

THE Hook

ECU's Student Interest Magazine

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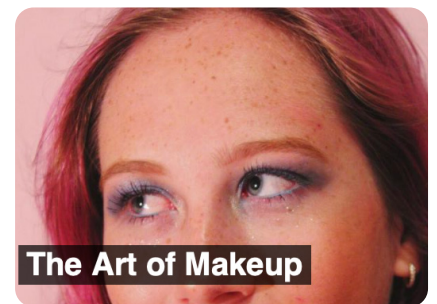
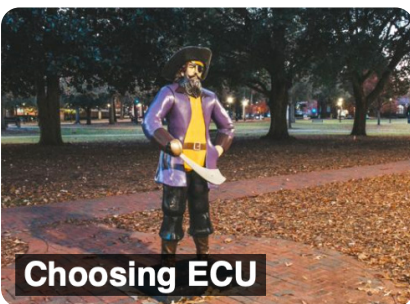
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www.piratemedi1.com/thehook/



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Letter From the Editor

Reagan Blackburn



HELLO PIRATES!

As we approach the end of the year, it can feel overwhelming and scary. Life happens so fast and events can occur in a blink of an eye. Since the last edition of The Hook, we have experienced a set of finals, graduations and other traditional ECU events. But we have also experienced things such as exploring our sexuality, finding the perfect internship and knowing what it means to fight for what we believe in, which all can be found in our publication.

While we are still experiencing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to remain undaunted — as Pirates, it is in our blood. We push through the bad times and remain inspired as we show through our words and actions.

Getting the opportunity to be the editor for The Hook again is a blessing that I do not take for granted. I believe wholeheartedly in the work that is this publication. However, while I may be the editor, this publication would not be possible without our designers, writers, photographers and advisors. Through honest artistic collaboration, we have created something that represents this turbulent but beautiful time on ECU's campus.

As you read this publication, I hope you find something that interests you. Or excites you. Maybe angers you. Even saddens you. Overall, I hope you read something that makes you feel something — because that is what The Hook is all about.

With love and excitement,
Reagan Blackburn ☺

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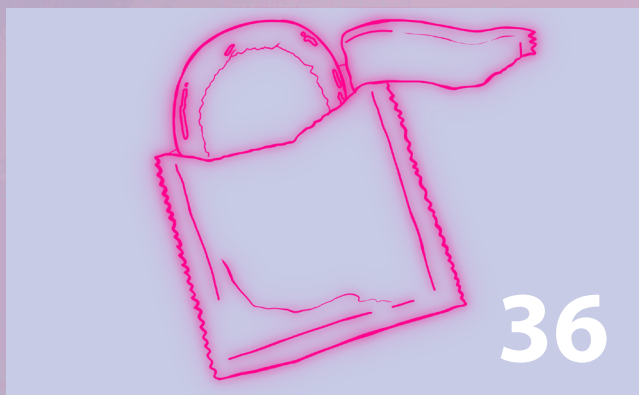
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The Power of Pride

By Jala Davis | Photos by Madison Grifaldo

The LGBTQ+ community (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) is a group consisting of individuals who do not identify as heterosexual or straight and is an umbrella term for many other individuals in the community. Going deeper than its basic umbrella term, there are many more sexual and gender identities in this community, such as Asexual, Non-Binary, Pansexual and so many more. This community has faced hate and scrutiny based on their gender identity and sexual orientation, and has been fighting for their rights for years. The struggles that the community has had to face and their pride in being themselves have been the push for everything that the community has done to fight for their rights and place in society.

On June 28th, 1969, in Greenwich Village, New York, police raided a gay bar at the Stonewall Inn. This raid resulted in chaos between the people at the bar and police officers. The following six days consisted of riots and protests protecting gay rights, and this event was the catalyst for the LGBTQ+ community and their movements. At the time of the Stonewall Uprisings, being homosexual was illegal, so gay men and women would have gay bars that police officers would often raid. Although this wasn't the first raid by police officers, this was the raid that would change the path

for the LGBTQ+ community as a whole.

June 28th, 1970 was the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Uprisings and it was the start of PRIDE events, which were hosted in Los Angeles, New York and Chicago. Although the LGBTQ+ community continues to fight for their rights and lives every single day, June is the one month of the year where it's full-blown awareness for the community. Colorful and vibrant marches and parades, as well as awareness campaigns for the community, are present every June.

Based on the Stonewall Uprisings and many other hate crimes against the LGBTQ+ community, it's very clear and evident that the LGBTQ+ community has been through a lot since the beginning of time. The LGBTQ+ community has faced scrutiny and hate by many people, and at one point in time, being gay was actually illegal. In 1952, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) considered homosexuality a sociopathic personality disturbance. December 25, 1973 would be when the APA would finally remove homosexuality from their list of mental illnesses. Not only was it illegal to live as a homosexual man or woman, but it also wasn't illegal to discriminate against those who were homosexual. This continued until July 1961, when Illinois became the first state to decriminalize homosexuality, just seven years before the uprisings. It wouldn't be until



1982 when Wisconsin would follow the lead and outlaw discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community.

With states following the lead of Illinois and outlawing discrimination towards the community, same-sex relationships still weren't legal at the time. 2004 would be the year of the first legal same-sex marriage to happen in Massachusetts, and 11 years later, in 2015, gay marriage would be legal in all 50 states. This was a massive step in the progression of rights for the LGBTQ+ community.


With every community and subculture, there are always prominent figures that represent the community and are voices for those who don't have one. For the LGBTQ+ community, it's no different. Many significant figures represent the community and have made some significant moves towards the fight for equality. One of those people is transgender activist Marsha P. Johnson. Not only was Johnson a huge voice for the LGBTQ+ community, but she was also a part of the Stonewall Uprisings and continuously fought for the community's rights. Although she died in 1992, she still remains a huge figure of the LGBTQ+ community, especially with transgender men and women, even though she never officially identified as a transgender woman herself.

Another person who has had a huge impact on the LGBTQ+ community was actually the creator of the rainbow flag that is representative of the gay community. In 1978, Gilbert Baker, an openly gay man and drag queen, created the pride flag. The original flag consisted of eight different colors that represented something significant to the LGBTQ+ community. It has since been altered to only contain six colors, but each color represents the following:



Pink = Sex
Red = Life
Orange = Healing
Yellow = The Sun
Green = Nature
Blue = Art and Magic
Purple = Serenity
Indigo = Spirit

» The Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center offers a plethora of educational and entertaining events for the Greenville community, including National Coming Out Day.

Although there has been a continuous fight for rights and freedoms to love who they love, there are still many steps that have to be taken towards having equal opportunities like their heterosexual counterparts. It is important to protect the rights and respect the lives and people who are a part of the community. Being educated on the history of the community, the fight and the struggle to be accepted in society, as well as letting go of personal biases, will help the community be a true part of society. 

Easy Eats: *Vegan Edition*

By **Jala Davis** | Photos by **Jala Davis**



WHEN PEOPLE THINK OF going vegan or veganism in general, they typically go towards thoughts of eating foods that are boring and lack any kind of taste. However, vegan foods don't have to be nasty or bland at all! Just because a vegan diet doesn't include any type of animal byproduct, doesn't mean that the meal has to be boring. Here's a vegan recipe that might actually blow your mind — Cauliflower Chicken Bites! Disclaimer: Of course, it doesn't taste like actual chicken; it's not magic, but it tastes amazing!

If you're anything like me, you might not be prone to measuring your ingredients but just tasting as you go. For that matter, this recipe will not include exact measurements.

HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- One head of cauliflower (or you can get a pre-cut bag of cauliflower to save some time)
- All-purpose flour
- Seasonings of choice (some seasonings you can use are garlic powder, onion powder, creole seasoning, paprika, chili powder, Slap Ya Mama, Old Bay, etc.)
- Salt
- Pepper
- Any choice of dairy milk alternative (oat milk, almond milk, pea milk, etc.)
- Sauce of your choice (make sure that it's dairy and egg-free)

For this recipe, you'll be using the oven for cooking! Now that we have established what you need,

HERE'S HOW YOU COOK THEM:

1. Preheat your oven to 450 degrees Fahrenheit (or 232.2 degrees Celsius).
2. In a bowl, combine flour, your choice of seasonings, salt, pepper and milk to stir until you get a batter consistency.
3. If you don't have a pre-cut bag of cauliflower, take your head of cauliflower and break it into florets and then add them into the batter.
4. Place into a 450-degree oven and bake for about 20 minutes.
5. Remove the florets from the oven and put your choice of sauce onto the wings and place back into the oven for about 15-20 minutes, or until they reach your desired level of crispiness.
6. Let them cool and enjoy!

You can enjoy your crispy "chicken" bites with so many different sides, but what's chicken without French fries? Throw some carrots and celery on the side, and you have yourself a meal! Psst...! You can't have boneless wings without ranch! Pair your "chicken" bites with a nice side of vegan ranch, and you're done! Enjoy your meal and explore some other recipes — you'll most certainly be surprised at what you find! 🍷



Recipe idea by Sonja Overhiser on acouplecooks.com. Check out website for more details and ideas.

How “FAKE NEWS” Affects the U.S.

By **Josie Murray**

IN A WORLD WHERE social media tends to be a main source for finding news, it's easy to be sucked into believing things that sound like truths. The United States as a whole (and the rest of the world, really) has been circulating misinformation for centuries. This can make it more difficult to pick out the facts and get real answers as to what is happening in our world.

According to the BBC, “fake news” can be traced back as far as the Roman Republic. During their civil war, Octavian launched a campaign full of misinformation against his opponent Mark Anthony in efforts to get the public to back him. When the printing press was invented in the 15th century, it became easier to spread this misinformation to a wider audience in a quicker manner. This led to propaganda posters being made during wars, and can be traced to the start of the Spanish-American war after a poster wrongfully blamed Spain for the sinking of a United States Navy ship in Cuba. That brings us up to the modern day — social media, television and newspapers all play a part in spreading misinformation to the widest audience reachable.

There can be false information regarding just about anything these days. Most recently, there was (and still is) misinformation about COVID-19 and the 2020 election. With the pandemic, a lot of the misinformation came from rumors about the origin of the virus, the effectiveness of mask-wearing and the vaccine to help slow the spread. As for the election, there is a history of purposeful spreading of

false information about opponents to try to win over the public. As stated earlier, it happened in the Roman Republic, and we continue to see it through to the present.

This “fake news” becomes so controversial because it has been highly politicized. In our society, people can side so heavily with the politicians in the party that they support that they will back whatever is said, which is the whole point of spreading fake news. Because of this, it is hard to have a regular conversation about what is happening in our world without touching on a potentially hot topic. There are facts out there that

professionals have shared in whatever field relates to the news being spread. For example, COVID-19 information is backed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Professionals want the facts to be heard, and social media platforms are taking steps to warn people of potentially false information. On Facebook, when a post is made that has possibly misleading information, a

note is attached to the post stating that they run the information through third-party fact-checkers to verify the information.

The big problem is that we all want to be correct. We can believe whatever we want, but this can come at a cost. Our social media is taking steps to help us receive facts, but is it enough? Will the spread of misinformation ever slow down or make a full stop? 🤖

Writer's Note: The following story is based on my own opinion. I do not claim to be an expert, and the thoughts and opinions stated below do not reflect the beliefs of Pirate Media 1 as a whole.

In this modern age of knowledge at our fingertips, it's hard to differentiate what is real and what isn't, as seen with Emily Warner, a recreation sciences graduate student with a concentration in recreational therapy administration. ➤

“
Our social media is
taking steps to help
us receive facts, but is
it enough?
”

JOSIE MURRAY



The Longevity of Media

By **Josie Murray**
Photo by **Halie Miller**

WE HAVE ALL BEEN WATCHING

an old show or movie, maybe even one of our favorites, when we saw or heard something and said, "oh no, that's not okay." A lot of older media can (and does) include many words, themes or actions that are not acceptable in our ever-changing society. As we become more open to others who are different from ourselves and learn how to treat each other as equal humans, we begin to recognize things in older shows and classic movies that are no longer accepted. That brings us to question whether it should be removed from streaming platforms and/or recreated for the current climate.

Before we address whether things should be removed or renewed in a more socially acceptable way, we need to think about the things that cause controversy. Things that immediately come to mind are racist and anti-LGBTQ+ remarks, comments and actions. It is important to remember that media not aging well is subjective, and since we are all imperfect, not everyone sees the same things as controversy.

TV Shows:

Let's look at some TV shows and movies that didn't age well.

Friends: There is a multitude of issues with Friends. I know many people will defend the show to death. Still, issues like body shaming, several issues surrounding sex, stereotypes and lack of diversity make it less lovable, in my opinion.

How I Met Your Mother: Many

people complain about the way the show ended (a discussion for another time), but not as many talk about how much of a womanizer Barney is. Since Barney is one of the main characters on the show, he gets a lot of screen time, and a lot of that is spent talking about how many women he has slept with and his "Playbook" of scams he used to pick up women.

Movies:

Peter Pan: This children's movie rudely stereotypes Native Americans in the campfire scene when they sing "What Made The Red Man."

The Breakfast Club: This movie is a classic and a favorite to many. However, this movie hosts several homophobic slurs and normalized sexual harassment through characters Claire and Bender.

Now we arrive at the question of what should be done. There could be an all or none view, a view that films should remove only the extreme or a plethora of other arguments. Are there content warnings we could add before the show, like the producers of 13 Reasons Why did after people began to voice their problems with the overall suicide theme? Are there specific scenes that editors could remove without disrupting the whole movie or episode? Where do we draw the line?

Again, I want to remind you that this is all subject to opinion, and not everyone will agree. An open mindset is important when discussing these problematic TV shows and movies. If it were up to you, what would you do? 🗣️

Baseball 101

For those of us who may not have grown up in the sports world

By **Josie Murray** | Photos by **Halie Miller** |
Photo Contributed by **ECU Athletics Media Relations**

SPORTS CAN BE CONFUSING

to watch, especially if you're brand new to a certain sport. Learning to play a sport can help with this, but it can also be a challenge. Personally, baseball is the easiest sport for me to understand. So, allow me to show you all the ropes!

To play a game of baseball, you'll need a team of about nine people (or more) and an opposing team. You'll also need baseballs, a glove and a bat. A helmet might also be nice, but it is not absolutely necessary if you're playing a recreational game. There are four bases on the field: first, second, third and home plate. The game is played in nine periods called innings, and each team gets a turn at bat in each inning (top and bottom). The teams change offense and defense positions after three outs — the inning changes when both teams have taken their turn.

Let's talk about the positions your team will need to cover and how the game is played. Each team needs a pitcher to throw the ball for the batter to hit and a catcher to catch the ball if the batter doesn't hit the pitch. You will also need people on each of the bases to stop a runner if they hit the ball. Getting the ball to a base before the runner arrives will result in that player being out. Having people in the outfield (behind the bases) is beneficial if the batter hits the ball back there. The outfielders will need to throw the ball to the basemen to attempt to get the batter out. You can also touch a runner with the ball to get them out. The last way to get a player out after the ball has been hit is to catch it before it hits the ground, resulting in an automatic out.

When your team is on the offense, you will each have a turn to try to hit the ball. Each player gets three strikes before an out is called. If you get four balls (pitches that are not hits or strikes), you will get a walk which means a freebie to first base. The goal is to make it around all the bases back home to earn your team points.

You can also run between bases at any point after you have made it to first base in an attempt to steal the next base. However, if you get caught making this attempt, you risk getting out unless you make it to the next base on time or return to the base you came from before the ball reaches you.

» Baseball is one of America's favorite pastimes, especially at ECU. Fans cheer for #14 Zach Agnos at the ECU vs. Tulane game.



Now that you know your way around the game, here are some terms that may be beneficial to know during gameplay, according to Coaching Kidz:

At Bat: collected when a batter hits and gets on base or strikes out; used to calculate batting average and slugging percentage

Ball: a pitch that does not cross the strike zone

Bases loaded: when there are runners on first, second, and third base while another player is at bat

Batting Average: the number of hits a batter makes divided by the number of times they have been at bat

Bunt: the act of sticking the bat out horizontally in front of a pitch to lightly tap the ball into play to move athletes around the bases

Curveball: a pitch meant to "break" in one direction as it approaches the plate

Dinger: a term used when a player hits a home run

Double: occurs when a batter hits the ball and can run to second base

Dugout: where each team stays during the game when the athletes aren't on the field

Earned Run Average: the average number of runs a pitcher gives up in the innings that they pitch (total runs allowed divided by innings pitched)

Foul Ball: a hit ball that lands outside of fair territory

Grand Slam: when the bases are loaded and the batter hits a home run, all four players cross home plate

Home run: when the batter hits the ball and runs back to home in one play; this can occur when the ball is hit out of the park or when it is far enough in the outfield that the ball takes longer to reach the bases

K: shorthand for a strikeout

No-Hitter: happens when a starting pitcher throws a complete game without allowing a hit.

Run: a point scored when a player crosses home

Safe: when a runner successfully reaches a base or plate

Slide: a move runners use to reach a base lower to the ground without being tagged; they slide towards the base leading with an arm or a leg

Slugging Percentage: how many bases a player gets on average per at bat (each base counts as "1" towards that percentage)

Strike/Strikeout: a ball that crosses the strike zone; three strikes result in a strikeout 🍷



Potential *Perils* and *Prizes* of Pets

The pros and cons of owning a pet as a college student.

By Ashley Wolfe | Photos by Halie Miller

Many people consider pets a great addition to their life. Often, they are regarded as a member of the family or as a person's faithful companion. This may bode well for those with a steady income and the space to accommodate a pet, but how does this bode for a college student? College is a time for growth and exploration, but is it a time to care for a pet? The answer? It depends on the student because there are pros and cons related to pet-owning. It all depends on if the pros outweigh the cons, or vice versa, for the student. Read on to discover the pros and cons of owning a furry (or non-furry) friend!

Positives of Owning a Pet in College:

There are two main pros to owning any pet during college, and one additional pro to specifically owning a dog. The first pro to owning any pet is that pets reduce anxiety, stress and loneliness. Chubby hamsters, peaceful goldfish, playful puppies — you name it. Another pro to owning any pet is the responsibility it teaches the owner. Like a part-time job, pets force a balance between school and outside obligations. After college, school won't be the sole requirement or routine of your daily life, and a pet can help you realize this. An additional pro of pets, which mainly applies to dogs, is the encouragement to exercise. Dogs need exercise to stay healthy, usually through daily walks outside, just like humans. Dogs will usually make their demands loud and clear, so the owner will not be at a loss. Many college students struggle to find the time for

Resources for Pet Owners

PetCo in Greenville: 252-353-0138

PetSmart in Greenville: 252-756-7706

Human Society of Eastern Carolina in Greenville: 252-413-7247

exercise, mainly because our generation is sucked into devices half of the time that we could use for walking or running outside. A dog is a great encouragement to get outside or hit the gym.

Negatives of Owning a Pet in College:

Well, then, what are the negatives of owning a pet? Three apply to all pets and an extra that only applies to dogs. The first is the potential property damage to your place of residence. The second is that someone in your living space might be allergic to the specific pet you own. You must be comfortable knowing you might put those people at risk by owning your pet. The third con to owning a pet is the cost. Just like attending college, there are many expenses for a pet. These include but are not limited to insurance, medications, supplements, food, cleaning products, medical visits and habitat construction. If you truly need any kind of animal friend, then consider those that are cheaper such as fish or rodents. Finally, the con of owning a dog in college is the limited freedom of how you spend your time. It's your job to provide them with nourishment, safety and exercise. This includes bathing, feeding, walking or taking them to the vet. The time it takes for these activities can add up and could cause a problem for your other obligations.

Final Thoughts:

After weighing these pros and cons, ask yourself — do the pros outweigh the cons or vice versa? Which of these pros can you see yourself benefiting from? Which of these cons can you picture yourself not benefiting from? In conclusion, owning a pet while attending college is a choice that requires significant thought. Even if you are to own a pet with as little maintenance as a fish, animals still require time and commitment.



» Dogs and cats are not the only pet options for college students. As long as you take care of them, they will be as happy as Lauren Keel's hamster: Mickey!

Servire

Make your mark in the community through a volunteer program!

By **Josie Murray** | Photos by **Halie Miller** | Photo Contributed by **A Moment of Magic ECU**

Since 1915, our motto here at ECU has been “Servire,” which means to serve. Acts of service help our community while building leadership and selflessness. There are many ways to get involved and volunteer in the community, and this list presents a few options that ECU has to offer.

Adopt-a-Grandparent: This service opportunity allows college students the chance to form meaningful connections with residents at a local senior care center. Students can participate in one-on-one interactions with residents as well as monthly events at the facility. A simple act of spending time with the people who live in care facilities not only lifts the spirits of the residents but can help students feel like they have a grandparent while they’re away from home.

Campus Kitchen: ECU’s Campus Kitchen works to deliver meals throughout the community to people in need. Promoting hunger awareness and addressing hunger relief, students in this organization take leftover food from the dining halls and use kitchen space to prepare meals for distribution. These students also work to increase nutrition education and leadership through their service!

ECU Writes: Who doesn’t love receiving letters in the mail? This pen-pal program allows ECU students to form friendships with elementary school kids! These volunteers take on a mentor role, foster creativity in young minds and serve as role models to their pen pals. ECU Writes is an excellent opportunity for education majors to learn how to bond with children while allowing a creative space for their pen pal to practice their handwriting and literacy skills in a fun way.

Pirate P.A.L.S.: Volunteers in this group are Peers Advocating for Learning and Success, or P.A.L.S.! This youth-service program connects students with young people in Greenville to provide academic mentorship and build meaningful relationships. Our P.A.L.S. also help keep the kids active with Pirate Playtimes, which involves getting outside and playing games together.

A Moment of Magic: Everyone wants to be their favorite princess or superhero, and this is your chance! Volunteers of this organization dress up as characters from TV shows, movies, storybooks and even original characters to interact with local children. These children are medically or socially vulnerable, and seeing a familiar



➤ *From princesses to superheroes, A Moment of Magic enlists help to bring magic into lives, as seen with Catherine Francis as The Apple Princess!*

character can bring them out of their shells a little bit and make them feel better with a small moment of magic.

The Humane Society of

Eastern Carolina: If you’re an animal lover, this is the volunteer opportunity for you! At the Humane Society, volunteers help clean kennels, socialize the animals, set up and assist off-site adoption events and help guests and visitors. If you would prefer a more personal experience with an animal, the Humane Society also offers the option to foster animals and help the pets prepare to go to their forever families. You can apply to volunteer on site or become a foster at the HSEC website!



➤ *Getting to meet dogs like Lexi is a highlight of volunteering at the Humane Society!*

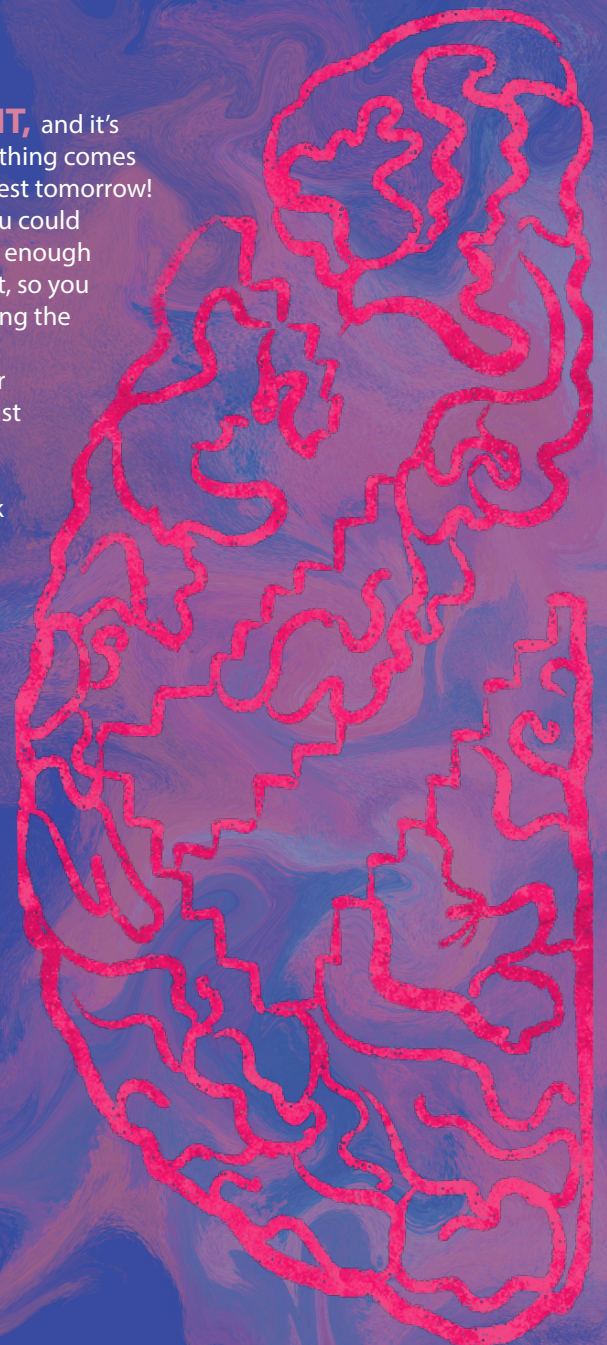
The TRICK

YOU STAY UP LATE ONE NIGHT, and it's only when you're about to go to sleep that something comes crashing in on you: you forgot to study for your test tomorrow! Anxiety and worry creep in. You wonder what you could possibly do this late at night if you want to study enough for the upcoming test. The library is your best bet, so you set off for it in order to spend the night committing the textbook to memory.

What if it was possible to have a library in your own mind? With some renovations, that might just be possible. The Mind Palace, or method of loci, is a memorization technique that focuses on using visualizations to recall pieces of information. Think of it like constructing a building or house in your mind. You store different pieces of information on those shelves, and when you need to recall it, you take a mental stroll through it. For example, maybe you store the math formulas you need for your test in your bedroom. When that test comes along, you close your eyes for a bit and walk to your bedroom in your head. The equations come flowing back in.


This method was originally conceived in ancient Roman and Greek philosophical study sessions. However, its most well-known use is likely in the Sherlock TV show, where the titular character uses his mind palace to escape deadly situations. Although the show's use of the technique isn't quite how it is used in the real world, it is still a fascinating technique.

The mind palace is a mnemonic device or a technique that helps you learn or remember things. If you don't want to build an entire



of the Mind Palace

By **Benjamin Lewis**
Illustration by **Abigail Lund**



house in your brain, there are other ways to help you remember important information. Acronyms, for example, are another mnemonic device. If you ever said “PEMDAS” to yourself to remember the order of operations, you’ve used a mnemonic device. Similarly, word mnemonics use a sentence or phrase to help you remember things. Say remembering “PEMDAS” doesn’t work for you; instead, you think, “Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally.” Both of these are two different methods to achieve the same goal, which is remembering the order of operations for a mathematical equation.

Even putting knowledge to a simple tune or figuring out how to make it rhyme is a mnemonic. The alphabet song, one of the first things kids learn in schools, is a mnemonic device. These kinds of memorization techniques have persisted so long due to their effectiveness.

Some other mnemonic devices include:

Chunking, which means splitting information up into manageable “chunks” to recall easily. Remembering phone numbers in 3 to 4 numbered lists or parts of a shopping list a few entries at a time is one way to use this.

Rhymes, which are similar to song mnemonics. You set information to a rhyme, such as the often recited “I before E except after C” to remember how to spell certain words.

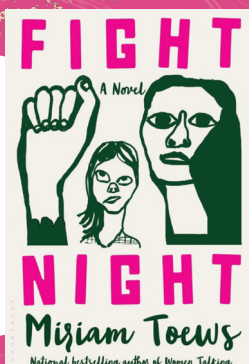
Models and diagrams can be mnemonic devices as well! The food pyramid that suggests proper proportions for meals is an example of this, each tier layered so you know what order to descend portion size in.

Whether or not you choose to begin renovations on your own mind palace, keeping mnemonics in your mind will only help you. After all, Memory Needs Every Method Of Nurturing Its Capacity!🧠

Hook's Top Books

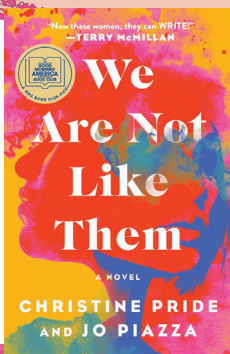
By Josie Murray

Fight Night by Miriam Toews: Nine-year-old Swiv lives in Toronto with her pregnant mother and her grandmother. Swiv gets kicked out of school, and her grandmother steps up to teach her. She gives Swiv a writing assignment: write a letter to your absent father. In turn, Swiv gives her grandmother the assignment of writing a letter to her unborn sibling. Through her observation, Swiv learns about all of the emotions and struggles of this close-knit three-generation home of women.

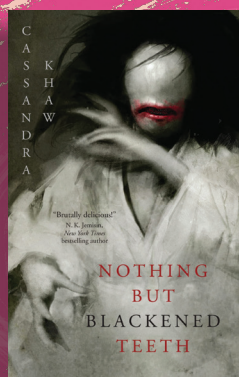


I Love You But I've Chosen Darkness by Claire Vaye Watkins: In this story, a writer leaves her husband and newborn daughter to attend a speaking event in Reno. This escape from being a mother and a wife gives her a chance to reconnect with old friends and feel a little bit of freedom. This short trip turns longer as she keeps bumping into the ghosts of her past. From her first self-destructive love, to her father, to her mother, she struggles to find a way to move forward since she can't change the past.

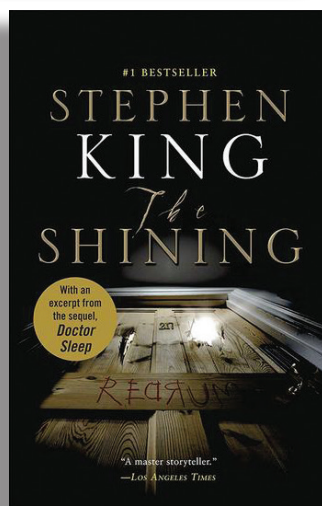
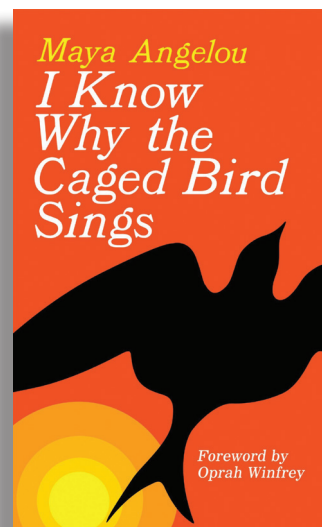
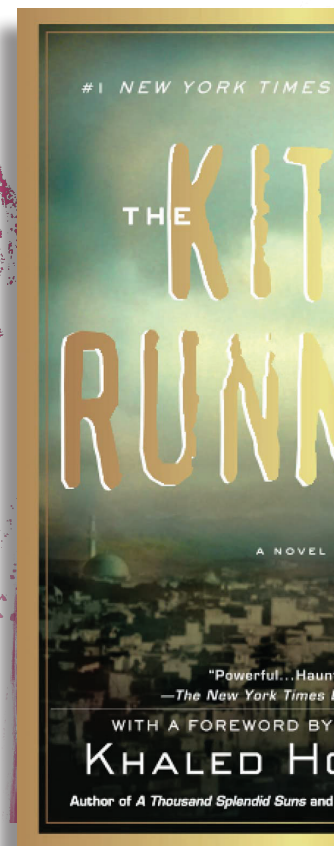
We Are Not Like Them by Christine Pride and Jo Piazza: This story of Jen and Riley explores race in today's America and its impact. Jen and Riley have been lifelong friends and remained close when their lives took different directions. Then, tragedy strikes. Everything is now up in the air. Jen struggles to see the future for her family and her friendship with Riley. Riley struggles with the implication of this event on the Black community, her ambitions and her lifelong friendship. But what exactly happened?



Nothing But Blackened Teeth by Cassandra Khaw: Based on Japanese folklore, this thriller takes place in a Heian-era mansion. A group of thrill seekers on the hunt for a perfect wedding venue decide to spend a night there. Little do they know, they are staying in a mansion resting on top of the bones of a bride, and the walls are filled with the remains of girls who were sacrificed to keep her company. A fun night quickly turns cold as the house welcomes its new guests, and the ghost bride lurks in the shadows with a blackened smile and a hungry heart.



The Wish by Nicholas Sparks: Maggie was 16 when she got pregnant. While waiting to put her baby up for adoption, she met Bryce, and he taught her how to take photographs. They had a once-in-a-lifetime kind of love. Years later, she sits in her gallery of photos and is asked what she would wish for this Christmas if she had one wish. Her answer had consistently been to return to that winter with Bryce, but that night, her answer was different.



The New Classics

By Josie Murray

TW: Mentions of domestic and sexual abuse and alcoholism.

IN OUR ENGLISH CLASSES, we learn about all the classic books that form our curriculum. These books continue to get older, and newer literature is being released every day. It's tough to get off the screens and read a book, and when it's an older book, it's even harder. So what newer books have the potential to reach the status of "classic"?

The first book on my list of potential new classics is **The Kite Runner**. This historical fiction novel written by Khaled Hosseini takes place during the fall of the Afghanistan monarchy. The story follows a father-son duo navigating the events that come with the end of the monarchy. Flying kites is the way that the son escapes from everything that is happening. This book has new classic potential because it teaches about a rough patch in world history while telling a story. It is a best-seller and will likely be incorporated into history classes as well as English classes.

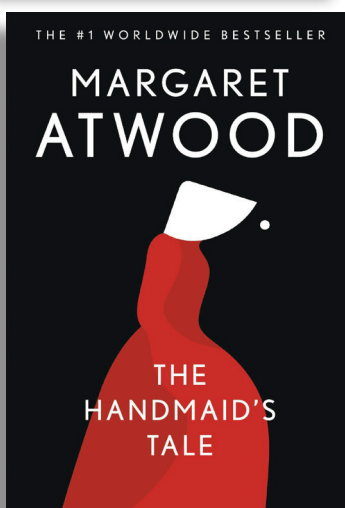


I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings has a major significance when looking at our history. This story is an autobiography of Maya Angelou of her coming-of-age story. She writes about the racism she experienced as a child, finding her identity, her literacy and traumatic events that she survived. This book remains as relevant today as it was when it was published in 1969. As a country, we still are fighting against racism. This book helps keep the conversation going and will definitely go down in history as a classic.



With similar reasoning to the previous book, **The Color Purple** makes the list of potential new classics. This story by Alice Walker is written as letters from the main character, Celie, to God and her sister. These letters tell a story of oppression, domestic and sexual abuse, and show these women's resilience through pain and struggle. This book has also been converted into a film as well as a Broadway musical production. The seriousness of the topics, the status associated with the Pulitzer Prize won for this book, as well as the popularity to be adapted almost guarantees this book to be a future classic.

The movie **The Shining** is already considered a classic film, so the book is bound to follow that lead. The author's own experiences influenced this horror novel by Stephen King. The main character, Jack, struggles with alcoholism. He takes his family to stay with him as he works in a hotel that is haunted. These forces impact Jack's sanity and put everyone in danger. The film adaptation of this movie is legendary, which makes it safe to say that the book will achieve the same status.



Lastly is **The Handmaid's Tale**. This book has been made into a Hulu Original series in the past few years and continues to gain popularity. This story takes place in a dystopian society created by author Margaret Atwood. Offred, the main character, is assigned to produce children just like the rest of the handmaids. However, she has trouble letting go of the past, leading her to various attempts to dismantle the system and the patriarchy to regain her freedom. The growing popularity of this book in combination with the Hulu series is bound to make this sci-fi tale a classic.

Why the *future* must be intersectional

A journey into the complexity of the only true form of feminism

By Jala Davis | Photos by Jaylin Roberts

WE'VE ALL HEARD of the term feminism, whether you are a self-proclaimed feminist or not. The Oxford Language dictionary defines feminism as “the advocacy of women’s rights on the basis of the equality of the sexes,” however, feminism is a little bit more complicated and involved than a simple definition. According to History, feminism is “a belief in the political, economic, and cultural equality of women,” essentially saying that men and women should have equal opportunity on all bases.

There is a lot that comes with feminism, and there’s a lot of debate on whether or not the movement is helpful to women or even harmful. Many people (both men and women) believe that feminism claims that men are better than women or hating men altogether, but that simply isn’t true.

Feminism, just like many other social movements, comes with its criticisms and assumptions. “With all movements, the people who don’t want the movement to move forward tend to focus on the bad people in the movements,” junior history major Amrina Rangar said. A lot of people focus on the negative sides of feminism and make a mockery of what feminism really is. “Feminism has this really negative connotation,” Rangar said. “People think that women have to be one way in order to be a feminist.”

THE HISTORY OF FEMINISM

The history of feminism is very long because women have had very few rights since the beginning of time. Feminism has major changes that came in waves; first, second, and third-wave feminism all have separate “intentions”

in changing women’s rights. As reported by BestLife, there were a lot of rights that women didn’t have before the push of feminism, such as voting, owning a passport, serving on a jury and having credit.

There are four waves that feminism has gone through since women started fighting for their rights. Although there are technically four waves of feminism, only three can be defined. According to History, the three waves of feminism are Women’s Suffrage, Women’s Liberation and “Who benefits from the feminist movement?” The fourth wave of feminism is the wave that we face in the current day, and it has a lot to do with social media and the #MeToo movement. There is no concrete beginning and end of the fourth wave because we’re experiencing this wave right now.

WHAT IS INTERSECTIONAL FEMINISM?

Intersectional feminism is more involved and way more inclusive than feminism itself. Intersectional Feminism isn’t a new term, although you may have only heard of it in recent years or even just now. According to UN Women, the term was created by Kimberle W. Crenshaw, an African American Lawyer and civil rights activist, in 1989. In simple terms, intersectional feminism is feminism but with a twist. It encompasses what feminism is as a whole and includes other personal identifiers. According to the International Women’s Development Agency (IWDA), those personal identifiers are things such as “age, race, class, socioeconomic status, physical or mental ability, gender or sexual identity, religion, or ethnicity.”



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» *Intersectional feminism is still a taboo topic for some, but it is necessary to talk about it in order to make needed change for all women, including Calía Babilonia, freshman.*



» *Babilonia and Ellisa Fisher, freshman biology and chemistry double major, stand together in the fight for intersectional feminism.*

Intersectional feminism ensures that feminism is inclusive and that every part that a woman identifies herself with is covered under the basis of equality. “Intersectionality is about taking every aspect of your life and every identity and then melding them together to form your own personal identity,” said junior public health and English major Vedika Modi. “Feminism and being a feminist is a part of that.”

WHY IS INTERSECTIONAL FEMINISM SO IMPORTANT?

Equality — it’s all about equality! As mentioned before, intersectional feminism includes a plethora of identities that are associated with women. Many arguments that come with feminism are that it only pertains to the equality of white women, and not so much other women. Alia E. Dastagir, a writer for USA Today, said it best: “A white woman is penalized by her gender but has the advantage of race. A black woman is disadvantaged by her gender and her race. A Latina lesbian experiences discrimination because of her ethnicity, her gender and her sexual orientation.”

THE INTERSECTIONALITY OF FEMINISM AND TRANSGENDER WOMEN

Although it is crucial to maintain the importance of all women and their identification in terms of intersectionality, one group of women is often overlooked in the eyes of feminism and many other social topics: transgender women. We must emphasize that not

only are transgender women real women, but they are also valid and important. It is a societal belief that transgender women aren’t real women, and with that idea, it’s easy to overlook them in terms of equality. Although not a part of the LGBTQ+ community herself, Modi feels it’s important that we accept trans women and value their stories and lives. “When your entire life story is devalued, and feminists in the community can reject you, it’s even more disempowering. It’s just another group of people telling you that you don’t belong,” Modi said.

INTERSECTIONALITY AND RACE

As mentioned earlier, white women are often the face of feminism, and a lot of feminism is based on the plight of white women. However, it’s very important that the issues of white women don’t overshadow the issues of women of color, especially under intersectional feminism. “There’s a long history of white feminism often overtaking the concerns of people of color,” Modi said. The first wave of feminism was all about bringing the attention of women’s rights to the forefront, but many of the issues they brought up were issues faced by white women. Susan B. Anthony was one of the most prominent figures of the first wave of feminism and made a lot of changes for women. However, her fights for women excluded women of color and primarily fought for the issues of white women. According to The Humanist, the women’s suffrage movement excluded the voices of Ida B. Wells, Ellen Watkins Harper, and Sojourner Truth, all women who spoke about the issues of women of color.

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» Intersectional feminism brings about a new, much-needed era of change for women of all backgrounds. »



Race wasn't really a huge factor in the fight for equal opportunity, and it always came second to gender, so white women were the only ones to reap the benefits that came along with feminism. Race must be a factor in both feminism and intersectional feminism since race is usually put on the backburner. "Women of color face the same struggles as white women, and their own set of struggles," Rangar said.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

There is no roadmap to getting involved in feminism or intersectional feminism; it all starts

within you! You must educate yourself on what feminism is and form your own opinions on feminism. So much comes with intersectional feminism, so it can be hard to figure out where to start. However, ECU has multiple places to get involved with and many people who can help you start! Don't hesitate to visit the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, the Women and Gender Office, and the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center for more information on intersectional feminism.📍

Crafting On A Budget

DIY projects to add something new to your space.

By Josie Murray | Photos by Olivia Magistro

IT CAN BE HARD to make a college dorm or apartment feel like home, and it can get expensive to redecorate or change up your wardrobe. When you need a little break from classwork or you just need to add something new to your space, here are a few easy crafts that won't BREAK THE BANK!



TISSUE PAPER FLOWERS

What you'll need:

Tissue paper (find at the dollar store or Walmart for \$1-\$2)
Pipe cleaners (find at the dollar store or Walmart for about \$3)

How to make these:

1. Stack between 4 and 8 sheets of tissue paper depending on how big you want the flowers to be (you can do more if you like).
2. Start at one end and accordion fold (like a "z" pattern) 1-inch sections until you reach the end.
3. Secure the center by wrapping a pipe cleaner around and twisting the ends together underneath the bottom edge of the paper.
4. Trim the ends of the paper into half circles, points or fringe with scissors. This is the point where you can choose the length of the flower, but the longer you leave the ends, the easier the next step will be.
5. Carefully fan out the folds and begin separating each layer of tissue paper. Take your time as the tissue paper is easy to rip. Pull and fluff until you are happy with how the flower looks.

PAINTED TERRACOTTA POTS

What you'll need:

Terracotta pots (find at Lowes for \$1-\$5 depending on size)
Acrylic paint (find at Five Below for \$5)
Paintbrushes (find at Five Below for \$5)



How to make these:

1. Once you have your supplies, find an area to paint in. Acrylic paint does wash off of fabric if you clean it before it dries and it washes off of hard surfaces. For less cleanup, you can paint outside or on top of an old tablecloth or newspapers.
2. Decide on a design and paint!
3. Once the paint is dry, you can use the pot for decor or pick up some plants or some dirt and seeds for your new pot.

UPCYCLING OLD T-SHIRTS

What you'll need:

Old t-shirts or oversized t-shirts (you can use your own or search Goodwill for shirts; they typically cost \$2-\$3)
Scissors (find at the dollar store if you don't have any at home)



How to make these:

1. Take the shirt you plan to use and measure where you want to crop it (if you're not a fan of crop tops, you can skip to step 3). If you have a cropped shirt that you like the length of, use it to measure where you want to cut by laying it flat on top of the uncut shirt lining up the shoulder seams. If not, put the shirt on, figure out the length you like, and mark it a little longer so the edge can roll up when stretched or washed, then lay the shirt flat on the ground or table.
2. Cut straight across.
3. Next, draw out a triangle shape under the collar of the shirt. You can add lines to keep some small strips of fabric for a different look.
4. Start cutting out the triangle at the seam of the collar. Make sure only to cut the front side of the shirt. Finish cutting out the triangle, and your shirt is ready to wear! 🎧



A Beginner's Guide to Better Photos

By Josie Murray | Photo by Halie Miller

AS THE WEATHER GETS WARMER, we tend to spend more time outside with the people we love. These days, we all tend to have a “pics or it didn’t happen” mindset. Taking your camera to these outings is a great way to get practice, capture the moments and save them to look back at later. So, what do new photographers need to know to get started?

Photography Life had some great tips; let’s look at a few of them! If you’re taking pictures on a whim, the planning beforehand doesn’t apply to you. However, if you are trying to venture into professional photography and specific photoshoots, it is important to go in with a plan. This can be as simple as knowing where you want to take the photos and what time of day will give you the best light, or as complex as creating props, vision boards and shooting schedules. For beginners, though, I would suggest keeping your focus on location and lighting.

While we’re on the topic of lighting, let’s talk about why it’s important. The amount of light in a photo can wash out or darken your subject. These can be helped in editing, but sometimes that isn’t enough. Unless this is your intended outcome, it is important to adjust your camera settings and check the photos you’re taking to make sure it looks the way you

anticipated. It is also important to have your back to the sun so that the subject of your photo has proper light and the camera picks them up nicely. If there isn’t natural light available, just use your flash!

Moving yourself and your subject can create great photos and allow you to see each side of an image differently. This can also be an opportunity to show creativity in your photos and help set your work apart from everyone else. Motion is not always easy to capture in photos, but it can create some of the best candid photos if your subject is moving. Moving to a different location can also add variety to any shoot and give more options when choosing final shots.

Lastly, it’s very easy to get stuck in a pattern when it comes to taking pictures.

From framing photos the same way to using the same location or background and posing your subjects the same way, it’s important to get comfortable stepping outside what you know works. Photography is an art, and in art, trial and error can lead to masterpieces. Find new places, try different photos, even lay down in a puddle or body of water to create newer concepts and projects for yourself.

As young adults, we look at photos all the time on social media. This is the best place to find inspiration and come up with new ideas. It’s also a helpful tool to network with other photographers and see if you can talk about what works for them and any tips they can give you. As you practice your photography skills, keeping a photobook can be a great way to look back on the progress you have made. Taking photos is a way to save moments in time, not just to show on social media. 📷



Gracie Miller explores some
of these tips with their camera. ➤

Securing the Perfect Internship

Getting an internship might seem hard, but it doesn't have to be

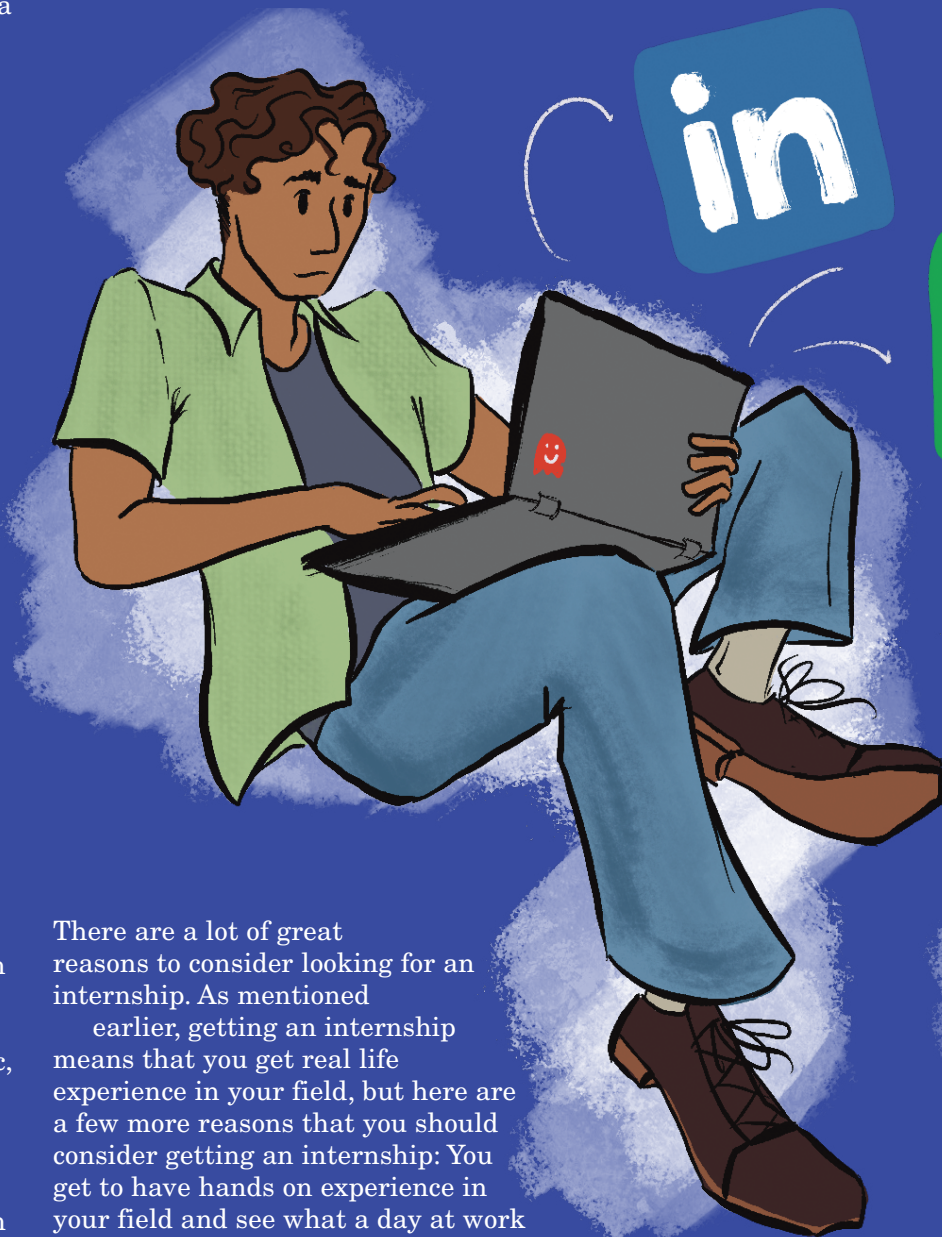
By Jala Davis

Illustration by Abigail Lund

AH COLLEGE, “the best four years of your life,” they say. A time where you find yourself, a time where you get to experience things you’d never thought imaginable, and the time when you have to actually start thinking about real life. Yes, it sounds scary, but at some point in life you just have to face the music. Life isn’t always going to be as “easy” as it is right now. When you walk across that stage, whatever year that may be, you have to face reality. You have to begin real life. While that all may be very nerve-racking, and it is, there’s really no need to be super stressed about what your next steps are.

That’s where the wonderful world of internships comes to play. Internships are a great way to alleviate some of the stress that you may have when it comes to thinking about life after college. More than likely, you know what an internship is already but if you don’t, an internship is a way to get real world experience in your field. Some internships are paid, and some are unpaid, but no matter which side of the spectrum the internship falls on, getting that real world experience in your field is a great opportunity.

Getting an internship now is a little easier than it was before, and there are a lot of opportunities for students thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic shut down a lot of companies and businesses around the world, but we figured out that people can actually work from home. Due to the pandemic, many jobs and internships became remote, giving students greater opportunities to find jobs across the country. “We actually have more opportunities now [to get an internship] because a student can do an internship here in Greenville, that’s remote in California,” says Brittany Thompson, the internship coordinator at ECU’s School of Communication.



There are a lot of great reasons to consider looking for an internship. As mentioned

earlier, getting an internship means that you get real life experience in your field, but here are a few more reasons that you should consider getting an internship: You get to have hands on experience in your field and see what a day at work may really look like for you.

You get to learn new skills that you may have not learned anywhere else

Spring 2022

Having an internship may help you earn job security with that company in the future. You could* get paid for doing work that you actually want to do. You may be wondering why “could” has an asterisk next to it, and that’s because some internships aren’t paid for their work, and that may be one of the worst parts about trying to find an internship. Fortunately, according to CNBC, only 40% of interns are unpaid for their work. Yes, that may sound like a lot but that means that roughly 60% of interns are paid for their work. That also means that you’re more than likely to find an internship that is going to pay you for your work!

Thompson recommends paid internships but says that internships are great experiences no matter if they are paid or unpaid. Although paid internships ensure the dedication from both student and employer, unpaid internships can be just as rewarding. Thompson says that if you can secure an unpaid internship with a quality company, just the name can open so many

opportunities for you. “If it’s an unpaid internship, then all the work you do should be focused on your major,” Thompson said. “Try to get credit for your internship to show your investment.”

As mentioned earlier, a huge benefit of securing an internship while in college is that you could possibly snag yourself a permanent position with the company that you intern for. According to SmallBizGenius, 70% of employers end up hiring their interns for full-time positions, and nearly 80% of those people accept the offer.

So, what are the best ways to secure an internship?

Have your resume ready - Having your resume ready and on hand makes applying for internships a lot easier! Make sure that your resume stands out and that it’s well constructed. ECU’s Career Services is a great place to get help with building a great resume! “I always tell students to make sure you have a rock solid resume before you even start looking,” says Thompson.

Apply everywhere you can - Although it may seem like a lot of work to apply to multiple businesses to intern with, the more businesses you apply with, the better chance you have at securing one! Make sure that the places that you are applying to match your field of work. Thompson recommends looking on websites like LinkedIn, Indeed and Glassdoor to find internships.

Be honest about your skills - When you apply for internships, you want to be honest about the skills that you already possess. Most companies will understand that you don’t have all the skills needed (that’s why you’re there!) “The beautiful thing about an internship is that employers know it’s an internship, so the focus is growing these individuals so they have the skills,” says Thompson.

Start looking for internships as soon as possible - There are a lot of people that are in the same position that you are in and are going to apply to the same jobs as you, so the earlier you apply the better! According to Thompson, the best time to look and apply for internships is at least 2-3 months before the start of the internship. Even if you don’t apply right away, at least start looking for the positions early so that when it is time to apply, you’ll be prepared.

You have to be driven - For much of the process of finding and being successful in an internship, the student has to be driven. “I think it depends on students and how willing they are to dig and keep applying,” says Thompson. You have to be willing to keep applying yourself and putting yourself out there to get an internship.

With all of that being said, get out there and go secure your internship! Research companies to work with, build your resume and get those internships! Your future self will thank you. 🌀





By **Jala Davis** | Illustrated by **Audrey Milks**

Inner Superhero

Who would you
become if the
ordinary became
extraordinary?

CHILDREN LOVE SUPERHEROES and (maybe not so secretly) adults do too! I'm sure you've thought about yourself in comic books and how you'd end up saving the world with your amazing superpowers. Maybe you'd like to read minds so you can help predict the future or maybe, just maybe, you'd like to have super speed simply so you can get from place to place in half the time. No matter what superpower you'd like to possess, I'm sure you've always had it in the back of your mind, and these people have too.

"My superpower would be time travel." (Casey Weidner; junior, recreational therapy)

"I wanna teleport because gas prices are too high." (Krislynn Lawson; junior, nursing)

"I would want to be the smartest person in the world so that I can know everything. I would dress super casual and basic so that I can reveal my superpower without anyone suspecting it." (Emily Peek; junior, communication)

"My superpower? It would be telepathy so that I can control anything with my mind." (Dre Terry; senior, communication)

"I would want my superpower to be teleportation so that I could go on vacation whenever I want." (Jasmine Fisher; senior, criminal justice)

"My superpower would be mind-reading. Humans are complex and can't express themselves well, so it's easier just to read minds, so you know how they feel. My outfit would be a bunch of shades of blue, but it would be like a nonchalant costume like a nice hoodie, nice sweatpants and some Jordans. And my name? It would be Iris, like seeing through people's eyes." (Aaliyah Whitehurst; sophomore, exercise physiology)

"If I were a superhero, the superpower I would want is the ability to read people's minds. I am a very observant person who also over-thinks a lot so I always want to know what people are thinking." (Emma Farmer; junior, neuroscience)

"I would want the ability to heal; there are too many people losing their lives because of our medical system. It's too expensive and the treatments aren't efficient." (Tiana Lawrence; freshman, intended criminal justice major)

As for me, I think my superpower would be to grant wishes (a genie, right?) I would want to grant people's wishes because sometimes I believe that some wishes are just really worth granting for some people. Now, some wishes might be trivial, like "I wish I didn't have so much homework" or "I wish I didn't have to work today." However, some wishes I would love to grant for some people would be getting their dream jobs or having their business take off. I believe that mind-reading would go hand in hand with this so that I could grant wishes without people even having to say them out loud.

I would have your average superhero outfit — a catsuit and a cape. However, I would definitely have it either be all black or all pink, maybe a variation of both! No matter what the color was, it would have glitter and rhinestones all over it.

Although everyone and I had a variation of what we would want our superpower to be, we all had reasons that we thought our superpower would be helpful! No matter if our superpower is personal or for the greater good, we all have our very own inner superhero.

What would your superpower be and why? Let us know! 



Sunshine, Swimsuits & Summer Classes

By **Amy Imbody** | Illustration by **Abigail Lund**

IT'S FINALLY THAT TIME of year again. Classes are ending, the weather is warmer and the pile of schoolwork gets smaller and smaller. For some, the end of the spring means a great start to a long and relaxing summer. To others, it's just the beginning of another set of classes. ECU has a lot to offer when it comes to summer classes. Whether you missed an elective, or need another credit to graduate, it's easy to select whatever classes you need for your major. However, summer classes aren't for everyone. In that case, here's a compiled amount of pros and cons to determine whether summer courses are for you.

Pro - You're able to get ahead and possibly graduate early. It can also help if you're a credit or two behind, so you can graduate on time. Whether your idea is to get ahead or catch up, summer classes can give you a step in the right direction.

Con - Classes are often a compressed version of a regular class. Therefore, it may be a bit difficult to balance a job and school, or just summer fun with school. It takes more attention than other courses during the regular year.

Pro - You can get your gen eds out of the way. General Education courses are sometimes a pain, but when you take them over the summer, you can avoid them during the school year. Plus, it's always better to have your fun classes during the year.

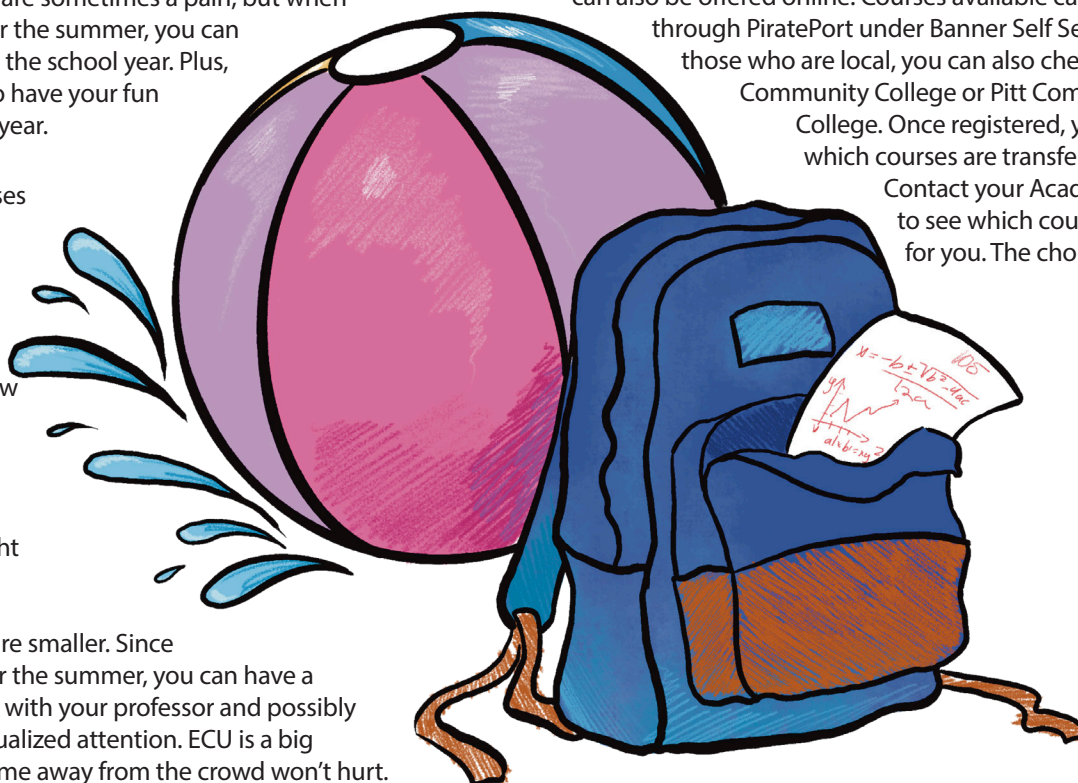
Con - Not all classes are offered during the summer. While a summer course sounds sweet, unfortunately you may only have a few classes available for your major. So that one 8am class that you've been dreading, you might just have to take.

Pro - Class sizes are smaller. Since everybody is off for the summer, you can have a better relationship with your professor and possibly have more individualized attention. ECU is a big school, so a little time away from the crowd won't hurt.

Con - They can be expensive. Students usually use the summer to get a job and help pay for their school. The time that you make for your classes could have also been time made for a job. For those who have scholarships and grants, it's difficult to apply those to courses that run over the summer.

Pro - There are summer classes at community colleges. If you're looking to save money for the upcoming year, you can always take a course at a local community college for cheaper. As long as the course counts towards your major and can easily transfer, it's always an option for those who live further away from campus.

ECU divides the summer into two sessions where you can take up to two courses per session, with a maximum of four courses altogether. The first day of class for Session 1 begins on May 16th and then finishes on June 22nd. Session 2 begins on June 23rd and ends on July 28th. If that isn't a good time for you, there is an 11-week session that begins on May 16th, 2022 and ends on July 28th. For more precise dates, visit the University Academic Calendar for Summer 2022. Depending on the course, classes can also be offered online. Courses available can be accessed through PiratePort under Banner Self Service. For those who are local, you can also check out Lenoir Community College or Pitt Community College. Once registered, you can see which courses are transferable to ECU. Contact your Academic Advisor to see which courses are right for you. The choice is yours! 🎓



Spring 2022

The *Perks* of Community College

By **Josie Murray** | Photo by **Halie Miller**

THERE ARE CLASSES in most high schools that can give you college credits if you pass the final exam, but it isn't guaranteed. Most high schools also offer dual enrollment at a local community college to complete high school requirements as well as earning college credits that you can transfer to a university. Some students choose to finish out their general education requirements at community college, while others may take summer classes at community college. Let's talk about it.

Before transferring to ECU, senior psychology major Teresa Tomas took some Wake Technical Community College classes. "My experience at Wake Tech was sort of mixed. It was definitely cheaper than starting at a four-year school," Tomas said. Senior communication major Madison Melton also took community college classes before coming to ECU and said that she enjoyed her classes and never struggled with them even though the professors taught the courses online.


There are lots of benefits of taking community college classes. "I would largely recommend community college for financial reasons. Student loans are a big deal, and transferring from a community college more than halved the amount of money I will owe for my education," Tomas said. Community college charges per credit rather than a larger semester tuition. Tomas also mentioned that it gave her a different perspective when entering the ECU scene and helped her to make responsible choices here. Melton talked about the smaller class sizes, which is beneficial if you prefer a more attentive education than large lecture classes. "I believe it definitely

gave me the experience of the college atmosphere, so when I came here, I found myself fitting in and being able to get used to the college student schedule quicker than other students," Melton said. Community college can also give you a space to figure out your career path before committing to a university and is often more flexible than a university's course and graduation timeline.

While the consensus is that community college can save you tons of money and has other perks, it is a choice, just like coming to a four-year school is a choice. "It gives you more opportunities to pick the school you want to go to and to prepare for your future education and career," Tomas said. Melton said she would advise students who may be on the fence just to give it a try. "You save an insane amount of money. I think everyone should attend a community college at some point just to understand it's the same as a university," Melton said.

Taking summer classes at a community college is a great option when ECU isn't offering a credit you need in any of the summer semester blocks. One class that I hear is frequently taken at community college and transferred to ECU is HLTH 1000. This is because most community colleges will combine HLTH 1000 and KINE 1000, and it counts for both classes when transferring the

credits. This is very helpful because it can be difficult to get into that first Kinesiology class. People take all kinds of classes at community college in the summer. It is definitely a cheaper option, and the smaller class sizes are a bonus if you are trying to do a grade replacement for a class you didn't do your best in.

While many people may tend to look down on community college classes, it truly is an excellent opportunity to fulfill credits. You can earn credits for cheaper and potentially get more one-on-one instruction. It is also a great option for summer classes when the university doesn't offer what you need. "Take your gen eds cheaper!" Melton said. 



⌘ While some universities don't have a local community college, Greenville does with Pitt Community College. Go Bulldogs!

Graffiti

The Immortality of Street Art



An opinion piece on the transformative history of a controversial art form

By **Shatiece Starks** | Photos by **Halie Miller**

PICTURE THIS: YOU'RE IN NEW YORK CITY

IN 1985. You recently came from work or school. Your eyes wander about as you stand and wait for the subway. When it arrives, you're astounded to see bold, colorful words written in a dramatic chunky font on the train's side. You realize the art brings about a twinge of flavor to the area. These words carefully sprayed on the train are called graffiti.

THE HISTORY OF GRAFFITI

In essence, graffiti has been around for centuries. Megan Garber, in an article from The

Atlantic, explains that the earliest depiction of this art form comes from the limestone caves in Sulawesi, Indonesia, which are purportedly 39,900 years old. Most of the drawings consist of stencil-esque outlined hands and animals.

The website The Art Story explains that contemporary or hip-hop graffiti in the U.S. originated in Philadelphia in the 1960s. A high schooler with the pseudonym of "Corn Bread" wrote his name all over the city to impress a young woman with whom he attended school. Doing this sparked an artistic rebellion in the eyes of other artists. It



» Graffiti art can be found anywhere, even here in Greenville! One of the most common places graffiti can be found is on South Washington Street.

became increasingly popular, especially in New York City. Subway cars were well-known targets. Artists, also called "writers" or "taggers," intended to make their names known to broad audiences. Subway cars were the perfect canvases considering they traveled long distances. As it was at first considered vandalism, the city's authorities took action to eradicate graffiti. The New York police would stake out suspects' houses, follow them around and gather information from other informants. Another measure of prevention included building advanced fences around train yards. This, however, did not stop the artists and only motivated them further to pursue their targets. According to The Art Story, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) launched the Clean Car Program in 1984. The program was a five-year plan that intended to eliminate graffiti on subway cars. It was mildly successful. Rather than removing graffiti in its totality, artists found

new canvases such as rooftops and billboards. Despite the push to eliminate this art form, artists often overcame the challenges authorities presented.

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF GRAFFITI

While considered an outlet for artistic expression, it's also considered pestilent. According to the ASU Center for Problem-Oriented Policing, graffiti costs approximately \$12 billion in cleanup every year in the United States. It also heightens the fear of gang activity, although they are not always in correlation with each other. Graffiti art also affects the economy, often causing a decrease in the utilization of the public transit system, a reduction in retail sales and a decrease in property value.

Although some graffiti may enhance its environment, others do the exact opposite. Unfortunately, it isn't uncommon for inappropriate images or messages to wind up on school property. For instance, in 2017, Komo News released an article detailing a story in which employees at a K-8 school found racist and inappropriate messages spray painted on the roof of the school building. While I often agree with the free expression of oneself in public spaces, we cannot risk the premature exposure of content the children in our communities will be faced with.

I believe in the good of graffiti and the beneficial power it holds for a community. We are creatures of creation and should be allowed to express ourselves as such, as long as it does not harm anyone else. Graffiti art provides people with creative outlets to express their thoughts, opinions, and feelings while also having the ability to liven up the visual atmosphere of its surrounding area. 🌀



Pirates Around the World

Taking a leap to gain new experiences.

By Josie Murray

Illustration by Bansari Patel

Photo Contributed by Faisal Abouelhassan



PIRATE NATION IS HOME TO ALL kinds of people. We draw people in from all over North Carolina, 47 other states and 99 countries around the world. Study abroad is an opportunity offered to students here at ECU, but we also have a program for international students to receive an education with us.

Senior finance major Faisal Abouelhassan chose ECU to earn his degree. “I like to think of myself as a legacy here — my uncle graduated from ECU as an international student in the late 1980s and so did his daughter just recently in 2016,” Abouelhassan said. He added that other schools in the U.S. and the United Kingdom were on his radar, but ECU really stood out to him. The Office of Global Affairs would send regular emails to check in and offer assistance if needed. “What really differentiated ECU from other schools was the positive impact it had not only on its student population, but also the local communities around ECU.

ECU, its faculty and its students truly embodied what the school stood for: to serve,” Abouelhassan said.

Originally from Egypt and Qatar, Abouelhassan recalled a couple culture shocks he experienced when he first began his classes at ECU. “One of the biggest culture shocks I had when coming to ECU was the informality in classes. Let

me explain: I had initially thought that since we would be interacting with faculty members in the classroom, we should be dressed fairly professionally,” Abouelhassan said. He was surprised to

see his peers dressed in shorts or sweatpants instead of button-down shirts and jeans. He also mentioned that it was different to have waiters and waitresses split the bill up before it was brought out to the table. “Back home in Qatar, my friends and I would always fight for who was going to pay the bill,” Abouelhassan said.

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs Jon Rezek spoke about what he enjoys about working with our international students. “It’s great to see our international students meet new people and interact socially. We want to make sure students feel like they belong here, that ECU is welcoming and this program has helped to build that on campus,” Rezek said. For example, Abouelhassan was given the opportunities to attend Pirate football games and serve on the Student Government Association. Additionally, Dr. Rezek also mentioned that he has enjoyed weekly gatherings called International Coffee Hour with the international students.

There is an Intensive English program for students who come to ECU and need a little more help with their English speaking and writing abilities. Before beginning the program, you must take a test to gauge where you’re at, much like other language courses offered at ECU. There are three levels: beginner, intermediate and advanced. The program holds class four days a week and gives over twenty hours of instruction and practice each week. Students participate in weekly conversation hours and speech lab. This is a great opportunity for our international students who may have been hesitant to apply based on their English language skills.

Being in a new place can be scary yet a significant opportunity for growth. “It’s really rewarding to see students come into an unfamiliar setting in a new and exciting place and succeed,” Rezek said. Many in-state students say that Pirate Nation has always felt like home, and we want it to feel that way for everyone. “I have to note that ever since I had set foot on campus, I knew that I was home,” Abouelhassan said. ☺

« All Pirates belong here, no matter where they’re from or what languages they speak. Faisal Abouelhassan, senior finance major, is one of those Pirates.

Changing the Game

How the new name, image and likeness bill opens up doors for collegiate athletes nationwide.

By Josie Murray | Illustrations by Bansari Patel

AFTER A YEAR OF LIMITED SPORTS, the National Collegiate Athletic Association put a bill into place allowing student-athletes the right to earn money from their image. The Name, Image and Likeness bill (NIL) was put into place on July 1, 2021, and is a game-changer for collegiate athletes nationwide. According to the NCAA, this means that student-athletes are now allowed to make deals to provide commercial or promotional services with brands that show interest in working with them.

ECU's NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative and accounting professor, Dr. Cal Christian, weighed in on the topic. "So, in looking at this from a student-athlete's point of view, they should be able to earn money while they are in college," Dr. Christian said. He continued that students could work a regular job if their schedule allows it, but that is often impossible for student-athletes. Junior physical education major Josh Meeks also gave his opinions on this somewhat controversial topic. "College athletics is supposed to be about giving college students a place to compete while allowing them to get a college degree," Meeks said. Meeks also recognized that collegiate athletics is a multibillion-dollar business, which leads him to ask if a college degree has equal value to the enterprise.

There are pros and cons of any bill. For this one in particular, Dr. Christian noted that this bill opens more doors for women's sports as well as non-revenue sports. "Many thought this would just be a football issue, but it has allowed for women in college athletics to get the recognition that they deserve," Dr. Christian added. Meeks also pointed out that this bill will benefit student-athletes at smaller schools and athletes who are not on scholarship with their school or program.

There are rules to this bill. According to the NCAA, the three main rules set in place are as follows:

- Student-athletes must only be compensated for work performed.
- A program or company may not guarantee a NIL deal contingent on the student-athlete's enrollment at their specific institution.
- Student-athletes may not be compensated for their athletic performance. Their performance may increase the value of the deal, but that cannot be the sole consideration for a deal with any certain athlete.

Many collegiate athletes began making deals as soon as the bill was signed in their states. ECU's Quarterback, Holton Ahlers, made a deal early on with Barstool Sports. Other deals nationwide have caught the media's attention, and Boardroom listed off some of these. Kool-Aid made a deal with defensive back Ga'Quincy "Kool-Aid" McKinstry at Alabama, Degree deodorant made a deal with several athletes and Built Bar covers the tuition of walk-on athletes for Brigham Young University's (BYU) football program. The deal with BYU sounds like it breaks the rule at first glance, but walk-on athletes are already enrolled at the university before they decide to try out for the team, which falls in the guidelines.

When ethics come into question regarding this bill, it is hard to determine if it is or isn't ethical. Dr. Christian does believe that it is ethical because this NIL bill allows athletes to earn money doing things that have nothing to do with their athletic ability. "For example, if a student-athlete was a musician, they couldn't sing and sell songs without jeopardizing their scholarship and ability to participate in a sport," Dr. Christian said. On the other hand, Meeks was conflicted about whether or not it is ethical and posed several questions. "For many of these athletes, college is the last time they will play. What if they put their whole life plan in athletics and it does not work out? What if they put so much time into trying to get a deal that their grades suffer? What if sponsorships cause them to miss a class?" Meeks asked. The "what ifs" will always be there; it is a matter of weighing out the costs and benefits.

Needless to say, college sports are evolving. We are seeing changes that we wanted but may not have been expecting. Dr. Christian believes that collegiate sports are changing with or without the bill, but the NIL bill definitely makes the change a little bit sweeter. 🍬



in schools finally gained some support in the 1960s, and with this came the transition from abstinence-based teaching to a more comprehensive, evidence-based curriculum. This transition went from “you must abstain from sex in order to be protected” to “here’s what can happen when you do this action; here are the risks.”

According to the American Sexual Health

Association, sex education in itself is “the integration of the somatic, emotional, intellectual, and social aspects of sexual being in ways that are positively enriching and that enhance personality, communication, and love.” Well, comprehensive sex education takes that a step further. Comprehensive sex education “covers a broad range of issues relating to the physical, biological, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality,” which in turn covers all parts of sex and the risks associated with it. This comprehensive, evidence-based approach to teaching youth about sex has really been impactful. “Years and years of data support the need for comprehensive sex-ed programs to do what we really want it to do: reduce risk behavior,” said Jaime Williams, an ECU teaching instructor of Health Education and Promotion.

Evidence-based sex education was so highly supported and was seen as being so effective that in 2009, the Obama administration budgeted \$190 million to fund two new sex-ed initiatives. According to Planned Parenthood, the majority of the money was set aside for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program and the Personal Responsibility Education Program.

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY OF SEX EDUCATION

For 19-year-old junior Damaris Jackson, this comprehensive sex education has helped better shape her ideas of sex. “It has helped me know what precautions and

protections to use during sex so that I am practicing safe sex,” Jackson said. And that’s what comprehensive sex education is all about — having people understand what it means to have safe sex.

Although there is a major push for comprehensive sex ed in schools, some states and some schools don’t have those curriculums for sex ed. Most kids learn about sex ed during their middle and high school years, but unfortunately, some communities are misrepresented or underrepresented in these curriculums. One very unrepresented

“IT HAS HELPED ME KNOW WHAT PRECAUTIONS AND PROTECTIONS TO USE DURING SEX SO THAT I AM PRACTICING SAFE SEX.”

Damaris Jackson

group is the LGBTQ+ community. Like most people, Jackson says that she feels like this community wasn’t well represented in her sex education courses. “Any good evidence-based, comprehensive sexuality education curriculum includes that community,” Williams said. Good sex ed courses will focus more on the risk of the action and not just based on who is doing the action. The risk and how to protect yourself are more important than who’s doing the action.

Unfortunately, North Carolina has written a curriculum that does not include the LGBTQ+ community stating that “reproductive health and safety education teaches that a mutually faithful, monogamous, heterosexual relationship in the context of marriage is the lifelong means of avoiding STIs, HIV, and unplanned pregnancy.” This curriculum leaves out a great amount of people when it comes to teaching people about sex.

Speaking of STIs, in the early 2000s, there was a switch from the term sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) to sexually transmitted infections (STIs). “We try to move toward STI...we really try to use STI, and that move was to reduce the stigma around STIs,” Williams said. The transition in terminology was mainly due to the negative stigma around STDs and misinformation about them. According to Williams, all infections don’t necessarily turn into diseases, so people need to know that. Many issues involving sex have a negative stigma around it, but “we need to educate those who don’t understand the stigmas properly,” Jackson said.

It’s very important that we promote and engage in proper and comprehensive, evidence-based sex education so that we all understand the risk and even rewards that may come from sex. We need to separate ourselves from our negative images and ideas of what sex can be; we should understand the positive sides of sex and relay that information to those around us. Thankfully, having a good sex-ed curriculum can produce positive long-term effects on those who learn it. “I know what practices are safe and which ones aren’t, and I know that my knowledge from my sex-ed courses is solid,” Jackson said. ☺



Which ECU Hangout is Right for You?

By Josie Murray



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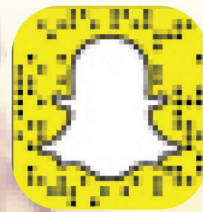
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