

Two arrested for hacking into computer system

SBI involved in investigation of student, friend

JACQUELINE D. KELLUM
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Agents from the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) recently assisted ECU Police in a case that ended in the arrest of two suspects, for tampering with ECU's computer system.

"There has been an incident that involved computer hacking. The incident involved interference with a system used for academic purposes," said University Attorney

Ben G. Irons III. The system in question is the one on which faculty post on-line syllabi and other announcements to their students. Students can also communicate back to their professors and sometimes submit assignments over the system.

According to information on a warrant obtained from the Pitt County Courthouse criminal department, the suspects are non-student Jason Cooper Hines, 23, and student Nolan Waite Grant, also 23.

Hines is charged with two misdemeanor counts of accessing computers without proper authorization. Grant is charged with one misdemeanor count of accessing computers without proper

authorization and one misdemeanor count of denying access of computer services to an authorized user.

The problem was discovered in Spring 1997 by Ernest Marshburn, associate director of academic computing of Computer Information Services (CIS). He alerted the office of the University Attorney and ECU Police.

"We got the information from the CIS people, took a look at it and realized it was going to cross jurisdiction lines," said Assistant Director of ECU Police Thomas C. Younce.

Younce turned the case over to the SBI, which assigned three agents from their Financial Crimes Division (FCD), to investigate the case.

"They (FCD) have the agents who do investigations into computer crimes," Younce said.

The SBI received the request for help from ECU on July 8.

"That investigation culminated in the arrest of two suspects," said Curtis L. Ellis, special agent in charge of FCD.

According to Ellis, his team was able to trace the computer problems back to the suspects by following an electronic trail.

"There's an audit trail...when there's an entry made in any computer system, there's a record of that," Ellis said.

The two suspects have their trial date set for Dec. 18. In the aftermath of their actions, CIS has initiated additional security measures to further protect the



Ben G. Irons III
University Attorney

computer system.

"That has been done. There were security measures in place before, and additional measures have been taken," Marshburn said.

However, CIS also wants to make sure to keep the system accessible to the university community for whose use it is intended.

"In an University environment, you want people to be able to get in and use it, but if you make it too easy, unauthorized users can get in," said Blake Price, Director of CIS.

According to Younce, computer crimes of this kind are not common, but have happened before.

"This is the second one this year. I made an arrest earlier this year, involving a non-student who entered the system from a computer in Research Triangle Park. But this, to me, is the more serious of the crimes," Younce said.

None of the systems containing sensitive information, like students' personal information or grades, were affected in any way by the tampering.

"None of our administrative systems were compromised," Irons said.

Athletic department awaits new training, banquet facility

Fundraising begins for city's largest complex

HOLLY HARRIS
NEWS WRITER

The initiation of fund raising and planning for a athletic training and banquet facility has just begun, and the complex is hoped to be a large step forward in the quality of athletic training.

The building, which will be located somewhere on the Minges Golfscum property, is slated to be a 10 million dollar project. It will include not only a 22,000 square foot weight and workout area, (the one in the recreation center is 8,000 square feet), but also a large indoor track, a 500-person banquet facility, and a private dining area for recruits and their families on game days.

However, it has not yet been decided if non-athletes will be allowed to take advantage of this forthcoming project.

"My inclination is that it probably [will be] an athletic building," said Bruce Phee, director of facilities construction. "The funding will be handled that way. The students paid for the recreation center, (so they are allowed to use it). I have an idea that if athletics goes out and raises the money it will be just for athletes."

The main idea of the complex is to give athletes a place to train that will match or exceed the finest facilities in the nation. A probable model for the future ECU weight room is the weight room at West Virginia, which has an excess of 20,000 square feet of space.

Comparably, Clemson has 15,000 square feet and Chapel Hill has 8,000 square feet. Right now the Pirate weight room comes in at the bottom of the list, with a 5,000 ft. span of usable space.

Currently, the university planners only have lists of floor dimensions and expected costs. It has not yet been determined where the money is going to come from, or if the complex will be a Minges annex or a free-

FLOOR BY FLOOR PRICE TAG INCLUDES:

First floor will include:

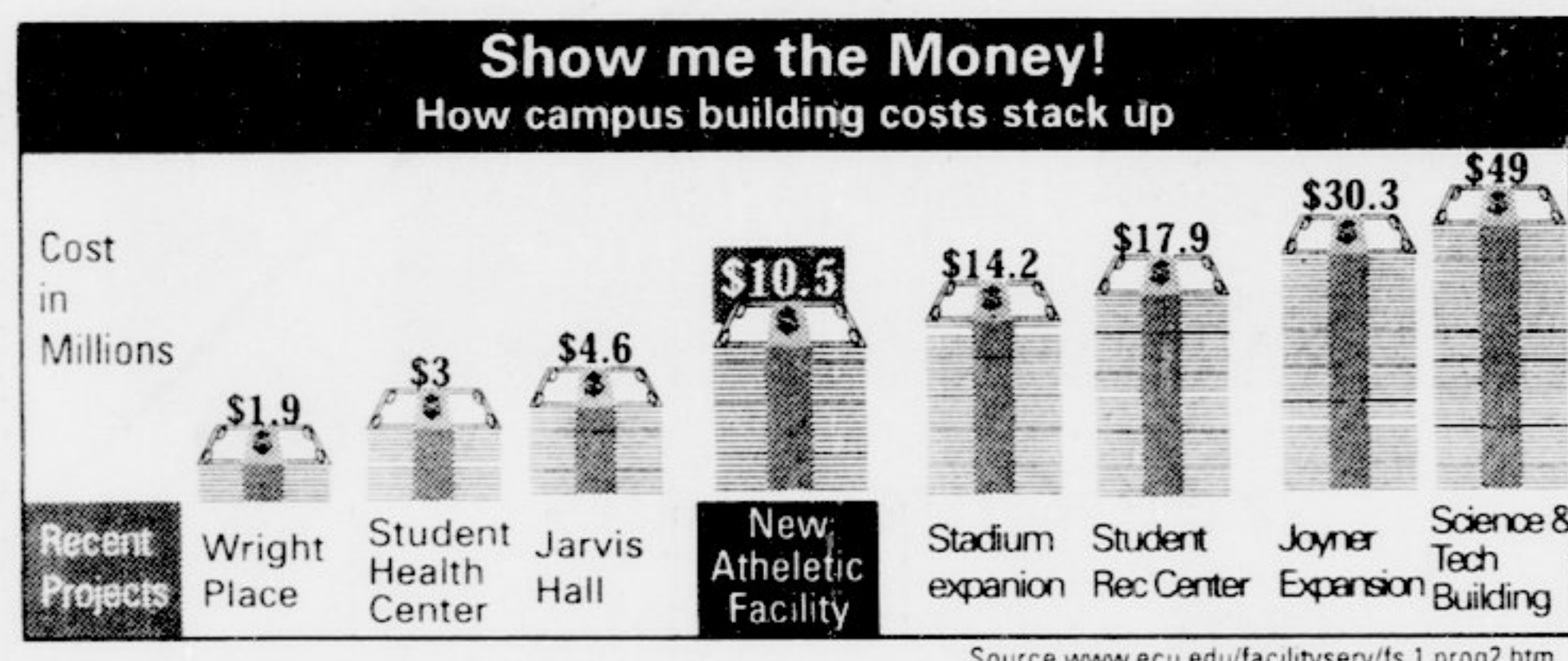
Entrance lobby
Strength and Conditioning
Coach's office
Grad assistants office
coaches conference room
Staff shower/lockers
Mens restroom
Women's restroom
taping room
Equipment room
First aid room
Storage room
Elevator
mechanical room
plaza
Total price of first floor—\$3,294,325

Second floor will include:

entry hall
elevator
Men's restroom
Women's restroom
Coat room
Reception
Pre-function/Private dining/Recruit dining
Banquet Hall
Catering Kitchen
Men employee restroom
Women employee restroom
Hall of Fame
Balcony
Total price of second floor—\$7,031,270
Total project cost—\$10,464,462

Source: ECU News Bureau

SEE ATHLETIC, PAGE 2



SGA appropriations to Transit sorely needed



Many students, like these in front of Christenbury Gym, use the transit system daily and will be affected by an increase in routes and buses. Increases were made available by SGA's recent appropriation of an additional \$10 for the Transit System.

PHOTO BY CLAY BUCK

Usage of buses increased 19,000 to 30,000

GRAIG D. RAMEY
STAFF WRITER

ECU Transit was appropriated an extra \$10 to their budget so they could maintain their routes and buy new buses.

According to last year's budget, ECU Transit was going into a deficit just at

regular operating costs, making it difficult to update their system with new buses.

"\$5 dollars of the increase was to catch the budget back up with inflation," says Joey Weathington, ECU's Transit Advisor.

Transit usually has a cushion of 25 percent in their budget to be able to buy new buses. Last year those funds were being used just to keep them up to pace.

"We had to correct the problem so we could have our 25 percent cushion back," says Weathington.

"We haven't asked for money since 1993," says Lisa Smith, Chair of the

Transit Board.

Over the last few years, student Transit use has increased from 19,000 to 30,000. This jump prompted Transit's need for additional funds.

"To continue the shuttle service at all we needed more money," says Smith. "It is a privilege for us (students) to run Transit. Only one in four in the nation is student run. We also hoped to retire some buses but we couldn't because it keeps growing. With new parking lots at Minges we

SEE TRANSIT, PAGE 2

Athletic officials: N.C. State game tickets distributed fairly

Allocation based on student turnout

JENNY VICKERS
STAFF WRITER

Officials say recent concerns about the distribution of ECU football game tickets is merely a comment on ECU students' participation in away games.

ECU was allocated 5,000 tickets from N.C. State to be made available for purchase. A total of 3,500 tickets were given to the Pirate Club, 1000 to students,

and 500 complimentary tickets to the parents and friends of the football players.

"It's a philosophical question about why more tickets were given to the Pirate Club. If students didn't pick those tickets up then there is no real controversy," said Henry VanSant, associate athletic director of ECU.

"The students don't realize the decision made by the Athletic Adviser. One thousand tickets were available for students and they weren't picked up. Tickets are to be picked up Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We even extend this for the students to Friday and even on Saturday. We want the students at the game. We look at the student pick

up rate, which has been poor," VanSant said.

"The tickets were put on sale on Oct. 14 for the Pirate Club, and on Oct. 15 for the students. The students normally only get 10 percent of the tickets available. We have to distribute the rest to the team, to the legislators and to the Pirate Club," said Brenda Edwards, the ticket manager for ECU Athletics Department.

"We extended the opportunity to buy because they weren't picked up on the designated days. It was advertised in bulletins; we sent notices to The East Carolinian and to The Daily Reflector."

SEE TICKETS, PAGE 2

TUESDAY

TODAY
sunny
High 53
Low 26

TOMORROW
sunny
High 53
Low 32

Did You Know?

Did you know that the first "thanksgiving" feast included fish, berries, watercress, lobster, dried fruit, clams, venison, and plums?



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Learn the gift of giving this holiday season



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Got the holiday credit card blues?



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Wolfpack take the Pirates with 37-24 victory

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news briefs

ACROSS THE STATE

NC Unemployment rate fell in October

RALEIGH (AP) — North Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped slightly in October compared to the month earlier, the state Employment Security Commission said.

North Carolina's October rate was 3.4 percent, compared to 3.7 percent in September, ESC chairman Parker Chesson said Friday. The unemployment rate in October 1996 was 4.2 percent.

Surf City radio station sale finalized

SURF CITY, N.C. (AP) — The sale of a Surf City radio station was finalized Thursday, but the new owner is still waiting for Federal Communications Commission approval of his license.

Jacksonville-Topsail Radio LLC, a new Holly Ridge company, announced its plans to buy WZSS-FM earlier this week and closed a deal on the station for \$650,000.

Broome said he bought the station after recognizing the profitability of radio in a growing Onslow County.

ACROSS THE NATION

Grand Island and Hall County to decide whether to seek prison

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP) — Hall County supervisors and the Grand Island City Council will vote Monday on whether either wants to submit an application for a 960-bed state prison.

County officials will discuss the topic at a 9:15 a.m. CST meeting and the city council will meet at 7 p.m. CST.

Approximately 24 communities have requested information about the prison, which was approved by the Legislature this year, said Doug Hanson, engineering manager for the Nebraska Department of Corrections.

School officials evaluating whether box punishment was proper

MILFORD, Mich. (AP) — Huron Valley School District officials are investigating a teacher's decision to put a second-grader in a makeshift cardboard cubicle to keep his attention focused.

Assistant Superintendent Nancy Coratti said Friday that it will take at least seven days to complete the assessment of the teacher and determine whether there should be any consequences for requiring Bradley Watkins to do his desk work in the cubicle.

The teacher had taped a 3-foot-high cardboard cubicle around Bradley's desk in the back of his second-grade classroom in Milford, 30 miles northwest of Detroit.

around the world

Italian mob boss slain on way to hospital

PALERMO, Sicily (AP) — Gunmen shot and killed an ailing mob boss as he drove to a Palermo hospital for treatment Sunday.

Two attackers pulled up alongside of the car carrying Antonino Geraci, shooting him five times in the head at close range, RAI state television and the ANSA news agency said.

A female passenger was unharmed. The attackers it was not clear whether they were in a car or on a motorcycle, escaped.

Ten killed in tribal clashes in Southwestern Kenya

KISUMU, Kenya (AP) — Maasai attackers have killed 10 people with machetes and knives in a tribal clash over land in southwestern Kenya, a witness said.

After the attack, the Maasai searched houses and beat anyone who wasn't from their tribe in the farming town of Kilgots, 400 miles west of Nairobi, a local reporter who witnessed the attack said Friday.

Student Health gets check-up

Renovations planned for first of new year

JONI SURETTE
STAFF WRITER

ECU's Student Health Center has made plans for renovation to begin by the first of the new year.

"We are trying to turn that building into a physically nice facility," said Kay Wilkerson, the director of the ECU Health Center.

The Student Health building was built in 1930 and was originally used as an infirmary.

The nurses lived there and the students stayed over night for anything from an upset stomach to the flu. However, as the university continuously grows in population, the building becomes less efficient.

"ECU used to be much smaller, but with the ever-growing attendance rate here we feel the need to expand as well," said Wilkerson.

Some pertinent points that will be considered in the building's renovation will be: providing more confidentiality for students, accommodating the staff with more working space to increase efficiency, providing classrooms within the building for health education purposes, as well as expanding the parking lot by providing a circle drive in front of

the center for easy patient drop off.

The entrance for the newly-renovated building will also be moved. The new entrance will be facing Flanagan, the classroom building currently to the right of the Health Center. The proposed time allotment for all the renovations to be finished is two years.

Student Health requested funds from the SGA to help support their new plans for renovation. The Health Services is not the only department to receive monetary support from SGA's recent allocations but will demonstrate the largest effects.

"I am just thankful to have the opportunity to make our students and staff more at home," Wilkerson said.

Athletic

continued from page 1

standing building.

The over three million dollars it will take to complete the first floor provides for a number of rooms, including a taping room, a strength and conditioning room, an equipment room, and a first aid room. An entrance plaza with an awards display of past Pirate football accomplishments will lead the way into the heart of the complex.

The second floor will include the banquet hall, and according to Fye, this is one aspect of the new building that non-athletic students will most likely get to

enjoy.

"That's a University facility—the biggest facility we have presently is Mendenhall, which we are quickly outgrowing. This is looked at as a campus-wide facility," Fye said.

Not only will it be an asset to the university, which at the present time has difficulty hosting large events, but it will be the biggest facility in Greenville, and therefore the possibility exists that it could be rented for community use.

For now, this complex is in the earliest stages of planning. However, the university and the athletics department has high hopes for its future.

"We really want to build a quality facility," Fye said.

Transit

continued from page 1

expect the services will need to increase even more.

This ongoing need for buses is complicated even more by the amount of time it takes a bus to arrive after it has been ordered. Currently ECU has 18 buses at an average age of nine years. Some of the buses are as old as 1980.

The five buses delivered in '96 should replace a couple but increased rider ship has made that difficult," says Westinghouse. "The old buses have been good buses

but maintenance can become more expensive than buying a new one. It would be more of a cost advantage to retire the old ones and get some new ones."

Transit has a budget of \$600,000 and the average bus costs \$140,000 to \$170,000.

Smith has other plans in mind for helping Transit with their budget problems.

"We are going to try advertising on some of the buses," says Smith.

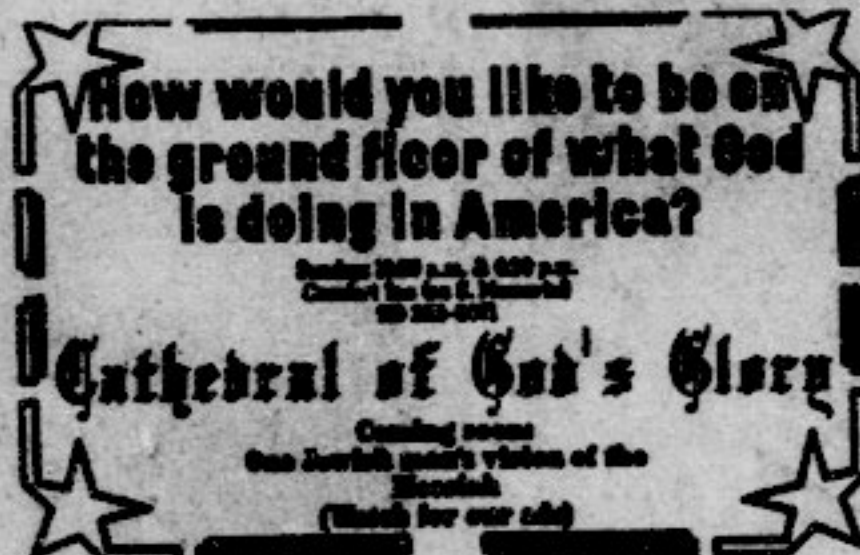
"We are also going to trim some of the routes to make them run more efficiently. Routes with few passengers will be trimmed. On some routes we don't have any passengers after 6:00. Those will be the first to get trimmed."

Tickets

continued from page 1

VanSant said.

Even after the extension, all 1,000 of the tickets were not picked up by the students. The 3,500 allocated for the Pirate Club wasn't enough," Edwards said. ECU has 6,000 Pirate Club members. The Pirate Club members weren't able to pick up the amount of tickets they needed, while the 1,000 tickets available to students were not picked up.



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Do it for ECU

Or for a portable CD player, whichever floats your boat.

The administration has said they're looking for a new university symbol, something other than PeeDee Pirate.

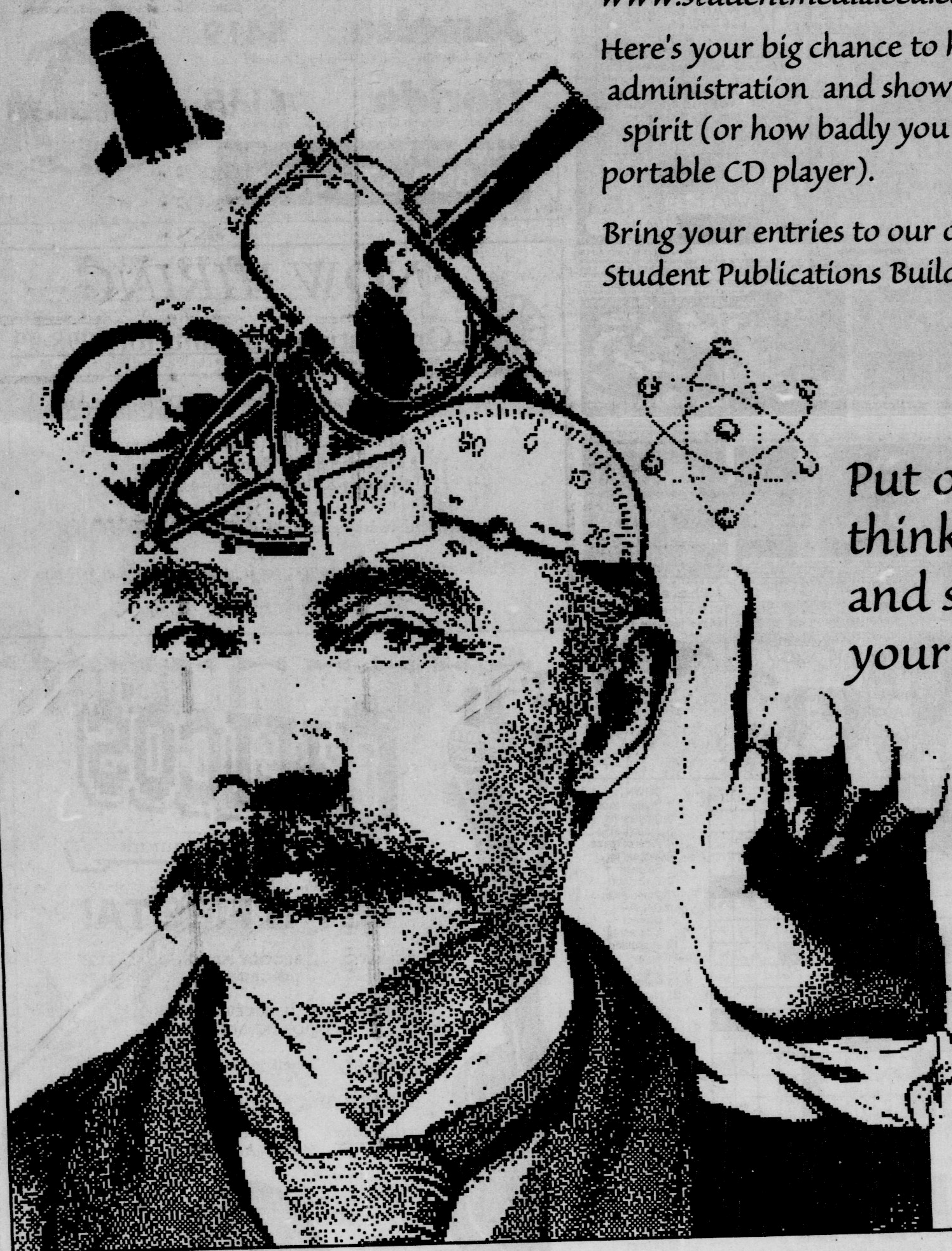
We at The East Carolinian would like to help them in their deliberations.

Send us your idea for a new ECU logo before our Nov. 28 deadline.

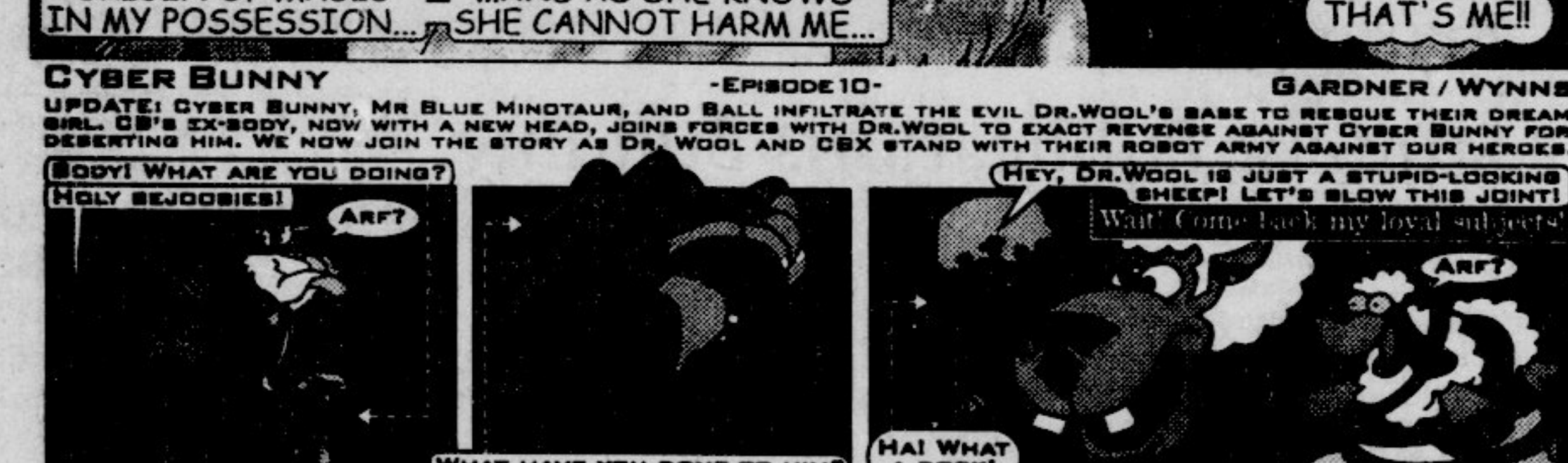
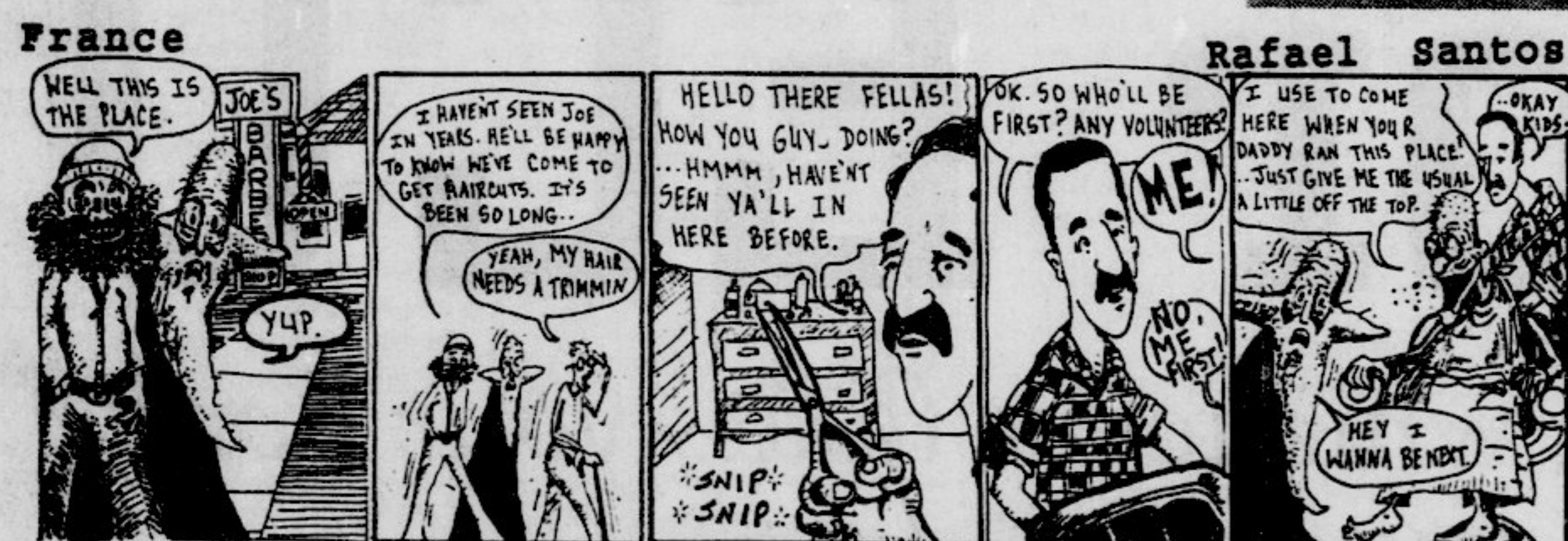
We'll pick our favorite and give that person a portable CD player. Then we'll run all of serious logos we receive in the Dec. 4 issue of the paper and on our website at www.studentmedia.ecu.edu.

Here's your big chance to help the ECU administration and show your school spirit (or how badly you really want a portable CD player).

Bring your entries to our offices in the Student Publications Building.



Put on your thinking cap and send us your logo idea.



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5 Mild explosive
9 Small spar
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15 Inconsequential
18 Expunge
17 Seaweed
18 Type of ticket?
19 Brads
20 Flashy
22 Advantageous aspects
24 Former Soviet news agency
28 Rice or red
27 Impede
30 Fabricated
32 Lupino and
36 Elbow grease
38 Disinclined
40 OSS follower
41 Rabbit ears
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44 Pale tan color
46 Modernize
48 "we forget"
49 Motif
51 Preliminaries, briefly
52 By comparison with
54 — bien
56 Savings —
59 Escorts
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64 Curtain or horse start
67 Leave off the list
68 — preview
69 Beverage
70 No longer green
71 Collars
72 Terminates
73 Formerly, formerly

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Having the ECU community serve 500, the East Carolinian circulates 12,000 copies every Monday and Thursday. The next edition is each edition at the top of the Eastern Basin. The East Carolinian appears twice in the winter, once in the fall and once in the spring. The East Carolinian is published every week. All letters must be signed. Letters should be addressed to: opinion editor, The East Carolinian, Publications Building, ECU, Greenville, 27858-4352. For circulation, call 919.286.6300.

ourview

It is the season to be jolly and bring joy and happiness. Thanksgiving is two days away and Christmas exactly one month to the day. It is also the season to bring joy and love to another life, maybe someone you have never met.

Many of us think of Christmas as a time to receive gifts and surprises from loved ones. We anticipate Santa Claus's arrival while we are tucked away, snug and warm in our beds. What many of us fail to think about is all the adults and children who are scattered across the world and in our own town of Greenville who have no home to live in, no warm bed to sleep in and no toys or gifts to look forward to when Christmas morning rolls around. This problem can be solved with the help of each and every one of us out there. The options are endless and the rewarding feeling is irreplaceable when you know you have helped someone who is less fortunate if a person would just take the time and a small amount of money to make a donation to those who do not have a Christmas to look forward to. There are so many things these families can use, such as, canned food, warm clothing, toys, books and most importantly a warm smile that could brighten someone's day.

Remember that it is the season to be thankful for what you have, what you may have had at one time, what you will one day have and what you could be responsible for someone else having. You have heard it all... you have seen it a hundred times... but have you ever acted on it? Have you ever had the opportunity to look into someone's eyes and see the joy and happiness, and know that you were a major part of that happiness? Take the opportunity now and during the next few days when there are no classes to make that special and lasting impression in another life.

A few places you can bring a gift or donation to are ECU's own holiday drive for toys, the Salvation Army, Toys for Tots or the gift of time and help can be given at any of the areas soup kitchens. And, of course, there's always that ringing bell outside the stores. Take time to stick your spare change in the can.

Don't be a scrooge this year!!!

LETTER to the Editor

Eakin, Logan make great contributions

In an earlier September edition of the East Carolinian, I mistakenly downplayed Chancellor Eakin's involvement in the growth of ECU. Since that time, I have spent a part of my life in the special collections room of Joyner Library, hoping to rectify my unintentional use of words. This is where I came across scores of information about the Shared Visions campaign that has given me all the confidence to say that we now have the best chancellor in the school's history.

The Shared Visions campaign had an original goal of \$50 million. The money was raised to "support a variety of programs benefiting students, faculty, staff and the entire University community." In

December of 1994, the \$50 million goal was exceeded by over \$15 million (or over 30 percent). It actually was the most successful fundraising campaign in school history. Scholarships, fellowships, faculty enrichment and the expansion of Mingos Coliseum, Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium and Joyner Library all came from this bigger-than-life campaign.

I would also like to say here that Steve Logan has also brought the university a huge amount of exposure, as I stated in an earlier edition. No matter who you would like to give credit to, East Carolina University has the most competent circle of decision makers in the

country. The best news of all is that these guys want to continue in their roles at the university, that in itself says we have arrived at a well-deserved state of stability. After being accepted to every school to which I applied, I chose to come to ECU based on the excitement that was being generated. As graduation approaches, I clearly feel I made the right choice. Thank you, Chancellor Eakin and Steve Logan, for your service to the university and most of all, thanks for instilling in us the pride we need to take on the world. It is much appreciated! Go Pirates!

Jonathan Huggins
Senior
Nutrition

LETTER to the Editor

Candidate says thanks for support

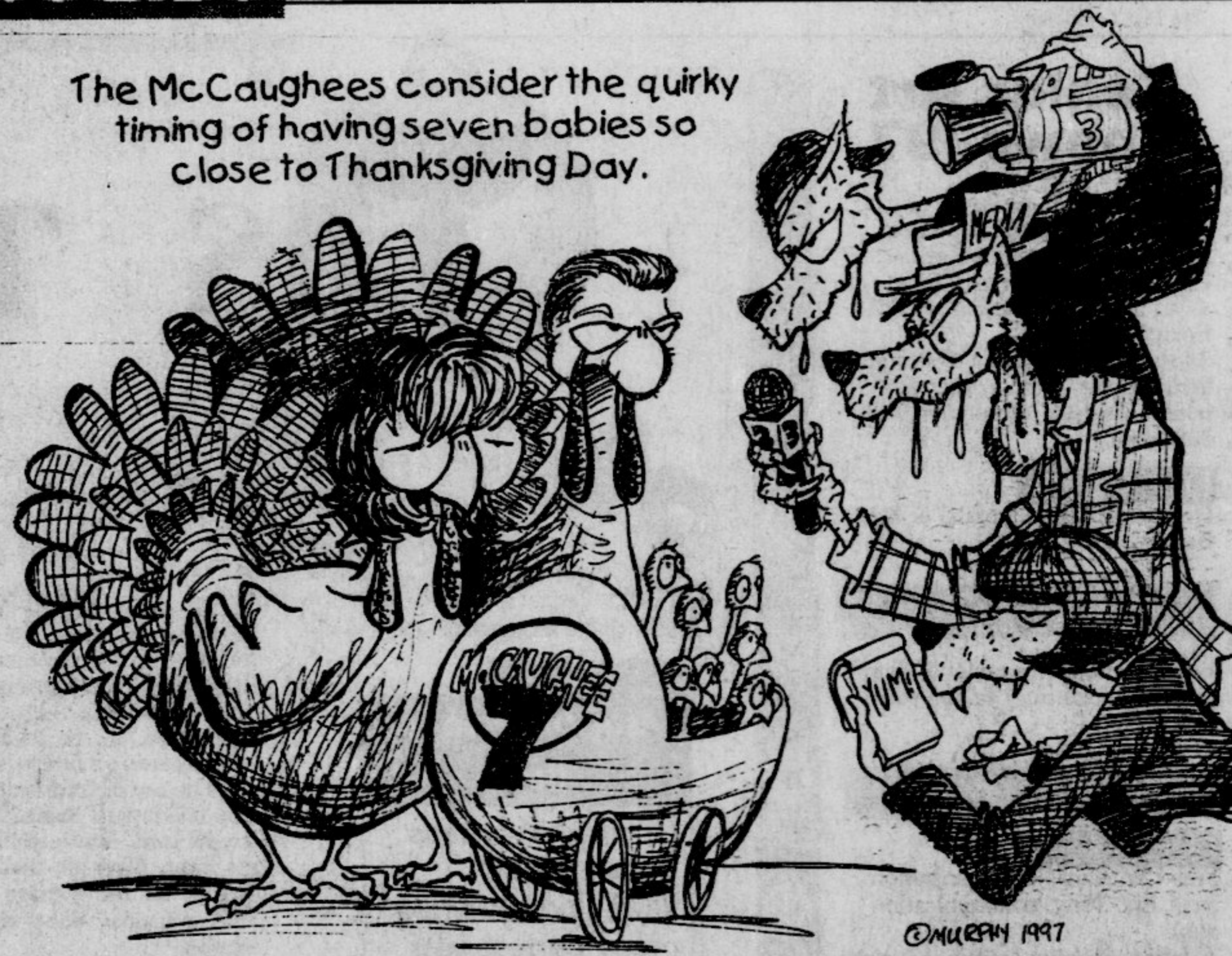
Being an alumni of ECU, it really means a lot to me that so many ECU students exercised their right to vote and supported me in my campaign for City Council. I know what a commitment it is to take time out of a hectic class schedule and make an effort to get to the

polls. Furthermore, a very special thank you is extended to the ECU College Republicans, who helped me not only get out the vote throughout the campaign, but who also stood with me, signs in hands, in the cold, at the polls and on street corners

during election day. That is truly turning your words into action. I could not have had such a good showing without you! On to the next campaign.

Arielle Sturz Morris
Former City Council candidate

The McCaughees consider the quirky timing of having seven babies so close to Thanksgiving Day.



OPINION Columnist

Keith COOPER

Get serious about race issues



Improving race relations must be a top priority of ECU and other college campuses that undermine the importance of making race a central part of the local, state, and national debate. Too many students don't realize the struggles made by persevering, audacious blacks...

department. If other historically white universities like the University of North Carolina can establish one, surely East Carolina University can do the same. Improving race relations must be a top priority of ECU and other college campuses that undermine the importance of making race a central part of the local, state, and national debate. Too many students don't realize the struggles made by persevering, audacious blacks from the beginning of slavery in this country through Reconstruction, the lynching decades from the 1860s through the 1950s, the civil rights challenges and Southern white opposition to civil rights gains for blacks, the gloom and doom years of Reaganomics, to present attempts to send America back to years of racial intolerance and animosity. This country, a house divided, cannot endure too much longer without fruitful discussions and practical solutions to race problems nagging the public conscience and corroding the very foundation of our democracy.

No national-thinking American wants a race war. The lynching of Emmett Till, Rodney King, and the psychological whipping of O.J. Simpson in the name of racism, bespeak that America must get its house in order or suffer a foreseeable catastrophe which may cause the "empire" to crumble. A mandatory course on race relations will encourage students of various racial/ethnic persuasions to talk about divisive issues, help debunk racial stereotypes and myths about blacks being biologically inferior to whites, and send white supremacy to its grave. If we are to move forward into the new millennium with grace, sophistication, and more tolerance, we must learn to dialogue about our

commonalities of interests and heal the festering sores of racism reminiscent of Apartheid in the old South Africa. Films, seminars, guest speakers, debates, and other creative strategies will shed light on the overlooked and distorted exploits of African-Americans from the times they accompanied Christopher Columbus (who didn't discover America) to the New World from 1492 to 1513 to slavery when black inventors, largely responsible for the technological innovations enjoyed by Americans today, were not allowed to secure patents until 1863. Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Lewis Latimer, Rosa Parks, and other black pioneers will be highlighted and commemorated in any serious course on race relations and African-American history. Indeed, there's no excuse for ignorance of the struggle of blacks for over three-hundred years. As a matter of fact, the honorable President Clinton will, around December 2, 1997, make a speech on improving race relations arguably the most important speech of his presidency. While a student at the University of North Carolina in the mid-1980s, I was impressed with the African-American Studies department there. Though not a panacea for race problems on campus, it was a positive step towards educating students about a people whose courage saved George Washington's life at the Battle of Cowpens during the Revolutionary War, turned the tide for the Union Army during the Civil War, won the Spanish-American War, and helped win World War I and World War II. ECU, let's get serious about addressing race problems and improving the quality of life for all races and ethnicities at ECU and beyond this campus.

LETTER to the Editor

Day should educate himself on Greeks

As a Greek woman, I am outraged at the grossly inaccurate and unfair accusations made by Jeff Day in his column "Greeks have much to learn." Fraternities and sororities nationwide donate thousands of dollars and countless community service hours to "help our fellow man." The fraternity system is comprised of self-sustaining friendship organizations which require their members to seek a high level of scholarship, participate in campus activities, provide service to others and exemplify high moral ideals. To achieve these high standards, programs are offered

throughout the year to Greek members concerning issues faced by college students ranging from the dangers of drinking to time management. Greeks are not perfect and, at times, we may have poor judgment, but we are only human. We are students, like Mr. Day, in the process of learning about life. I am proud to be Greek. I am proud to be a Delta Zeta. Mr. Day wrote that Greeks need to learn to be thankful. Well, I am thankful to all of the sisters who came before me who built a system that has allowed me to grow and improve myself in every

way. I am thankful for my sisters who are there for encouragement and comfort. Most of all I am thankful for the opportunity to help guide those who follow in my footsteps into an everlasting bond of sisterhood. I would be VERY thankful if people like Mr. Day would quit judging Greeks. I suggest Mr. Day educate himself on the reality of Greek life before he condemns it.

Heather L. Brown
Delta Zeta President
Senior
Psychology



"I express many absurd opinions. But I am not the first man to do it; American freedom consists largely in talking nonsense."

E.W. Howe, newspaper publisher, 1926

"There is not and should not be a correct African-American way of thinking. We are entitled to diversity of thought, opinion and perspective."

Gwendolyn King, federal official, 1991

Senior Art Shows '97

We've received quite a bit of positive feedback on our recent feature on Andy Pariza's senior exhibition. This is a list of the remaining senior shows for 1997. Enjoy!

All shows at Burroughs Wellcome Senior Gallery unless otherwise noted. For more information, call 328-6140.

Weather Lindsey (metals) & Brian Barr (metals)

William Hunsicker (metals) & Brad Stephens (painting) at Arlington Mall Gallery.

Stuart Williams (communication arts), Eric Terry (communication arts) & Jeffrey Schuller (communication arts)

Doentin Pickup (printmaking) & Charles Jason Smith (printmaking) at Jim Jenkins Foyer

David Southerland (communication arts) & Allison Cherry (metals) in the Upper Crust Bakery



Ever wonder what happens when you don't pay your credit card bills? Follow Uncle Moneybags and find out.

Happy Pants Ave.

Uncle Moneybags goes holiday shopping. He finds many perfect gifts for everyone ...

Bad Movie Blvd.

Uncle Moneybags thinks he's really smart and uses his credit cards to buy all the wonderful gifts...

Big Slinky St.

Uncle Moneybags gets his credit card bill; he owes a lot of money. "Uh oh", Moneybags says!

Penniless Ln.

Uncle Moneybags has nothing but lint and old gum in his pocket. He can't pay the credit

Up the Creek Hwy.

Credit company sends many mean letters and, finally, a big guy nicknamed "The Neck".

The End of the Rd.

Uncle Moneybags wishes he hadn't spent all that money he didn't have while he sits in the pen with "Bubba".

SHANNON MEEK
SENIOR WRITER

THIS IS THE \$EASON For Bad Credit

students to obtain credit cards. The companies that demanded a person to have established credit before issuing plastic have now lowered their standards so that anyone can have one. According to Behavioral Analysis Inc., a marketing consulting and research firm in Tarrytown, New York, nearly three in four U.S. households receive at least one credit card offer a month. Some receive even more.

ECU student Randi Fishane once received these phone calls concerning credit cards in one morning's time. "It was so damn annoying," she said. "I was trying to talk to someone and I had to click over three times just to talk to those stupid credit card people."

College students have certainly jumped on the offers for easy money. In 1995, Claris Inc., a market firm in Arlington, VA reports

that the average outstanding balance for households headed by someone under 25 grew from \$885 to \$1,121.

Ed Hicks, director of Claris Inc., expressed concern.

"We're talking about almost doubling average balances outstanding in six years," he said.

"I think the main effect is generation specific," said Ian Davidson, a financial advisor with the Equion group in Toronto, and editor of *Comagine's* personal financial planning department. "Older people never had these kinds of problems. But Boomers, Gen-Xers and The Echo generation do."

"And I don't see any of the groups building up any wealth, which is a very serious issue for society. In that case, the benefits you're paying for now, you'll never get."

Crackle of vinyl still rings true as turnables keep spinning

CALEB ROSE
STAFF WRITER



This is the machine where we focus on the staff we wanted. He will remember the heat, album, music, listening alone and every other good stuff that we put in there further exploration. It's the stuff we dug back in the day.

I can still remember the old days watching the label spinning on my turn table. There's no call waiting on my headphones. That was the scene in my house when I was young, ignorant and had the pleasure of wasting my day, listening to all of my parents' vinyl records. Not much has changed, though, I am still young and I still yearn for vinyl.

We never had a real good quality stereo at my house, but we did have a record player. We spent countless hours mesmerized by the spinning music disc. Time passed and all of the vinyl and record players found their place in our attic where they lay for some time. That all changed this past summer when I made my own little investment in a brand new turntable as well as a trip to our attic. This \$100 investment gave new life to an old tradition for me and my family and it also presented me with a new hobby.

One might inquire why someone would waste their time and effort on such a musical format when the world has such technologies as CDs and Digital Audio Recording.

One thing I have found is that if you listen to a record that has little or no flaws (scratches etc.), the quality is equal to, if not better than, a digital recording. A vinyl LP is an analog recording, meaning that the sounds you are hearing were not digitized in any way.

The sounds coming from a record are as true as a live concert because that is what it is, in a sense. I get chills just thinking about the fact that something most people would consider primitive sounds so good compared to the overly polished sounds you often hear.

Sometimes I even enjoy the crackle of an old, abused record. I feel it acts as a seal of authenticity for the sound. Granted, I enjoy the quality of a CD because of the clarity and such, but there are certain things about good records that you can't

beat with a stick. For instance, the price of a normal used record is variably cheap. CD Alley has a barrage of used vinyl as low as 98 cents. The most expensive used records I have seen there are around \$3.98.

Certain titles that I have bought there would have some collectors drooling. The Beatles' *Let It Be* was \$1.98. Creedence Clearwater Revival's *Cosmos Factory* was 98 cents. The Byrds' *Untitled* (which is a double record set) was only \$1.98.

All of these records are in great condition, and even if they were not, I would find it hard to pass up such a deal. Sometimes these albums are worth having just for the cover, for that is where some of the value resides.

Another plus for having a turntable and being a vinyl collector is the fact that many newer bands have learned about the value and quality of wax. A lot of punk rock, ska and hardcore bands use the vinyl format when distributing singles from their full length albums.

These seven-inches are nothing more than an old 45 RPM record that has the hit song on side A and usually another album cut on side B. Sometimes the added bonus is when the song on Side B is previously unreleased, hence the term B-Side. The seven-inch is the equivalent of a modern CD single or CD Maxi.

single as they are sometimes termed.

You may ask, "why bother buying a scratch-susceptible record when you can buy a CD?" Well, why buy a new BMW when you can get a Mazda Miata? Same thing, different price. Such as it is with vinyl, it is the exact same music as what you buy in a tape or CD format; however, it is cheaper and somewhat more precious to some.

If you are not one to take care of your possessions, then you are not one to partake in vinyl collecting for you need to be quite careful with these records; they are fragile.

Nowadays, music just doesn't seem to mean as much as when it did back then. Maybe it is the cold, hard truth that the music industry is not selling the right bands to people, or perhaps there really is a bit of magic in those old wax circles we all use to dance to as kids. Something about that era of time seems to have us hanging on to the customs of that time: classic rock music, the '60s-'70s style of dress, and last but not least, vinyl. Will it continue? Time will tell.



With the holiday season fast approaching, many people are preparing festivities rich in tradition. From Thanksgiving through Christmas to the New Year, families and friends will come together to celebrate togetherness, goodwill and cheer.

At ECU, there is a tradition that has been ongoing since the '70s and aims at ushering in the holiday season. The ECU Madrigal Dinners aim to promote community and celebrate the holidays with an array of performances and a feast. But these are not just any performances and not just any feast.

The Madrigal Dinners are modeled after a traditional Elizabethan feast complete with a full, four-course meal and entertainment ranging from a professional story teller to dancers, singers and a magician. The performers are costumed in Elizabethan-era clothing and the performances are based on the types usually held during the era. The feast is held on four consecutive nights, Dec. 4-7, in the Great Room at Mendenhall Student Center on the ECU campus.

From the moment the doors open, dinner-goers are taken back in time. Diners will be greeted by the Lorde and Ladye of the manor, James and Francine Rees, both of whom have been serving as the hosts since the earliest days of the

Madrigals.

"Year after year, people return for this event," Francine Rees said. "(The Madrigals) are a combination of fellowship, good music, good performances and good cheer."

The celebration encompasses the entire performing arts spectrum at ECU. The Madrigals began in the '70s when then choral director, Dr. Charles Moore, first introduced the idea.

"Charlie called us and asked if we'd be the Lorde and Ladye of the manor. We said 'sure' and have been doing ever since," she said. "Similar dinners have been popping up all over since then. I remember after we had the first Madrigals, people from North Carolina State

THEATREreview

Mother Hicks demands audience's attention

STEPHANIE RUSSELL
STAFF WRITER

Mother Hicks, directed by Don Biehn, is definitely an interesting play. Everything that a great play needs seems to be there. Great acting, sets, costumes — the works. And yet, I didn't get the impression that too many of the audience members really loved it.

The East Carolina Playhouse did a spectacular job in presenting this play. But, a lot of people left the theatre with an empty feeling. Many did not recognize a lot of the symbolism that, in order for the play to be understood, is necessary. Therefore, this was a really hard play to understand.

But, maybe that's the way it's supposed to be. The more you talk about the play, the more you'll understand, and the more you'll like it. After all, that's the theme of the play—prejudice, fear bred of misunderstanding, misperception and miscommunication.

Most of the problems have less to do with how the East Carolina Playhouse presented *Mother Hicks*, the actors or the direction of the play, and more to do with Susan Zedler's script itself.

Don Biehn did an outstanding job directing *Mother Hicks*. He drew out the characters from each actor. The entire cast performed exceptionally under his direction. Movement and staging added a dance-like quality to the play. But, because of the script, you don't care about any of the characters until the second act. Some of the action from scene to scene was choppy.

Sandra Jones is absolutely fabulous as Mother Hicks. Though silent through the first act, her movements intrigue. When she speaks her lines, Jones brings Mother Hicks, the character and the play, to life. Even the people who didn't enjoy the play as a whole, were riveted by Jones' impassioned performance. People who left at intermission because they didn't relate to the play lost their chance to be drawn in to it's heart. Sandra Jones is the highlight of *Mother Hicks*.

Arienne Ritchie does a great job acting like thirteen year old Girl, searching for a home. The childish mannerisms that many of us have forgotten were not lost by Ritchie. However, some audience members had a hard time hearing some of her lines.

Paul May brings the poetry of American Sign Language to life. He signs with passion and beauty. May's

movements and facial expressions really add to the overall grace of *Tuc*, a deaf outcast.

All the actors "from the town" should be commended for their performances. Partie Wooten is superb as Alma Ward, the local mortician's wife. She gives a stand out performance and captures the essence of a woman in search of a child to love. Alison Lawrence as Izzy Sue Ricks, an outspoken and overprotective mother, is fabulous. Lawrence's voice is a treat. John Darow perfectly portrays every man in the Great Depression trying to save his family, and in the end losing it all—even himself.

Robert Alpers set design is in harmony with the play's themes and historical setting. The Spartan set brings to life the despair of the 1930s, matching the desolation felt by characters and transporting audience members to those hard luck times.

The costumes are simple but enormously effective. All the townspeople wear a male or female version of the same outfit, illustrating their common beliefs, way of life, and mindset. The three principal characters break this pattern of dress, as they break

SEE MOTHER HICKS, PAGE 7

Madrigal dinners bring in the holiday season

RON CHERUBINI JR.
SENIOR WRITER

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Madrigals.

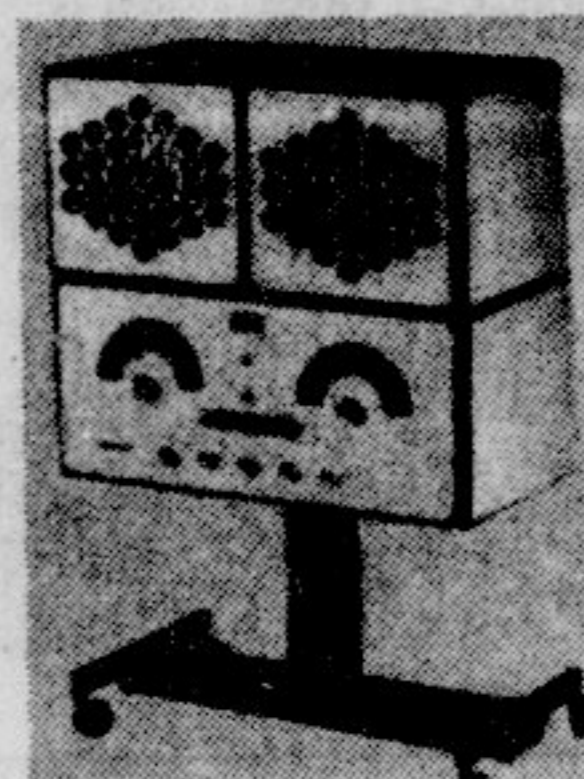
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SEE MADRIGALS, PAGE 7

Turntables through the ages. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRAND ROYAL MAGAZINE



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Madrigals
continued from page 6

University came around and took notes and asked us about the dinners. Then, they started their own. We've inspired a number of Elizabethan celebrations."

Rees said that most of all, it's the entertainment and the fellowship that have kept the dinners an annual sellout.

"The performers are so talented," she said of the ECU students that participate in the shows. "After all of these years, we're not tired of seeing them perform. Each year, they put on such wonderful shows and then when they graduate another group of performers comes in. Seeing the people respond to the performers is the highlight for us."

Brett Watson, Director of the Madrigal Dinners, agrees.

"Every year, I get some calls from people who ask me, 'Where was this performer? He was so good last year,'" Watson said. "I have to tell them that the performer has graduated. The performers in the choir are all ECU students and they do a great job. Almost all of them will return each year while they are in school."

Watson said that the

entertainment for this year's Madrigal Dinners will, once again, be top-notch. There will be a magician, a court jester, a story teller and much more.

"We try to change things up a little each year," Watson said. "Some people want to hear what they heard last year and others want something new. Everyone who performs wants to keep coming back."

While diners are treated to a feast, they will be entertained by the various performers, many of whom will make their way amongst the diners while they perform, making the event more interactive.

Not all of the performers are students. The main attraction is a popular story teller on the national scene and has been seen at the last few presidential inaugurations as Uncle Sam on stilts. Steve Myott, a master story teller, will spin a tale he has created just for the ECU Madrigal Dinners.

"I'm very excited to share this story," he said. "It will be based upon the Renaissance period, a time when story telling was very popular."

Myott, a former North Carolina Visiting Artist who has been involved with the public school system for more than 12 years teaching theatre and directing original theatre productions, has been telling stories professionally for years.

"I've been doing it quite some time," he said. "The stories are always original pieces that I have created on my own. I tell them at libraries, schools, with adult groups. I'm very interactive with the audience, so there will be some of that going on at (the Madrigal Dinners). I'm very excited about this. It will be my first time at the ECU dinners."

Myott also does mime and is a master mask-maker, but story telling is his love.

"For this story," he said, "I've looked at as much literature as I could about the era and will concentrate on the connections I've found. Obviously, when you've done a lot of story telling, you draw on what you know has worked in the past. But, with this story, there are numerous ways to go. It will certainly be appropriate, colorful and humorous, because you can get away with a lot more around the castle than you can other places."

Myott's attitude reflects the general festiveness of all the participants in the dinners. "It's always fun," Francine Rees said. "We look forward to the last (dinner) as much as we do to the first each year. It wouldn't be the holiday season without it."

Students dine for \$15 and tickets can be purchased with ECU meal card, declining balance, check, cash or credit card. For more information, call 328-4766.

Mother Hicks
continued from page 8

accepted way of life. Mother Hicks' costumes beautifully illustrate her zest for life and acceptance of everyone under the sun. Check out her rainbow wrap!

Everyone brings his or her own personal history to the play and therefore takes from it varying insights into themselves and the characters. This isn't a play that will appeal to everyone, but everyone should see it. If you are willing to go see it with an open mind and to think and talk about it, then *Mother Hicks* is a play you will remember for years.

If you have a sophisticated appreciation for theatre, or enjoy thought provoking drama, don't miss *Mother Hicks*. Tonight is your last chance to catch the show. Tickets are on sale in the McGinnis Theatre lobby box office or you can order by phone at 328-6829 or 328-1726.

Madrigal Dinners

You are cordially

invited to celebrate

the holiday season

at the Madrigal

Dinners, December

4 through 7, 1997,

in the Great Room.

at Mendenhall

Student Center.

dates

Thursday, December 4 at 7:00pm

Friday, December 5 at 7:00pm

Saturday, December 6 at 7:00pm

Sunday, December 7 at 5:00pm

menu

Choice of:
-Pine crunch baked salmon
-Herbed prime rib au jus with horseradish
-Grilled vegetable Wellington with garlicky pesto sauce
-Cheese rice stuffed chicken breast
with red pepper sauce
Wildorf salad • Wassa • Garden vegetable medley
Twice-baked potatoes • Assorted rolls and beverages
Seasonal dessert

ECU STUDENTS: You may purchase Madrigal Dinner tickets with your ECU meal card. Simply bring your meal card and ECU ID to the Central Ticket Office to purchase tickets using your meal plan. Dinner reservations must be made no later than three business days prior to the event. Contact the Central Ticket Office at 919-328-4788, 1-800-ECLAIRTS, or desktop-assisted access 919-328-4774, Monday through Friday 8:30am to 6:00pm. ECU STUDENT TICKETS ARE \$15.

Presbyterian Campus Ministry

Looking for a place for fellowship, friendship, and dinner?
Then come join us!!

First Presbyterian Church
Every Tuesday 6pm - 8pm
Bring \$3 to cover cost of dinner

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- Various Speakers
- Weekend Retreats
- Mission Trip to Haiti

For more information call Nancy at 758-1901

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WHAT'S HAPPENING
at Mendenhall Student Center

Dine Like the Times
The ECU Madrigal Dinners. Song, dance, story telling, magic and a full-course Elizabethan feast. Usher in the holidays with a slice of time-tested tradition. ECU students dine for just \$15.
Meal card and declining balance honored. **DEC. 4-6 AT 7 P.M. AND DEC. 7 AT 5 P.M. IN THE GREAT ROOM**

Bust Out with BINGO
By popular demand, BINGO is here. Come play the numbers and win big. Admission is free. **FRIDAY, DEC. 5 AT 8 P.M. IN ROOM 221**

Catch a lift
If you have trouble getting where you need to go for weekends or holidays, check out the Ride/Rider Board at the foot of the stairs in the basement at Mendenhall Student Center.

Watch the Big Screen
Chasing Amy (R) screens in Hendrix Theatre on Dec. 4-6 at 8 p.m. Your student ID gets you and a guest in for free.

Lend Ronald a Hand
The Ronald McDonald House needs non-perishable goods to help needy families through the holiday season. For every two items you donate, Mendenhall Recreation Area will reward you with a coupon good for a free game of bowling or a half-hour of billiards. Collection runs through Dec. 10 in the Mendenhall Recreation Area

Lane Games
ALL-U-CAN BOWL—Unlimited bowling every 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 8-11 p.m. at the bowling center for just \$5 (includes shoe rental). Come hungry for free pizza and drinks from 8-9 p.m.
MONDAY MADNESS—Give your Monday a boost from 1-6 p.m. with 50-cent bowling (shoe rental included).
ONE-BUCK BOWLING—Make Wednesday and Friday discount days by rolling 10 frames for just \$1 (shoe rental included). \$1 games between 1-6 p.m.

SERVICES: Central Ticket Office • Bowling • Billiards • Video Games • Student Locator Service • ATMs • Food • Computer Lab • TV Lounge • Rides/Riders Board • Art Gallery
HOURS: Mon - Thurs. 8 a.m.-11 p.m.; Fri. 8 a.m.-12 a.m.; Sat. 12 p.m.-12 a.m.; Sun. 1 p.m.-11 p.m.

classifieds

8 Tuesday, November 25, 1997

The East Carolinian

FOR RENT
RINGGOLD TOWERS
Now taking leases for 1 bedroom, 2 bedroom & efficiency apartments.
CALL 752-2865

TWO FEMALE ROOMMATES
NEEDED to share 4 bedroom house ASAP 1/2 block from campus. Call 931-0448.

TWO BEDROOM, TWO BATH Duplex-New! W/d hookups, gas logs, patio, roomy. Quiet, safe neighborhood. Graduating. Must rent. \$550 per month plus deposit (neg). Neil or Jon 921-1051, leave message.

\$100 OFF
Security Deposit
Call 752-2865
108-A Browne Dr. 752-1921

TWO BEDROOM, TWO BATH apartment located in Dockside. If interested, please call 758-8009.

ROOMMATE WANTED: 3 BEDROOM apt. off 1st Street, \$130/mo., 1/3 utilities. Available Dec. 1. Call Jimmy, 752-9376.

ROOMMATE WANTED TO SHARE 2 BDR. apartment, \$190 per month, cable and water included, on ECU bus line, pool and laundry on site. Call 754-2719.

ROOMMATE NEEDED ASAP. LARGE 3 bedroom condo. Facilities include weight room, hot tub, free tanning beds and more. Neatness a must. \$190/month plus \$210 deposit. Call 353-6570.

AVAILABLE NOW!!
1,088 SQUARE FOOT, FULLY FURNISHED, 2 BEDROOM 2 BATH APARTMENT
\$500/MONTH. 758-5393

ROOM FOR RENT AT Players Club. Private room. Share bathroom. Rent \$220 per month plus 1/4 utilities. Call 321-7561, ask for Steve.

PRIVATE ROOM AVAILABLE JANUARY 1, walking distance from campus and downtown. Large room (15'x15'). Private phone line/cable in room. Washer/dryer included. \$175 per month plus utilities. Call Mike at 752-2879.

ONE BLOCK TO CAMPUS & New Rec Center! Two 2 bedroom apts. above Catalog Connection - \$475.00 a month! Both available December 1st - one month deposit required! Call Yvonne at 758-2616.

NEEDED JAN. 1ST ROOMMATE to share 2 bedroom duplex in Summerhaven. Professional or grad student preferred. Call Kim, 758-2800 or after 6:00 p.m. 321-8872.

GEORGETOWNE APTS. FEMALE FOR 1/2 rent (\$275) plus 1/2 utilities. Available anytime after Dec. 1. Call 752-2209 for more info. Leave message if no answer.

FEMALE/MALE ROOMMATE WANTED - Players Club Apts. 1/4 of rent and expenses. Call Melissa at 321-7613.

FEMALE ROOMMATE WANTED. 1/4 utilities, \$220 per month. Players Club Apts. Call ASAP 321-0889, ask for Lara.

FEMALE ROOMMATE WANTED ASAP or January, rent \$179. Large room with three closets, utilities and phone, across from ECU. Contact Tara, 758-1152.

FEMALE ROOMMATE NEEDED JAN. 1, really cute house one block from campus. Rent \$195.00. Great deal!! Social drinker OK but serious students please call Jennie, Liz or Ericka, 530-5419.

FEMALE ROOMMATE NEEDED BY Jan. 1, can move in Dec. 15, to share duplex on E. 3rd St. Call 561-7981, leave message.

FEMALE ROOMMATE NEEDED BEFORE January 1st to sublease two bedroom apartment at Kingston Rental. For information call 561-7824 and leave message.

FEMALE ROOMMATE NEEDED ASAP to share two bedroom apartment in Wilson Acres. \$257 a month plus 1/2 utilities. Call Stacy, 561-7267

FEMALE NON-SMOKER ROOMMATE needed for apt. 3 blocks from campus, \$265 a month and 1/2 utilities. Call 752-1652.

CYPRESS GARDENS, 1 & 2 bedroom condos on 10th Street. Free cable and water/sewer. Half month free to ECU students on new one-year contract. Call Wainright Property Management, 756-6209.

CLEAN ROOMMATE NEEDED IMMEDIATELY Two blocks from Plaza. \$205 plus 1/2 utilities and phone. College undergraduate preferred. Call Phil today for info: 321-2813.

CANNON COURT, 2 BEDROOM townhouses on ECU bus route. Free cable. Half month free to ECU students on new one-year contract. Call Wainright Property Management, 756-6209.

BIG THREE BEDROOM HOUSE in ECU area. 1 1/2 baths, central heat, ceiling fans, washer hookups, fenced in backyard, pets OK. \$550 month. Call 830-9502

4 BEDROOM AVAILABLE AT Players Club Apts. 6-month lease beginning Jan. Call Melissa at 321-7613.

2 FEMALE ROOMMATES NEEDED ASAP, Players Club Apts. 1/4 rent and expenses (per person). Call Tracy at 353-8833.

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GREEK PERSONALS
THE BIG SISTERS OF Alpha Phi would like to thank our little sisters for an awesome sisters party. We had a great time, you all did a great job planning and thanks for all your hard work! Love your big sisters in Alpha Phi!

THANKS TO SIGMA ALPHA Epsilon, Phi Tau and Alpha Zeta Delta for the quad Thursday night. We had a great time! Love, Sigma Sigma Sigma

SIGMA SIGMA SIGMA HOPES everyone at ECU has a fun and safe Thanksgiving Break!

SIGMA NU, THANK YOU so much for our wonderful Hawaiian Social. We all had a great time. Love, Alpha Phi

SIGMA NU WELCOMES THE newest brothers: Will McIntosh, Chad Suggs, Adam Harris, Jay Miller and Rob Williams. Congratulations guys! Your brothers

SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON would like to thank all our dates who came to our Strangers Mixer last Friday night. We hope that you had a great time. Thanks, Sigma Alpha Epsilon

PI LAMBDA PHI, PHI KAPPA Tau, Lambda Chi Alpha, Sigma Nu, Theta Chi, Pi Kappa Phi, Kappa Sigma, Sigma Alpha Epsilon-Zeta Tau Alpha thanks you for being our Adopt-A-Fraternities this semester. We love you!

PI KAPPA PHI, WE hope that you had just as much fun at the pre-downtown Thursday night! Thanks for a great time! Love, Alpha Delta Phi

PI DELTA WOULD LIKE to thank Alexi Hasapis for putting together our terrific retreat this past weekend. Thank you for all your hard work. We love you!

PI DELTA PLEDGES: OUR retreat into Camelot, wasn't it great! It reminded us all of Christmas since we all got gifts. Hope you all had a great time. We love you guys! Remember, unity is the key. Love, the sisters

LAMBDA CHI, THANKS FOR the great Social Thursday. Love, the sisters of Alpha Xi Delta

GOOD JOB TO THE members of Pi Delta Sports Teams. You kept your heads high and played your hearts out and that's all that ever mattered. You all are the greatest! Love, the sisters and new members

GAMMA SIGMA SIGMA WELCOMES the new sisters! We're so proud of all your hard work. Congratulations! Love, your Gamma Sigma Sigma sisters

EPSILON CHI NU: TO be the new guys in town, you really knew how to show us a good time! The social was great and we can't wait to see you guys again! Love, the sisters and pledges of Pi Delta

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SIGMA Kick-Ball team on all of your victories. Love, your sisters

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW sisters of Alpha Xi Delta: Katie Adams, Betsy Bickers, Blair Briggs, Lauren Carrier, Lyndsay Cranston, Sarah Evans, Amy Flanagan, Amy Frye, Meredith Galloway, Stephanie Hernden, Kim Noucus, Denise Paps, Denise Reeves, Kelly Reynolds, Tracy Seme, Jamie Slinger, Katie Sweet, Becky Thomas, and Ellen Watkins

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ALPHA Xi Delta Soccer team for winning the first playoff game. Good luck next week

CONGRATULATIONS SHELLY FOR WINNING first place in karaoke. You did a great job. Lo's, the sisters of Alpha Xi Delta

ALPHA XI DELTA, SIGMA Sigma, and Phi Kappa Tau, thanks for our social Thursday night. We all had a great time and look forward to doing it again. Thanks, Sigma Alpha Epsilon

ALPHA XI DELTA THANKS Phi Tau, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and Sigma for a great time last Thursday.

ALPHA PHI: WE DANCED the night away under the palm trees. The Hawaiian Social was great. Let's do it again soon. Love, the Brothers of Sigma Nu

ALPHA PHI WOULD LIKE to congratulate our new executive officers. President, Jen Mock; Vice President of Member Recruitment, Laura Ruge; Vice President of Program Development, Lisa Woodlief; Vice President of Chapter Operations, Ellen Burrelson; Vice President of Marketing, Kim Lewis; Director of Formal Rush, Jennifer Cooper; Director of COB, Kala Winstead; Director of MAP, Melanie Warren; Panhellenic Delegate, Jelly Orta; Director of Member Development, Koryn Newill; Director of Member Education, Lisa Landis; Director of Finance, Andrea Gillispie. Congratulations girls! Love, your sisters

A BIG THANKS TO Phi Kappa Tau, Kappa Sigma, and Delta Sigma Phi for helping us out on our Sisters Party! We really appreciate it. Love, the new sisters of Alpha Phi

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PITT COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE American Diabetes Association meeting Monday, December 1, at 7:00 p.m. at the Gaskins-Leslie Building at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. This month's topic is "Healthy Holiday Food", and will feature regional dieticians and diabetes educators, discussing ways of preparing diabetes-friendly foods for the holidays. Also drawing the winner of our fund-raising raffle. Tickets for the TVNCR combination will be sold until the drawing. Refreshments and door prizes will also be available.

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Reason #7

Letters to the Editor

east carolinian

'Pack attacks Pirates

"I'm really happy with my career I've had here. My senior year has been very frustrating and very hard on me and it's only going to make me a better person in the future. I'm just glad I got a chance to be a part of ECU football."

Larry Shannon
senior sprint end

"I'll never forget it as long as I live; I'll never forget this game."

Jeff Kerr
sophomore linebacker

"We knew we had to stop the running and when we didn't you saw what happened. We lost focus on that and they caught us."

Rod Coleman
junior linebacker

"I'll defensively remember being on the bad end of seeing the goal posts go down."

Tabari "Snoop" Wallace
senior cornerback

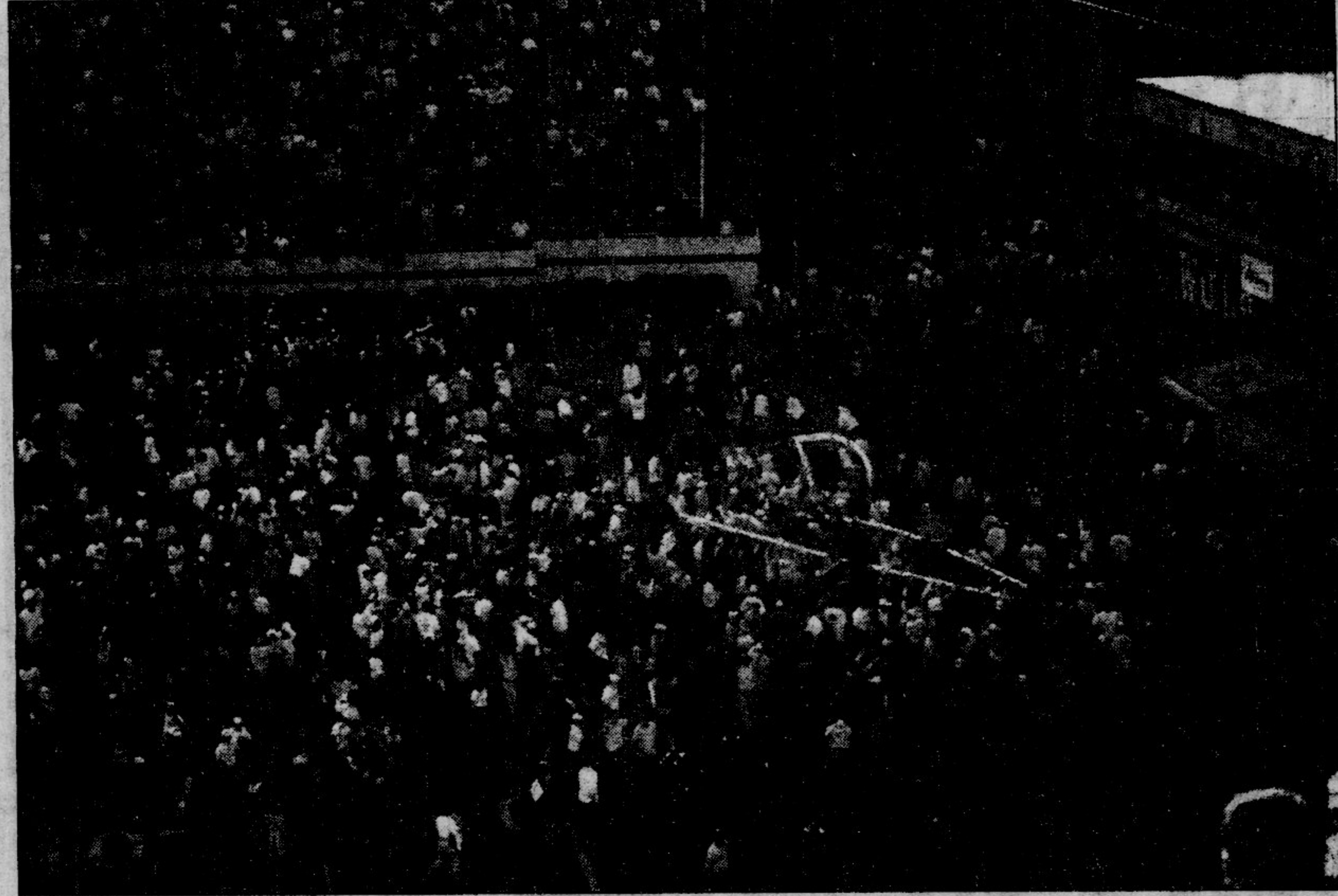
AMANDA ROSS
SPORTS EDITOR

It had been 10 years since the Pirates played in Carter-Finley Stadium, and it was 10 years ago when the ECU fans stormed the field and tore down the goal posts. This time it was the Wolfpack fans who took over the field after a 37-24 win, that came down to the last minute of play.

The game was a defensive battle in the first half, with neither team scoring in the first quarter. The Pirates got on the board first when Andrew Bayes coasted a 24-yard field goal through the uprights; it would be the only score on the board for either team in the first half.

Head Coach Steve Logan gave credit to his defensive front, who held State to just 92 yards at the half.

"Our defensive front was winning, it's just that simple," Logan said. "We weren't moving



Wolfpack fans storm the field after beating ECU 37-24. The game came down to the wire with the game tied at 24 apiece until the last minute of the game when State scored two touchdowns to seal the win. ECU's season ends at 5-6.

PHOTOS BY ADAM BALPOTTO

the kids or blitzing or anything — our defensive front was winning."

But it was the second half that was a roller coaster ride for both

SEE FOOTBALL PAGE 10

ECU		NCSU
61	Net yards rushing	224
72	Total offensive plays	68
24:55	Possession Time	35:05
2/3	Fourth down conversions	0/1

SCORING SUMMARY

Quarter	Time left	ECU-NCSU
2nd	14:51	ECU-Andrew Bayes 24-yd field goal 3-0
3rd	13:58	NCSU-Torry Holt 68-yd pass from Jamie Barnette (Chris Hensler kick) 3-7
	03:36	NCSU-Holt 10-yd pass from Barnette (Hensler kick) 3-14
	01:13	ECU-Jason Nichols 3-yd pass from Dan Gonzalez (Brantley Rivers kick, failed) 9-14
4th	12:49	NCSU-Tremayne Stephens 2-yd run (Hensler kick) 9-21
	08:59	ECU-Troy Smith 10-yd pass from Gonzalez (Buck Collins pass) 17-21
	04:37	NCSU-Hensler 44-yd field goal 17-24
	03:50	ECU-Marcellus Harris 40-yd pass from Gonzalez (Bayes kick) 24-24
	00:31	NCSU-Barnette 1-yd run (Hensler kick) 24-31
	00:02	NCSU-Clayton White 34-yd interception return (Barnette rush failed) 24-37

Young swimmer laps up success

Women's swim team member making waves

STEPHEN SCHIRAMM
STAFF WRITER



Samantha Perry

This year's ECU women's swim team is undefeated and appears to be well on their way to retaining its conference crown. The Pirates' 5-0 start can be attributed to their many swimmers returning from last season's CAA Championship team and a group of talented newcomers. One of the most impressive newcomers is freshman Samantha Perry.

Perry began swimming at an early age in her hometown of McLean, Virginia.

"I started swimming when I was six or seven," Perry said. "I started with my summer team and then in fifth grade I started swimming with a club team. All my friends did it and I was like 'Hey, I want to do that too.' I loved it and I did pretty well."

Perry continued to swim competitively. However, high school offered other opportunities.

"When I got to high school I did a lot more

activities," Perry said. "I did every activity known to man — field hockey, student government, you name it, I did it."

These pursuits diverted attention away from her first love, swimming.

"I had a really bad summer swim season going into my junior year," Perry said. "I said to myself 'Hey if I want to swim in college, I've got to get my butt in gear and start working.'"

With the aid of her swimming club coach, she swam five days a week and worked on improving her racing. The hard work paid off in her strong showing in the prestigious junior nationals last year.

Entering her first season at ECU, Head Coach Richard Kobe decided to have Perry train with a group of the other talented breaststrokers on the ECU squad.

"They're like a family," Kobe said.

"I've never really trained this hard before, so my times have been really fast," Perry said.

Kobe also set goals for Perry to chase this season.

"My main goal was to go under 2:20 in the 200, and go 1:04 in the 100 meter

breaststroke," Perry said. "Hopefully, I'll do it."

Perry's two events, the 100 meter and 200 meter breaststroke, cause her to employ two different strategies.

"The hundred is more of a sprint. I just go at it and let everything go," Perry said.

"Since the 200 is a longer race, you have to stretch it out more. My stroke is made for the 200 so I can do it easier than I can do the 100," Perry said.

"You've got to stretch out the first fifty, kick it up a little on the second, do your hardest on the third and give it all you got on the fourth."

The combination of training, effective strategy and a drive to perform have led to an exceptional start to Perry's freshman season. In the first five meets, she has not lost a race and has been a major factor in the team's 5-0 start.

Her last times have impressed her coach.

"She could be our top breast stroker," Kobe said. "She has a lot of potential."

In less than a season of collegiate swimming, Perry has a chance to put herself among the top swimmers in ECU history.

"She has a good shot at our hardest varsity records for girls, the 100 and 200 meter breaststroke," Kobe said.

Perry's success is not surprising, though the time it took her to attain it is. Her perfect record shows that she is valuable addition to an

Runners end season at regional meet

Men place 20th; women finish 22nd

JEREMY ANDERSON
SENIOR WRITER

The ECU men's and women's cross country teams brought their season to a close Nov. 15 at the NCAA District III Regional Meet, hosted by Furman University in Greenville, S.C. The men placed 20th overall, while the women placed 22nd.

The men had no finish below seventh during the regular season. Junior Jamie Mance led the Pirates all season, including the regionals, where he placed 27th, with a time of 31:35, on the 10,000 meter course.

Sophomore Justin England also ran well this season, being the top Pirate finisher in four meets.

The Lady Pirate runners also had a successful season. The Pirates matched the school's best finish at the CAA Championships, placing third.

"Our main goal was our conference

finish," Head Coach "Choo" Justice said. "It was very hard to beat the top two teams, but we really wanted to place higher than UNCWP."

At the regionals, the Lady Pirates were paced by sophomore Robin Bates. Bates ran a time of 19:27 on the 5,000 meter course to finish 91st.

"Last year she (Bates) didn't run well. This year she was one of our top runners," Justice said.

The Lady Pirates were led by their four seniors, Karen Reinhard, Emily Linnemeier, Kerry Vinsel, and Barbara Wood.

"They (seniors) did a very good job this year. They worked hard, provided leadership, and were a very good influence on the younger runners," Justice said.

According to Justice, the Lady Pirates were in a "rebuilding" season.

"We made a lot of progress this year and we will need to continue to make progress next season," Justice said.

To ensure that the progress will continue, the coaches are looking toward recruiting in the off season.

"We are definitely looking at some top recruits," Justice said.

Three-game sweep ends season.

Volleyball team loses in first round of CAA tournament

PAUL KAPLAN
SENIOR WRITER

The ECU women's volleyball team finished their season last Friday afternoon at George Mason University in the quarter final round of the Colonial Athletic Association playoffs. The Lady Pirates lost to James Madison University — one of this season's rival schools — in only three games, making for a long bus ride back to Greenville.

The Pirates were leading for the majority of the first game and at one time were up 8-5, before James Madison went on an 8-2 burst to take the lead 13-10. The Pirates fought back to force a tie at 13-13. The Dukes were able to score again and with ECU only down one, senior Beth Tyson of JMU served it over to win the game.

James Madison jumped out to a quick 11-0 lead in the second game and handily won. But ECU would not give up easily, they battled hard in the deciding third game until the Dukes scored six of the games last nine points to sweep the Pirates back to Greenville.

The Dukes won 15-13, 15-3, and 15-11. They were led by sophomore Lindsay Collingwood and freshman

Sara Kidd. Collingwood finished the match with 12 kills and 10 digs, while Kidd finished with 11 kills and 17 digs. Beth Tyson also contributed with eight kills and eight digs. James Madison improved their record to 17-13 and continued on to the next round to be defeated by George Mason University in four games.

On the other side of the net, the Pirate game leaders were freshmen Sarah Kary, Kristin Warner and Cintia Claro. Kary led the pirates with 14 kills; Warner and Claro each finished with 10 digs. ECU finished out their season with a final record of 16 wins and 19 losses.

The CAA tournament crown was taken by American University, who beat George Mason University in five games.

Basketball notes:

Women

Lost to Virginia Tech Friday, 39-68. Host N.C. State tonight at 7 p.m. November 29 they host UNC Charlotte at 5:45 p.m., then December 2, the Lady Pirates host Wake Forest at 7 p.m.

Men

The men's four game road schedule has been to kind for the first three games. On November 15, lost to West Virginia 66-87; November 18, lost to Saint Louis, 58-70; this past Saturday lost to UNC Asheville, 61-69. Tonight they play at St. Joseph's.

The men return home November 29 to host Ferrum at 8 p.m.

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Football

continued from page 9

teams. State came out on the opening drive and on their second play quarterback Jamie Barnette found Tory Holt and 68 yards later, he was in the endzone, 7-3 State.

The Wolfpack would score another touchdown towards the end of the third quarter on another Barnette to Holt connection. ECU answered with Jason Nichols for the 3-yard score which put ECU within five points, 14-9 NCSU.

Then came the fourth quarter where fans definitely got their money's worth.

Again the Wolfpack came out strong and five plays into the fourth quarter, Tremayne Stephens rushed for a touchdown. ECU was down, 21-9.

But the Pirates weren't going to watch their ship sink. Gonzalez found Troy Smith for the 10-yard score and ECU was down just 21-17.

Logan called for the onside kick, which was recovered by ECU's Talarri Wallace, but a late flag nullified the kick as ECU was

called for offside. Logan said the penalty was caused by a freshman.

"Some freshman, I'm not going to tell you who," Logan said. "Look in the obituaries, you'll find out tomorrow (Sunday)."

The Wolfpack got the ball back and scored a field goal, 24-17 NCSU.

With 3:50 left in the game, Gonzalez connected with Marcellus Harris for the 40 yard score and the 24-24 tie.

It was up to the defense, to try to hold off the Wolfpack scoring drive. But Stephens turned up the heat. Four plays later, he rushed 48 yards down to the ECU 19-yard line. That set up an eventual Barnette touchdown and once again the Pirates were down, 31-24. But with :31 left, ECU still had a chance to get down the field for another touchdown. But three incomplete passes in a row, and then an interception by Clayton White, who took it into the endzone to ice the win, sent the Pirates home with a heartbreaking 37-24 defeat.

"They made plays when they had to," Gonzalez said. "Came down to the end there and they put the ball in the endzone. You just can't say enough about the way they came out."

Stephens finished the day with 170 yards and one touchdown, and Holt caught two touchdowns passes.

Noseguard Travis Darden personally knows Holt and knew he would be the go-to guy for the Wolfpack.

"We knew Tory Holt was a play maker like that and he brought the team back," Darden said. "He came out and proved that was a play maker."

Dan Gonzalez ended the day with 26 completions, 259 yards and three touchdowns. On the ground, Jamie Wilson and Scott Harles were the leading rushers with 27 yards each. The leading receivers for the Pirates were Jason Nichols with 54 yards, Marcellus Harris with 53 yards, Buck Collins had 51 yards and Larry Shannon finished with 50 yards.

After the game, the fans stormed the field, tore down both goalposts and carried them off. Instead of an ECU riot as they called it 10 years ago, this year it was a State celebration. It's a scene the ECU players will never forget.

"I'll definitely remember being on the bad end of seeing the goal posts go down," Wallace said.

ECU was hoping to end the season with a win for their fourth straight winning season, but came up a game short, ending the year at 5-6.

"I'm disappointed that we came out with a losing season," Darden said. "I would have never dreamed of this happening to us like it did today (Saturday), but it happened and we're going to learn from it and we're going to start winning again."

And winning is what the Pirates will look to do next year, something that is already on their minds.

"It was a tough season; it was a rebuilding season, so we're looking forward to next year," linebacker Rod Coleman said.

Fellow linebacker Jeff Kerr feels the same way.

"We have an excellent defense returning, the offense looks good returning," Kerr said. "I'm looking forward to next year."

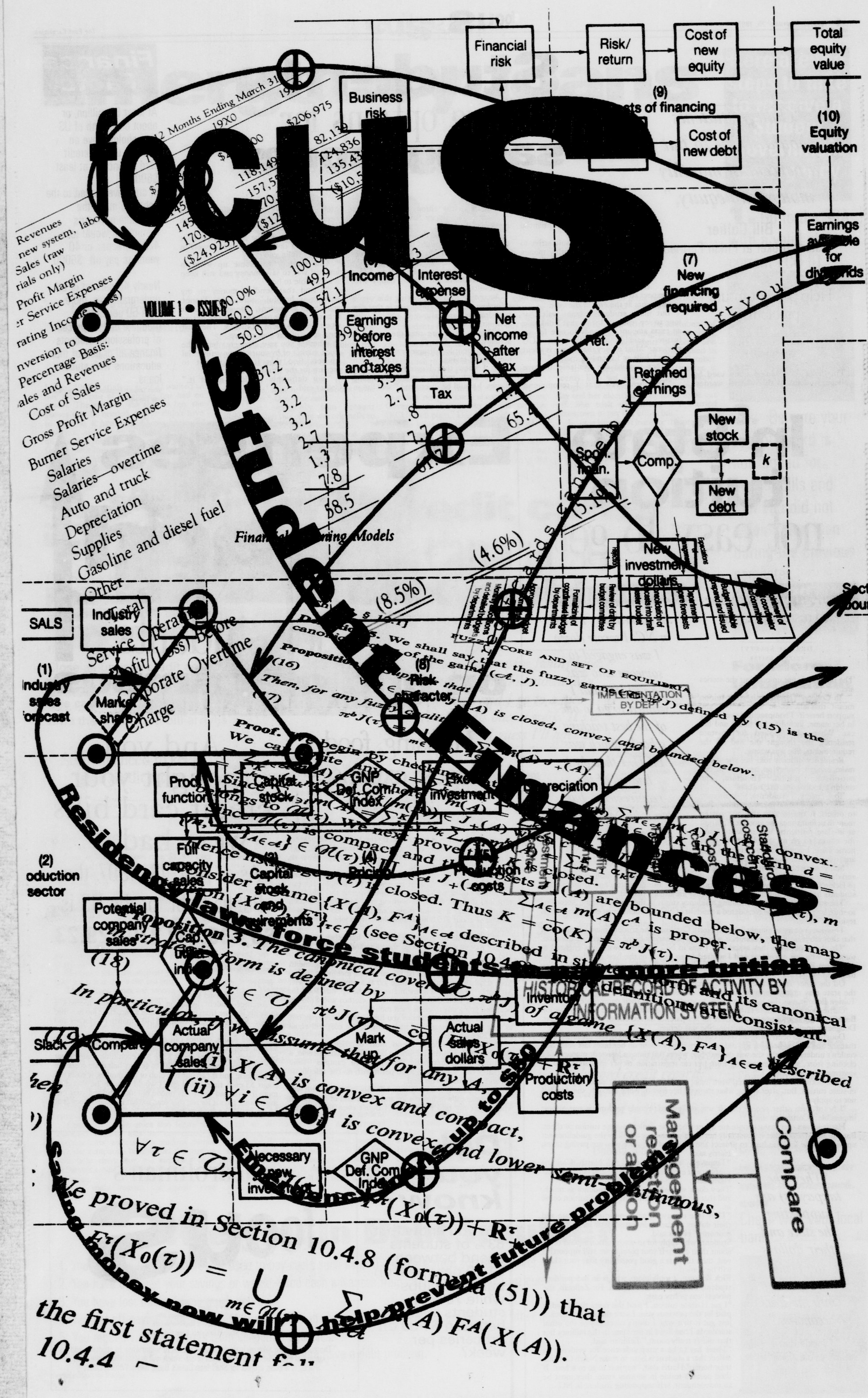
Playing his last game in an ECU uniform, Gonzalez said since his team didn't get down and give up, that should help them out next year.

"We lost today, but I don't think that puts a damper on the effort the guys gave this season, and that's really going to help them out next season," Gonzalez said.

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Students have options for saving money

Finance Facts

At least 50 million, or about one-fourth of US households, have an average unpaid credit card balance of at least \$5000. If one never added to the debt and made the minimum payments required, it would take 472 payments, or 40 years, to pay off \$5000.

Nearly 45 percent of all undergraduates, more than 50 percent of graduate and 75 percent of professional students finance all or part of their educations with student loans.

Source: Consumer Federation of America and Nolo's Legal Encyclopedia

"College students should strive to put a percent of monthly money into equity,"

Bill Collier
stock broker at Pitkin Partners

Help prevent future problems

HOLLY THRAILKILL
FEATURE WRITER

"I'm broke" is a phrase often used by college students with financial worries.

However, there are ways students can save money now which will help them avoid future financial woes. "College students should strive to put a percent of monthly money into equity," said Bill Collier, a stock broker at Pitkin Partners in Greenville. Collier said that with today's stock market, students can expect to see a 10 percent increase in investments at the end of the year. But many students cannot wait that long to see results. "I wish that I did have an extra amount of money to save for my future," said Jennifer Ward, an ECU student. "Most money that I have is spent on food, bills and spending money." Other options are available to save money. "The best way that I recommend

saving money is through an automatic transfer," says Tracey Sawyer, a personal banker at Wachovia. Sawyer said that this is an automatic draft system that would withdraw a given amount each month. This money goes directly into your savings account. She added that whether it be \$10 or \$25 a month, students are usually happy with the results. According to Sawyer saving this way is effortless. The only complaint is that few withdrawals are allowed out of this account. "This is to ensure that the person is actually saving," Sawyer said. Some people disagree with these methods of saving. "If I knew that I could have money drafted each month without bouncing checks, I would be interested," said Susan

Melin, an ECU student. Melin said that keeping a personal budget on things such as groceries, helps her to save. "I never go over the amount that I set for myself, I don't want to get myself in trouble," Melin said. One student has come up with an unusual way to save money and still keep it accessible to her. "I find that sending money to my parents is helpful," said Julie Tanner, another ECU student. She admits that it is better that her parents can't tell her no when she asks them for money. They just send some of her own money. Whether you save through a bank, the stock market or by yourself, most financial advisers find that it is important to prepare for the times to come. "You definitely wouldn't regret it," Collier said.

In-State tuition not easy to get

Students pay more due to residency laws

DEANNA SPAFFITI
FEATURE WRITER

The problem is not unique, but the stories are.

To Colleen Thompson in-state tuition meant that she could stay in NC and support herself. Thompson had everything in her name, including her house and her car. When she applied for in-state residency, she thought she had all the requirements. She was wrong.

Residency officials told her she didn't make enough money on her own to pay out-of-state tuition. Therefore, she couldn't receive in-state tuition.

To many students, residency classification doesn't mean anything. But to others, it means that they are paying more than four times the amount of tuition as in-state residents. Yes, students made the choice to go to school out of their home state, but what about students who are trying to make it on their own?

Many students fall into this category, and the Residency Classification Office is flooded with applications each year, according to Jackie Harris, the university's classification officer. But no matter how strong a claim students have, their applications for residency are usually denied.

The state has laws for determining residency status in the state's system. According to state law, in order to be considered a resident of NC, a student must establish a "legal residence" here.

This does not mean simply living in North Carolina. The student must submit proof that they are maintaining a domicile, which is a permanent home of indefinite duration.

"On the application they asked why I was in NC. I wrote down I was engaged to someone who was a resident and I wanted to go to one of the best teaching schools, which was ECU. I thought I had all of the requirements, but they told me I didn't."

Colleen Thompson

On the other hand, students whose parents are in the military and are stationed in the state may enjoy the same tuition rate as in-state students through the Military Tuition Benefit, but this is only available to students while their parents are in NC.

Carrie Dougherty, whose father is in the Air Force, qualified for the Military Tuition Benefit during her first year at ECU. After her parents moved out-of-state last August, Dougherty applied for in-state tuition. She was denied.

Dougherty has been living in North Carolina since October 1995. The university said that she was denied because she did not claim independent on her taxes last year. She couldn't understand why she was denied. She works full time as assistant manager of a clothing store, and has everything from her car registration to her insurance, and an apartment in her name.

Erica Cotterman, a junior social work major from Virginia, thought about applying for in-state tuition. But, after seeing what many of her friends went through, she decided not to apply.

"I heard from other people that it was really hard. People told me it was almost impossible," Cotterman said.

Harris knows that many people are upset when she denies in-state tuition to them. But she also stresses that it is not only her decision; she has to follow the guidelines set up by law. The laws are here to protect the people of the state who are paying taxes.

Harris said.

"Taxpayers and supporters of North Carolina supplement each student, in-state and out-of-state," Harris said.

They don't support out-of-state students as much, and that is where the different rates of tuition come in.

"They (the taxpayers) are supporting the state and their dollars are being invested back into the state economy," Harris said.

Students who apply for in-state tuition should think about their claim. If your parents are still supporting you, then there is a good possibility that your claim will be denied.

Rick Zellman, a sophomore, who is an independent student, received in-state tuition. For Zellman, the process was pretty easy.

"I got in-state tuition. I paid the taxes that I hadn't paid for the previous year. I sent the state a check. I just got it that way. I didn't meet any of the other standards. I had lived in the state in the military, but that didn't really count," Zellman said.

"There has to be a preponderance of evidence to reflect that a student is here to make North Carolina their home," Harris said, "not just to go to school. If their parents reside in another state, they must be an independent, self-supporting student in NC."

"They (the taxpayers) are supporting the state and their dollars are being invested back into the state economy."

Jackie Harris
university's classification officer

"On the application they asked why I was in NC. I wrote down I was engaged to someone who was a resident and I wanted to go to one of the best teaching schools, which was ECU. I thought I had all of the requirements, but they told me I didn't."

Colleen Thompson



Expenses add for students on and off campus

Housing, food biggest expenses

THADDEUS JENKINS
FEATURE WRITER

A college education is expensive. By the time you've paid for tuition, fees, and books, there isn't a lot left over for rent, food, clothing and recreation. How do students manage? What do they spend their money on?

For most students, no matter what their income, housing and food are the two biggest expenses. For example, 21-year-old Julissa Lopez, who lives off-campus, spends about \$245 on rent and utilities, \$250 for clothing, and \$100 for food each month. Lopez, a senior from Fayetteville, has an annual income of about \$15,000, which comes from jobs, grants, and loans.

"I think that my spending habits are like other students; we get money and want to go shopping and eat out," Lopez said.

Andrew Coleman, a junior accounting and management, who lives off-campus, said he has an annual income of \$7,000 from scholarships and a part-time job as a supply clerk at Pitt Memorial Hospital. He estimates that he spends \$600 for bills, \$50 for food, \$60 for gas, \$50 for clothes and \$125 for beer and going out to clubs each month.

"When you stay off campus you have more bills to pay, but as long as you manage your money right, the cost will equal out," Coleman said.

On campus students spend most of their money on clothing, food, and the telephone bill. Keisha Shepperson, a freshman from Richmond, VA, lives on campus. She estimates that she spends \$100 per month on the telephone bill and \$50 a month on food.

"My problem is the telephone bill. My bill last month was \$80. I make calls to home a lot and at the end of the month when I get my bill, I wish that I didn't even pick up the

And you thought your credit card bills were bad...

As of Nov. 13, 1997, the Public Debt for the US is

\$5,430,247,270,129.23.

Source: Bureau of the Public Debt

phone," Shepperson said.

Another student living on campus said she receives a monthly income from her parents and a part-time job as a disc jockey. She estimates spending \$140 a month on clothes and CDs.

"If you figure, clothes can run you anywhere from \$25 to \$125 a month, depending on what you want and where you buy it from; food costs about \$5 to \$10 each time that you eat out; CDs cost about \$15 to \$20; to get my hair done costs me \$25 a week; and if I go out to a club or the movies, it costs me about \$5 each time that I go. I would actually be spending more if I still had to pay my phone bill like I did last year, but my mother pays it for me this year, so that is more money that I have now," the student said.

Did you know?

Did you know that 63% of students spend between \$1-20 per week on bars and clubs while 70% of students spend between \$1-30 on groceries per week?

the eastcarolinian's

focus

AMY L. ROYSTER Editor
CELESTIA WILSON Managing Editor
ANGELA KOENIG Special Feature Editor
DAVID SOUTHERLAND Special Feature Designer

The purpose is to take an in-depth look at issues of importance to students and faculty at ECU. This issue is the sixth of six which will appear this semester. Focus is a class project for Shearlean Duke's Basic News Writing class.

Emergency loans available through SGA

Up to \$50 can be
borrowed by students

MICHAEL WAGGETT
FEATURE WRITER

In Oct. 1967, a student at ECU wanted to buy a new pair of eyeglasses but had no money. The student was able to buy the glasses that he needed, and he didn't have to wait on a paycheck, phone home for money or make a trip to the bank. Instead he applied for and received a Student Government Emergency Loan.

For more than 30 years ECU students have been taking advantage of this little

known program, according to Penny Doughtie, manager of the Student Fund Accounting Office.

The office, located in Mendenhall Student Center, dispenses funds from the SGA to campus programs including the Student Union, Minority Student Affairs, Media Board and University Unions.

"It was put in place to speed up the process for students, and to better accommodate student organizations with smaller orders," Doughtie said.

The emergency loan account available through this office was originally so that students could borrow up to \$25.

"As more students have borrowed and paid the loans back over the years, the fund has been able to keep regenerating itself," Doughtie said.

As a result any ECU student may still apply for this financial assistance. The only difference between now and 30 years ago is that students do not have to list any reason for needing a loan and the amount a student can borrow has increased to \$50.

The loan comes as a totally new piece of information to some students.

"I've never heard of it," Sophomore Andy Vincent said.

"Students can find all the information that they need to know about the Student Government Emergency Loans on the [ECU] web page," Doughtie said.

The loans can be for as little as \$5. A surcharge of \$2 is also added to each loan, which must be repaid within 30 days. Students must not have defaulted on a loan during the previous semester. Receiving the

loan is as simple as going to the office with no tags recorded and filling out the application.

Doughtie said that the numbers of students who are applying for and receiving the loans varies from month to month. She reports that there were 20 loans issued in August, 13 in September and 17 in October.

"In the beginning of the semester, it seems like we give out more loans," Doughtie said. "One girl came in the other day and her electricity was about to be cut off. She took the money and hurried downtown to pay the utility bill."

It is too late to get loans for this semester. The cut-off date was Nov. 3, but students may once again take advantage of these loans next semester.

Steps for Establishing Good Credit

Open checking and savings accounts

Always pay bills on time

time

Close all unused credit accounts

Use cash if the item will be used up by the time the credit card bill arrives

Students need to keep
good credit rating

LEXAN BLANCHARD
FEATURE WRITER

A 21-year-old ECU junior has credit card debts of more than \$3000. Even after working and saving more than \$1,300 over the summer, she has less than \$100 in her bank account now. So, when she needs to buy something she whips out her credit cards, creating more debt.

"Living is expensive [with] food, gas, drinking downtown," the student said. "My friends and I go to a nice restaurant once a week. It's a ritual, but I guess I'll have to stop it."

The student has discovered one of the many major pitfalls of credit cards: paying them back.

"I need a job," the student said. "I don't have a job and that's the sad part."

The college years are among the most formidable years of a person's life and an important part of these years is the need to establish credit. But in this cashless society, students must watch for the pitfalls of easy credit, and remember that the key to survival is to establish good credit.

To get a credit card, students don't even have to have a job. College students are considered a group of people with potentially high future earnings. For this reason, credit card companies often forgo their minimum income requirements, usually \$15,000 to \$25,000 a year, when students apply.

Credit card companies also figure that students without jobs are connected to their parents' wallets. If a student cannot pay, the companies believe that the parents will help them out, not wanting their children's credit to be tarnished at such an early age.

The main reason for credit card

companies targeting college students is to instill brand loyalty, according to Money magazine. Numerous studies have proven that people keep their first credit card for 10 or more years. The earlier a credit card company attracts a student, the better chance it has of establishing a lucrative relationship with that customer.

What most students do not understand is the credit card companies' process of billing. The average minimum monthly payment is only two percent of the card's balance. If paid at that rate, paying of a \$1,900 credit card balance would take more than 23 years. In the end, not only would you have to pay the original money but also an additional \$4,790 in interest at the average annual interest rate of about 18 percent.

Credit cards are not the only pitfalls in establishing credit. Buying a car is one of the first big purchases a person makes but keeping up with the payments can be difficult if you do not budget correctly.

Most college students do not qualify for car financing, according to Donald Mann, Business Manager at Merritt-Williams Ford-Jeep-Eagle in Morehead City.

"Even if they are working, the majority of college students have no established credit record," Mann said. "Most need their mom and dad to co-sign for them."

In order to qualify for a car loan, a person must be employed and have the means to make the monthly payment.

"With a car payment it is easy to overstep your bounds," Mann said.

Mann also noted the frequency with which he sees unpaid student loans as a barrier to car loan qualification.

So what does the average college student need to do to establish good credit?

According to Helen Huntley, a financial writer for St. Petersburg Times, opening checking and savings accounts is the first step. Keeping your accounts in balance is good practice, and it may help you when applying for a loan with the bank down the road.

Credit cards can cause debt problems

*"Living is expensive [with] food,
gas, drinking downtown. My
friends and I go to a nice
restaurant once a week. It's a
ritual, but I guess I'll have to
stop it."*

ECU student

A second step is to apply for a credit card. There are many different types, but a good one to start with is a secured card. With a secured card, you can deposit money and charge against this balance. This is a good way to practice before applying for a major credit card.

Third, always pay your bills on time. If the telephone company or your landlord has trouble collecting from you, they can file a report with a credit bureau. This is also true for doctors, lawyers and other professionals.

Finally, apply for only one credit card or loan at a time. Lots of inquiries on your credit report is considered negative.

What if you already have credit cards and a car or student loan and may be headed for trouble? Changing your habits now can help keep your credit record in good standing. First, when trying to decide between paying cash and charging something use cash if the item will be used by the time you get your credit card bill, according to Gerri Detweiler, author of *The Ultimate Credit Handbook*.

One ECU junior said, "I bought some gin and tonic with my credit card the other night because I was out of cash."

Following the above guideline would rule this out, along with the purchasing of groceries and gas with credit. Detweiler advises that if you can eat or drink it, buy it with cash.

Another good idea is to close all unused accounts, according to Helen Huntley. Available credit can be counted against you when applying for a loan, or even trying to rent an apartment or house.

Huntley also advises

consumers to clear up any errors on your credit report. Each credit reporting agency has its own guidelines for doing this. Or you can add an explanation to any negative credit item giving circumstances for it.

The Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS) can help you. Offices can normally be found in every county. The CCCS office in Greenville is a member of the National Foundation for Consumer Credit. According to Kathy Taylor, an employee at CCCS, the organization's services are always free. They offer a debt repayment program, in which CCCS acts as a mediator between the debtor and the debtor.

"But CCCS cannot help you with secured credit items, like houses or cars," Taylor said. "Our goal is to help people be debt free."

Through their debt repayment program, CCCS works to reduce the monthly payment and interest rate. The majority of debtors are willing to work with debtors, Taylor said.

*"Even if they are working, the
majority of college students have
no established credit record,"
Mann said. "Most need their
mom and dad to co-sign for
them."*

Donald Mann

Business Manager at Merritt-Williams Ford-Jeep-Eagle in Morehead City

Here are the
steps to take
to receive a
Student
Government
Emergency
Loan:

1. Go to the SGA
with a valid and
current ECU ID.

3. Be sure your
school record is
not tagged for
unpaid bills and
that you did not
default on a loan
during the previous
semester.

For More
Information
Concerning Your
Credit
Contact Greenville
Consumer Credit
Counseling Service
205 SW Greenville
Blvd. (919)355-1156

The three national
credit bureaus can be
reached at the phone
numbers below. Fees
for individual credit
reports can range
from free to \$8.
Equifax:
1-800-685-1111
Experian:
1-800-392-1122
Trans Union
Corporation:
(510) 689-1912

Check your credit report
on-line at
www.consumerinfo.com
Contact credit card
companies on-line at
www.visa.com or
www.mastercard.com
Check with your local
bank

Are you in Debt Trouble?

1. You use credit cards where you used to pay cash, such as at the grocery store and restaurants.
2. You have depleted your savings or worse, used cash advances from credit cards to pay past due bills.
3. You have lost track of how much you owe.
4. You put off paying your telephone or utility bills in order to pay high credit card bills and other debts.
5. You regularly receive letters from collection agencies.

In you answered yes to most of these questions, you have a debt problem.

Source: Bank Rate Monitor



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