



Literary Homecoming makes its way to ECU

ELISE PHILLIPS
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Friday and Saturday mark ECU's fifth Literary Homecoming, an event that celebrates the history and culture of North Carolina through poetry, drama and music. Sponsored by Joyner Library and several university departments, the event will focus on issues pervading

today's society, all centered on this year's theme, "Raising Awareness, Expressions for Social Change."

"The theme was built around the authors who are coming," said Kimberley Harper, a Joyner Library graduate assistant working with project development. "The authors basically write about the issue of social awareness and issues of social change."

All of the authors attending the

event are from North Carolina or write about North Carolina.

"North Carolina is known for its rich literary history," said Elizabeth Howland, a grant and technical writing graduate assistant in Joyner who helped organize the event. "Nicholas Sparks is from here. I think it is important for students to interact with authors and see how the culture in this area affects other areas and

talk about social change."

The authors include Randall Kenan, who has authored books like "Let the Dead Bury Their Dead," "A Visitation of Spirits: A Novel" and "Walking on Water: Black American Lives at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century." The majority of Kenan's novels focus on African-American life and racism in the United States. Some

of his work also discusses the topic of homosexuality.

Another author involved in this event is Bland Simpson, whose work combines personal experience and history to describe a variety of topics about North Carolina. Samples of his work include "The Great Dismal: A Carolinian's Swamp Memoir" and "Heart of the Country."

The Literary Homecoming will span two days, with workshops and panels held both Friday and Saturday. All of the workshops are currently full and all have waiting lists, but the panels are open to all students and members of the community.

"Everything is open to students as well as the public—we only request that people register

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Famous faces for voting



Ellen Pompeo.



Danielle Panabaker.



Jurnee Smollett.

ELISE PHILLIPS
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Three celebrities will be in Greenville this weekend. One will be on ECU's campus.

Through a registration rally sponsored by the statewide Barack Obama campaign, the ECU Democrats and ECU Students for Barack Obama, Jurnee Smollett (*The Great Debaters*) will be giving a speech and intermingling with students on the Mendenhall Brickyard Friday at

2:45 p.m.

"She's going to be talking about the importance of voting, registering to vote and Barack Obama," said Melissa Hege, the ECU field organizer for the Barack Obama campaign.

Sean Kingston was scheduled to attend the event with Smollett, but was overbooked and canceled this week, according to Hege.

Pizza will be provided and DJs will be in attendance at the event. "ECU for Obama" T-shirts will also be sold for eight dollars.

"She wants to reach to out college students," Hege said. "The campaign is [also] really trying to get the college students involved."

The event is free to students, faculty, staff and members of the community. A rain location is yet to be announced.

At 11 a.m. on Sunday, Ellen Pompeo (*Grey's Anatomy*) and Danielle Panabaker (*Mr. Brooks*, *Yours, Mine & Ours*, *Sex and the Single Mom*) will be in Greenville at a location yet to be disclosed

by organizers, also stressing the importance of voting and registering to vote as a part of a state-wide initiative to knock on 100,000 doors for Obama this weekend. The two celebrities will also be mingling with participants, and everyone who attends can participate in canvassing Greenville for the campaign. According to Hege, Sophia Bush was originally scheduled to be speaking at the event, but also canceled this week because of illness.

"We're going to be sending

out a canvas from their speech, going door-to-door after the rally," Hege said. "We're strategizing everyone to come and knock on doors for Barack."

The rally is free and open to public.

Both events were funded by the state campaign for Barack Obama and local donations and services.

Hege and the ECU Students for Barack Obama organization have been advertising both events on Facebook and encourage stu-

dents to look there for updates about this weekend's activities.

The event on Friday is titled "Sean Kingston & Jurnee Smollett Registration Rally" and the event on Saturday is titled "Sophia Bush Canvass Kickoff" on the ECU Students for Barack Obama Facebook group page.

Any questions can be directed to Melissa Hege and mhege@ncforchange.com.

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

Gamers: look no further

BRITTANI MCNEILL
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A new kind of entertainment is now available in Greenville for ECU students and the community.

In April 2008, ECU students Dwayne Lodge and Philip Watkins opened Extravaganza Gaming center, located on Charles Blvd. The store is a modern arcade with all the latest games and game systems.

Lodge calls himself "Young Entrepreneur" and that is just what these young men are. Lodge, 22, is a senior economics major from New Jersey, and Watkins, 21, is a junior accounting major from Wilson, N.C. They met in January of 2006 while in line registering for business classes, and have developed a close business and personal relationship.

According to Watkins, they first had the idea for the store around June 2007.

"We were pretty much bored, and had been bored every summer...thinking about how we could try to spice up life

in Greenville," Watkins said. "We always wanted to work for ourselves so we thought it would be a good idea to revamp something we enjoyed when we were children."

The grand opening was on April 17, 2008, and the business has been thriving ever since.

"We were so excited, we might have opened at like eight or nine that night. As soon as the final touches were done we invited everyone to come check it out."

Extravaganza is the only gaming center in the area. The owners wanted to appeal to an underserved market in Greenville, and provide patrons with the latest in video games.

"We're basically just trying to take something everyone already knows, which is an arcade center, and make it more modern," Lodge said.

The available systems include Playstation 3, Xbox 360 and Nintendo Wii. They also have classics such as Super Nintendo, Nintendo and Atari. The games include *Rock Band*, *Dance*

Revolution, *Madden NFL 09* and all the action games that come along with the Nintendo Wii. Other attractions include cash prizes and online game play.

30-minute game sessions are four dollars. They also sell snacks at a low price; all food and beverages are just one dollar. They encourage groups such as fraternities, sororities and other ECU organizations to come out, and offer group incentives.

"We definitely try to keep all the newest games in the facility," Lodge said. "So anything that's a new release we carry. Maybe everybody doesn't have the money to spend 60 bucks on a new game but you can spend four bucks to enjoy it with us."

Extravaganza was a completely independent business venture for Lodge and Watkins. They didn't solicit financial backing from family or friends, but worked to convince financial backers that the store was a good



BRITTANI MCNEILL | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

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Extravaganza Game Center owners Dwayne Lodge and Philip Watkins.

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Pirate Rant of the Day

If you can do better without school...go live in a van down by the river, and do whatever.

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News

Check inside for information about Thomas Harriot College's Centennial celebration.

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Features

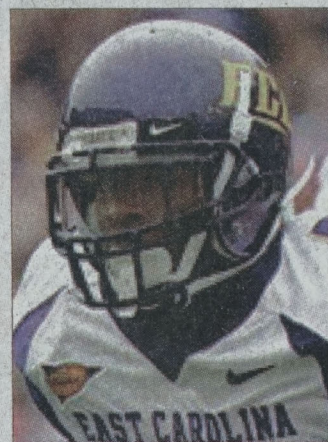
Considering graduate school? Look inside for a look at the graduate school at ECU.

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Sports

The ECU football team will be trying to rebound this weekend when it plays Houston at 3:30 p.m. inside Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

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NEWSLINE

McCain suspends campaign

John McCain is suspending campaigning to work in Washington on the Wall Street bailout and has asked that Friday night's kickoff presidential debate with rival Democratic candidate, Barack Obama, be delayed.

Obama said he didn't think the debate should be delayed and also rejected the idea that a presidential candidate should suspend the campaign because of a crisis.

"This is exactly the time when the American people need to hear from the person who, in approximately 40 days, will be responsible for dealing with this mess," he told reporters in Clearwater, Fla., where he was preparing for the debate. It's scheduled to focus on foreign policy and national security.

McCain said Wednesday in a statement that he'll break off from campaigning on Thursday and return to the nation's capitol to help work on the proposed \$700 billion bailout.

"America this week faces a historic crisis in our financial system. We must pass legislation to address this crisis," McCain said in a statement from New York. "Tomorrow morning, I will suspend my campaign and return to Washington."

"I am directing my campaign to work with the Obama campaign and the Commission on Presidential Debates to delay Friday night's debate until we have taken action to address this crisis," McCain's statement added. "It's time for both parties to come together to solve this problem."

An aide said that McCain also would suspend television advertising and fundraising.

Residents allowed to return to Galveston

Ten days after Hurricane Ike, the town reopened to residents Wednesday with warnings about what residents would find — rotting cattle carcasses, snakes and swarms of mosquitoes — and what they wouldn't: drinking water, reliable electricity, medical care or sewer service.

After spending hours in traffic that backed up for 10 miles, some residents found their homes in ruins.

"I wasn't prepared for this," taxi driver Patricia Davis said as she swatted away mosquitoes and surveyed the remains of her apartment, which had its entrance blocked by collapsed walls, wrecked furniture and sodden clothing.

City officials hoped most of the 45,000 residents who fled before the Sept. 13 storm would stay away until more repairs could be made.

"We didn't promise paradise when you came back here. We've got a lot of work to do. You've got a lot of work to do," City Manager Steve LeBlanc said Wednesday.

The city has limited drinking water, few working sewers, limited electricity and minimal medical facilities. Officials extended the disaster declaration for 90 days.

People were warned not to return without tetanus shots.

The city has opened a shelter for 100 newly homeless residents, and officials hoped to set up more shelters on the mainland for residents whose homes are uninhabitable, LeBlanc said.

The city and the Federal Emergency Management Agency are considering a plan to allow residents to live in FEMA trailers in their driveways or near their houses during repairs. But LeBlanc noted he would want all trailers removed from the island before the start of the 2009 hurricane season.

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Thomas Harriot College celebrates its 100th year

NATALIE JURGEN
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Yesterday evening the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences celebrated ECU's Centennial on the lawn next to the Whichard building.

Chancellor Steve Ballard, Dean Alan White and faculty and staff from the Harriot College came out to recognize distinguished members of the college.

"The college of arts and sciences is very near and dear to me," said Ballard, who spent 22 years on the faculty of political science departments. "It's good to be back with my brethren."

Ballard stated that the college of arts and sciences accounts for 46 percent of student credit hours at ECU because its core foundations are so important to other colleges throughout campus.

"I'm very pleased to see the 17 interdisciplinary programs offered by the college," Ballard said. "It's a remarkable testament to think about new curricula and things that make a difference to students."

Dean Alan White spoke next on behalf of the college.

"Rooted in more than a 2,000-year-old tradition, the liberal arts are the best preparation for growth, leadership and change," White said.

White then went on to present the Harriot College medallions in recognition of members of the college.

"The medallions are a tangible symbol of Harriot College's esteem for individuals who've made significant leadership, service or philanthropic contributions," White said.



JESSI BRAXTON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
Chancellor Steve Ballard addresses the audience.

Dr. Deirdre Mageean received the first medallion for her exemplary leadership followed by Dr. Jesse R. Peel for outstanding vision, leadership and philanthropy.

Distinguished professors Dr. Stan Riggs and Dr. Tinsley Yarbrough both received medallions for their exemplary service.

Associate Deans Dr. Michael Brown, Dr. Heather Ries, Dr. Larry Bolen, Dr. Cindy Putnam-Evans, Mr. Todd Berry, Dr. Marieke Van Willigen and Major Gifts Officer, Scott S. Wells all received medallions for exemplary service.

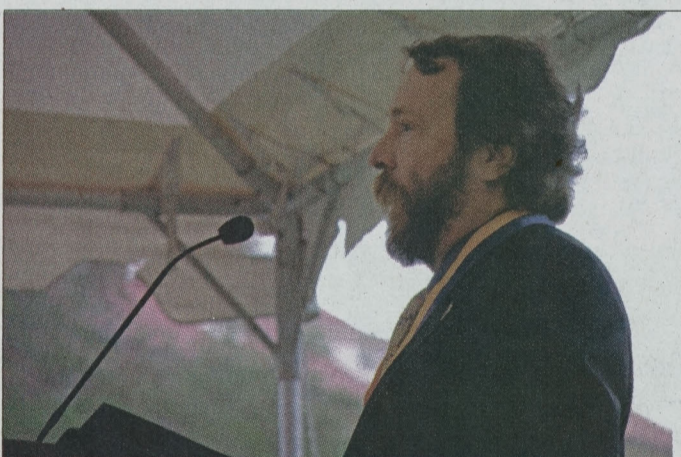
Finally, department chairs within the college of arts and sciences received medallions for exemplary service. Dr. Linda Wolfe of the Department of Anthropology; Thomas McConnell, interim chair of the Department of Mathematics; Dr. Rickey Hicks of the Department of Chemistry; Dr. Richard

Ericson of the Department of Economics; Dr. Mike Palmer, interim chair of the Department of English; Dr. Frank Romer of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature; Dr. Ron Mitchelson of the Department of Geography; Dr. Steve Culver of the Department of Geological Sciences; Dr. Gerald J. Prokopowicz, acting chair of the Department of History; Dr. Ronnie W. Smith, interim chair of the Department of Mathematics; Dr. George Bailey of the Department of Philosophy; Dr. John Sutherland of the Department of Physics; Dr. Brad Lockerbie of the Department of Political Science; Dr. Kathleen A. Row of the Department of Psychology and Robert Lee Maril of the Department of Sociology were all recognized.

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



JESSI BRAXTON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
Dean Alan White receives his medallion from Harriot College.



JESSI BRAXTON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
Dean Alan White speaks of the importance of the liberal arts.

Panera BREAD

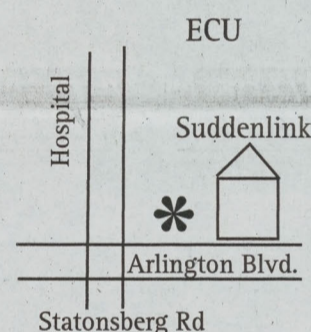
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HOMECOMING continued from 1

for events," Harper said.

The workshops will include hands-on activities, while the panels will be lecture-style with question and answer sessions to follow.

"The panel discussions will focus on the writers," Harper said. "The workshops will give the community an opportunity to interact with writers that are from eastern North Carolina and write about

eastern North Carolina."

Organizers of the Literary Homecoming are expecting 200-300 participants throughout the weekend and 120 people already registered for Friday's events.

All events are free and will be held in Joyner, with the exception of a luncheon, held in Mendenhall. The luncheon's cost is \$15, and will include a buffet-style meal for

attendees. However, light snacks and beverages will be served throughout the day on Saturday.

For tickets to the luncheon, to register, or to view a complete schedule of events for the Literary Homecoming, visit ecu.edu/lithomecoming.

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

Literary Homecoming Schedule

Where: All events, excluding the lunch break, held at Joyner Library

Sept. 26 Friday

What: N.C. authors Randall Kenan and Bland Simpson read and perform their work. Author Doris Betts will be presented with the Roberts Award for Literary Inspiration.

When: 7 p.m.

Sept. 27 Saturday

What: Panel Discussion on Inspiring Social Awareness for Younger Readers by authors Eloise Greenfield and Sheila P. Moses. Workshop: Playing with the Facts: Expressing the Message through Genre Choice by authors Jim Grimsley and Randall Kenan

When: 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

What: Panel Discussion on Locating Self: Exploring Social Issues through Poetry, Fiction and Drama by Jim Grimsley and Minnie Bruce Pratt. Workshop: A Red Clay Rambler has "Lunch at the Piccadilly", by Clyde Edgerton and Bland Simpson

When: 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

What: Lunch Break including a reading by Margaret Maron (advanced ticket purchase for the event is required)

When: 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Where: Mendenhall Student Center

What: Panel Discussion on Whodunit? Environmental Concerns in Mystery Novels by Margaret Maron and Wanda Canada. Workshop: To Make Revolution Irresistible: Writing, Poetry, and Social Issues by Minnie Bruce Pratt

When: 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

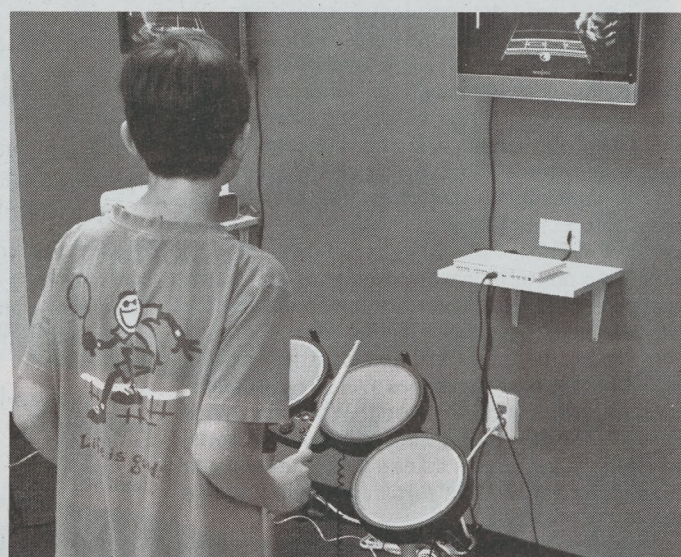
GAMING continued from 1

investment, and their hard work paid off. They say being mindful of your credit score and making responsible credit decisions are essential in investing in your future.

"Your credit is the most vital thing to, I would say, your life," Lodge said. "I always think about the pros and cons of the situation and before I decide to spend money on needless things I always think about how it would affect my future. You should start building a good credit history now."

Extravaganza gaming center is located at 3701 Charles Blvd. They're open seven days a week. For more information call 561-PLAY.

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



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
A visitor to Extravaganza Game Center plays a video game.

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Opinion

{ Your Procrastination Destination }

Playing to the tune of his own guitar

MARY DIXON
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

True talent is hard to come by these days. With P. Diddy spitting out bands left and right and "American Idol" rolling pop-rock stars out at factory speed, it is difficult to sort through the fluff and get to something that is worth more than just one single. Enter Claudio Sanchez.

Claudio Sanchez is the lead singer and second lead guitar player for the alternative progressive band Coheed and Cambria. He is also the front man of his personal side project, The Prize Fighter Inferno.

Did I mention that he is writing a story that follows not only the music of Coheed and Cambria but the band's own comic book series titled, "The Amory Wars?" Sure, it seems like he may have a lot on his artistic palate, but rest assured he does not disappoint in any of his endeavors.

Coheed and Cambria are still relatively new on the scene as far as major popularity goes; however, they were recently honored on the pop culture phenomenon *Rock Band* with their song "Welcome Home."

Sanchez and band mate Travis Stever began the foundations for Coheed and Cambria back in 1995 under the name Shabutie. Several band members came and went, but in 2002, along with Michael Todd and Josh Eppard (now replaced by Chris Pennie, former drummer of The Dillinger Escape Plan), Coheed and Cambria released its first album *Second Stage and the Turbine Blade*. From there, they have released three more albums, all with a common theme intertwined in the music.

Coheed and Cambria produce music that follows the story of Claudio—not to be confused with the lead singer—a young man charged with the mission of saving mankind. Coheed and Cambria are also characters in the epic story—they play Claudio's parents. Claudio, the character, is somewhat fortune's fool; his parents are forced to kill his three siblings, and eventually they too are killed (all by the first album which is the second part of the story) and still he is left as mankind's only hope not to be enslaved by their evil lords, known as the Mage. The story itself is extremely intricate but outstanding nonetheless.

Claudio, the singer, is definitely a modern-day poet given the lyrics he drapes over already breathtaking music behind this band. While the lyrics explain the story in a decoding fashion of sorts, one thing is for sure: It takes a lot of substance to incorporate hard-hitting words that follow such a story.

Sanchez stepped outside of the band when he was dreaming up *The Prize Fighter Inferno*. He released *My Brothers Blood Machine* in 2006, which is a prequel to the Coheed and Cambria story, as told from the perspective of Jesse, Coheed's brother.

Speaking of prequels, Sanchez has recently said that Coheed and Cambria will be coming out with their fifth album, currently untitled. It will be the first chapter of the story and will pull together and explain everything that is played out in the previous four.

The album will likely be released in about a year. Bands come and go, but an epic story like this will last a lifetime. Do yourself a favor and treat your ears to musical majesty.

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

The unsung benefits of gaming

ANDREA ROBERTSON
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Video game play has transformed from a solitary, sedentary activity into an interactive activity that has created a dramatic increase in game play across all platforms. Because gaming systems have added more physical activity and socialization to their games, an activity that used to require players only to sit on a couch by themselves is now losing its bad reputation.

The stereotype of the typical nerdy video gamer is being demolished as people everywhere are picking up the gaming hobby. A national survey conducted by Pew Internet and American Life Project shows that 97 percent of all teens play some sort of video game.

Many gamers, however, are playing video games in order to interact with other people, through online play and family play. The interactive aspects of the Xbox 360, Playstation 3 and the Nintendo Wii each have developed an online network where gamers have the option to play with and against other gamers nationally and internationally.

The surge in video game play has also created a place for video games in the classroom. James Paul Gee, a professor at Wisconsin-Madison University, has conducted research that shows that video games can play an integral role in the classroom. Through simulations and role-play games, students are capable of better developing critical thinking skills. His research also shows that students don't just play video games. He found that if a student were playing a video game about mythology, the student is likely to go check out a book on mythology as well.

Nintendo developed Wii Fit to be played on the Wii system, which requires players to get up and exercise. Through aerobic games, yoga games, strength training games and balance games, Wii Fit has been shown to help its players lose weight.

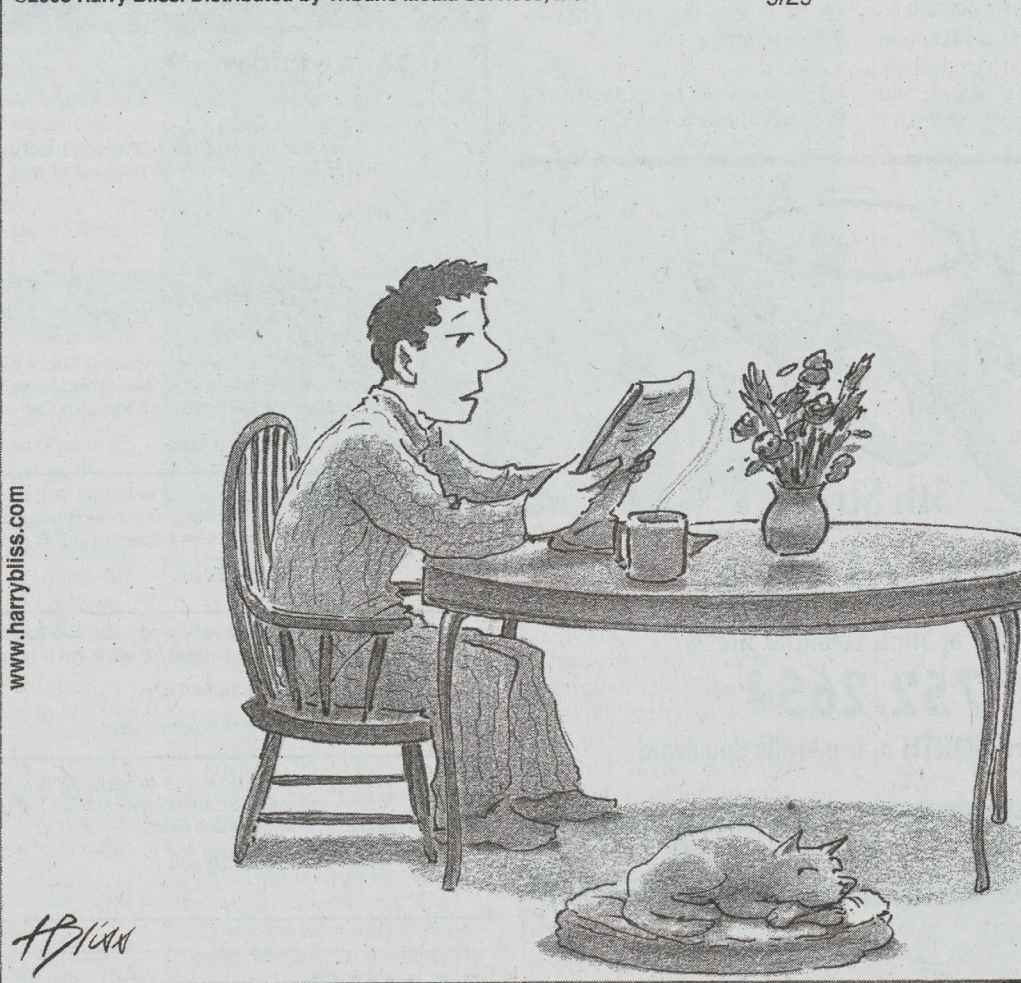
We also see the usage of video games as a therapy tool. Because the Nintendo Wii remote requires the player to move it in multiple directions, therapists are introducing gaming to wounded soldiers.

Now that video gaming has become more interactive and more physically demanding, it seems like everyone is becoming a gamer. Thankfully, this change in the way that video games are played is proving that video games aren't as bad as they were once thought to be.

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

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9/29



"The election, hurricanes, the economy ...
I miss Paris Hilton."

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.

It always amazes me how you can completely spill your heart to someone and get absolutely nothing in return.

A&P practicals are absolutely, positively ridiculous!

Just ask me out already, dang!

I'm mentally done with studying. My brain can't handle it anymore.

You think that "putting everything on the table" would lessen the tension? HA.

Dear Maintenance, the clown in the clock is dusty. Please clean it. Love, the students that were there on Saturday night. P.S. The sound is broken.

So you tell me now that you haven't wanted to be my friend since April... thanks a lot for signing up to live with me in the same suite. This will be a GREAT year.

The world has never and will never revolve around you. Ever.

Dear love of my life, sometimes I am just not in the mood for dry-humping.

The people closest to me just proved that I have no real friends.

PLEASE stop making the "tsk" sound every time you begin to speak. It's driving me CRAZY.

So, my roommates and I became local celebrities over the course of two days. I was on the news and my roommates were on the front page of TEC last week. Touch us...we're famous.

One of my residents likes to Facebook message my girlfriend and creep her out, as well as the rest of my entire dorm. Sorry girls.

I keep telling everybody that you're not creepy and just socially awkward, but if you write one more rant about me or my girlfriend, I will tell everybody the truth: That you are one creepy, greasy person to hang out with.

Maybe if you'd stop worrying about your RA and his freshman girlfriend, you'd have a girlfriend of your own... I'm just sayin'.

Fired because of Facebook? Now THAT'S a new one.

I still love being a Pirate.

I hate taking it slow.

Perhaps we should have EMS on standby at the football game Sat-

urday to save the football team in case they choke again.

If you can do better without school... go live in a van down by the river, and do whatever.

I bet that the hundreds of guys named Ben that go to this school got excited when they saw that rant.

To the tall blonde girl with the cleft lip...I think you are absolutely beautiful! BTW, anybody reading this that knows who I'm talking about, please let her know just so she sees it!

To the girl on the way to Cotton that didn't accept a ride from the student patrol officers last night, we think you are cute, too (your friend on the other line told us).

I feel bad for the cars trying to cross the intersection by Bate. The students are so disrespectful to the drivers they will run ff there is even a small break in foot traffic.

From everything I'm hearing about McCain and Obama, our country is apparently going in the crap hole no matter who is elected.

Did you know that you can be fired from student patrol if you have a Facebook group?

I really can't stand all the people making rants about our loss to NCSU. Yes, it was a hard loss. But shame on you for saying there goes our undefeated season and big bowl chances. Do you think you did any good putting that much pressure on our football team? The Pirates are great this year! And true fans will always back up our football team! GO-PIRATES!

How come people who smoke like to make themselves out to be a victim when they are the ones who chose to start in the first place? Anyone?

Peace sells...but who's buyin'?

Remember those blissful times when ECU sucked at football and we didn't have to start waiting in line for tickets at 5 a.m.?

I think my new boyfriend is old news.

I fly like paper, get high like planes.

I need a job that involves no fast food, no grocery store clerk or no taking off my clothes.

I googled Carl Winslow, and he is not gay.

Grey's Anatomy starts back on Thursday...I can't wait for more McDreamy.

I was so drunk at the State game. I don't remember our conversations.

To the boy who I made out with last weekend and then ignored me, I have herpes... BUURRRNNN!

You should probably wear something different than a short blue dress every time you go out.

So me and my ex broke up a year ago, but he hasn't changed his Facebook password still—and I know that because I still check it. I'm thinking I should stop.

Since when did it become cool for guys to wear big sunglasses with white frames?

To the girls on the second floor: Don't call security on us for partying on a Friday night. We don't call them when you're partying on a Thursday.

Why does our floor take the blame for the way the first and second floor looks? Maybe the people who are really trashing the place should be blamed.

I'm not a pill popper! I have cancer! You're gonna feel awful when you find out.

Can the BSU have a meeting worth coming to this week?

To everyone who keeps saying "it could get worse"... that's not comforting! You don't know the half of it! So shut up!

To the cheerleader in the back of COAD class, shut up. No one wants to hear you talk as much as you do, except the few pathetic guys that sit around you. So save the peppiness for the field.

The sound of your voice makes me want to punch a baby.

To the Comm. major getting no love: I will make out in front of the Comm. building whenever I please.

My roommate's depression is making me depressed more than he is.

To the one who could hear me DOING IT all night, put headphones on, it is too good to stop!

To the girl with the Blue L.L. Bean book bag who walks between Dowdy and Rawl every Monday, Wednesday and Friday: You have the sexiest waist and tummy on campus and you know it!

Will race matter?

Maybe, maybe not

JON DOUGHERTY
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The short and easy answer is no one knows. I find it a sad testament to the history of the nation that we have to have this discussion. At the same time, I celebrate how far we have come that we are in a position to be having it at all. America has seen great cleavages in its history, with few having the lasting and painful legacy of racial prejudice. We live in a country with past, present and likely future racial divisions. So the question worth examining is: could this election see a Bradley effect?

The Bradley effect is a term that describes the phenomenon of an African-American candidate's showing a lead over a white candidate in polling leading up to election day, which then vanishes or decreases in the voting on the actual day of the elections.

This was the case for Tom Bradley in California's 1982 gubernatorial contest. Bradley saw a large lead in the polls days before the election, but that lead transformed into a half-point loss on Election Day.

A similar fate nearly met Douglas Wilder in Virginia's 1989 gubernatorial race, where a nine-point polling lead the day before the election became a win of less than half of one percent on Election Day.

In both cases, research showed a tendency for a small percentage of white voters to give inaccurate responses to poll questions, as well as a disproportionate break of late-deciding independents for the white candidate.

More recent research has shown less of a racial effect than suggested by isolated cases such as Bradley and Wilder's. A study from UC Davis examining actual voting returns in relevant campaigns for the House of Representatives found white voters were not less likely, or only slightly less likely, to vote for a racial minority.

Another examination of the eight Senate races from 2002-2006 in which African-Americans ran against white candidates, found that Democratic African-American candidates faced a small decline in actual votes from pre-election predictions, while Republican African-American candidates actually did better than predicted.

So, the final calculus for this presidential election is simple: we cannot say with any certainty what role, if any, race will play in the outcome. Place no stock in anyone who tells you it categorically will or will not affect who wins and who loses.

There are simply too many confounding factors influencing human behavior; the only way to know the answer is to know the true nature of people's thoughts, even when they attempt to conceal them.

My own sense is, yes, there are people who will vote for Obama because he is African-American, and others who will not vote for him for the same reason. I also believe we live in a fundamentally pragmatic, middle-of-the-road country that prefers to weigh what or who is actually going to do them some good.

Whether that is McCain or Obama, most people have more important things on their minds than the melanin content of a candidate's epidermis.

This writer can be contacted at
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Did you know?

The word "queue" is the only word in the English language that is still pronounced the same way when the last four letters are removed.

Of all the words in the English language, the word "set" has the most definitions.

"Almost" is the longest word in the English language with all the letters in alphabetical order.

"Rhythm" is the longest English word without a vowel.

A cockroach can live several weeks with its head cut off.

Human thighbones are stronger than concrete.

You cannot kill yourself by holding your breath.

There is a city called Rome on every continent.

It is against the law to have a pet dog in Iceland.

Your heart beats over 100,000 times a day.

Horatio Nelson, one of England's most illustrious admirals, was never able to find a cure for his seasickness.

The skeleton of Jeremy Bentham is present at all important meetings at the University of London.

The elephant is the only mammal that cannot jump.

One-quarter of the bones in your body are in your feet.

Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different.

The first known transfusion of blood was performed as early as 1667, when Jean-Baptiste transfused two pints of blood from a sheep to a young man.

On average, a hedgehog's heart beats 300 times a minute.

More people are killed each year from bees than from snakes.

More people are allergic to cow's milk than any other food.

The placement of a donkey's eyes enables it to see all four feet at all times.

Some worms will eat themselves if they cannot find any food.

The longest recorded flight of a chicken is 13 seconds.

Owls are the only birds that can see the color blue.

A man named Charles Osborne had the hiccups for 69 years.

A giraffe can clean its ears with its 21-inch tongue.

Columbia University is the second largest landowner in New York City, after the Catholic Church.

Astronauts in the space shuttle are weightless not because there is no gravity in space, but because they are in free fall around the earth.

Roger Ebert is the only film critic to have ever won the Pulitzer Prize.

An iguana can stay under water for 28 minutes.

If you bring a raccoon's head to the Henniker, New Hampshire, town hall, you are entitled to receive 10 cents from the town.

The symbol on the "pound" key (#) is called an octothorpe.

Table tennis balls have been known to travel off the paddle at speeds up to 105.6 miles per hour.

Mark Twain was born on a day in 1835 when Haley's Comet came into view. When he died in 1910, Haley's Comet came into view again.

The original story from *Tales of 1001 Arabian Nights* begins, "Aladdin was a little Chinese boy."

Only one-third of people that can twitch their ears can twitch only one at a time.

> DID YOU KNOW page 6

A mother offers message of hope, tolerance to students

Remembering Matthew Shepard

ERIN EDWARDS
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Judy Shepard remembers her son as a charismatic young man who traveled the world and took a strong interest in politics.

"Matthew was always open for the next step and next challenge in life," said Shepard. "His experiences in his young life opened his eyes to differences around him and he was considered open-minded and a good friend to others."

Everything changed when Matthew was brutally attacked by two men the night of Oct. 6, 1998, and died from severe head injuries six days later.

Russell Arthur Henderson and Aaron James McKinney are currently serving life sentences without parole for assaulting and murdering Matthew because of his sexual orientation.

Last Thursday, Judy Shepard spoke in Hendrix Theater as part of Hate Out Week. Almost 10 years since his death, she spoke of her loss through the same victim impact statement that she read during the trial of her son's murderers.

"I will never understand how anyone could feel so threatened that they would want to harm him," she said. "He was my first born, my first son and most of all, my best friend."

Shepard spoke about when she received the call about her son.

"My husband and I were in Saudi Arabia at the time, and the trip to get to him felt like an eternity of not knowing if he would be alive when we got there," she said.

Upon returning to the United States and coming to Matthew's side, she could barely recognize her own son. He suffered severe brain stem damage from a fracture that extended from the back

of his head to the front of his right ear, along with other injuries that were deemed too severe to be operated on.

"Matthew was emotionless and unaware, with his head swaddled in bandages and his face swollen and covered in stitches," she said. "The only way I recognized him was by the cute bump on the top of his left ear."

Students listened as Shepard discussed the hatred she felt from the two men who murdered Matthew, and the outpouring and support that she received from people around the country.

"We received monetary support from so many for the hospital bills, and with this, we decided to found the Matthew Shepard Foundation ... the mission is to replace hate with understanding, compassion and acceptance," Shepard said.

She says that she does not blame the killers entirely for their actions, and believes

society has forced stereotypes about the GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender) community into their heads. She believes that all issues apply to all minorities.

"Two men learned that it was okay to hate, and they were given the impression that people allow these crimes," Shepard said. "Racism is alive in this country; it is thriving, along with anti-gay hate crimes."

Shepard encouraged the audience to reevaluate language that they may use in daily life, and to exchange degrading words for uplifting and encouraging ones. Shepard believes that hate does not enhance life or families, but simply tears them apart.

"We are all the same underneath—we breathe and bleed just the same," she said. "But we are still teaching our children hate and this changes



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A decade after her son's death, Shepard speaks to students.

> MESSAGE page 7

Graduate school becoming more popular

ASHLEY ABERNATHY
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Four years of college is enough schooling for many students. However, for others, it's just the beginning.

Furthering one's education beyond a bachelor's degree is no longer simply an option; it is becoming a necessity.

This year, 6,535 students are enrolled in graduate school at ECU.

"The application process is such that we are increasing our numbers at a rate of 10 percent per year," said Ronald Newton, the associate dean for the university's graduate school.

The graduate school has even had to triple their staff in the past three years because of the increase in students applying to programs.

"I think students now realize a degree beyond undergraduate level is essential for success," Newton said. "It's apparent you need a master's degree to succeed in a career."

According to the school's Web site, ECU offers 77 master's degree programs and 57 graduate certificate programs through its 10 colleges and schools. Also, there are 18 doctoral programs, with new programs recently added.

The new doctoral programs include health psychology and medical family therapy as well as audiology and economics.

There are also two new master's programs: sustainable tourism and biomedical sciences.

The influx of graduate students at ECU is partially due to the abundance of online programs.

"We are delivering them education in a big way — electronically," Newton said.

More than 60 percent of graduate students at ECU are distance education students.

Also, many of ECU's graduate students are from North Carolina; one reason being the



STAFF PHOTO | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Student Jessica Bova contemplates studying for the GRE test.

higher cost of tuition for graduate school, especially for out-of-state students. Many students also decide to take on assistantships during their two years of graduate school. According to Newton, an average of 6 million dollars is awarded annually through assistantships.

Erica Leggett is one graduate student at ECU who decided to take on an assistantship.

"I am a GA for Campus Living and a part of the Cotton, Fleming and Jarvis hall staff. I worked as an RA for two years during my undergrad," said Leggett.

"I hold office hours each week and work on projects specific to Cotton, Fleming and Jarvis [Residence Halls]," Leggett said. "I love being a GA because of all the people I get to meet and having the opportunity to be actively involved in the ECU community."

Leggett graduated from ECU in May 2008 with a degree in middle grades education.

ECU's College of Education has the largest graduate student enrollment, with more than 1,400 students in the fall of 2007.

The application process for

entry to graduate school at ECU includes standardized tests, with varying content, with different tests being offered for different majors. They are considered the hardest part of the application process.

"They [students] will enroll in special classes so they will know what to expect on tests," Newton said.

Most students begin applying for graduate school between the months of January and April of their senior year.

In the fall of 2007, business administration was the

most popular graduate program applied to with maritime studies being the least popular. Some of the other popular programs include nursing, social work, speech and hearing sciences and physical assistant studies.

"I think that this university has had a tradition in offering good courses," Newton said.

ECU's graduate school is expecting more than 7,000 to apply within the next year.

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

Center can help students lend a hand

AKELA YARN
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

From academics to extracurricular activities, part-time jobs and maintaining a social life, students are busy. However, for many, an often over-looked activity is giving back to the community.

ECU's motto is "Serve" or "to serve," and The ECU Volunteer and Service-Learning Center provides students with an opportunity to answer this call. The Volunteer and Service Learning Center seeks to help students understand the rewards and challenges of service.

The center services students in three specific ways: through volunteerism, service learning and community partnership.

Volunteerism is for individuals and student groups who want to get involved with special projects or events around campus and the Greenville community.

Service learning benefits students by teaching them to better grasp the core concepts of a class through hands on experience.

Community partnership manages the relationship with various non-profit agencies in Greenville

and surrounding areas. The partnership establishes the goals of the agencies, what opportunities would be appropriate, the expectations of the university and students and student safety.

"Volunteerism benefits students in several ways," said Jessica Gagne-Cloutier, a student engagement specialist with the center. "Research shows that students who volunteer have higher grades, an easier time making friends and are better at balancing their schedules."

Gagne-Cloutier adds that not only does service help academically, it can also help with future plans. Commitment to an organization can help with resume building. By giving the volunteer an advantage in job and internship positions, students are also able to network with agencies.

In addition, students can pace themselves by determining how much time and effort they wish to lend to volunteering.

"Volunteering does not require a large amount of time," said Pam Barclay, a volunteer coordinator at the center. "Students should try to complete 50 hours a year—once a week or once a month is a good start."

However, many staff members recognize the time constraints of students that wish to volunteer. For students who endure this challenge, the center offers peer coordinators who are there to help students balance their schedules and find organizations that will accommodate them.

Although there is no service requirement for graduation, the center encourages students of all majors to donate their time. Throughout the years, talks of subsidized college tuition for required service have some students buzzing and others a bit skeptical, but Barclay says that she has seen educational institutions both thrive and fail by requiring hours for graduation, but is unsure how the ECU student population would respond.

"We are all volunteers on our own and we trust the organization that we send each student to," Barclay said. "There are many benefits and the staff would never ask students to do anything that we would not do ourselves."

Whether it is in Greenville or back home, on weekends or during breaks, there are plenty of ways and opportunities to get involved. For the ECU center,



STAFF PHOTO | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Students have opportunities to volunteer through the center.

both domestic and international service trips are offered.

Currently, the center is accepting applications for an international trip in orphanage outreach to Monte Cristi, Dominican Republic for the 2009 spring break.

The Volunteer and Service-

Learning Center is located on the north side of the Old Cafeteria complex, closest to Jarvis Hall.

For more information contact the center at 328-2735 or visit the Web site at ecu.edu/vslc.

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

DID YOU KNOW?

continued from 5

There are more bald eagles in the province of British Columbia than there are in the whole United States.

Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.

South Africa is the only country with three official capitals: Pretoria, Cape Town and Bloemfontein.

The sea wasp is half an inch long and more poisonous than any other jellyfish known to man.

A cat's jaws cannot move sideways.

The second longest word in the English language is "antidisestablishmentarianism."

Betsy Ross was born with a fully formed set of teeth.

Mr. Spock's (of *Star Trek*) blood type was T-Negative.

The characters Bert and Ernie on *Sesame Street* were named after Bert the cop and Ernie the taxi driver in Frank Capra's "It's A Wonderful Life."

In 1963, baseball pitcher Gaylord Perry remarked, "They'll put a man on the moon before I hit a home run." On July 20, 1969, a few hours after Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon, Gaylord Perry hit his first, and only, home run.

The good, the bad and the ugly

RJ WEBB

THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Burn After Reading

Stars: Brad Pitt, George Clooney, John Malkovich, Frances McDormand, Tilda Swinton

Synopsis:

Osborne Cox (Malkovich) is fired from the CIA because of a drinking problem, and with an abundance of spare time on his hands, decides to write a memoir. His wife Katie (Tilda Swinton) downloads his memoir along with other personal financial files to a CD in hopes that it will help with their divorce. The CD is later found in a gym locker room by a suspicious janitor. The janitor hands the disk over to Chad Feldheimer (Pitt), a trainer at the gym, who reads the document and believes that it is classified information. Feldheimer hands the CD over to a friend to find the computer watermark, in which the phone number of Cox

is revealed. Thinking that he will get some good Samaritan reward for returning the information, he informs Cox, who is not happy with the arrangement, so Feldheimer and a friend decide to blackmail Cox.

The good

It is an intellectual film about stupid people. Two gym trainers find the wife's CD and attempt to blackmail Cox without actually knowing how to go about it. The film pulls you in and keeps your attention. Fieldheimer's stupid comments and Harry Pfarrer's (Clooney) sexual antics are enough to entertain the simplest of viewers. The viewer will go through a rollercoaster effect of affection for characters, growing to love them, then hating them and back to loving them again. It is a dark comedy with more twist than Pretzel Time.

The bad

The script was written with Malkovich's character using the

F-word frequently, almost more than even Scarface could ever utter. For a man in his 60s, this is not as believable as it would be for Brad Pitt's dense character (Feldheimer), who comes across as uneducated and is significantly younger than Cox.

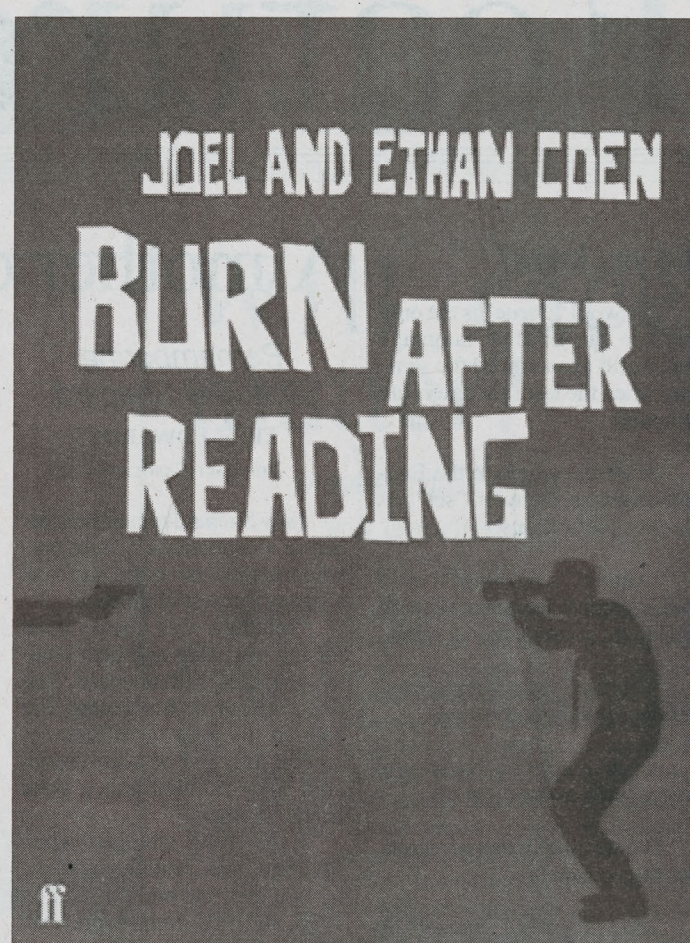
The ugly

While all of the above are forgivable, the horrendous performance by Frances McDormand (Linda Litzke, sidekick to Feldheimer) is not. Her acting seemed more theatrical and over-the-top by film standards, making it unimpressive and annoying. McDormand does not appear to grasp the difference between film and stage acting.

Verdict:

It is clearly a Coen Brother's film, but not up to par with some of their early work. Worth seeing, but go to the matinee.

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



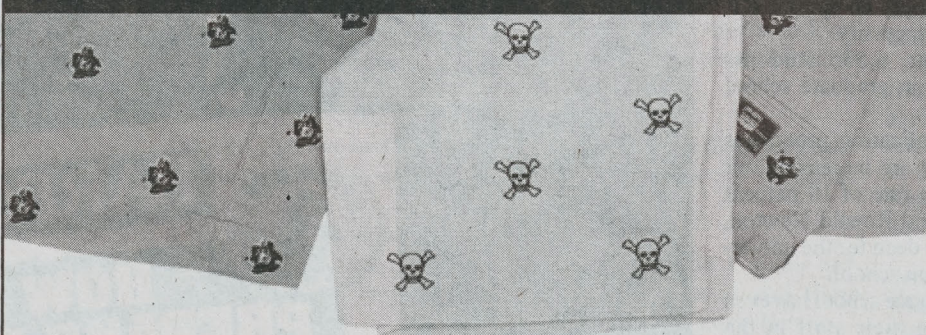
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Mendenhall Student Center

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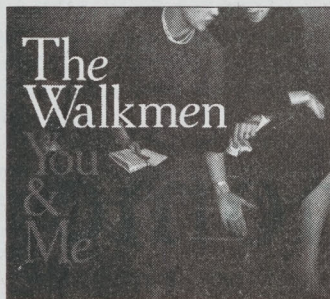
10pm-12am: board games & bingo

12am-2am: movie, bowling, & biliards

Inside the music: album guide

The Walkmen stand tall, Buckcherry are Buckterrible

STEPHEN MASON
THE EAST CAROLINIAN



The Walkmen – *You & Me*, 4.5 out of 5

The Walkmen have managed to create an album that's nearly organic. From beginning to end, the aptly named *You & Me* talks about just that, the singer and the one important person in his life. Although never too descriptive as to how the relationship worked out, listeners are not left in the dark. The

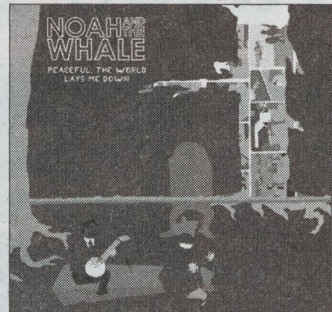
Walkmen say what they mean to a beautiful, honest effect. Martin's signature Bob Dylan/Stevie Marriott vocals on "In the New Year," the album's strongest moment, soar higher and higher—and the rest of the band is in full swing. Maroon's distorted guitar shuffle, Barrick's pummeling drum rhythms and Martin's own churning church organ sounds make *You & Me* a piece of art that bares passion nakedly and proudly.



Jem – *Down to Earth*, 2.5 out of 5

Down to Earth is so in-between audiences that it'll be lucky to ever find one. With one

foot, Jem has stepped into electronica and hip-hop with tracks like "Crazy" and "Aciid!" while producing piano ballads like, "You Will Make It" that appeal to teen drama-watching high school kids. So guideless is this album that it's almost clear that Jem is not concerned about making music she likes; she wants to make music that's cool. Cool to whom? Wannabe art chicks who think this is more exciting than Feist? I can't say. What I can say is that *Down to Earth* is anything but, as it aimlessly floats in outer space.

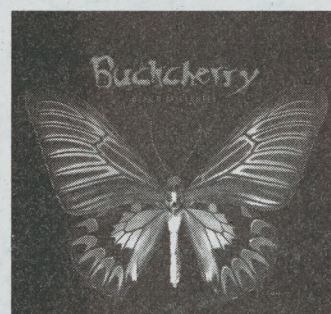


Noah and the Whale – *Peaceful, the World Lays Me Down*, 3.5 out of 5

People looking for Arcade Fire imitators: look no further. On their debut, Noah and the Whale exercise the catchy, alternative rock sounds that Arcade Fire garnered from Bruce Springsteen while managing to throw in a decent amount of chamber pop. It is an eclectic mix of strings over folksy guitar, fueled by Charlie Fink's unique lyrics of science and faith. On its surface, *Peaceful* is a batch of catchy songs that would lose their fire due to Fink's less-than-convincing vocal performances, but on a deeper level, it exercises themes of uncertainty – do you believe in God? Love? Don't they go hand in hand? These are all probing questions that Fink asks and only sometimes chooses to answer.

Buckcherry – *Black Butterfly*, 1 out of 5

Either Buckcherry have no idea who their audience is or they're embracing the batch of disgusting perverts who would enjoy this garbage. *Black Butterfly* is overflowing with generic riffs, gutter lyrics and pure production



sloppiness. The band's singer, Joshua Todd, still has his Bon Scott/Chris Cornell vocals, but they sound flat over lyrics like "I hear talk about a non-stop flight to heaven/Can't you just say you're addicted to medicine?" What? It's even worse on "Too Drunk," where Todd admits to being unable to perform in bed because of his intoxication. This is the anti-party album; it's the overzealous guy at the party who no one likes. And in the world of Buckcherry, what happens when the party's over? Morning comes to cheap white trash.

This writer can be contacted at
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MESSAGE

continued from 5

nothing about society."

At the end of her speech, Shepard encouraged students and young people across the nation to remember that they are the ones who will decide the fate of the GLBT community.

"Pay attention to the issues," Shepard said. "We must participate and improve the community if we want to see a change."

Almost ten years later, Judy Shepard still remembers her son's vibrant energy—someone who was loved unconditionally by his entire family. In her words to the audience, she offered support to those who debate on revealing their sexual identity to loved ones, saying they shouldn't be scared of what society thinks.

More information can be found at the Web site, matthew-shepard.org.

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

T-Mobile unveils first Google-powered phone

(MCT)

Watch out iPhone, here comes yet another competitor: T-Mobile has unveiled the first mobile phone to be powered by Google's open-source Android operating system.

Called the T-Mobile G1, it combines full touch-screen functionality and a QWERTY keyboard with a mobile Web experience that includes the popular Google products like Google Maps Street View, Gmail, YouTube and others.

Like Apple's iPhone, it can be souped up with special programs. The T-Mobile G1 uses a service called Android Market, where customers can find and download unique applications to expand and personalize their phone to fit their lifestyle.

The phone comes with full e-mail functionality, seamlessly syncing e-mail, calendar and contacts from Gmail as well as most other POP3 or IMAP e-mail services. However, it does not have Exchange, the Microsoft mail service used by most businesses.

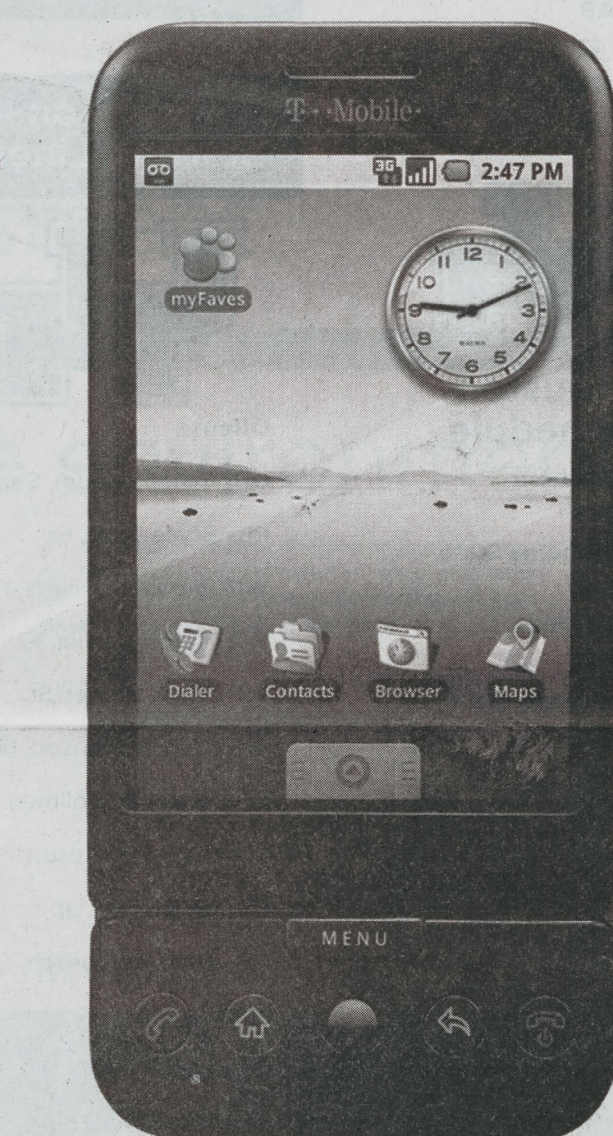
The T-Mobile G1 can be multitasked, allowing users to read a Web page while downloading e-mail in the background. It combines Instant Messaging support for Google Talk, as well as AOL, Yahoo! Messenger and Windows Live Messenger in the U.S.

It comes with a 3-megapixel camera with photo-sharing capabilities and is pre-loaded with a new application developed by Amazon.com that gives customers easy access to Amazon MP3, Amazon.com's digital music download store.

The phone will sell for \$179 with a two-year contract and is expected to be available in mid-October. It can be ordered beginning today at T-MobileG1.com.

The G1 joins BlackBerry's new Storm, coming soon to the Verizon network, as the latest in a series of touchscreen phones that compete with the iPhone.

Like the iPhone, it will allow users to download programs directly to the device through a service called Android Market, which hosts unique applications and mash-ups of existing and



(MCT)

new services from developers around the world.

According to the T-Mobile news release, with just a couple of short clicks, customers can find and download a wide range of software applications—from games to social networking—and on-the-go shopping to personalize their phone and enhance their mobile lifestyle.

When the phone launches next month, T-Mobile says dozens of unique, first-of-a-kind Android applications will be available for download on Android Market, including

ShopSavvy, an application designed to help people do comparative shopping. Users scan the UPC code of a product with

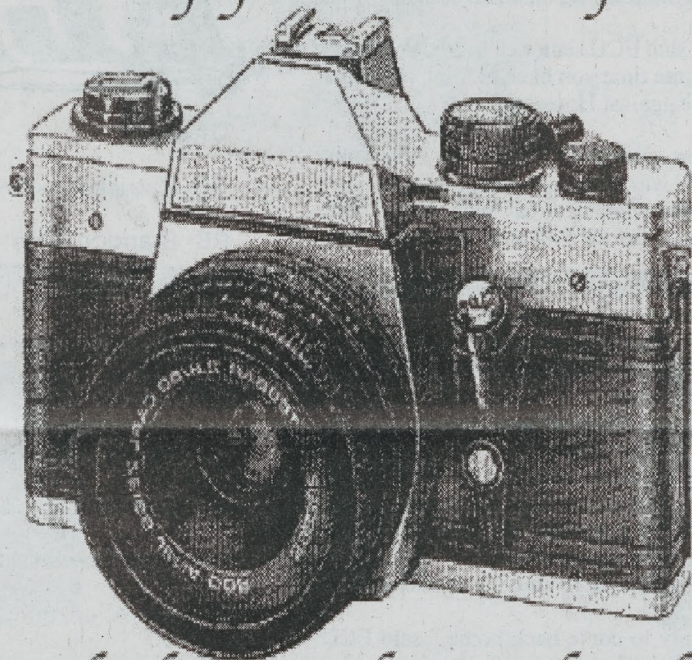
their phone's camera while they are shopping, and can instantly compare prices from online merchants and nearby local stores.

Ecorio is another new application developed to help people keep track of their daily travels and view what their carbon footprint looks like. With access to tips and tricks, Ecorio allows users to record the steps they take throughout their day to help offset their impact on the environment.

BreadCrumbz is a new application that enables people to create a step-by-step visual map using photos, also available on the Android Market. Customers can create their own routes, share them with friends or with the world.

الله أكبر

What if you could see life



through the eyes of Iraqi families?

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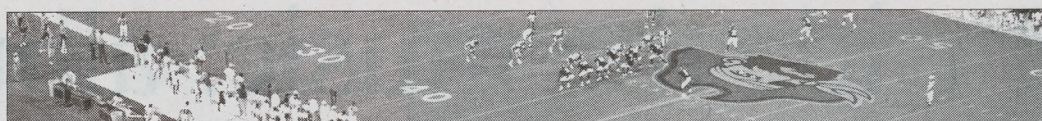
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{ ECU's Inside Source }



ECU Schedule

vs. Virginia Tech
W, 27-22
vs. West Virginia
W, 24-3
at Tulane
W, 28-24
at N.C. State
L, 30-24
vs. Houston
Sept. 27
at Virginia
Oct. 11
vs. Memphis
Oct. 18
at UCF
Nov. 2
vs. Marshall
Nov. 8
at Southern Miss
Nov. 15
at UAB
Nov. 22
vs. UTEP
Nov. 28



Houston Schedule

vs. Southern
W, 55-3
at Oklahoma State
L, 56-37
vs. Air Force
L, 27-9
at Colorado State
L, 28-25
at ECU
Sept. 27
vs. UAB
Oct. 9
at SMU
Oct. 18
at Marshall
Oct. 28
vs. Tulane
Nov. 8
vs. Tulsa
Nov. 15
vs. UTEP
Nov. 22
at Rice
Nov. 29

THEY SAID IT

"I say it all the time, but when we win you have 24 hours to celebrate the victory and when you lose, you have 24 hours to mourn the loss. It's time to put this one behind us. It doesn't make the knot in your stomach go away, you can't do that until you play again, but it's time that we move on as a football program and team."

-Skip Holtz

"You have to get off to a fast start. They [Houston] average about 36 points per game right now. We have to try to keep our defense off the field. When we get the ball, we have to control it and just execute our offense."

-Patrick Pinkney

"We just have to just keep playing hard. Last week [at N.C. State], we forced seven, three and outs. That is pretty good for a game, but you know the chances we had to win the game. Whenever we needed the stops in the fourth quarter, we couldn't get them, so we just have to try to sustain our level of play throughout 60 minutes."

-Van Eskridge

"You can't worry about last week because if you do it will affect you this week. We're not worried about State, we lost that game and are going to build off that. We have great senior leadership and we have to move on. The conference is more important anyway so we just have to go 1-0."

-Patrick Pinkney

Humbled Pirates return home



AILEEN DEVLIN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN



AILEEN DEVLIN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Houston Starting Lineup



Offense

QB- Case Keenum, Soph.
RB- Bryce Beall, Fr.
WR-Patrick Edwards, Fr.
WR- Tyron Carrier, Fr.
WR- Mark Hafner, Sr.
WR-Kierrie Johnson, Soph.
LT- Sebastian Vollmer, Sr.
LG- Chris Thompson, Fr.
C- Carl Barnett, Jr.
RG- Michael Bloesch, Sr.
RT- SirVincent Rogers, Sr.

Defense

DE- Tate Stewart, Sr.
DE- Isaiah Thompson, Soph.
DT- Jake Ebner, Sr.
DT- Philip Hunt, Sr.
LB-Matt Nicholson, Jr.
LB- Cody Lubojasky, Sr.
LB- Marcus McGraw, Fr.

CB- Brandon Brinkley, Jr.

CB- Quinte Williams, Sr.

FS- Kenneth Fontenette, Sr.

SS- Ernest Miller, Sr.

Special Teams

K-Ben Bell, Jr.

P- Chase Turner, Jr.

KR- Patrick Edwards, Fr.,
Tyron Carrier, Fr.

PR- Kenneth Fontenette, Sr.



SUMLIN

"They [ECU] have been able to win the close games and make some plays in the end. It's a big challenge for us, but we are looking forward to it."

ECU faces Houston Saturday

JARED JACKSON
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A loss can be a hard thing to bounce back from, but that is just what No. 23 ECU (3-1, 1-0) is hoping to do this weekend when the Pirates resume Conference USA play at Dowdy-Ficklen Saturday against Houston (1-3, 0-0) at 3:30 p.m.

"You build off your wins and losses," said ECU senior quarterback Patrick Pinkney. "It was a tough one but at the same time you have to think about the task at hand and that's a conference game against Houston."

But last week wasn't just any loss.

The Pirates never trailed in regulation against N.C. State, but eventually lost a 30-24 heartbreaker in overtime. ECU was looking to start 4-0 for the first time since 1999 but instead saw a five-game winning streak snap, dating back to last season. The Pirates fell eight spots in the AP Poll and had presumably a chance to be BCS buster shattered.

"A lot of doing it [overcoming the State loss] has to do with keeping the season in perspective," said junior defensive back Van Eskridge. "The only thing we lost last week was maybe a BCS championship and a chance to go undefeated. The rest of our goals are still intact for this season as far as a conference championship and a bowl championship."

"That is what we're focused on right now. We just have to come out and put the loss against N.C. State behind us and get it done."

For ECU, putting last week's loss in the past could end up being easier said than done. However, if history is any indication, then the Pirates should be able to get back to their winning ways. Over the last two years, ECU has an 8-2 record the following week coming off a losing effort.

It certainly doesn't hurt the Pirates' chances in having the opportunity to rebound in front of a home crowd.

"We're excited to have the opportunity to come back home," said ECU coach Skip Holtz. "We've played three of our first four on the road, so we're excited to come back here and play in front of our home crowd. Especially with the environment that we had the last time we were here, which was absolutely exciting."

Instead of Big East powerhouse West Virginia, this week the Pirate Nation will be cheering on ECU against Houston, a program with rich tradition, but not so good results so far this year.

"Houston is coming in here as a 1-3 football team," Holtz said. "But as I said last week, you can never look at records and say, 'These people are good and these people are not very good.' Houston has lost to Oklahoma State, and has lost their last two games by three points each."

Last year, the Pirates traveled to Houston and came away with a 37-35 victory after the Cougars' kicker missed 37 and 38-yard field goals in the final three minutes.

This year, the Cougars come to Greenville with the hopes of playing spoiler and putting a roadblock in the Pirates' conference championship aspirations.

The Cougars feature the second best passing offense in C-USA with almost 400 yards through the air per game as well as the second best scoring offense, averaging around 36 points per game.

"They are very explosive," Eskridge said. "They have very talented, skilled guys and a quarterback that doesn't put the ball in trouble a lot. He makes a lot of great decisions. It's just a great offense that can put up a lot of points if given the chance. When I look at this football team, I think it's scary what they're doing offensively right now."

Houston's offensive attack is led by sophomore quarterback Case Keenum, who has already thrown for over 1,500 yards and 16 touchdowns, in only four games this season. The two most dangerous receivers for the Cougars are senior Mark Hafner and freshman Patrick Edwards. Both are currently averaging over 65 yards receiving per game to go along with multiple touchdown receptions.

ECU currently ranks 36th in the nation in pass defense, allowing 176 yards per game through the air. The Pirates have, however, looked shaky in the secondary the last two weeks against Tulane and N.C. State. The units' biggest challenge all season might be this week against the Cougars who primarily throw the ball.

"It's going to be a hell of a challenge," Eskridge said. "They come out with a lot of four and five wide receiver sets and have a real good quarterback. He has a quick release and does a great job of scanning the field. They have some guys that know how to get open and when they catch it they know how to make plays with the ball in their hands."

As for the Houston defense, that unit is currently ranked in the middle of C-USA when it comes to statistics. The Cougars rank eighth in the conference in scoring defense, allowing almost 30 points per game. In total defense, Houston ranks ninth, allowing an average of 438 yards per game.

"Their strength is really their defensive front and their secondary," Holtz said. "They return three of their four starters on the front, led by Phillip Hunt, who has 20 sacks in his career. He's very aggressive. Their two defensive ends are definitely the strength of their four inside. But it's probably what they get the most work on in practice every day, going up against their offense. They can come off the edge, disrupt a lot of things coming off the edge and make a lot of things happen."

Even though the Houston defense might give ECU multiple chances to score, the Pirates best defense may be their offense. The Cougars can put up points on the board quickly, so it will be key for ECU to sustain long drives and run the ball effectively to give the Pirate defense a rest.

"It's very important," said Eskridge. "All three phases of the game go hand-in-hand—special teams, offense and defense. If the offense goes out there and can have some success running the ball then that will help to keep us off the field and keep us rested."

ECU must also be prepared to go from relatively low scoring contests to what could be high scoring ones in C-USA play.

"It's still a game of football," Pinkney said. "You're going to have your high scoring games and your low scoring ones. You just have to worry about it one play at a time. We have to execute on both sides of the ball. The defense cannot give up big plays and we have to control the ball. If we have the mindset to just score every time then we will be fine."

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

East Carolina Starting Lineup



Offense

QB- Patrick Pinkney, Sr.
RB- Brandon Simmons, Sr.
FB- Kevin Gidrey, Soph.
WR- Dwayne Harris, Soph.
WR- Jamar Bryant, Jr.
TE- Davon Drew, Sr.
LT- Terence Campbell, Jr.
LG- Cory Dowless, Soph.
C- Sean Allen, Jr.
RG- Doug Palmer, Jr.
RT- D.J. Scott, Soph.

Defense

DE- Zack Slate, Sr.
DT- Jay Ross, Jr.
DT- Khalif Mitchell, Sr.
DE- C.J. Wilson, Jr.
LB- Nick Johnson, Jr.
LB- Pierre Bell, Sr.
LB- Jeremy Chambliss, Jr.
CB- Jerek Hewitt, Sr.
CB- Dekota Marshall, Soph.
FS- Van Eskridge, Jr.
SS- J.J. Millbrook, Sr.

Special Teams

K- Ben Hartman, Jr.
P- Matt Dodge, Jr.
KR- Dwayne Harris, Soph.,
Jonathan Williams, Soph.
PR- Darryl Freeney, Fr.



HOLTZ

"Houston has lost to Oklahoma State, and has lost their last two games by three points each. They are a very explosive offensive football team."

Eskridge knows what to do with the ball

KELLEN HOLTZMAN
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

When it comes to versatile weapons, ECU's offense boasts Dwayne Harris, a dynamic triple-threat receiver.

While Harris' playmaking abilities keep opposing defenses in check, ECU's defense is beginning to turn to free safety Van Eskridge for a spark.

Eskridge, a former high school running back and kick returner, has proven to be a valuable asset when the ball is up for grabs or loose on the ground.

Just ask the N.C. State offense how difficult it was to stop him last Saturday.

After Eskridge snagged a tipped pass from Wolfpack quarterback Harrison Beck, the junior used a burst of speed to maneuver

his way around the N.C. State offense and into the end zone for a 23-yard touchdown return, the game's first score.

The Shelby, NC native credits his time spent on offense and special teams on Friday nights as preparation for his latest collegiate role.

"If you happen to catch an interception or scoop up a fumble, you already know what to do when the ball is in your hands," said Eskridge. "Kickoff and punt returns help you the same way."

Eskridge played mainly defense at Shelby High School, but his limited time on offense yielded some staggering statistics. During his senior season, Eskridge rushed for 614 yards and nine touchdowns on 74 carries, an average of 8.3 yards per carry. He also totaled 428 kickoff return yards on just

eight attempts, netting an astounding average of 53.5 yards per run-back.

"Being able to do more than one thing out there on the field helps me a whole lot now because playing offense helps you get an understanding of the things that the offense looks to do against you while you're on defense," Eskridge said.

Eskridge spent four years as a safety in high school, as well as his ECU redshirt season in 2005 as a strong safety—but made the switch to linebacker during his freshman season in 2006, following a string of player injuries for the Pirates.

The move paved the way for him to hold a rare distinction of earning all-conference honors at two different positions. In 2006, he was named to the Conference USA All-Freshman team after an impressive debut season as linebacker.

One season later, Eskridge earned All-C-USA Second Team honors at his current position, free safety. He totaled a team-high of 104 tackles and returned a fumble for a 50-yard touchdown against UTEP during that sophomore season.

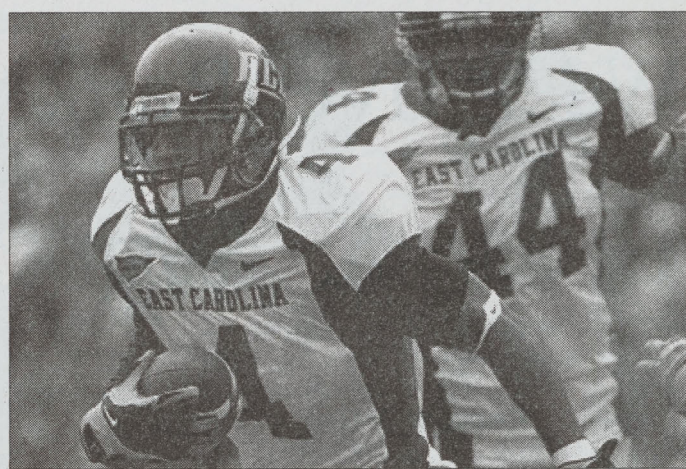
Senior cornerback Leon Best knows the trials and tribulations of position changes firsthand, having switched from corner to safety and back during his career as a Pirate.

Best says one of the safety's responsibilities is to act as a captain of the secondary, a role Eskridge is beginning to excel at.

"He's one of the guys you can count on," Best said of Eskridge. "He's very dependable. You see him all over the field. He goes hard."

Defensive backs' coach Rick Smith pointed out that Eskridge made over eight and a half tackles every 10 attempts in 2007.

"First of all, he's just a good person," said Smith. "He's a really



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Van Eskridge on the way to the end zone during his 23-yard interception return last week.

good young man. He does what you ask him to do and tries to do it right."

Smith and the rest of the coaching staff challenged Eskridge to sharpen his leadership skills on and off the field over the off-season and with the injury to senior linebacker Quentin Cotton, the defense is in need of any guidance it can find.

"Before, he didn't want to be a leader because that meant he had to do everything else right," Smith said of Eskridge. "[Now], he had to go to study hall. He had to go to class. He had to make good grades. I've seen a change in him since last January."

> ESKRIDGE page 11

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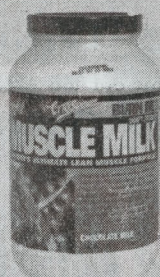
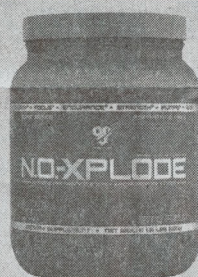


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Week five: Ranking the Carolinas

1. Wake Forest



Record: 3-0

Last Week: Won at Florida State, 12-3
Wake Forest coach Jim Grobe said that he didn't know if his team has ever played as good as defensive game as it did against the Seminoles last Saturday. Wake forced seven FSU turnovers and All-American kicker Sam Swank kicked four field goals, as the Deacons knocked off the Noles for the third-straight year. Ten years ago, if somebody would've told me that Wake Forest could beat Florida State three years in a row—in football—I would laugh hysterically. Believe it or not, Wake Forest currently has a better football program than Florida State, and easily the best program in the Carolinas.

2. Clemson



Record: 3-1

Last Week: Won vs. S.C. State, 54-0
Clemson has beat up on inferior competition the past three weeks, but the Tigers will now have to prove that they can beat good teams—something they have yet to do this season. It starts this week when Maryland comes to town. After hosting the Terps, Clemson will play at Wake Forest, host Georgia Tech and then play Boston College and Florida State on the road. Check back in a couple of weeks to see how good this Tommy Bowden-led team is, because you never really need with the group down in Death Valley.

3. ECU



Record: 3-1

Last Week: Lost at N.C. State, 30-24
The Pirates suffer the biggest dip in this poll after losing to bitter-rival N.C. State last Saturday in Raleigh. For the second-straight year, ECU was outplayed by N.C. State despite being favored, and the better team. The burning question now is, how will the Pirates respond after such a disheartening loss? They haven't played real well since the two emotional wins to start the season. The next couple of weeks should indicate which direction this team will go from here.

4. N.Carolina



Record: 2-1

Last Week: Lost vs. Virginia Tech, 20-17
The Heels were one T.J. Yates injury and one second half collapse away from beating Virginia Tech, which would've vaulted themselves—ala ECU—into the national spotlight. Yates, UNC's ring-leading quarterback, is now out for at least six weeks with a ankle injury, but head coach Butch Davis said this week that he will not change his high-powered offense. Freshman Mike Paulus, little brother of Duke point guard Greg, will quarterback the Heels this weekend at Miami. We'll see how the Heels' offense performs against Miami, which is trying to get back to its "The U" status after a couple down years.

5. N.C. State



Record: 2-2

Last Week: Won vs. ECU, 30-24
The Wolfpack jump into these rankings for the first time in 2008 after knocking off No. 15 ECU last week. I talked with a N.C. State fan last Saturday night and he said that was the best game he's seen his team play in a long time. With quarterback Russell Wilson, N.C. State can do some damage. The problem is Wilson is about as injury-prone as Willis McGahee, and the Wolfpack will be without his services once again this week. That's good news for No. 13 South Florida, which will play the Pack Saturday night. It's also good news for the Duke Blue Devils—who will enter next week's rankings if they beat Virginia this weekend.

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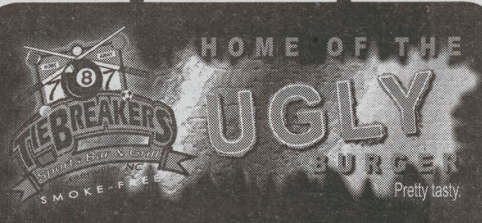
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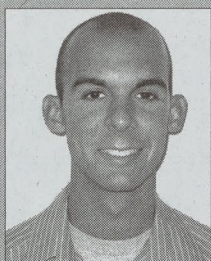
The East Carolinian's STAFF PREDICTIONS

Pick 'em: The East Carolinian weekly college football office pool



HOLTZMAN
Sports writer
Season: 19-13

ECU
Uconn
OU
Georgia
Paterno
Duke
Auburn
Clemson



WOODWARD
Sports Editor
Season: 16-16

ECU
Louisville
OU
Georgia
Illinois
Duke
Auburn
Clemson



JURGEN
News Editor
Season: 15-17

ECU
Uconn
OU
Georgia
Penn St.
UVA
Tennessee
Clemson



HOLLOMAN
Sports writer
Season: 20-12

ECU
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OU
Georgia
Penn St.
UVA
Auburn
Clemson



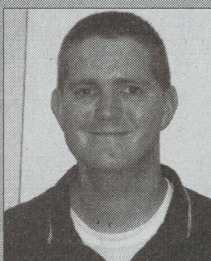
PHILLIPS
Editor-in-Chief
Season: 18-14

ECU
Louisville
OU
Georgia
Penn St.
UVA
Auburn
Clemson



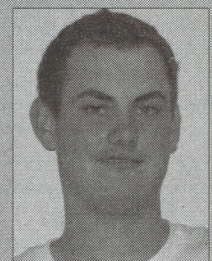
PARKER
Web Editor
Season: 15-17

ECU
Uconn
OU
Bama
Penn St.
Duke
Tennessee
Clemson



JONES
Office Asst.
Season: 18-14

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ESKRIDGE

continued from 9

Eskridge praised past members of the Pirates secondary: Kyle Chase, Kasey Ross, Jamar Flournoy and Pierre Parker for helping him acclimate to life in college football.

But the days of Ross and Flournoy are over, and the secondary is just beginning to rebound from the departure of the 2006 class.

Eskridge and the defensive backs must improve to keep pace with the high-octane offenses of C-USA. Last season, the ECU defense gave up nearly 30 points per game to C-USA opponents, allowing 35 points or more four times.

"Once we get into conference play, the offenses are more wide open," said Eskridge. "Losing a guy like Quentin Cotton, there is going to be a little added pressure on the safeties and corners to be able to make some plays out there."

Eskridge will be counted on to make those plays.

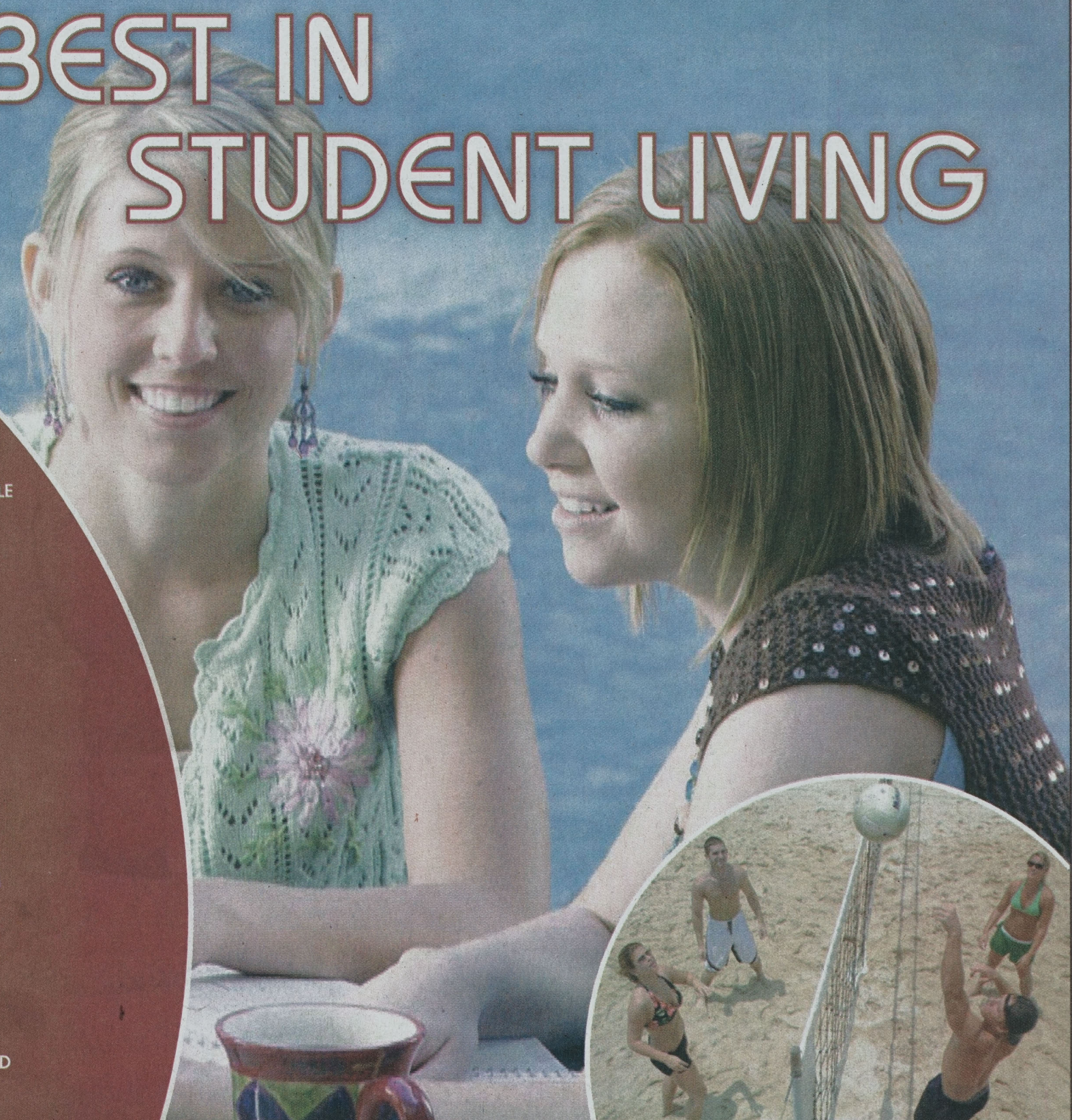
Whether he is laying out players across the middle of the field or converting turnovers into touchdowns, Eskridge is a crucial cog in the Pirate defense and remains a force to be reckoned with.

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

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Female roommate wanted. 2BR/2BA. \$300 + 1/2 utilities. Cable and internet included. Call Amanda at (252) 561-6883 or email anb0227@ecu.edu

FOR SALE

Mattress sets: \$149, Futons: \$99. Save up to 1/2 retail prices!!! **FACTORY MATTRESS & BEDROOMS** 730 SE Greenville Blvd. (next to McAllister's). Call 252-355-2626.

Good looking Teacup Yorkshire Terrier puppies for sale. Male and female available. Pictures of the puppies are available. Two of the puppies are full breed, AKC Reg. Price: \$650 (shipping price included). Note: I am ready to sale them with all the

papers. For more details, email Roland at roland.cole120@gmail.com

SERVICES

Spring Break 2009. Sell Trips, Earn Cash and Go Free. Call for Group Discounts. Best Prices Guaranteed! Best Parties! Jamaica, Cancun, Acapulco, Bahamas, S. Padre, Florida. Information/Reservations 1-800-648-4849 or ststravel.com

HELP WANTED

Part-time audiovisual person needed for energetic office. Must have knowledge of digital editing programs and excellent computer skills. Call 252-752-1600 and ask for Caryn.

Wanted: Friendly, Attractive

Ladies ages 18-30 as Exotic Dancers for established Gentlemen's Club. 40 minutes from campus. Safe environment. Earn hundreds of dollars a night. Full or part time. No experience necessary. Visit babydollscabaretnc.com <http://www.babydollscabaretnc.com> Contact Tom Benson at our corporate office 1-888-841-4695 - Club # 252-442-6192 - Cell # 252-813-6995

Resident counselor position: free room and stipend in exchange for hours worked. 2 blocks from campus. Email: realcrisis@embarqmail.com or 758-4357.

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The Last Days Harvest Church of God in Christ, is seeking a musician to provide music every Sunday, as well as for special services. The church is located at 519 S. Pitt Street (downtown Greenville). Pastor Calvin L. Parker may be contacted at 916-8896 to discuss details and salary for this position.

Earn Extra Money. Students needed ASAP. Earn up to \$150 per day being a mystery shopper. No Experience Required. Call 1-800-722-4791.

Do you need a good job? The ECU Telefund is hiring students to contact alumni and parents for the ECU Annual Fund. \$8/hour plus cash bonuses. Make your own schedule. If interested, email us at ecutelefund@ecu.edu or give us a call at 252-328-9591.

MING DYNASTY WAIT STAFF

NEEDED. COME APPLY IN PERSON. LOCATED AT EAST 10TH STREET (RIVERGATE SHOPPING CENTER).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

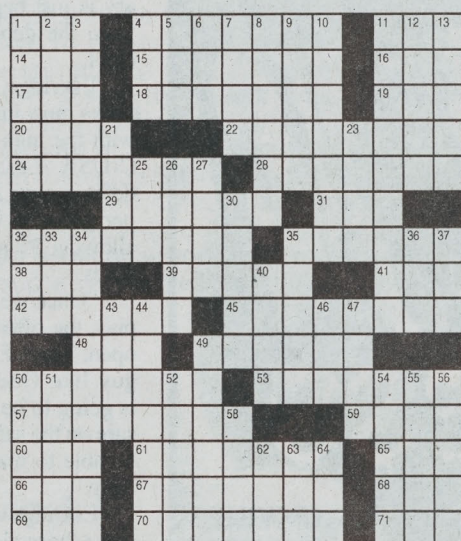
Dale's Indian Cuisine is the only authentic Indian restaurant in Greenville. We are located on 419 Evans Street. Lunch buffet M-F. Dinner buffet M & T. All ECU students, faculty, and staff receive 10% off with ID. 252-551-3253.

Pirate's Den now has a new menu featuring new sandwiches and wraps. We have also added 8 HDTVs so you can catch all the games.

Crossword

ACROSS

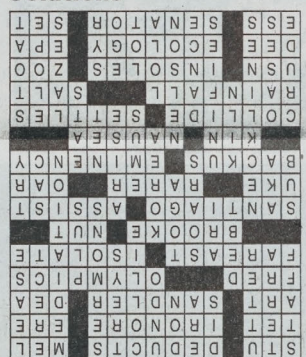
- 1 R-V hookup
- 4 Takes away
- 11 Comic Brooks
- 14 Hanoi holiday
- 15 Mesabi Range output
- 16 Before, before
- 17 Knock
- 18 Adam of "Little Nicky"
- 19 Narcs' grp.
- 20 Savage or Couples
- 22 International multi-sport event
- 24 Orient
- 28 Sequester
- 29 Shields of "The Blue Lagoon"
- 31 Oddball
- 32 Capital of Chile
- 35 Help out
- 38 A. Godfrey's instrument
- 39 Less common
- 41 Dinghy mover
- 42 Voice of Mr. Magoo
- 45 Position of glory
- 48 Family folk
- 49 Queasiness
- 50 Make impact
- 53 Comes to rest
- 57 Shower
- 59 Nixon/Brezhnev treaty
- 60 Sailor's org.
- 61 Shoe parts
- 65 San Diego attraction
- 66 Actress Ruby
- 67 Environmental concern
- 68 Clean air grp.
- 69 First of September?
- 70 Forum VIP
- 71 Harden



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9/25/08

Solutions



DOWN

- 2 Crosier
- 3 Out-and-out
- 4 Bad-mouth
- 5 Notable period
- 6 Put on
- 7 Loosen, as a knot
- 8 Highland breed
- 9 Deuce toppers
- 10 Sunday talks
- 11 Intervention
- 12 Upstanding
- 13 Tenant's contract
- 21 Red ink
- 23 In addition
- 25 "Exodus" hero
- 26 Travels by glider
- 27 Roman robe
- 30 Politically divided peninsula
- 32 Hero, briefly
- 33 Rap-sheet letters
- 34 Plunging and vee, e.g.
- 35 Wake up
- 36 Anatomical pouch
- 37 Attempt
- 40 Grounded birds
- 43 Baking box
- 44 Makes one
- 46 Meshwork
- 47 Digs in
- 49 Willie or Ozzie
- 50 Unpolished
- 51 Desert springs
- 52 Jig or reel
- 54 Is indolent
- 55 Form a secret merger?
- 56 Summer ermine
- 58 Singer Falana
- 62 Destiny
- 63 Psyche part
- 64 Half the UAR



A kitchen worker tends to one of 237 dishes at the Admiral's Restaurant in Las Vegas, which claims to have the world's largest dinner buffet.

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