, and co-own the KrucialKeys production company. They have not confirmed or denied wedding plans.

A famous "high schooler" will wed soon also; KayCee Stroh, who played Disney's *High School Musical's* Martha Cox, got engaged to her boyfriend Ben Higginson.

Higginson presented Stroh with "the most amazing ring," she told *People*.

It seems that the love bug has truly taken over Hollywood this summer.

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





Sports

Road to Omaha begins in Conway, SC for ECU Baseball

Pirates eliminated from Conference USA Tournament

KELLEN HOLTZMAN SPORTS EDITOR

It wasn't the Cary or Raleigh Regional many expected, but ECU is headed to the NCAA Tournament just the same.

The Pirates (40-19) were placed in the Conway, SC Regional hosted by Coastal Carolina (47-12). ECU earned a No. 2 seed and will face No. 3 Alabama (34-26) in its first game. The No. 1 seed Chanticleers will do battle with No. 4 Columbia (22-28) in the opening game of the bracket.

ECU head coach Billy Godwin expects Pirate supporters to show up in full force for the regional.

in full force for the regional. "It's a short trip and that's good for our fans," said Godwin. "I'm excited because the 'Pirate Nation' is going to want to get out and support the Pirates. I think Beach to eastern North Carolina, &



are going to want to get down there and support our program."

Coastal Carolina may not have national name-recognition, but are well known to those who follow college baseball closely.

The Chanticleers are 10-time Big South Champions and have six NCAA regional appearances in the last seven years.

Last season, Coastal hosted a regional but were forced to play in nearby Myrtle Beach due to stadium restrictions. The Chanticleers were eliminated by Clemson.

This season, Coastal was anything but a lock to host a regional. The Chanticleers are currently ranked as high as No. 13 in the NCBWA poll but as low as No. 21 in the Collegiate Baseball poll.

Unlike last year, Coastal will be hosting the regional at its own stadium in Conway, SC. This should give the Chanticleers the advantage they have been searching for in recent years.

ECU has never faced Alabama or Columbia. The Crimson Tide are one

see ROAD page 10

The Pirates will face off against Alabama in the first round of the regional on Friday, May 30 at 7 p.m.

NFL owners opt out of labor contract Kemp leads Pirates into NCAA play

Senior was named Conference USA Player of the Year

KELLEN HOLTZMAN SPORTS EDITOR

ECU senior catcher/third baseman Corey Kemp entered the 2008 season carrying a modest reputation as a solid catcher and a good teammate.

The 2008 season will end with Kemp having been named the C-USA Player of the Year, a semi-finalist for the Dick Howser

Which summer event will be the most exciting?

- A.ECU baseball in NCAA tournament
- **B. NBA Finals**
- C. NHL Stanley Cup
- D. Big Brown's run at the Triple Crown

E. Euro 2008

Trophy, at least a semi-finalist for the Johnny Bench Award (for the nation's top catcher) and a finalist for the USA Baseball Golden Spikes Award (for the nation's top player).

ECU head coach Billy Godwin had a clue Kemp was special, just not this special.

'I wouldn't have bet against it," said Godwin, about whether he envisioned such a spectacular season from Kemp. "But I would have never said that I would be standing right here saying that he was Conference USA Player of the Year, finalist for the Johnny Bench Award and those things.

Kemp batted .267 with five home runs and 41 RBI in 2007, a far cry from this season's .358 batting average. The Franklin, TN native led C-USA in home runs (15) and RBI (66) while batting .319 with 10 homers and 38 RBI in league play.

Upon further inspection, should ball followers will find Kemp is not go the constitution:" the go just an "overnight sensation;" the clues rest in his first season as a EC.I Pirate in 2007.

Kemp developed a propensity

for clutch hitting, with six game winning RBI's. He batted a respectable .308 with three home runs and 23 RBI in C-USA play but hit just .239 in non-conference play.

The tide began to turn at the NCAA Regional, where Kemp led the team with a .556 batting average, including a game-

see **KEMP** page 11



Kemp led C-USA in home runs (15) and RBI (66).

Is a lockout on the horizon?

JARED JACKSON STAFF WRITER

When news broke that owners of NFL teams opted out of the current labor deal with the players' union in 2011, and how an uncapped year is a possibility in 2010, the first thing to come to my mind was the idea of teams stockpiling talent.

In the day and time when money is king, teams like the Washington Redskins and Dallas Cowboys have a certain advantage in an uncapped year, as both squads basically have an unlimited supply of cash.

Players like Julius Peppers, Steven Jackson, Terrell Owens, T.J. Houshmandzadeh, Brandon Jacobs, Roy Williams (Lions), Albert Haynesworth and Tommie Harris could all potentially be a part of the 2009 free agent class.

So should fans of teams with

less money to deal out be worried? Yes, but not completely, as the NFL has certain conditions attached to an uncapped year.

According to Jarrett Bell of USA Today, the conditions are as follows:

the top-eight playoff finishers from the previous season would be allowed to sign free agents only at the rate at which they lose them;. Players would need six, rather than four, NFL seasons to be eligible for free agency, and each team would be allowed to restrict two eligible free agents with "franchise" or "transition" player tags, rather than one.

A season without a salary cap could be quite the turning point for the NFL. The main question is whether current players will return to a capped year after playing in an uncapped year.

According to USA Today, executive director of the NFL Players Association Gene Upshaw said that players would receive more

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THE EAST CAROLINIAN • SPORTS

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ECU is gearing up for its 23rd NCAA Regional appearance and ninth in the last 10 years.

of nine SEC teams to make the NCAA field and also finished second in the SEC's Western Division. Columbia received an automatic bid after claiming the Ivy League championship.

ECU is looking to bounce back from a mediocre performance in the C-USA tournament in New Orleans. The No. 5 seed Pirates were sent into the loser's

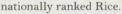
bracket on the first day with a heartbreaking loss to No. 4 Houston.

Brandon Henderson smacked a double off the left field wall in the tenth inning, scoring Corey Kemp from first base and giving ECU a 4-3 lead.

Houston's Zak Presley answered with a bases loaded single to give the Cougars a 5-4 extra innings win.

"We have to relax and leave the game to us and focus on what we do," Godwin said. "The effort was there [against Houston], we were just trying to make too much happen."

ECU didn't stay down long--the Pirates responded with a surprising 4-3 victory over top-seeded, No. 5



Senior T.J. Hose threw 4.1 innings of hitless baseball in a winning relief appearance. Kemp and Roller each blasted solo home runs and Harrison Eldridge notched the game-winning single.

ECU was eliminated after another close loss to Houston. The Pirates took an early 1-0 lead but gave up two runs in the sixth, giving the Cougars all they would need to preserve a victory.

"I still don't think we've played a series yet where we've played complete," Godwin said. "That's kind of scary because I think that's certainly possible for this club to do and I believe they believe it's going to happen."

C-USA Freshman of the Year Seth Maness will take the mound for the Pirates in the opener against Alabama.

Maness finished the regular season with a 9-1 record and a 2.79 ERA, being the third lowest in the league. The young right-hander finished with a team-best 75 strikeouts and walked only 17 batters in 84 innings pitched.

Maness is confident he can make the transition to playing on a bigger stage.

"Just go out there and try to do everything that I've been doing all year," said Maness. "Throw strikes, let the defense play behind me, and let the offense do what they do.'

Kemp makes no bones about the team's expectations heading into NCAA play.

He believes that ECU could be in the College World Series as early as this year.

"Each year the goal is not to make it to the regional or the super regional, it's to make it to Omaha," Kemp said. "We put forth a tremendous effort this year. If we play well and get hot at the right time, the sky is the limit--and that's Omaha.'

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

Coastal Carolina (47-12)

- · Location: Conway, SC
- Nickname: Chanticleers
- Enrollment: 8,300
- · Conference: Big South
- NCAA tournament appearances: 7
- VS ECU: 6-5



WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008

• Key Players: C Dock Doyle (.365,16 HR, 65 RBI), OF David Sappelt (.344,16 HR,61 RBI), RHP Joey Haug (7-0, 2.09 ERA)

Alabama (34-26)

- · Location: Tuscaloosa, AL
- Nickname: Crimson Tide
- Enrollment: 25,580
- Conference: SEC

• NCAA tournament appearances: 18 (6 regional championships, 5 CWS appearances)

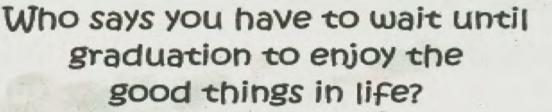
• VS ECU: Never faced

• Key Players: C Alex Avila (.339, 16 HR, 61 RBI), IF Brandon May (.377, 9 HR. 49 RBI), RHP Austin Hyatt (4-4, 4.64 ERA)

Columbia (22-28)

· Location: New York, NY

- Nickname: Lions
- Enrollment: 24,820
- Conference: Ivy League
- NCAA tournament appearances: 1 • VS ECU: Never faced
- Key Players: 2B/RHP Henry Perkins (.371, 3 HR, 34 RBI), IF Mike Roberts (.271, 6 HR, 37 RBI), RHP Geoff Whitaker (6-3, 7.26 ERA)



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WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008

NFL continued from page 9

than the 60% of total revenue be struck between the sides, but that is currently central to the rift with owners in an uncapped year. Upshaw, however, is advising players to sign long-term deals if the numbers are right.

The last uncapped year for the NFL came in 1993 and Upshaw has called the 2010 uncapped season a point of no return in saying that players would not settle for a salary cap again.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell disagrees and has stated since the owners opted out last Tuesday that players would agree to a salary cap. So what brought about this

possible doomsday scenario for the NFL last Tuesday? According to Upshaw, an e-mail from Goodell named three key reasons for the owner's opting out. Those reasons were high labor costs, problems with rookie contracts, and the league's inability to recoup bonuses of players who do not abide by their contract.

The current deal, signed two years ago, was to remain in effect until 2013 but had an option to opt out in 2011, which is exactly what happened last week.

Now the sights are turned to when a possible deal might

according to both sides that might take many years.

We'd like to get things done," Goodell said last week in an ESPN interview. "But often it's not until you have a deadline that people realize the consequences of not reaching a deal.

"March of 2010--that's what we see as the realistic deadline," Upshaw said, according to ESPN. "I'm not going to sell the players on a cap again. Once we go through the cap, why should we agree to it again?"

As the months tick away without an agreement, the possibility of an uncapped season becomes a high likelihood.

While the NFL is worried about an uncapped season, a more troublesome possibility remains on the horizon. The possibility of a lockout in 2011 is looming, which means no football will be played.

'We have guaranteed three more years of NFL football," Goodell said last Tuesday. "We are not in dire straits. But the agreement isn't working, and we're looking to get a more fair and equitable deal."

The writer can be contacted at

sports@theeastcarolinian.com

winning home run against Western Carolina.

"Last year I had a disappointing season," said Kemp. "I was a little embarrassed. This year I really wanted to show what kind of player I was. Last year, I knew I was a better player than I showed...so, I took the summer off from baseball and just worked on strength and conditioning, tried to fine-tune some points of my game. I worked with my coaches day in and day out and that really made a difference for me."

Pirate baseball fans really began to take note of those differences in a March matchup with Houston. Kemp exploded for three home runs (3-4) in a 15-4 assault on the Cougars. Kemp went on to finish the season with 20 multi-hit games, 17 multi-RBI games, and 11 game-winning RBI including a walk-off bomb against Marshall in April.

At the beginning of the season, Kemp was named one of three captains on the team along with T.J. Hose and Drew Schieber. His leadership is valuable in the catcher position, especially with so many inexperienced pitchers to keep in line.

'Corey catching behind the plate--you couldn't ask for anything more back there," said C-USA Freshman of the Year Seth Maness. "He just does a great job keeping you relaxed. [It's] really all I need."

Kemp stayed close to home after high school, opting to play for Tennessee Tech. After a one-year stint at Tech, Corey moved on to Young Harris, a junior college. A

visit to ECU with outfielder Trent Ashcraft, a Young Harris teammate at the time, prompted Kemp to finish his career as a Pirate.

'I came to a football game and fell in love with the fans: the whole atmosphere that ECU brings, the tradition, the pride that everybody takes in being a Pirate," Kemp said of ECU's lure. "I met fans at a football game that had just bought their season tickets for baseball, so that really opened up my eyes to what kind of tradition and what kind of excitement people around here have for ECU athletics and the school in general."

Kemp's newfound success means new attention from Major League Baseball scouts. It's no secret that he will be drafted; the only questions are when and where. With MLB waiting to snatch hundreds of young players as soon as the college baseball season ends, focusing on the task at hand can become problematic.

You try to focus on the season but I'd lie if I said I didn't think about it [the draft]," Kemp said. "There's a good chance I'll hear my name called but you try to put it in the back of your mind and just focus on the season and deal with that when the season is over."

Looking at the improvement he has made throughout his career, Kemp looks like he has the skills and the work ethic necessary to succeed on the next level.

In the meantime, Kemp is busy leading the Pirates to the NCAA Regional. Expectations for the team range in the Pirate Nation.

With ECU playing as a No. 2 seed, many fans would be happy with a trip to the Super Regional; however, there is only one destination to meet Kemp's expectations: Omaha.

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KEMP continued from page 9



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