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ECU Scholars go above and beyond

Scholars pair up with local children for a fun day on campus

CLAIRE MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

The ECU Scholars hosted a group of 30 Belvior Elementary students last month for a fun day on campus. The kids ranged in age from kindergarten to second grade. Each student was paired with a Scholar or Honors student as a partner for the academic year. The Belvior children were given school supplies, sweatshirts and Honors Program stickers.

"We want these children to become acquainted with ECU and know the university is a friendly place where they can come to learn," said Dr. Michael Bassman, assistant vice chancellor of the Honors Program.

The Scholars are going to be tutoring the Belvior kids in reading and writing. The ECU students will also benefit from this experience by interacting with ethnically and culturally diverse children.

"I also hope experiences like

see **SCHOLARS** *page A3*

Photos.com

Thanks to the ECU Scholars, children from Belvior Elementary are going to receive a helping hand this year in reading and writing.

Resident Service Managers in demand

Campus Living is now recruiting for May 2006

CLAYTON BAUMAN
STAFF WRITER

Campus Living is currently accepting applications for students interested in becoming a Resident Service Manager.

An informational session held last Wednesday outlined all of the responsibilities and benefits of becoming an RSM.

Among the leadership experience one can gain from the job, other benefits include a $550 stipend for nine months, approximately $3,700 additional summer pay, a furnished, air-conditioned private room on campus and a Pirate nine meal per week plan.

In order to become an RSM, students must be a full time ECU student, either an MBA student with a Hospitality Management background or a rising senior in Hospitality Management or be an upper class Campus Living employee. They also must have lived in the residence halls at least one semester and have a clear judicial record. The students cumulative GPA must be a minimum of 2.5.

The position lasts for 12 months beginning May 15.

A Resident Service Manager essentially has six position responsibilities including supervisor, office manager, team member, administrator, trainer and university representative. Each of these holds their own unique set of requirements.

Allison Walters, Resident Service Manager for College Hill, described the job as being a manageable position in that students can set their own schedules to best benefit themselves. Scheduling hours is as easy as logging onto a scheduling database and clicking a desired time slot.

"Summer actually helps a lot more with everyday responsibilities," said Walters.

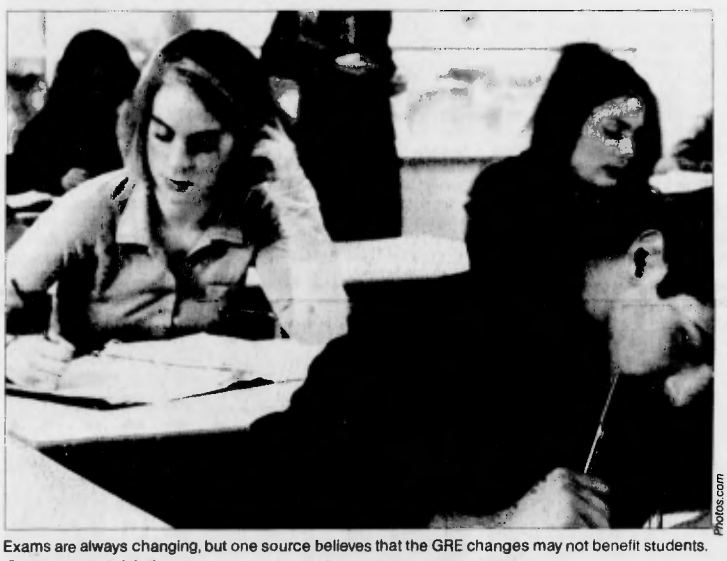
She described summer as being a bit more difficult to manage schedule-wise because it plays out more like a fulltime job, but it never got out of hand.

RSMs are also required to be on call 10 days out of a month. When on call, an RSM cannot be more than approximately 10 minutes away from the office.

Students who are interested can get more information regarding the position by visiting the Campus Living office at West End Dining Hall. The deadline for all applications is Feb. 28.

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

Princeton Review questions changes to the GRE



Photos.com

Exams are always changing, but one source believes that the GRE changes may not benefit students.

Changes could do more harm than good

ELISA BIZZOTTO
STAFF WRITER

The GRE, or Graduate Record Exam, is undergoing changes that may not be in the best interests of the students taking it. Educational Testing Services, the organization that administers the assessment, claims that the changes being made to the GRE will benefit the students through increased validity, accessibility and security, and will help admissions faculty to gain a better understanding of a student's abilities through his/her performance on the exam.

However, The Princeton Review, who has been working in accordance with ETS for 25 years, feels as though the organization may have ulterior motives.

Elizabeth Wands, National Director of Graduate Programs at The Princeton Review, feels that the changes to the GRE are not being made to better assist the students taking the exam, but rather to benefit ETS. Wands believes that the changes are financially motivated and stated that in The Princeton Review's experience with ETS, they have only seen the organization make changes when they have been affected financially.

Primarily, Wands has made such claims because she feels as though the changes being made are more of an inconvenience to the students taking the exam than anything else.

A significant change to the exam is the frequency in which it will be administered. While the current GRE is offered every day of the week with the exception of Sundays, the new format will be offered a mere 30 times a year. In addition to decreasing the number of times in which students have the opportunity to take the assessment, ETS is also increasing the cost of the exam.

The current GRE is administered as an adaptive exam which means that each test complies with the abilities of the test-taker and questions vary according to a student's performance. The new format will consist of linear questions, or questions that are the same universally, therefore each question will consist of the same content in the same order on every administered exam. Wands acknowledged that this specific change will save ETS a great deal of money in that they will not have to offer such a significant pool of questions.

Another change being made to the GRE is the section of "untried questions" that are being added to the exam. "Untried questions" are those that have never before been seen on a standard exam. Wands believes that this change in particular will be a disadvantage to both students and admissions faculty. She claimed that this will prove to be more of a challenge for students when preparing for the test and further, admissions faculty will be unable to compare student performances on previous exams to those on the revised formats.

A circumstance that may have validated Wands' beliefs about these changes has been the delays to the revised exam. Wands thinks that the delays upon the administration of the new exam are due to unsatisfactory field results that ETS has received. It is necessary that the organization tests the revised exam before it is finalized and Wands remarked that ETS was probably not as successful in the field as they assumed they would be.

Because of these changes and others, Wands encourages students who have the oppor-

see **GRE** *page A5*

Famous names in the news

(KRT) — "Late Night" with Conan O'Brien at last has met the Finnish politician whose reelection campaign he helped because of what he described as a striking physical resemblance.

O'Brien presented Finnish President Tarja Halonen a heart-shaped box of chocolates during their meeting at the presidential palace in Helsinki.

The first woman to hold the job in Finland gave O'Brien Finnish troll dolls.

A few days ago, O'Brien said he wanted to be named the country's inspector of women's saunas. After the meeting, he said they had not discussed his demand.

O'Brien said he was supporting Halonen, 62, for reelection because she bears a strong resemblance to him, right down to the red hair.

O'Brien's support took the form of mock campaign ads backing Halonen and attacking her opponents.

The comedian said his wife was unhappy about her husband meeting another woman on Valentine's Day.

"She was so jealous, she said she would spend her Valentine's Day with President Bush," O'Brien joked.

ACTOR'S DEATH AN ACCIDENT

The death of actor Chris Penn last month was an accident, the result of a deadly heart condition he made worse by taking a prescription cough medicine, the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office has announced.

"There is absolutely no indication that this is anything but an accident," chief coroner investigator Craig Harvey said on Monday.

Penn, 40, younger brother of Sean Penn, was found dead in his Santa Monica, Calif., condominium on Jan. 24.

Chris Penn's heart was enlarged and weakened by cardiomyopathy, according to the coroner's office. The "effects of multiple medication intake" contributed to Penn's death, according to a statement issued by the coroner's office.

"We know he had several prescriptions, including promethazine with codeine, which featured predominantly in his death," Harvey said.

Promethazine is an antihistamine that prevents vomiting, while codeine suppresses coughing and relieves pain, Harvey said.

A full coroner's report with further details will be available in a few weeks, according to Harvey.

Penn appeared in such films as Reservoir Dogs, Rush Hour, Starsky & Hutch and Corky Romano.

HULKING DEPUTY

Many TV and movie personalities dream of becoming rock stars. Witness Bruce Willis, Keanu Reeves and Russell Crowe.

Lou Ferrigno, however, has alternative desires. The former Incredible Hulk star always wanted to be a cop, and he was recently sworn in as a reserve deputy in the county sheriff's department in Los Angeles, The Associated Press reports.

Ferrigno, 54, donned green body makeup from 1977 to 1982 as the raging alter ego of scientist David Bruce Banner, played by the late Bill Bixby.

"My father was a police officer with the New York Police Department. I've always had a high respect for officers," Ferrigno said. "I want to give back to the community, and I want to work with young kids, help them get off drugs." Ferrigno's duties will include helping abused children.

ALWAYS JOKING

Robin Williams cannot help being funny, even if he's performing for an audience of one, *The New York Post* reported. Showing

see **NAMES** *page A2*

Judge Judy gets a star

AP

This photo, provided by CBS Paramount Television, shows Judith Sheindlin, familiarly known as television's Judge Judy, as she poses after receiving a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame Tuesday, Feb. 14, in Hollywood, Calif. Sheindlin is also has a Daytime Emmy Awards nomination.

INSIDE | News: A2 | Classifieds: A6 | Opinion: A4 | A&E: B1 | Sports: B4

Announcements

Buccaneer Photo Sessions

The ECU yearbook staff would like to invite all May 2006 graduates to have their photo taken for the next edition of the Buccaneer. Sessions will be held March 22 at Hendrix Theatre from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and March 23 and 24 at Ledonia Wright Cultural Center 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call 328-9236 to reserve your time slot. Reservations are strongly encouraged, but not required. For more information, visit buccaneer.ecu.edu.

Salsa Dance

The ECU Folk and Country Dancers are sponsoring a salsa dance Friday, Feb. 18 at the Willis Building located downtown at First and Reade Streets. Instruction will be provided by Procopio and friends at 7:30 p.m. with the dance following at 8:30 p.m. Music by DJ Ramon. Fees are $3 for students, $5 for FASG members and $8 for the public. This is a non-alcoholic and non-smoking event. For more information, call 752-7350.

Career Fairs

The Science Fair will be held Friday, Feb. 17 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Science and Technology Building. The Business Career Fair will be held Wednesday, Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. in Minges Coliseum. The Education Fair will be held Friday Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Minges Coliseum. The Health Fair will be held Thursday, March 2 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Carol Belk Building.

Teachers and Applied Linguistic Students Conference

A student-run conference offering opportunities for grad students and public school teachers to present their work, both practical and theoretical, in the areas of applied linguistics and TESL will be held in the Bate Building on Saturday, Feb. 18. This year's workshop features Dr. Melissa Cahnmann, of the University of Georgia, who will present "Rehearsing the Revolution: Using 'Theater of the Oppressed' to Address Identity and Power in Language Education." Dr. Cahnmann will give an additional presentation titled, "The Study and Use of Metaphor to Understand Bilinguaiism and Biiinguai Education" Friday, Feb. 17 at 3:30 p.m. in Bate 3008. Fees are $10 for ECU students and faculty and $15 for all others. For more information, visit core.ecu.edu/engl/talgs/conference/registration.htm.

"Godspell" Performance

The musical "Godspell" will begin performances on Thursday, Feb. 16 at 8 p.m. in McGinnis Theatre. The show uses songs to bring the parables of Jesus Christ to life. The story utilizes various theatrical traditions such as clowning, pantomime, acrobatics and vaudeville. Based on the book by John Michael Tebelak. Music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz. For more information and other shows, call 328-6829 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS.

Unforgettable: The Nat King Cole Story

Saturday, Feb. 25, at 8 p.m. in Wright Auditorium, ECU Cultural Outreach is presenting the story of Nat King Cole. It will be an engaging production, covering 20 songs, comedy and drama. Come see the representation of a jazz legend. Advance individual tickets are $30 for the public, $29 for ECU faculty/staff, $15 for youth and $10 for students. All tickets at the door will be $30. Group discounts are available. For more information, call the Central Ticket Office at 328-4788, or visit ecuarts.com.

News Briefs

State

Former McDowell County sheriff candidate pleads guilty

HENDERSONVILLE, N.C. (AP) – A former candidate for McDowell County sheriff pleaded guilty to committing illegal election activities during his 2002 campaign.

Adolph "Butch" Justice Jr. pleaded guilty Monday to five misdemeanors for illegal election conduct while he was running for the sheriff's job, District Attorney Jeff Hunt said.

A grand jury had issued five felony indictments against Justice last March, and Hunt said the case had been scheduled for a court hearing Monday.

Justice was the witness for some absentee ballots in the election. It is a crime to witness absentee ballots in an election in which someone is a candidate unless he is a near relative of the voter. It is likewise a felony for anyone not a near relative to possess absentee ballots for delivery to a voter or return to the board of elections.

House approves bill that encourages breast-feeding

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) - Less than a year after a woman was asked not to nurse her child in a Victoria's Secret store in Mount Pleasant, the South Carolina House on Tuesday gave key approval to a bill that gives women the right to breast-feed their children in public without fear of being ordered out of sight.

The bill easily received approval with no floor debate.

It lets women breast-feed anywhere they have the right to be and exempts breast-feeding from indecent exposure laws.

"There's no downside to breast-feeding," said the bill's sponsor, Rep. Chip Limehouse, R-Charleston, who added he was bottle-fed himself.

"Only good things can come out of it."

Breast-feeding advocates gathered at the Statehouse earlier Tuesday to urge the bill's passage.

Supporters included 2-year-old Julian Larsen of Rock Hill, who wore a T-shirt that said, "Breast Milk Does a Toddler Good."

Heather Pace of Lexington said she hopes the bill makes breast-feeding in public more acceptable. She said other customers harassed her at a restaurant while she tried to breast-feed her son.

"It was a stressful situation," Pace said.

"I went to great lengths to be discreet."

Licensed midwife Tavish Brinton said she was ordered to leave her table at a pizza restaurant in West Columbia while breast-feeding, but she refused. She said such situations discourage mothers from breast-feeding, when they should be encouraged.

"No one minds if a mother or father gives a child a bottle," said Brinton of Leesville, who breast-fed her three children.

"Everybody's got to get over it."

Limehouse introduced the bill after an incident last summer at a Victoria's Secret lingerie store in Mount Pleasant.

Lori Rueger said a store clerk told her she could not breast-feed her 10-week-old daughter in a dressing room and encouraged her to use a public restroom in another store instead, a setting nursing moms call unsanitary and uncomfortable. The incident prompted protests and made national news.

Teresa Hill, a nutritionist with the state Department of Health and Environmental Control, said the state is trying to encourage more women to breast-feed as part of its strategy for controlling obesity statewide. The Palmetto State ranks high in the percentage of people who are obese but near the bottom nationwide in mothers who breast-feed their children.

Studies show that breast-feeding babies reduces their risk of becoming obese later. It helps mothers return to a pre-pregnancy weight. It also improves a child's immunity system and aids their development, Hill said.

"We can make the healthiest choice the easiest choice," she said.

The bill still needs a third reading in the House before it moves to the state Senate.

Thirty-eight states have already passed laws related to breast-feeding. Of those, 31 states, including Georgia and North Carolina, allow mothers to breast-feed in any public or private location, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

National

'This Old House' helps turn dilapidated row house into family's new home

WASHINGTON (AP) – Ravaged by fire and vacant for a decade, the brick row house was an eyesore, its windows nailed shut and its facade splotched with peeling paint. Then a nonprofit group and the gang from PBS' "This Old House" showed up.

Now, after a 3 1/2-month renovation, the paint is gone and the brick has been restored to its original orange-reddish hue. Inside, hardwood floors, a semicircular staircase and gleaming kitchen appliances greet visitors.

District of Columbia Mayor Anthony A. Williams and a gaggle of onlookers gathered Tuesday to celebrate the home's transformation and welcome the new owners, who will buy the three-bedroom, two-bath property for $250,000 far below market value.

"A family has a home," Williams said as he cut a giant red ribbon.

"It's a great story."

The 1870s row house, located a block away from the Washington Convention Center, is just one example of the transformation occurring in the city's rapidly gentrifying Shaw neighborhood, where real estate prices are soaring.

The rehabilitation was chronicled by the PBS home makeover show "This Old House." The eight episodes featuring the home are airing through April.

"It was one of the worst homes I've seen," said Norm Abram, the show's master carpenter. "It was basically a shell."

Mi Casa, a D.C.-based nonprofit group that buys city buildings at below market rates and then sells them to middle- and low-income families, purchased the home for $1. Williams said the home was sold to Mi Casa as part of the district's Home Again Initiative, in which the city takes control of vacant and abandoned properties and turns them over to developers.

The program began in 2002 to target at least 2,700 homes in neighborhoods with the highest concentrations of blight. So far, more than 100 homes have been awarded to developers. At least one-third must be sold to low- and moderate-income families.

"To be a truly healthy, vibrant city you really need middle-income, lower-moderate-income families," Williams said after the ribbon cutting.

"That's what makes a real city."

A family of six will move into the new home within a month.

Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes deny breakup report

LOS ANGELES (AP) – Not true.

That was Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes' response Tuesday to a Valentine's Day report by Life & Style magazine claiming that the Hollywood superstar and his pregnant paramour have split up.

"It should be known that the story is 100 percent false," Arnold Robinson, a publicist for the couple, said in a statement. "Mr. Cruise and Ms. Holmes are still engaged and are moving forward with their wedding plans, as well as planning for the arrival of their child."

The Feb. 27 issue of the magazine, which will be on news stands Friday, says in a cover story that the public pair "plan to keep up the charade of their romance until after their baby's birth this spring."

Holmes, 27, and Cruise, 43, has been engaged since June. They announced her pregnancy in October.

"Despite the malicious fallacies put forth by Life & Style magazine, the couple is looking forward to a long and happy life together as a family," Robinson said.

A representative for the magazine said, "We stand 100 percent behind our story."

The story says its information comes from two unnamed friends of Cruise.

World

Iran says 135 swans died of bird flu

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) – Iran on Tuesday said 135 wild swans died of bird flu in marshlands near the Caspian Sea in the country's first case of the spreading virus, and officials in Germany and Austria said the virus had apparently reached there as well.

The disease's likely spread to three new countries follows the recent deaths of humans from the H5N1 strain of bird flu in Turkey and Iraq, Iran's neighbors, and the march of the disease into European countries Greece and Italy.

Olympic officials in Italy said bird flu posed no threat to the Turin Olympics, but a Nigerian official warned that bird flu was fast spreading in that country, and a U.N. expert said the strain might have surfaced in a second African country.

Bird flu has killed at least 91 people since 2003, according to the World Health Organization. Almost all the human deaths have been linked to contact with infected poultry, but experts fear the H5N1 virus could mutate into a form that spreads easily among people, possibly sparking a pandemic.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted the country's Veterinary Organization as saying that "international laboratory results" confirmed the wild swans died from bird flu. It did not name or give the location of the laboratory.

Health Minister Kamaran Bagheri Lankarani said on state-run television that Iranian officials have killed all wild birds in a three-mile radius around where the virus was detected, about 200 miles northwest of the capital Tehran.

Two dead swans in northern Germany were found on the island of Ruegen, and regional agriculture ministry spokeswoman Iris Uellendahl said a preliminary test showed they died of H5N1.

Agriculture Minister Horst Seehofer ordered domestic poultry kept indoors beginning Friday instead of Feb. 20 as previously ordered. Samples from the birds were being taken to a EU laboratory in Britain for a definitive test, Uellendahl said.

Two birds found dead in Austria appear to also have been infected with the H5N1 strain. Hans Seitinger, a health official for Styria province, said there was a 70 percent chance that H5N1 had reached the country, according to results from preliminary tests carried out on samples from 21 birds. Samples have been sent for confirmation to a lab in England.

Health officials in Italy said they remained vigilant after a deadly strain of the virus was detected in the south of the country on Saturday.

Tests conducted on birds and poultry in this northern region where the Olympics are being held have all come back negative, officials said.

On Saturday, Italy confirmed that six wild swans found in the southern regions of Sicily, Puglia and Calabria tested positive for H5N1. The areas are more than 600 miles from Turin.

The H5N1 strain was first confirmed in Africa last week in fowl in three states in northern Nigeria. It's now suspected in five other states, raising concern Nigeria is not taking the necessary measures to combat the disease.

Names *from page A1*

up recently at Scores, New York's famous topless joint, Williams' rapid-fire wit made it nearly impossible for an exotic dancer named Katherine to do her job. "I was trying to dance for him," she said, "but he kept making me laugh by making funny faces and noises."

FUN WITH MODELS

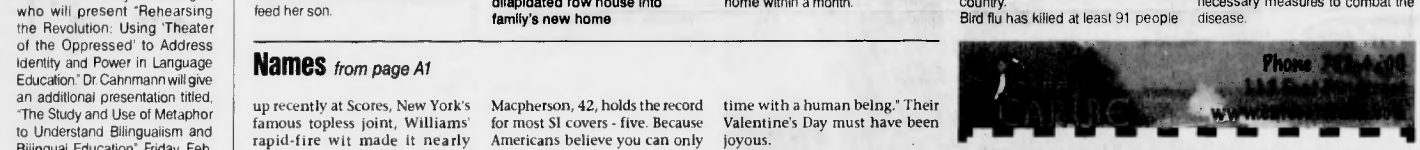
The cover of this year's Sports Illustrated's annual swimsuit issue shows an all-star lineup of models, including Rebecca Romijn, Rachel Hunter and Elle Macpherson. "It was like a big family, since so many of us brought our kids. We all went surfing. It was so relaxed and easy," Macpherson told The AP. The cover was shot last summer by fashion photographer Raphael Mazzucco in the Bahamas. Macpherson, 42, holds the record for most SI covers - five. Because Americans believe you can only be beautiful when you're young, Macpherson hasn't been doing much swimsuit modeling lately. These days, she runs her lingerie and makeup bustnesses and is ratsing two sons, ages 8 and 3.

JUST KIDDING, HONEY

Actor Paul Bettany, star of the *The Da Vinci Code*, proved he is quite the silver-tongued devil when he shared some personal observattons about hts wife, Jennifer Connelly, with *Best Life* magazine, the *New York Daily News* reported. "Close up, Jennifer is a complete dog. In real life, without makeup, hideous! But seriously, you get through all of that stuff the moment you spend any real time with a human belng." Their Valentine's Day must have been joyous.

ANOTHER SPLIT

In the sad world of irreconcilable dtfferences, Christian Slater is seeking jotnt custody of his 4-year-old daughter and 6-year-old son, The AP reported. The actor and his estranged wife, television producer Ryan Haddon, will be dividing property under the terms of a written agreement. The couple married in 2000. They separated on Jan. 1, 2004, according to newly filed papers. Originally, the couple ftled papers saying they had separated in January 2005. Slater's screen credits include roles in *Heathers*, *Interview With the Vampire: The Vampire Chronicles* and *Broken Arrow*.



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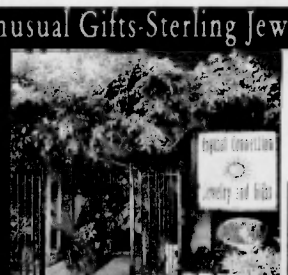

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Blood on the side of the suspect's vehicle tipped off a state trooper.

N.C. troopers hold I-95 motorist in Fla. death

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A Connecticut man stopped on Interstate 95 was in jail Tuesday after an investigation tied him to a dead body discovered in a Florida home, the North Carolina highway patrol said.

Troopers who stopped a 1994 Chrysler Concord headed north on I-95 in Johnston County Monday noticed blood on the side of the vehicle and the driver's hands and arms. The driver was arrested when he failed to produce identification and gave troopers a false name, patrol spokesman Lt. Everett Clendenin said.

The driver was later identified as Nunding Barteil, 28, of Watlingford, Conn. He was being held without bond as a fugitive from justice from Connecticut, Clendenin said in a prepared statement. During an interview, troopers got information that led them to ask law officers in Jacksonville, Fla., to check on the resident of a home there.

The sheriff's department there "confirmed they located a body at the residence and requested that Bartell be held for further questioning," Clendenin said.

Despite comfort with technology, e-textbook demand is slow

(AP) — Brown University junior Stuart Thompson jumped at the chance to save $30 and become a digital pioneer when his school bookstore offered a discounted, electronic version of an American history textbook.

But after making the purchase, he noticed a few things amiss: He couldn't run a highlight marker over key points or jot notes in the margins, nor could he curl up with the tome without printing out the pages.

He won't rule out another e-book, but he's not completely sold, either.

So much for the belief that this generation of youths is comfortable with everything digital: The publishing industry has been talking about electronic textbooks for a decade already, but sales remain minuscule.

"If you're reading a 100-page book, staring at the computer that long – I don't think a lot of people would find that a better way to read," said Thompson.

Of the 100 or so students enrolled in the course where Houghton Mifflin Co.'s *A People and a Nation* is assigned, Thompson was the only student to buy the electronic version.

Brown is offering two other e-textbooks this semester, but none of the 150 students in those classes have bought one, even at 35 percent off the price of a new printed copy.

Students are going to have to see more value in e-textbooks before they take off, said Larry Carr, Brown's director of bookstore and services.

For now, it is mostly a curiosity.

"Students are pretty conservative when it comes to their grades," said David Serbun, director of partnerships for Houghton Mifflin's college division.

"Our research has indicated they don't want to do anything that's a lot different than their peers."

Others, however, say the publishers are the ones that are conservative, doing little more than adding some hyperlinks and search capabilities. Tools are available for note taking and highlighting, but Thompson said those are no substitute for marking up paper.

For the most part, e-books are merely electronic representations of the printed pages.

"It's like taking a book and ... trying to turn it into a movie just by trying to read pages," said Alexander Pereira, chief operating officer of Xplana Learning Inc., an education software company that delivers e-books.

"It's a different medium."

C. Sidney Burrus, former dean of engineering at Rice University and an e-book author, said technological changes typically come in two phases: Replication of older technology, followed by innovation.

"We're in the first phase, with electronic doing what the traditional paper has done," he said.

"Nothing's really novel."

How can e-books be more than print?

see **TEXTBOOK** *page A5*

Scholars *from page A1*

this on campus will help spur additional curiosity for learning and support their ambitions to attend college some day. Since these students come from migrant families, they may not see college as a real possibility or as an opportunity in the future. We want to change that," Dr. Bassman said.

ECU Scholars is a four-year program including a merit scholarship, community outreach programs and research.

The Scholars program is providing much needed help for the young Latino community right here in Greenville.

"Our students are extremely gifted and have wonderful opportunities ahead of them, but it is important to ensure that they can gain a broad cultural background," Dr. Bassman said.

More information about the ECU Scholars and Honors Program can be found at ecu.edu/honors.

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

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Our View

A battle cry for a new generation

He has inspired free Buddy Icons for your AIM, T-shirts, underwear, techno remix songs and even coffee mugs. There are miscellaneous sound clips and videos featuring his voice, yet very few people have ever seen his face. On the Web site named for him, you can find all of these things and much more.

So who is this man of mystery? He is a World of Warcraft hero. He is a phenomenon of the Internet. He is an obscure, otherwise unremarkable, man. He is ... Leeroy Jenkins.

For those of you who have not heard his battle cry via e-mail or Web or seen the video that inspired it all, allow me to explain.

According to Wikipedia.org, Leeroy's famous video emerged in 2005 among other players of Blizzard Entertainment's MMORPG World of Warcraft, and in August 2005, an article called "The Ballad of Leeroy Jenkins" in *PC Gamer UK* boosted his notoriety immensely. The video itself you'll have to watch, as it would take too long to explain how awesome it is in this column. But basically, Leeroy becomes the hero among a group of "nerds" by defying their strategic pre-battle plans and barging into the fight with total disregard to his teammates. (His teammates, for the record, were not just planning – they were even taking the time to calculate survival percentages.)

Though some do play World of Warcraft and other games that way, the majority of the public has taken to Leeroy and the video, which is two minutes and 50 seconds long and has spread like underground wildfire.

It spread so quickly and became such a big deal among gamers that on Nov. 16, 2005, Alex Trebek himself posed a Leeroy-related clue to college students in a college tournament edition of Jeopardy.

How did this happen? I do not have an answer. The Internet is amazing and this entire ordeal just goes to show you how much is possible today. A little over half a year ago, no one knew who Leeroy Jenkins was, and today he's on my shirt. Check him out for yourself at leeroyjenkins.net.

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Serving ECU since 1925, *TEC* prints 9,000 copies every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the regular academic year and 5,000 on Wednesdays during the summer. "Our View" is the opinion of the editorial board and is written by editorial board members. *TEC* welcomes letters to the editor which are limited to 250 words (which may be edited for decency or brevity). We reserve the right to edit or reject letters and all letters must be signed and include a telephone number. Letters may be sent via e-mail to editor@theeastcarolinian.com or to *The East Carolinian*, Self-Help Building, Greenville, NC 27858-4353. Call 252-328-9238 for more information. One copy of *TEC* is free, each additional copy is $1.

Opinion Columnist

Cheney's got a gun and he is shooting

The world reacts to the second shot heard 'round the world

GARY MCCABE
BITTER BOULEVARD

What could possibly have been running through Vice President Dick Cheney's mind just seconds after his errant shotgun blast struck 78-year-old Harry Whittington in the face, propelling him to the Texas soil beneath him? Was it concern for Whittington, a Texas lawyer with strong political ties to the Republican Party? Was he worried about the attacks from the media and the Democratic Party that were surely soon to follow? Or maybe – just maybe – was he thinking to himself, "Great, where am I supposed to buy lime out here in the middle of nowhere?" I know what was running though my mind when I heard about the second "shot heard 'round the world."

I sure as hell wasn't surprised to hear that it happened. Quite frankly, I was surprised to hear that it was an accident. All I had heard was that he had shot a man and, instantly, my brain conjured up the image of Cheney standing over the body of an animal rights protester with a smoking gun in his hand, specks of blood on his brow and a maniacal smile creeping across his bulbous face.

I'm not saying that Cheney is some sort of blood-thirsty monster. What I am saying, though, is that had he been vice president of the United States in 1804 instead of 2006, not only would Cheney have killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel, he would have gone after Hamilton's wife, kids and mistress after he was finished. I'm being honest – that's the impression I've gotten about Cheney over the years.

Whether you like him or not, there's no denying that Cheney is a very intense and frightening individual. For those who haven't been following the story thus far, here is a quick recap before I continue. On Saturday afternoon, Cheney was quail hunting on a privately owned Texas ranch with a select group of friends and was accompanied by his ever-present Secret Service agents and traveling medical squad. Cheney set his sights on a quail as it flew past him. He followed the bird and whipped around to send the creature to "birdie heaven" only to send a round of birdshot into the face, neck and chest of Whittington, who had apparently broken the line without alerting Cheney of his position.

From then on, I would assume the 78-year-old man went down like a sack of tomatoes (a sack of potatoes is so cliché.) Lucky for Whittington, our vice president can't go out to get his morning paper without his mobile EMS squad. They quickly began treating the non-quail and rushed him to a hospital. It has to be the first time anyone's been thankful that the second most powerful man alive can't go for a leisurely walk without fear of a life-ending heart attack.

Unconfirmed reports say that Cheney was immediately apologetic, showing great concern for Whittington. It's a pretty major thing for Cheney to apologize. I may be wrong, but I don't think Cheney has apologized once during his entire scandal-ridden tenure as vice president. Haliburton? The war in Iraq? The CIA leak? He didn't even consider apologizing or taking responsibility. But he shoots one man in the throat and he's all apologies. I guess he is human after all. What happened in the 12 hours or so after the shooting is unknown.

We know that no one alerted the press and that someone may or may not have informed the White House. The news broke when the owner of the ranch released the information on his Web site. Cheney's whereabouts were unknown. Maybe he was sitting vigil. Maybe he was sleeping one off. Who knows? Once the story hit the media, it took a strange path. At first, there was outrage and shock that you would expect but when it was reported that Whittington was in good shape and on track to make a full recovery, it became funny and fodder for jokes, most of which centered on the vice president's first name and where Whittington was shot (the face.) How crass ... Even President Bush planned to counter the bad PR by laughing it off. But the laughter stopped on Tuesday.

All of the sudden it wasn't so funny when news broke that Whittington had suffered a heart attack and had birdshot lodged in his heart. He was rushed to intensive care that evening. So just as the American people were rallying around the Republican party after Bush's stirring State of the Union Address (oops, sarcasm doesn't translate to print) the administration goes and shoots itself in the throat, err foot, again and creates a new disaster for themselves. Could things get any worse for Bush and Cheney? I'm sure it can. From the minute I heard about this, I've been secretly hoping that it would come out that Whittington was going to testify before Congress and this was Cheney's way of shutting him up. That would be awesome. In reality, the worst thing that could happen for the administration is if Whittington dies. Actually, they should count their blessings that he didn't kick it on Saturday – the elderly are notoriously fragile human beings.

One time, I walked past an older gentleman and the wind from my body actually shattered his hip. I felt awful for months. All joking aside, this is an awful story. All the speculation and rumors still boil down to the fact that this was an accident and a terrible tragedy. Cheney is currently being crucified by the media and at press time, hasn't publicly spoken of the incident. Instead, Cheney has been sitting bedside with Whittington and his family, ensuring that he gets the best care possible. That's much more important at this time.

There is a lesson to be learned from this though and I hope that Cheney gets the message that there are repercussions for your actions. Cheney has had a cavalier attitude from the moment he stepped into the White House and even though he'll never admit it, he's made his share of mistakes because of it.

This is his Ghost of Christmas Past, Present and Future in one hefty dose. At press time, Whittington was in stable condition. For everyone's sake – especially Vice President Cheney's – let's hope it stays that way. Otherwise, it'll be a long three years until he's out of office. And for the record, killing animals for sport is inhumane and because quails can't fight back, you all got what you deserve.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

This letter is written in response to Daniel Brock's opinion column entitled, "Abolish Black History Month." In his argument for the dissolution of Black History Month, Mr. Brock states, "If Black people want to continue their march toward equality, they need to wake up and realize that Black History Month is holding them back ... if they choose to remain shackled to this antiquated tradition it will only serve to keep up the walls of segregation, separation and racism, to facilitate the feelings of ill will and animosity." He continues, "Black people, in their struggle for equality and social justice, must take responsibility and pride in their culture that goes beyond the superficial celebrations of memorial services and parades. They must, as a people, work to reduce the behaviors and attitudes that perpetuate negative stereotypes."

What is curious about Mr. Brock's statements is that he seemingly portrays a unified America and a unified front for the abolishment of racism. He states, "We need to move forward." But in his rhetoric which I have cited, he separates blacks and places the burden of educating this same America and its citizens upon the blacks, for it seems to be his belief that the fault of rampant inequality which plagues our schools and America lies with black people. If we are to be truly unified, does that burden not rest with all of us?

This past year, I taught the state's curriculum for eighth grade history, which is a course specifically on North Carolina history. Buried in the back of the book, beyond the Revolutionary War and the Civil War, is the chapter impossible to reach in a year, which concerns the impact four N.C. A&T students made on the Civil Rights Movement. These four gentlemen protested three years prior to the lunch counter sit-in directed by Dr. King and the SCLC and their achievements were relegated to the nether regions of a textbook.

Nowhere in this text are the Wilmington Race Riots of 1898 mentioned, during which the whites of Wilmington, lead by Colonel Alfred Waddell, a former U.S. Congressman and Confederate veteran, overthrew the black businesses and killed upward of 100 black men, women and children. It was during this time that the only black daily newspaper in the United States, *The Daily Record*, was burned. This was omitted from North Carolina's proud history. So were the non-violent Civil Rights demonstrations that later took place in nearby Sanford, N.C. It also wasn't mentioned in the N.C. history text that the entire North Carolina congressional delegation opposed the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Curious, I thought it was our state's history.

So where are students supposed to learn of this history? The glaring omissions from our history books is reminiscent of the hush-hush cover up of Nazi Germany's death camps that ensued following the collapse of Hitler's Third Reich and continues today in many parts of Europe. No one wants to reflect on the atrocities inflicted on blacks as a result of their color. And without Black History Month, most of what we as Americans have learned about blacks has no place in our schools' curricula.

Mr. Brock also suggests that "as a gesture of good will and intent" that Columbus Day be renamed George Washington Carver Day, since Mr. Carver "gave us the modern day manna of peanut butter" (this being the absolute least of George Washington Carver's achievements). And, had Mr. Brock truly had an awareness of black history, he would be aware that the U.S. Congress has already announced Jan. 1, 1946, as George Washington Carver Day.

Thanks,
Amy Simpson

Pirate Rant

Remember to smile, because when you smile, I smile. And what would a day without us smiling be?

Valentine's Day is another commercial attempt to persuade people, usually guys, to spend money on candy that isn't healthy and various trinkets of little or no intrinsic value.

To the person who said they have lost faith in the business professors at ECU, professors are not here to hold your hand. They "show you the door." You have to "walk through the door" of knowledge. I think that if you spent more time studying and less time ranting about your professors, you might see the light. You had better get in gear or the real world will eat you alive, MBA or no MBA.

I am always willing to help out my friends and give advice, but it is starting to affect my own life. I never get advice when I need it and I always worry about my friends. Am I being too much of a father figure and not a normal college student? Can I please get some advice this time!

If you are frugal (not cheap), that means that you have discipline and will be able to retire before most everyone else. Reading that the average guy spends $128 and the average female spends $74 makes me sick and shows the disparity between genders and waste that show Valentine's Day as a bad cultural symbol.

They should film "Cops" in Greenville.

I have never heard of a single person who has been hired because they were Greek. In fact, the frat guys I know are a good two or three years behind in terms of graduating. All being in a fraternity means is that you have to have an organization behind you to feel "cool" and that you are most likely an alcoholic.

Please turn off the heat in the Speight Building because every classroom is 900 degrees.

Daniel Brock should write all of the articles in *TEC*.

If you live in Umstead Hall and tip the pizza guy $3 then you deserve a pat on the back. Entirely too many Umstead residents tip stingily if at all. Encourage your neighbors to tip the pizza guy $3. Gas isn't cheap.

Can someone from *TEC* please do an article on a band that people have actually heard of and would like to see a live performance of. Like Fifth Generation, D.J. Williams or something other than a "screamo" rock band. Thanks!

To the people who trash Nascar and think it's a just a redneck sport. Watch the Daytona 500 on NBC this Sunday. This is the best race of the year. Watch these guys put their lives on the line. You never know, you might get hooked like me and watch Speed Channel 24/7.

Why don't people turn down their cell phones in the library? I'm trying to write a paper and I hear annoying ringtones going off all the time. I completely understand listening to music while you are in the library, but don't turn the volume up so even a person who is 20 feet away can hear every word. It's just blatant disrespect for the rules and for everyone else there.

How does UNCW get Kanye West to perform at their University? Better question, when was the last time ECU had a big act like this on campus? What happened?

Daniel Brock, you nailed it with your article on the ECU parking Gestapo. Well done.

I used to read the Pirate Rants in the mornings to start my day off right with a few good laughs. Nowadays, however, I read them just before bed. The useless ramblings chock-full of boring, unoriginal thoughts help me get to sleep fast! Thanks Ranters!

Icebreaker activities are so stupid. I hate them. Everyone's sitting there and it's tense and the last thing you want to talk about is an animal that describes your personality that also has the same first letter as your last name. Then you're worried about sounding like an idiot, but someone says something and your like, "At least I won't sound like that much of an idiot." There has got to be a better way to get a group of people comfortable with each other.

Greenville's finest have once again identified the town's most critical need. They sit out at University Suites and give me seatbelt tickets and tickets for being five minutes over in the two hour parking zone.

If you have a wife, girlfriend, mistress, hump buddy or just a best friend girl, this is what you should have done Tuesday. A) Buy or make a card (notebook paper and red marker counts) B) Say "Happy Valentine's Day" (Happy V-Day will do) C) Let her know you have some form or love in her general direction ("I love you" is gold here!) and finally ... D) If she gives you something, freaking acknowledge it with a heartfelt kiss. (A hug/embrace will suffice). Any questions? OK, there should be no excuses for next year! I know this day is marked as a lame one, but roll with it. It really is simply expected.

When the person helping you with homework is using the simplest terms and you still don't get it, you need help. Help not with the work but with your brain.

Who is this Kanye West? His name is spelled K-a-n-y-e. Can someone please get it right for once?

My roommate is transferring because he says North Carolina smells bad.

To whoever wrote the "Frat Facts," what were you trying to say by that?

Jolly Ranchers are the best candy in the world and I would eat it every day if I could!

Where is the snow?

Why is it that all guys really want to do is see breasts and not care about the person. I am a straight guy and I really want to know the person before seeing anything under the clothing. All the guys need to grow and realize that a female will like you better if you look her in the eyes not her chest.

I don't know who has heard about it, but there is a group trying to get the statue of a Confederate soldier in front of the courthouse downtown removed. I think that is crazy. It is a part of our history and is there to honor the soldiers who bravely fought in the war. There should not be any talk about removing it at all!

Editor's Note: The Pirate Rant is an anonymous way for students and staff in the ECU community to voice their opinions. Submissions can be submitted anonymously online at www.theeastcarolinian.com, or e-mailed to editor@theeastcarolinian.com. The editor reserves the right to edit opinions for content and brevity.

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Student parking will be available in the commuter lot at Minges Coliseum.
Other transportation will be provided by ECU Transit buses

Textbook *from page A3*

Imagine a biology e-book showing video of DNA's double helix coming to life, rather than the two-dimenstonal illustration typically found in printed books.

Or think of a math book with a built-in calculator or spreadsheet so students can try out formulas as they read. Waterloo Maple Inc.'s Maplesoft, for instance, is now making completely digital an advanced mathematical textbook that used to come with a CD.

Lewis Mandell, a University of Buffalo professor who writes and publishes his own e-textbook, said he's able to update his finance books more frequently.

"The investment world is changing on a weekly basis," he said. "Tax rates change every year."

Publishers say that demand for digital-only editions and features aren't strong.

More importantly, professors are demanding consistency with the printed versions so page numbers match and readings are easier to assign, said Sandi Kirshner, chief marketing officer for Pearson PLC's higher education group.

Perhaps that'll change as e-book sales continue to grow, but publishers say there's not much incentive when e-books remain in the single digits as a percentage of printed books.

Their biggest selling point for now is price, and even there, publishers say they feel constrained.

"A lot of people's perceptions is that e-books, that can't cost publishers anything," said Ginny Moffat, vice president for course content delivery at McGraw-Hill Cos.' Higher Education unit.

"Most of the publisher's cost is not in paper, printing and binding. Most of it is in edltorial, reviewing content, making sure it's accurate."

Yet with students spending hundreds of dollars a semester on books, they are looking for deep savings on something they wouldn't be able to sell back at the end of the term.

Even the 35 percent markdown for e-books at Brown is only slightly less than the 25 percent discount for used printed copies.

And e-books come with additional restrictions: They are encrypted to prevent sharing, and the ones from Thomson Corp. are even designed to expire in a year and prevent printing more than 100 pages a week, said Jeff Cohen, advertising and promotions manager for MBS Textbook Exchange Inc., which distributes e-books from several publishers.

Publishers say they are willing to accept lower margins on e-books for now while they figure out the technology and learn more about the market, but some say the current discounts can't last forever.

Another challenge is getting students to even know about the e-book option.

MBS started a pilot last fall where e-books from several publishers are sold in bookstores of 10 universities, so students wouldn't have to know to go to a publisher's Web site to buy them. Brown and about 40 additional schools joined the program last month.

Cards are placed next to the printed books on shelves. Students grab one, pay for it at the register and use the code on it to activate and download the e-book.

E-books are also popular at predominantly online colleges like Kaplan University, said David Harpool, Kaplan's chief operating officer for academics.

"They've chosen this format for learning," he said.

"They are so used to doing everything else online."

But Kirshner believes it could take as many as 10 more years for e-books to become as commonplace as print. Then again, she made that prediction a decade ago, she said, "and those 10 years have come and gone."

"I personally might have thought that this change would be happening sooner and faster than it is, but there's no doubt it is happening."

GRE *from page A1*

tunity to take the GRE in its current format to register before the changes are applied. She feels that while the revised format may not be impossible compared to the current, it will be significantly different and it would be a lot more convenient for students to take advantage of the delay.

The Princeton Review will be available to assist students in preparation for the revised GRE format in the summer of 2007.

Information from this article was taken from Mrs. Elizabeth Wands at The Princeton Review and the ETS Web site.

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

Relay for Life coming in April

It's time to sign up to walk for a cure

RACHEL KING
NEWS EDITOR

On April 28, the friends and family of cancer survivors and cancer victims will gather at South Central High School in Winterville in honor of those who have suffered from the disease. Beginning at 6 p.m., participants in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life will begin to walk, and they will walk until 6 p.m. the next day to raise money for the ACS.

"The Relay for Life is a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money to help the American Cancer Society save lives, help those who have been touched by cancer, and empower individuals to fight back against this disease. During the event, teams of people gather at schools, fairgrounds, or parks and take turns walking or running laps. Each team keeps at least one team member on the track at all times," according to the Pitt County Relay for Life Web site.

"Relay is much more than a walk around a track. It is a time to remember those lost to cancer and celebrate those who have survived. It is a night for people who have shared the same experience to comfort and console one another."

"This year will be bigger than ever; we have traditionally held this event at the fairgrounds, but we have now moved to the high school to accommodate over 400 survivors and thousands of participants," said Kelly Wheeler, chairperson for ECU's representation at the Relay for Life.

The event will be huge, with many, many teams forming to walk for all 24 hours without stopping, because, as Wheeler put it, "cancer doesn't stop." All it takes to form a team is five willing friends and signing up at the next meeting.

"The reality is, one in three people will be diagnosed with cancer every day," Wheeler said.

"That's you and two people beside you in a line at Wal-Mart, or at the grocery store. It will and has affected people without cause, reason, or purpose."

The next meeting for the ECU team will be March 8 at 7 p.m. at St. James Methodist Church off of Fifth Street.

To sign up to walk or for more information about the Relay for Life or the American Cancer Society, visit acs.org or acsevents.org/relay/pittgreenville.

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

Got something to say? Send us your Pirate Rants!

Attention ECU Sophomores

If you have earned 45-60 hours and at least 30 of them were completed at ECU (not counting Math 0001 or 0045), you are required to respond to the

Sophomore Survey

before you can pre-register for either Summer or Fall 2006 courses.

If your earned credit hours fall within these limits you will receive a message at your ECU Exchange email address asking you to participate in the survey, and your record will be "tagged" so that you cannot register until you have responded to it. If you do not receive the email notice, it means that the survey and registration restriction does not apply to you.

When you are taking the survey, as soon as you submit your responses the "tag" will be removed from your record so that you can pre-register. Registration staff can verify that your responses were received and that the tag was removed.

Note: Although we really want your feedback to the survey questions, you may choose to opt out by submitting a blank form. Opting out will also remove the sophomore survey tag that would prevent you from pre-registering.

The survey period is March 2 – April 24. During that period you can complete the survey by going to the ECU "One-Stop" web site, entering your ECU Exchange email userid and password to sign on, and clicking on "Sophomore Survey" in the box labeled "Surveys." You can also access the "One-Stop" from:

Mendenhall Computer Lab, Wright Place Cafeteria, the Austin Building, and Joyner Library East.

For this survey you are emailed an announcement on March 2. Later you are sent an email reminder, and then a postcard, if you have not responded to the survey.

Please respond to the survey as soon as possible after the survey opens on March 2 and certainly before sophomore pre-registration begins on March 23. This will also help you avoid delays during pre-registration when the workload on ECU computers is at a peak. All remaining tags for this survey will be removed from student records on April 25, the day after the survey closes.

The ECU Student Media Board invites applications for the position of

GENERAL MANAGER
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The Buccaneer is back! The ECU yearbook has returned so make sure to reserve your copy. Order online at www.yearbookupdates/ecu or call 1-888-298-3323 Hurry! Deadline to order is 5pm 4-24-06

HELP WANTED

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GREEK PERSONALS

The sisters of Sigma Sigma Sigma would like to congratulate our Spring new members! Margie Hawk, Amanda Sirry, Morgyn Hardee, Dana Murphy, & Kristen Whichard!

Congrats to Mallory Osborne for being the sister of the week! - Sigma Sigma Sigma

Delta Zeta would like to thank Pi Kappa Phi for a fun social! Can't wait to do it again sometime!

Thanks to SAE for a fabulous Pref Night!! -Sigma Sigma Sigma

Sigma Sigma Sigma would like to thank Pika, Delta Chi, KA, Kappa Sig, Chi Phi, & Lambda Chi for the great socials!

OTHER

Don't forget! Senior yearbook photos will be taken on March 22-24. Call 328-9236 to schedule your appointment by 5pm on March 20 Walk ins welcome.

#1 Spring Break Website! Low prices guaranteed. Free Meals & Free Drinks. Book 11 people, get 12th trip free! Group discounts for 6+ www.SpringBreakDiscounts.com or www.LeisureTours.com or 800-838-8202.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

May graduates: the time has come to schedule your senior yearbook pictures. Sessions will be held March 22 at Mendenhall Center and March 23-24 at Ledonia Wright Cultural Center from 9am-5pm. Make an appointment by 5 pm on March 20 to avoid a long wait. Walk ins are welcome.

FedEx Ground 3 AM to 8AM Shifts Available

is looking for PACKAGE HANDLERS to load vans and unload trailers for the AM shift hours 3 AM to 8 AM. $8.00 hour tuition assistance available after 30 days. Future career opportunities in management possible. Applications can be filled out at 2410 United Drive (near the logistics center) Greenville

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Class of 2006

Everything the May Graduate needs in a one-stop shopping Expo!

- Pick up your cap & gown.
- Find out about Senior pictures for the yearbook, student organization photo dates, and ordering your yearbook.
- Order graduation announcements, diploma frame, class ring, and items like personalized thank you notes and more!
- Visit with representanves from the Registrar's Office, Career Center, Alumni Association, Pirate Club, Rec Center, and other organizations!
- Free gift to May Grads just for visiting with vendors!
- Door prizes!

Tuesday, Feb. 21 & Wednesday, Feb. 22:
10 am - 3 pm & 5 pm - 7 pm
Thursday, Feb. 23: 10 am - 3 pm

Rear area of The Wright Place Dining Room, Wright Bldg.

May Grads have a chance to WIN a $400 travel voucher, $25 Staples gift card, and other prizes!

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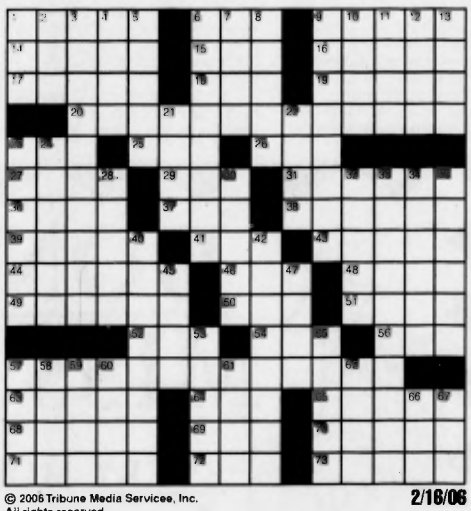
Caps & gowns and other graduation items will be available during the Grad Expo and at Dowdy Student Store afterwards. Special order items are also available online through ECU-contracted vendors, Jostens and Herff Jones. FREE Gift for May grads while supplies last, compliments of Dowdy Student Store. Some information tables may not be available during evening hours. No purchase necessary to enter drawing, however, students must visit required vendors, and have entry card punched. One entry per student. May 2006 graduates only.

Crossword



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2/16/06

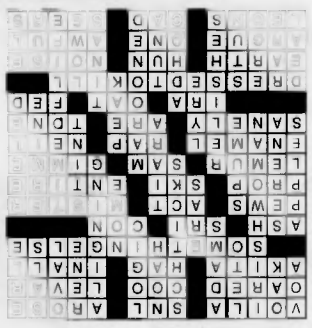
ACROSS

1 Ta-da!
6 NBC weekend show
9 Stood up
14 Moved a dinghy
15 Converse amorously
16 Actor Burton
17 Japanese guard dog
18 Shrew
19 Total
20 Different from all the others
23 Fire residue
25 Indian title
26 Argument against
27 Church seats
29 Performance
31 Man's title
36 Stage item
37 Word before boot or jump
38 Whole
39 Madagascar primate
41 Shepard or Cooke
43 "__ Shelter"
44 Tooth coat
46 Eminem forte
48 Singer Young
49 With reason
50 Exist
51 Vocal inflection
52 Tax shelter letters
54 Horse morsel
56 Govt. agent
57 Done up to the nines
63 Potting soil
64 Attila follower
65 Cacophony
68 Dispute
69 PAT value
70 Terrible
71 Redbone and Russell
72 Heel
73 Visionaries

DOWN

1 Intl. broadcasters
2 Sturdy tree
3 Sinead O'Connor, e.g.
4 Apollo's mother
5 Ansel or Abigail
6 Comics' gimmicks
7 Ark patriarch
8 Reasoning
9 Making true
10 Actress Russo
11 Track shape
12 Maglie and Mineo
13 Perry's creator
21 Important times
22 Alaskan port
23 Romes and pippins
24 Williams of tennis
28 Froth
30 Crownlet
32 Tour of duty
33 Particular age
34 Weasel with a black-tipped tail
35 Walked dizzily
40 Savors
42 Stranded
45 Sumerian instrument
47 Summit
53 Like some committees
55 Turner and Louise
57 Private arrangement
58 Few and far between
59 It follows that
60 Dumbfound
61 Bluefin or yellowfin
62 Edmund or Rob
66 Big __, CA
67 Ernie of golf

Solutions



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A College Girl Named Joe by Aaron Warner

National Recreational Sports and Fitness Day

NIRSA

February 22, 2006

Events at the Student Recreation Center

FITNESS

- Free Body Fat Testing
  2:00 - 5:00 PM in Room 211
- The Winter Blast Power Jam Workout
  5:00 - 6:00 PM in the SRC Sports Forum (basketball courts 1 & 2)

ADVENTURE

- Kayak Roll Session- beginners welcome
  5:00 - 8:00 PM in the SRC Indoor Pool
- Wall Hours and Climbing Workshop
  5:00 - 8:00 PM (workshop @ the Climbing Wall)
- Overnight Campout on the "Brickyard"
  Set up at 5:00 PM in the Brickyard

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION DAY

- Quest, Conquer and Capture the Treasure
  All day Treasure Hunt around the SRC to win prizes
- A Lunchtime Workshop: Goal Setting
  12:05 - 1:00 PM in the SRC Classroom (lunch provided)
- Every member gets one guest for FREE!

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Popcorn, contests, and more!
- Games from 6-10 PM
- Dunking contest/Shooting challenge during the last game!

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Vice President Dick Cheney accepts blame for hunting accident

(KRT) — WASHINGTON Breaking four days of silence, an obviously shaken Vice President Dick Cheney accepted blame Wednesday for shooting his hunting companion last weekend, said alcohol wasn't involved and defended his handling of the incident.

Speaking with uncharacteristic emotion, Cheney recalled his horror when he realized that he had wounded lawyer Harry Whittington while hunting Saturday in South Texas. Cheney spoke publicly about the incident for the first time about an hour after Whittington's doctors had predicted a full recovery for the 78-year-old Austin man.

"The image of him falling is something I'll never be able to get out of my mind. I fired and there was Harry falling," Cheney told Fox News. "It was, I would have to say, one of the worst days of my life."

Cheney said he ran over to the bleeding victim and told him, "Harry, I had no idea you were there." He said Whittington didn't respond.

While speculation on the Web and elsewhere has focused on the possibility that alcohol may have been a factor, the vice president ruled that out. He said he'd had a beer at lunch – four or five hours before the incident – but wasn't under the influence of alcohol at the time of shooting.

The other members of the hunting party were Pamela Willeford, the U.S. ambassador to Switzerland; Katharine Armstrong, a ranch owner and Cheney's host; and Sara Armstrong Hixon, Armstrong's sister.

"Nobody was drinking, nobody was under the influence," Cheney said.

While he was contrite about the shooting, he expressed no regrets about his failure to acknowledge the incident publicly until about 18 hours later. The first public notice came Sunday afternoon, when Armstrong called a local newspaper.

"I thought that was the right call. ... I still do," Cheney said. "I'm comfortable with the way we did it."

Although some administration officials initially had suggested that Whittington was at least partly to blame for the shooting by failing to make his presence known, Cheney took full responsibility in the television interview.

"It's not Harry's fault. You can't blame anybody else," he said. "I'm the guy who pulled the trigger and shot my friend."

In Texas, a hospital spokesman said Whittington was "doing extremely well" after a mild heart attack Tuesday that doctors blamed on a birdshot pellet that lodged in his heart.

Peter Banko, a spokesman for Christus Spohn Hospital Corpus Christi-Memorial, said Whittington "wonders what all the hoopla is about" and considers the controversy surrounding his wounds "much ado about nothing."

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Artwork of Diane Banks
Feb 6th-Mar 3rd
In Mendenhall's 2nd floor gallery
visual arts

Step Afrika
Tuesday, Feb 21st @ 9pm
In Wright Auditorium
Celebrate Black History Month and enjoy the most electrifiying stepshow around.
cultural awareness

Comedian Alexandra McHale
Wednesday, Feb 23rd @ 8pm
In Mendenhall's Multipurpose Room
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spectrum

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films
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EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED
Thu Feb 16th @ 9:30pm
Fri Feb 17th @ 7pm & Midnight
Sat Feb 18th @ 9:30pm
Sun Feb 19th @ 7pm
BLOCKBUSTER FILM
WALK THE LINE
Thu Feb 16th @ 7pm
Fri Feb 17th @ 9:30pm
Sat Feb 18th @ 7pm & Midnight
Sun Feb 19th @ 3pm
All movies are shown in Mendenhall's Hendrix Theatre.
SPECIAL EVENT
TRIVIAL PICTIONARY: MOVIES EDITION
Tues Feb 21st @ 7PM
UPCOMING FILMS
JAR HEAD
A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
KISS KISS BANG BANG

Arts & Entertainment

Campus Confessions:

I like to pick my ear and feed the ear wax to my girlfriend's cat. I think the cat likes this more than I do.

I hate it when people touch my thumbs. I hate it to the point of becoming very violent.

Lying is better than telling the truth. It's always easier.

I haven't told anyone, but I made out with my cousin the last time she visited. Look, she was really hot.

My confession is that campus confessions are for morons. Does that make me a moron?

I hate fried green tomatoes and my mom thinks they are my favorite. I don't tell her because I'm afraid it would break her heart after all these years.

I had a nice rotation of three girls and everything was going fine, but now somehow I lost them all. Life sucks....

I skip class to have sex with my girlfriend.

I can't stop spending money. I've maxed out all four of my credit cards and I still keep buying things.

There is this really hot guy in my history class who I've kind of been following around campus. Does that qualify as stalking?

When people say dumb things in class, I want to just smack them. Shut up, you sound stupid, but I guess the truth is that you really are.

When I'm walking through Wright Place listening to my mp3 player, I'm secretly rocking out to "Like a Virgin." And I'm a guy.

I haven't shaved my legs in three weeks. What? It's cold out.

When my roommate is not in our room I bite my toenails and look at porn.

I listen to my mp3 player on my way to class because I'm tired of having to say hello to people who I don't even like.

Last weekend I consumed more alcohol than I thought was humanly possible.

I've been seeing this guy for about two weeks, so does it count as "cheating" if I'm sleeping with his roommate?

I hooked up in the stairwell of my dorm.

I'm under 21, but managed to sneak into 519.

I've always wanted to hook up on one of the slinky buses.

Recipe:

Grilled Sour Cherry Pizza

3 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder
3 tablespoons cold butter
3 eggs, lightly beaten
1 cup water
1/2 cup champagne or vinegar
1 cup pitted Bing cherries
3 cups thin pastry cream
3/4 cup cherry preserves

In the bowl of a food processor fitted with a metal blade, combine the flour, sugar and baking powder. Cut in the butter. Pulse until butter is well distributed and the mixture resembles a coarse meal. Add eggs and pulse again until dough clumps together. Gather the dough into a ball. Divide dough and wrap in waxed paper. Chill for one hour. Add water and vinegar to a medium pot. Add cherries and cook until cherries are soft. Drain. Heat up grill. Butter a 10-inch round cake pan. Roll dough into a circle and transfer to cake pan. Pinch edges to form a crust, like that of a pan pizza. Fill dough with pastry cream. Spread cherry preserves and cherries. Place pie on pizza on pizza stone on grill. Cook until dough is crispy and brown, about one hour.

Pastry Cream:

1 quart whole milk
1 vanilla bean, split
10 large egg yolks
1 cup granulated sugar
3/4 cup cornstarch

In a 2-quart saucepan, combine the milk and vanilla bean and bring to a boil. Turn off heat immediately and keep warm while you whisk the yolks. In a medium bowl, combine the yolks, sugar, and cornstarch and whisk until thoroughly combined. While whisking, slowly add the warm milk mixture into the yolks and then transfer this back into the saucepan over medium heat. Whisk constantly bring the custard to a boil; it should begin to thicken immediately. Whisk for three minutes. Pour through a fine-mesh strainer into a clean bowl and use a rubber spatula to push everything through. Place a sheet of plastic wrap directly on the surface of the custard to prevent a skin from forming.

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There's no stopping curiosity

Curious George goes to the movies

SCOTTY WILLIAMS
SENIOR WRITER

As a young boy, this reviewer was a huge fan of the *Curious George* books. The little monkey who often got into crazy situations because of his crazy curiosity became the material for constant page-turners about going to the circus, going to school and watching television. Anything became an adventure for the curious little monkey.

Thus, when an advertisement proclaimed that Curious George's adventures would be hitting the big screen, you can guess it, Scotty was curious.

So when all the parents shuffled their toddlers and little ones into the theater and fed them popcorn and prepared for the movie, a high anticipation set in. Normally, this makes for major disappointment. Not so here.

For children who have not read the books (because let's admit it, Curious George was the product of a generation before this one) it's still entirely entertaining.

There are a lot of things that go right in this movie. Will Ferrell's comedy is often lost on people and sometimes his humor can absolutely rub someone the wrong way. As the Man in the Yellow Hat (known as Ted for this movie) Ferrell finds a place where his humor works and even is appropriate at times.

The music of this movie is done by Jack Johnson and fits the movie perfectly.

When making an animated movie, the trouble is the audience. You're trying to entertain both the child and the adult who come from two different sets of values and two different ideas of what is funny. This movie manages to make adults and children laugh at the same things and the same situations. It avoids being full of childish, slapstick humor and embraces a humor that's in the middle.

One of the wonderful things about this movie is the magic. The point of the movie is letting your curiosity guide you, and the journey of following curiosity is magic. Watching Curious George follow things and bask in the subtle joy of discovery on the screen is enough to make you smile throughout.

There are a few times when you don't smile because of the well-voiced villain played by David Cross. Cross has been in some very humorous movies (he was the wheelchair-bound man in *Scary Movie 2*) and his voice talents here show that he has the potential to be a very good villain in a live-action movie down the road. He's got a kind of sarcastic humor that will make you despise him at certain points, but that's exactly what you should get out of a movie villain.

The Man in the Yellow Hat, known as Ted in the movie, carries his curious monkey, George, away from danger.

The producers and screenwriters of this movie deserve one major credit – they don't let George talk. The legacy of the silent monkey could have been ruined by giving him a voice. (Then again, what would George say? Would he be articulate or childish? It's too much to ponder.)

By not letting George talk, so much more is invested in his facial expressions and nonverbal gestures that even a change of the face is enough to invoke laughter. So it's actually a bonus.

Consider it a major victory for the authors of the Curious George books (H.A. and Margaret Ray) because children who flock to see this movie will squeal with delight at the books, and they will be introduced to something that previous generations loved as children and continue to love as adults. For that, the movie has succeeded. It's so humorous and light-hearted that you have to leave the theater with a smile.

Grade: A

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

Dance, Dance: Not just kid's game

The guilty pleasure of guilty pleasures

SCOTTY WILLIAMS
SENIOR WRITER

I'll admit it. I'm big enough to come out and say it. I've held it in for so long. In social situations, I know that I have shunned it and ridiculed it and put it down, but in private, I embrace it. Here it comes.

I am addicted to Dance, Dance Revolution.

Since it came on the scene in 1998 in Japan, DDR as people call it, has become infectious. All over the nation, people stay in their houses and step to the arrows, some for exercise and some for the sheer fun of it. To be such a great party game, most parties would break up when someone showed up with a dance pad because of the weird social wall that has come up around it. Being cool is not mentioned in the same sentence as Dance, Dance Revolution. Perhaps this little article will shed some light on it and change a few minds.

For those of you with no DDR enthusiast friends, the game is simple. Using a dance pad on the floor, you step to the arrows as they appear on the screen, usually following the beat of a chosen song. You get points for making it at the right times, being on beat and doing it consecutively. Doing it right on high levels can make you break a decent sweat. To be perfectly honest, it can be quite aerobic. Many games in the DDR franchise include a workout mode that keeps track of time spent and calories burned. People who play it on a constant basis have lost weight.

One knock on DDR is that the music is a catalog list of house bands and techno music. You'll see some cover songs (my game actually has a cover of the Doobie Brothers' "Long Train Running"), but for the most part, it's stuff that you have to get used to because you might not like it in the beginning. In the end, it grows on you.

Dance, Dance Revolution started as an arcade game, but it can now be found in homes across the country on game systems.

DDR, in general, grows on you because its appeal is minimal right off the bat. It's not something you see and say, "I have to do that!"

It's the kind of game everyone insults until they see someone dancing, then they have to do it once the song is over. Before long, everyone loves it.

I know this because I got the fever myself. I watched a roommate do it and then I had to do it, and after investing around $70 for the game and the dance pad, it became an obsession. It's not the kind of game you pick up and do a couple of songs and then leave alone. You stay on that pad for hours as a time and can't stop until you're dripping with sweat and your feet hurt too much.

So if you'd like to get reacquainted with artists Dirty Vegas or the Crystal Method, you're in luck. If you want to get some exercise, buy the pad and step like you mean it. Most importantly, don't worry if someone else makes fun of you, because it's actually a lot more fun than they recognize. If they were to watch you do it, they'd catch the fever too.

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

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The Elected: 'Sun, Sun, Sun'

'Salute Your Shorts' camper offers impressive solo project

JOHN BOSCO
STAFF WRITER

One of the best things about life in the early 1990s was the multitude of amazing television shows on Nickelodeon. You had "Family Double Dare," "Hey Dude," "Legends of the Hidden Tempie," "Figure It Out" and my personal favorite, "Salute Your Shorts."

For anyone wondering what this has to do with this CD review, I assure you it has everything to do with it.

Blake Sennett, a name you might recognize from the indie folk-rock band Rilo Kiley, was actually an original cast member on "Salute Your Shorts," though back then he was credited as Blake Soper. You may remember that the second season of the show revolved around his character, Ronnie Pinsky.

Now, almost 15 years later, Sennett has come a long way since Camp Anawanna.

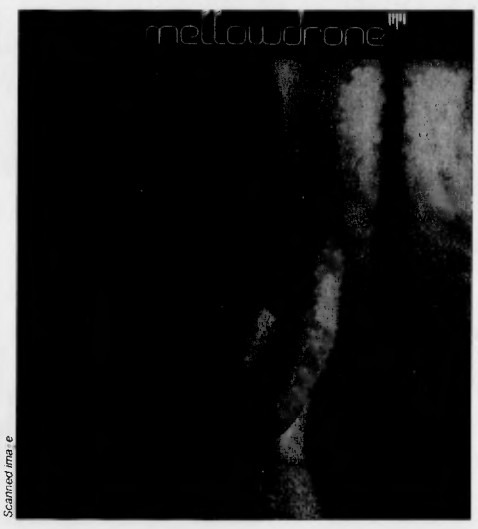
While Sennett plays guitar for and occasionally sings in Rilo Kiley, vocalist Jenny Lewis is more often credited as the focal point of the group, but this year both have released their own solo projects. Lewis teamed up with the Watson Twins for her new album *Rabbit Fur Coat* and Sennett is trying his hand at fronting a band of his own under the moniker The Elected.

Sun, Sun, Sun, The Elected's new album, is a great showcase of Sennett's songwriting ability. He pushes his music in a more traditional singer/songwriter fashion, and the result is a fantastic, addicting album.

If I had to compare this album to something, I'd say it most closely resembles Bright Eyes' *I'm*

see **SUN** page B2

Mellowdrone: L.A. quintet creates lush soundscape



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Band travels from space to earth, then out to space again

MARK ROMANO
STAFF WRITER

Giving Mellowdrone's upcoming debut record, *Box*, a listen, I was first dizzied by ambient synthesizers and heavily reverberating drums on the first track, "C'mon Try A Little Bit," which was only setting the stage for the journey of music that lay ahead. The band can effortlessly switch from spacey jams to industrial dance music without losing any momentum.

The second track, "Oh My," contrasts with the opener with a catchy dance beat and lame keyboard. The band has a generally catchy sound, but it is sarcastic in a way. Dark and cynical lyrics brew beneath the polished surface to add a bit of dark humor to the music. Most of the songs aren't very original in arrangement. Lead singer and songwriter Jonathan Bates intentionally used common chord progressions as a base, but makes up for it by creating an incredible mix of instruments and sounds. It's one of those albums that has too much to absorb at once. The music takes a while to grow on you, but it is worth it because there are so many nuances and layers - every time you listen, you hear something you didn't notice before.

Masterful stereo producing makes the album a joy to listen to with headphones. The album was produced by Tony Berg, who has also worked with the likes of Beck and X.

The album has a definite consistency, but has more mood swings than a menstrual princess. From the punch-drunk lovesick sing along, "F**k It Man" to a suicide of "Limb From Limb," the band manages to keep an original and steady sound while exploring different parts of the musical spectrum.

Mellowdrone has recently toured with a former member of The Smiths, The Killers (who they seem to emulate at times, but surpass in talent), Phantom Planet and Secret Machines. You can get a preview of *Box* (to be released March 7) on the band's Web site, mellowdrone.com, and on myspace.com/mellowdrone (add them as a friend while you're at it).

Other highlights of the album include "And Repeat," which is a mockery of formulaic music production, complete with hand claps, a recycled chord progression and fantastic vocal harmonies. "Amazing" takes the soul of underground 1960s rock and smelts it with modern technologies and studio tricks.

On the surface, a lot of the album tracks are similar, making it a good album to pop in for a few tracks, but as mentioned before, the intense layering of the production sets each song apart from the others for a dedicated fan.

see **MELLOWDRONE** page B2

'One Tree Hill: Volume 2'

CD proves it's more than a TV show soundtrack

AARON BORREGO
STAFF WRITER

Hello, one and all. It is time to review another album. However, before I begin to review this album, *One Tree Hill: Volume 2*, I will briefly touch up on a subject I not only feel strongly about, but I also hope everyone reading this pays serious attention to.

This topic is breast cancer and it affects too many women, and men for that matter. This ties into the album and the show in a very unique way. It is very positive of the networks for doing such acts, even if it is to appeal to younger viewers in order to get ratings.

On "One Tree Hill", a mother and a daughter character reunited after the mother revealed that she was battling breast cancer. In the show's storyline, these two women began working on a compilation CD to benefit the National Breast Cancer Foundation Inc. (NBCF). This album was to be called *Friends with Benefit*.

It's such a rare case that a fictitious album actually became a reality, all with the intent to educate young viewers about early detection and benefit the NBCF. The NBCF is a nonprofit, charitable foundation that provides breast cancer education and funding for mammograms for women.

Nationalbreastcancer.org is a Web site where you can find out more about this foundation. Advise the women in your life to get a mammogram around age 35, because this is a detectable disease and can be dealt with accordingly. With that being said, let us take a gander at the album itself.

This album boasts tracks from bands such as Audioslave, Nada Surf, Gavin DeGraw, Citizen Cope, Fall Out Boy and Jimmy Eat World among others. The album has a song called "The Mixed Tape" by Jack's Mannequin. I enjoyed everything about this song. This is to be the first song and video off this soundtrack.

Audioslave is normally a safe bet to produce quality music, and their song "Be Yourself" doesn't disappoint. The majority of the songs posses a certain aura of made-for-TV sound, but oddly enough, I still found myself wanting to listen to these songs. I am normally not one to like mainstream, pop-laced or made-for-TV songs, but these are quite different in that they are written so well and the music isn't disposable. The songs can be melancholy, but normally pick up during parts of the song or completely change the tempo after the beginning of the track.

The overall feel of the album is very peaceful and easy to listen to. The songs are very unique in their fluidity and flow into the album's tone. I was very impressed with the underlying message trying to appeal to younger people.

In particular, females are the show's target audience, but don't let the message of early breast cancer detection fall upon deaf ears.

In summation: the album gets a grade of A+ for easy listening, great bands and great writing in the songs themselves. The show is about to start selling T-shirts of this album to further benefit NBCF. Enjoy, to all who venture to listen or watch the show. Peace out and as always, be good to each other.

Grade: A+

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

Sun *from page B1*

Wide Awake, It's Morning, released early in 2005. It is the perfect music to wake up to and start your day off with, and the tracks flow in and out seamlessly and cohesively to bring together an album you won't want to turn off.

Sun, Sun, Sun has all the makings of a great folk-rock album: great rhythm guitar, infectious melodies, vibrant vocals and catchy lyrics that maintain an introspective, personal feel without overdoing it.

Vocally, Sennett's deep whisper-to-falsetto delivery and strong back-up harmonies suit the music he plays perfectly and if you're a fan of any Rilo Kiley albums, this shouldn't be too much of a departure from his familiar style (think Rilo tracks like "Ripchord," "Small Figures in a Vast Expanse" and "Rest of My Life," where Sennett takes the mic).

The album flows so perfectly that I recommend starting off listening to the entire album all the way through. If I had to choose, though, I'd say my favorite track is the intimate song "It Was Love," which features Jenny Lewis on back-up vocals. Other tracks to look out for include the title track "Sun, Sun, Sun" and "Fireflies in a Steel Mill."

Fortunately, the album is not going unnoticed. It reached number 27 on the *College Music Journal*'s Radio 200 chart in its first week, making it the third highest debut for that week, not to mention that Jenny Lewis' album *Rabbit Fur Coat*, released the same week was almost 100 spots behind it, debuting at number 117.

Overall, *Sun, Sun, Sun* gets a B+ from me. Right now, it is one of my favorite releases of the year and by far the most unexpectedly pleasant album I've come across. I wouldn't be surprised to see it make a few end-of-year charts, but we have a while to go and a lot more to listen to until then.

Grade: B+

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

Mellowdrone *from page B1*

All in all, the album is tough to listen to all the way through, and the band sounds familiar from the first time you listen to them due to their use of familiar chord progressions and all of those catchy drum beats.

Fans of The Killers, Muse and Beck will feel right at home with Mellowdrone.

Grade: B

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

Movie picks

▸ New

★ Outstanding
■ Worthy
▼ effort
● So-so

	Local critic	Chicago Tribune	Dallas Morning News	Detroit Free Press	Miami Herald	N.Y. Daily News	Philadelphia Inquirer	San Jose Mercury	S...
▸ Curious George (G)		▼	■	■	▼	▼	■	▼	▼
▸ Final Destination 3 (R)		●	■	■	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
▸ Firewall (PG-13)		▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	●	▼
A Good Woman (PG)		▼	★	▼	■	▼	▼	●	●
Nanny McPhee (PG)		■	★	▼	▼	▼	▼	★	★
▸ The Pink Panther (PG)		▼	▼	▼	●	●	●	▼	●
Three Burials ... (R)		★	■	▼	▼	■	★	■	★
... Fastest Indian (PG-13)		★	●	■	▼	■	■	▼	▼

G All ages admitted
PG All ages admitted. parental guidance suggested
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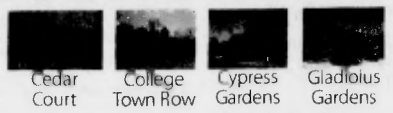

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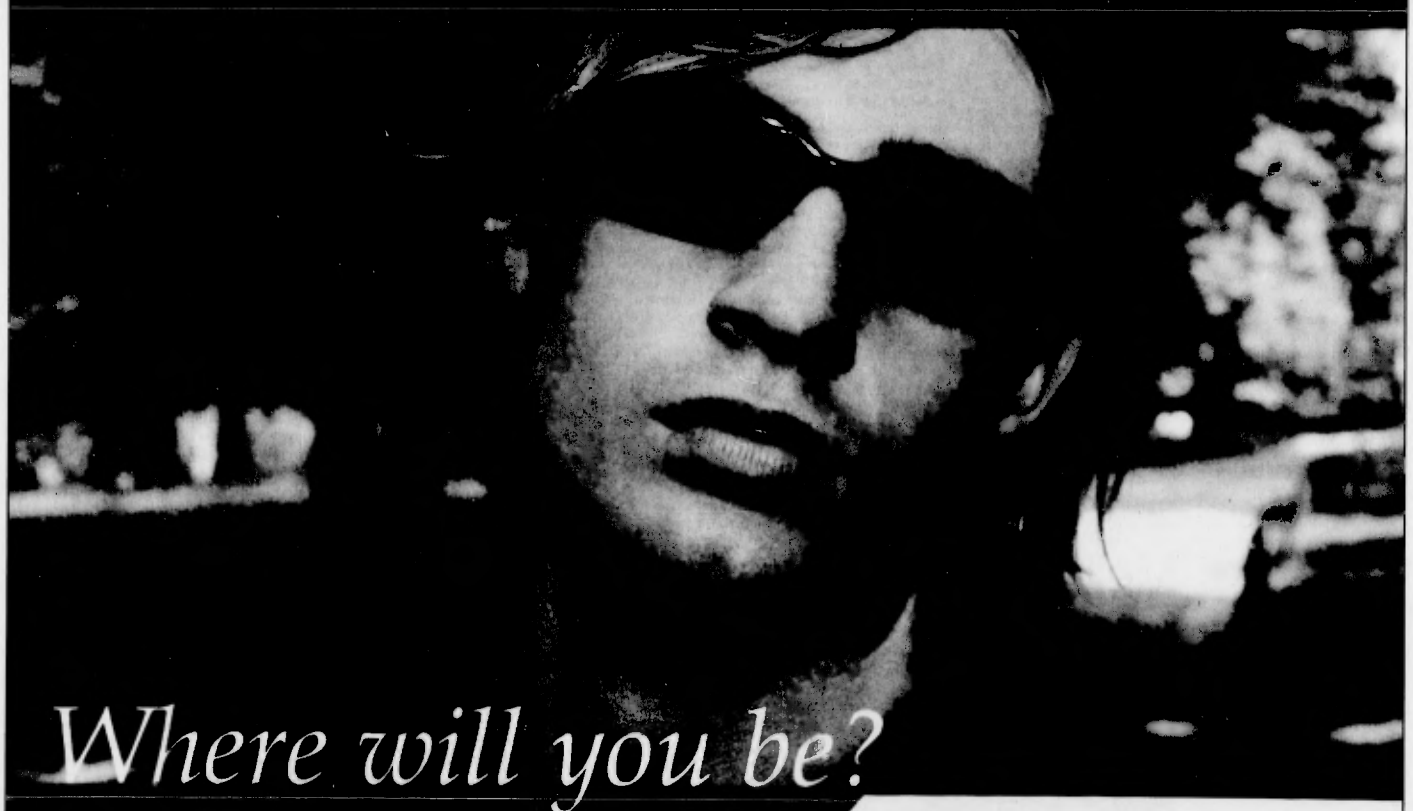

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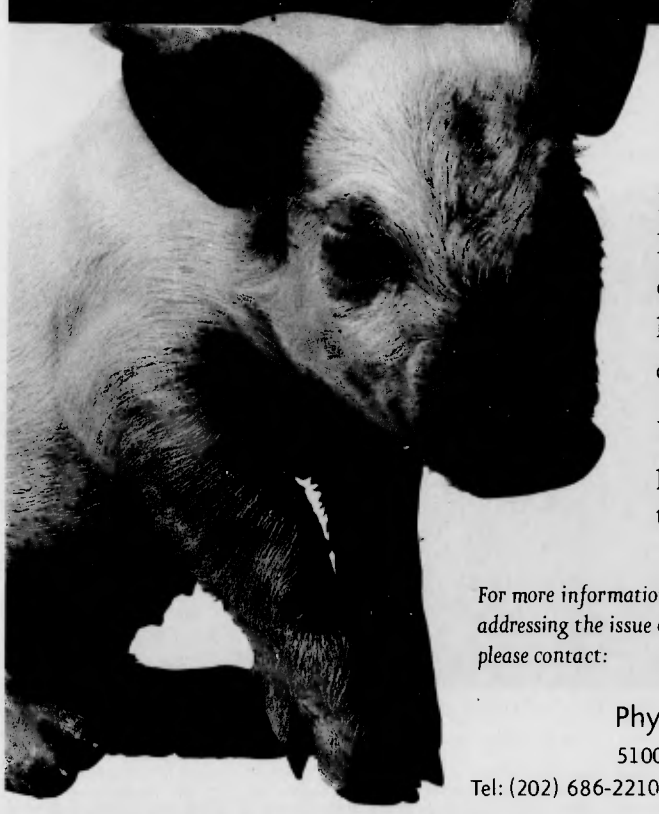

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PRIZE GIVEAWAY

Pirates to battle Cougars this weekend

ECU looks to take second series of the season

BRENT WYNNE
SENIOR WRITER

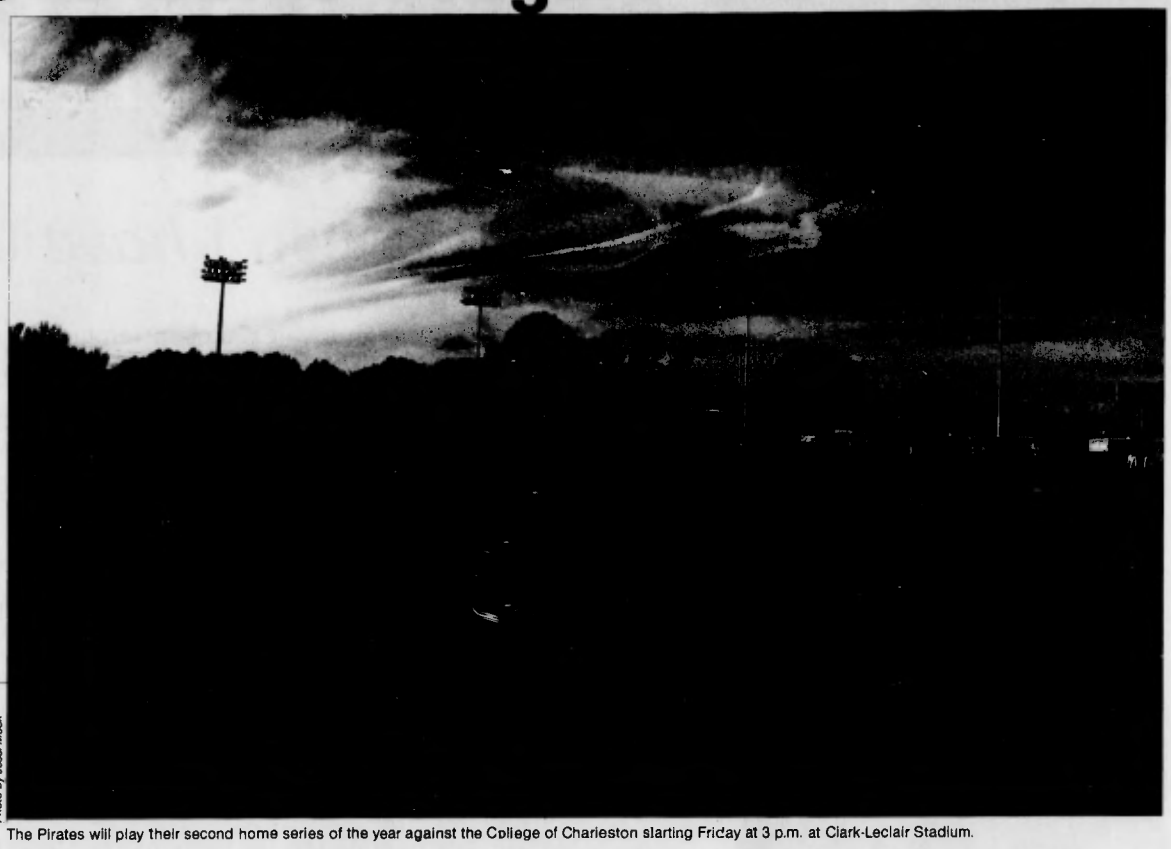


Photo by Jessi Mock

The Pirates will play their second home series of the year against the College of Charleston starting Friday at 3 p.m. at Clark-Leclair Stadium.

Fresh off a series win over Maryland that featured a game winning squeeze play in game three from the Pirates, ECU returns to action this weekend to face the College of Charleston in a three game set.

The Cougars swept their opening series against High Point last weekend, so the Diamond Bucs will have an opportunity to spoil their opponent's unblemished record.

It's hard to match the success Charleston has had over the past couple of seasons. Not only have the Cougars won back-to-back Southern Conference championships, they have also won more games (95) over the past two seasons than any other team in conference history.

And wouldn't you guess, they're the preseason favorite to win the conference again.

While all may seem great on the home front down in South Carolina, Head Coach John Pawlowski, now entering his seventh season as the Cougars' head man, knows that he has some major holes to fill from last year's squad.

"Someone asked me the other day what my biggest concerns were," Pawlowski said in an interview with CofCSports.com.

"I said, 'I only have seven. We lost our Friday night starter, our Saturday starter, our Sunday starter, our closer, our leadoff hitter, three-hole hitter and four-hole hitter. Other than that, I have no concerns.'"

College of Charleston's main concern heading into the 2006 campaign was pitching. After losing studs Ryan Edell, Reid Price, Danny Gemma and Brett Harker, who combined for 26 victories and 16 saves last season, Pawlowski and the rest of his coaches must now piece together a new staff and hope for the best.

This past weekend against High Point, the Cougars got a first hand look at how the new staff is shaping up.

After putting up an 8-1 record with an 0.93 ERA and receiving All-American honors in 2005, junior college transfer Graham Godfrey started his first game at the division one level last Friday against the Panthers. He did not disappoint, going six innings, while giving up three earned runs and striking out nine.

Game two starter Nick Chigges got knocked around for 4.2 innings and got a no-decision. Chigges was 4-1 with a 5.20 ERA last season, but those numbers mostly came as bullpen work. Oklahoma State transfer Quinn Monsma came on in relief of Chigges and picked up the win.

The best performance from a Cougar hurler came from game three starter Wes Braden. The right-hander scattered five hits and two earned runs over seven solid innings of work to pick up his first win of the season.

Relievers Josh McLaughlin, Jeff Beliveau, Danny Meszaros and Tim McCarty combined for 6.1 scoreless innings of relief for the Cougars over the course of the weekend series. The quartet only surrendered four hits and a single walk while striking out nine.

Even though College of Charleston lost key players from last season's offense that helped contribute to the 11 major offensive school records set by the club, the Cougars still have plenty of options throughout their lineup for the 2006 year.

All American Chris Campbell and all-SoCon picks Phillip Coker and Jess Easterling all return this season.

Campbell hit .379 with 15 home runs and 87 RBI a year ago, and he picked up right where he left off, batting .462 this past weekend against High Point with six RBI and four runs scored.

Coker hit .429 against the Panthers in three games, scoring five times and driving in two while Easterling did some manly work at the plate as well, hitting a staggering .545 with one home run and nine RBI.

Easterling's slugging percentage was a perfect 1.000.

Senior South Carolina transfer Joey Friddle and Miami transfer Alex Garabedian both had stellar series as well, combining for 10 hits, five doubles, a home run and nine RBIs.

While High Point may not have been the most formidable of opponents, it has quickly become evident that College of Charleston does not rebuild.

They reload.

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

Madness right around the corner

My picks for the final four bracket in 2006

OPINION

ERIC GILMORE
SENIOR WRITER

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS LONGHORNS

BOSTON COLLEGE GOLDEN EAGLES

HUSKIES

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON HUSKIES

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS TIGERS

With all of the recent National Signing Day hype wetting the taste buds of college football fans across the nation, basketball took a brief backseat. But starting now through early April, college basketball will be on the main stage of sports fans everywhere.

Unexplainable upsets, bubble teams clawing to survive and around the clock media coverage of Coach K's every thought will dominate the headlines for the next two months. And outside of late fall, isn't March Madness the best month of the sports calendar?

Unlike football, basketball can consume fans for the entire week. Instead of pre-game shows leading to just one day of coverage, the Big Mondays and Throwdown Thursdays don superb match-ups consistently. Three, maybe four quality games a night hold hardcore fans hostage from their wives.

So now into the heart of February and the stretch run of conference play, contenders have separated themselves from preseason pretenders. Teams like Wake Forest have gone from a Final Four threat to a squad destined for the ACC cellar. To the contrary, the University of Florida has answered critics with an unexpected resurgence.

Even though the cream has risen to the top, the crystal ball remains a bit hazy. For those who like to fill out their brackets a little early, here's four teams that you can pencil (not pen) in for the Final Four.

Texas Longhorns (22-3, 10-1 Big 12)

Premier Point Guard:
Daniel Gibson
Veteran Leader:
P.J. Tucker
NBA Prospect:
LaMarcus Aldridge
Role Player:
Brad Buckman

Final Four lock:
The Longhorns were ranked the Preseason's No. 3 team for a reason – sheer talent. But the Longhorns have yet to capitalize on the hype and assume the top ranking. For that reason alone, Texas remains Final Four worthy.

Consider the NBA talent compiled in Austin. The Longhorns tout a potential No. 1 pick in LaMarcus Aldridge and point guard Daniel Gibson has made Austin natives forget about T.J. Ford. Add the increased maturity level of former Enloe High School standout P.J. Tucker, and the team seems destined for Final Four success.

Tucker (16.6 ppg, 9.3 rpg) and Aldridge's (16.2 ppg, 9.3 rpg) statistics are eerily similar despite the five-inch differential between the teammates. Eight Longhorns are averaging over 15 minutes a game, including two seniors who were part of the 2003 team that advanced to the Final Four.

No way:
The national media hasn't recovered from the Longhorns' back-to-back home embarrassments during non-conference play. A damaging 31-point loss to Duke on Dec. 10 coupled with a 17-point hiccup to Tennessee severely dented the lore surrounding Rick Barnes's squad.

Excessive turnovers remain a problem for the Longhorns, who commit 14.4 per game. Also, Tucker and Aldridge both will have to veer from foul trouble. The junior and sophomore have been whistled for four or more fouls in eight contests including two of the team's three losses respectively.

But the biggest knock on the Longhorns are the lack of close games. The nation's leader in scoring margin has only two games within a margin of eight points. Fortunately for Texas fans, the Longhorns inched out both games.

Memphis Tigers (23-2, 9-0 C-USA)

Premier Point Guard:
Darius Washington, Jr.
Veteran Leader:
Rodney Carney
NBA Prospect:
Shawne Williams
Role Player:
Antonio Anderson

Final Four lock:
Memphis has won 12 consecutive games and 20 of their last 21. The only defeats have been to soon-to-be No. 1 Duke and No. 6 Texas while wins over ranked teams like UCLA, Gonzaga and Tennessee shower the resume. Who can argue with results?

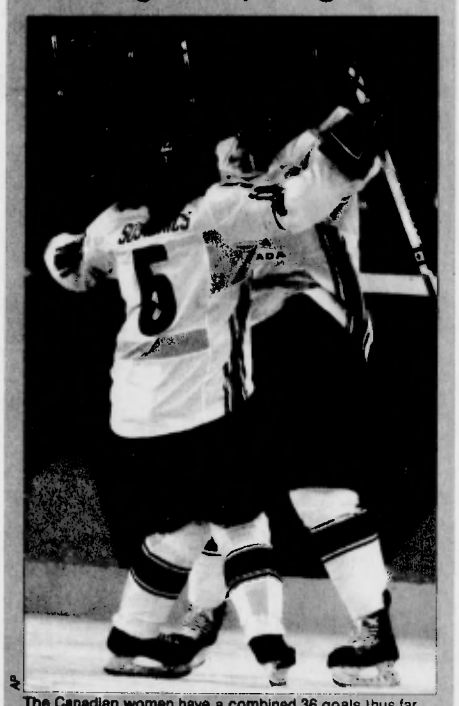
The Tigers are long, athletic and have yet to wilt to inferior teams down the stretch. Despite being in a nationally weak conference, Memphis has beaten every conference opponent, for the exception of one, by a double-digit margin.

The team has few flaws offensively. John Calipari's squad torches the nets for 83.3 points per game, which ranks fifth nationally. Rodney Carney (18.0 ppg) is arguably the most athletic player in the nation and a lock for a 2006 Lottery Pick. Darius Washington, Jr., who suffered an off-season of full of ridicule when he missed a foul shot that would have secured an NCAA Tournament invite, has avoided a sophomore slump.

Calipari is a veteran coach with a 1996 Final Four trip. The ex-NBA coach is an excellent recruiter, but at Memphis has had trouble keeping his talent in order. But this year he appears to head a team with chemistry to back up the potential.

see **MADNESS** *page B6*

Nothing to apologize for



AP

The Canadian women have a combined 36 goals thus far.

(AP) — So far they haven't learned much about skating, stick handling or scoring. But the rest of the world may take one lesson away from the women's Olympic hockey, er, tournament.

There's no apologizing in women's hockey.

Not when it really matters. Not even when it's somewhat deserved.

Blame the Canadians for that, if you must. They're the ones going around Turin acting a lot like the '27 Yankees.

Three games. Thirty six goals scored. One goal allowed.

And not one "I'm sorry."

"This is the Olympics, and it matters," offered Canadian forward Hayley Wickenheiser.

Yes it is, and yes it does. Unfortunately, it only matters to Canada and the United States.

They will play in the gold medal game Monday because they always play in the gold medal game. They beat each other, but no one ever beats them.

That's ever as in it has never, ever, happened in 16 years of women's hockey in the world championships or the Olympics.

Which begs the question: What are the other six countries doing here?

see **HOCKEY** *page B6*

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Wake Forest struggling to figure out what's wrong

(AP) — Things sure were a lot more fun for Justin Gray and Eric Williams last year or any year, for that matter.

The inside-outside tandem from Skip Prosser's first recruiting class thrived from the start at Wake Forest. As freshmen, they helped the Demon Deacons win an Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title. Two years later, they joined All-American point guard Chris Paul to lead Wake Forest to the program's first No. 1 ranking.

As seniors this season, Gray leads the team and ranks second in the league with 19 points per game, while Williams is averaging almost 16 points and nine rebounds. But Wake Forest has won just one game in ACC play, and a team that's won 20 games a year in four seasons under Prosser is struggling to stay eligible for the postseason afterthought of the NIT.

How can a team with two all-conference players be in the ACC basement? Could the departure of Paul to the NBA, where he's the runaway favorite for rookie of the year, make that much of a difference?

"It's been a different experience, I can tell you that," Prosser said. "The reality is we've been in most of these games in the second half, but we can't finish them. That's very disconcerting, obviously."

Whatever the reason, the decline has been sudden and steep. Wake Forest (13-12, 1-10 ACC) started the season ranked 18th and was picked to finish third in the ACC. But since Jan. 1, the Demon Deacons have won just three times. They are in last place in the ACC, and headed for their worst league season since going 3-11 in 1990, which also marked their last losing season overall.

Their hopes of reaching a sixth straight NCAA tournament are all but gone, and in the rowdy section of students wearing tie-dye yellow-and-black T-shirts, there are a growing number of no-shows. With five games to play – including matchups with ranked opponents North Carolina, Boston College and North Carolina State – Wake needs at least two wins to finish at least .500.

As Duke's fans put it during Tuesday's 93-70 loss to the Blue Devils: "If you're lucky, N-I-T!"

"You know what? The only thing we can do is keep fighting," said senior Trent Strickland, a career reserve who has become a starter this season. "If we're going to go down, we're going down with a swing. We're not just going to sit there and let people just trample on us. We're going to get up and go fight back."

Prosser, whose teams have won at least 21 games in each of the past nine seasons dating back to his days at Xavier, has tried variety in his search for a fix. He's used eight different starting line-

see WAKE page B6

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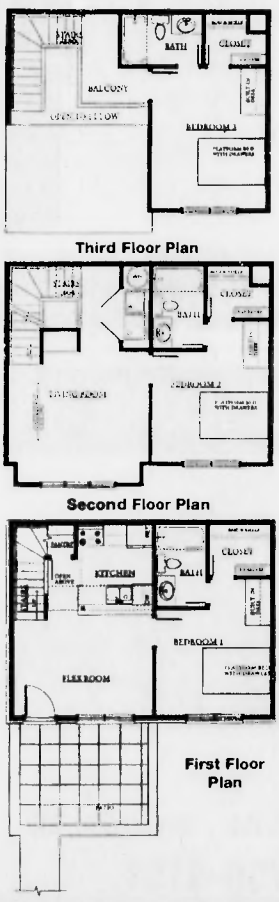

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Wake *from page B5*

ups this season, including asking three different players to take on the point guards duties Paul left behind when he departed for the NBA after two seasons in Winston-Salem.

Gray refuses to blame the loss of Paul, his ex-roommate, for Wake Forest's woes.

"That's what people do, make excuses," he said. "Nobody in our locker room is making excuses at all. We're like, 'Yeah, obviously he's not here.' It's on us. It's on us to make a play."

Wake Forest has had its chances. In January, a rally from a 12-point second-half deficit was wasted as the Demon Deacons blew a five-point lead in the final minute of regulation and lost 74-73 in overtime at Clemson. Earlier this month, they lost at Virginia 75-73 when J.R. Reynolds hit a baseline shot with 3.8 seconds left.

Mike Gminski, a former Duke star who played for 14 seasons in the NBA career and is now a television analyst, said the Demon Deacons had a team in the past few seasons that could score enough points to overcome their problems on defense.

But this season, after scoring 85 points a game last year to rank second in the ACC, they're scoring an average of just 74 points to rank in the middle of the pack.

"I think this year people looked and saw they have two all-league performers back in a down league, so even with point guard being an issue they should be able to compete," Gminski said. "And frankly, I think they have too much talent to be 1-10."

Kyle Visser, a 6-11 junior, hasn't scored in double-figures in 16 of the past 17 games. Chris Ellis, a 6-9 senior who is a 3-point specialist, is averaging five points and has hit double-figures just three times. Meanwhile, junior walk-on Michael Drum and freshmen Kevin Swinton and Cameron Stanley are seeing significant playing time.

The season has created plenty of frustration for Wake Forest fans. Attendance is listed at the Joel Coliseum capacity of 14,665 for each home game, but there have been empty seats and scattered boos at recent games. And there is plenty of angst in the formerly full student section, once a source of pride for a private school with the ACC's smallest enrollment of 4,037.

"I could tell at the beginning of the season we weren't going to be as good," said freshman Mark Harbaugh, surrounded by empty seats during last weekend's home win against Charlotte. "But it keeps getting more demoralizing and I guess it's like a lost cause for most students now. Everyone's kind of given up."

Everyone except the Demon Deacons. For them, how they finish will go a long way toward determining what they'll take from the season.

And in Gray's case, a career.

"I'm not happy about it, but like I said, those games are behind us now," he said. "We're trying to start a clean slate and sort of play for us.

"We don't want to be remembered by getting blown out or not playing with passion or heart. If we're going to lose, we want to play with heart and some passion right to the buzzer."

Madness *from page B4*

No way:

Calipari revoked slated starter Jeremy Hunt from the team during the preseason after the senior guard was found to be involved in an altercation on Beale St. To combat the problem, backup center Kareem Cooper pled guilty on Tuesday to possession of marijuana. Cooper sat through a four-game suspension, but scored 13 points and pulled down 13 rebounds in a Tuesday rout of Southern Miss.

Off the court problems aside, the Tigers need to increase their defensive intensity, already relinquishing 68.6 points per game. Also, free throw shooting remains suspect at a team-combined 68 percent. Calipari's lack of depth at the point also means keeping Washington, Jr. from developing foul trouble. The Tigers seemed to have ironed out the 3-point shooting woes that hampered them throughout the non-conference play.

Memphis' glaring weakness is youth and inexperience. Starting three freshmen, a sophomore and a senior keeps experts skeptical about a deep tournament run. Can Carney's leadership provide enough to dodge an upset scare? But again, who can argue with results?

Washington Huskies (18-5, 7-5 Pac 10)

Premier Point Guard:
Ryan Appleby
Veteran Leader:
Brandon Roy
NBA Prospect:
Jon Brockman
Role Player:
Bobby Jones, Jr.
Final Four lock:

Lorenzo Romar's team still wishes that current N.Y. Knick Nate Robinson had decided to stay in school for his senior season. But last year's surprise No. 1 seed still has enough talent to get where Robinson couldn't take them a season ago.

Despite the Huskies' struggles in conference play, Washington still boasts one of the top scorers in the country in senior guard Brandon Roy (19.2 ppg). However, Washington remains balanced using a 10-man rotation, all of which average double-digit minutes. Washington is 12-0 when four or more players score in double-digits this season.

The nation's third ranked scoring team (83.4 ppg) gives slower teams trouble because of their willingness to run. The Huskies like to expose their opponents' lack of depth by getting them into foul trouble.

The Huskies were ranked as high as No. 7 after winning their first 10 games. After recently dropping three straight road contests, they quickly bounced back with quality wins over USC and UCLA. Consider that Washington has not lost to a ranked opponent this season. They have beaten then-No. 6 Gonzaga and then-No. 11 and No. 13 UCLA for a record of 3-0 against top-25 opponents. The schedule is light down the stretch, which should provide some momentum. With a string of confidence, the Huskies' up-tempo style and depth could easily take them to Indianapolis.

No way:

Like Memphis, the Huskies need to focus on improving on the defensive end of the court. Romar's club is giving up over 70 points per contest. In the five losses, the Huskies have allowed an average of 79.6 points per game.

Washington has also been suspect on the road, going only 2-3 away from home. The Huskies' first 12 games were inside the friendly confines of Bank of America Arena. Because of the Northwest location, having extensive travel time could cause jetlag should the team advance deep in the tournament.

The most talented teams don't always make it to the Final Four. Washington is neither the most talented nor even the best squad in their conference. However, a year removed from an Elite Eight trip can't rule the Huskies out. They do enough necessary tools and players alike to bust some brackets. But did the Huskies lose too much?

Boston College Eagles (20-5, 7-4 ACC)

Premier Point Guard:
Louis Hinnant
Veteran Leader:
Craig Smith
Best NBA Prospect:
Jared Dudley
Role Player:
Sean Marshall
Final Four lock:

Boston College has endured through a rude awakening in their first season in the ACC. But Al Skinner and company are probably content in dodging the new-age Big East. But as rude as some ACC guests have been, the Golden Eagles are building momentum.

Boston College are winners of four straight, including three ACC games to advance a game behind second-place N.C. State. Despite the record, the Golden Eagles play to the level their opponents, going 10-4 in single-digit margins.

Craig Smith (16.8 ppg) and Jared Dudley (16.7 ppg) combine to give opponents' frontcourt headaches. Both forwards stand at 6-feet-7-inches and pound the glass, which often translates to zone defenses. Patience is a virtue of an Al Skinner coached team. It may cause too many close games, but it translates to plenty of assists and high percentage shots. The Golden Eagles rank 10th and 18th nationally in each category respectively. If the other starters find the bucket like the two frontcourt stars, look out for the ACC rookies.

No way:

Unlike Washington, Boston College is only 1-4 against ranked opponents. Despite playing Duke tough at home, the Golden Eagles have only beaten then-No. 25 UNC. Losses to Maryland, Michigan St. and Georgia Tech litter the schedule and have kept the team from a marquee win.

Louis Hinnant, a sporadic point guard needs to stay within Skinner's system. Because the opponents figure in on both Smith and Dudley, Hinnant and Tyrese Rice will be forced to drain perimeter shots. Because Skinner prefers half-court games, free throws loom large in late-game situations. The team shoots a combined 68 percent, while superstars Smith and Dudley shoot 66 and 70 percent respectively.

The team is smart with the ball, but is it athletic enough to run with higher-paced teams? The jury is still out, but a couple of perimeter shots could quickly turn the Golden Eagles into contenders. Will the shots fall all the way to Indianapolis?

Teams that will make the Elite Eight:
Duke, UConn, Iowa, Villanova

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Hockey *from page B4*

Don't ask anyone on the Italian team, because they're not likely to have an answer. They may not even know each other's names.

The team was put together two weeks before the Olympics because Italy is the host country, and it seemed like a nice gesture to fill out the field. It didn't seem so nice when the Italian women were beaten 16-0 by Canada and 11-0 by Sweden only to rebound and score a goal in their final 5-1 loss to Russia.

That's OK because Switzerland scored only one goal, too, and Germany managed only two.

The fastest game on ice can seem awfully slow when anyone other than the world's two powerhouses are playing. Even when they are, the contests sometimes disintegrate into special team specials when overeager referees blow the whistle for illegal body checking anytime two players get near one another.

The big celebration at the hockey arena the other night came when someone finally scored a fluke goal on the Canadians. The U.S. team had a big scare, winning only by four goals over Finland.

The most intrigue at women's hockey so far has come off the ice, where U.S. coach Ben Smith and the aging star he dumped before the games, Cammi Granato, aren't speaking to each other. That could cause problems because Granato is now an analyst for NBC, but the network decided to keep her in the studio far away from the rink.

Good thing, because fighting isn't allowed in the Olympic Games.

The domination by the American and Canadian teams since women's hockey was admitted to the Olympics eight years ago in Nagano isn't all that surprising. Both have feeder systems through junior hockey, and colleges with established programs to send players through.

Other countries have been reluctant to fully embrace the idea of women playing hockey, though there are some signs that is finally changing. There are more foreign players now at American colleges, and they are almost always the stars of their national teams.

"Our sport hasn't always been accepted by every nation," Canada coach Melody Davidson said.

Those that are accepting it don't seem to be catching up. While other countries are fielding better teams than the ragtag outfits that skated in Nagano, the Canadians and Americans are getting better at a faster pace.

In Canada, it would be like Midgets playing against Pee Wee league. The Canadian women play at a level of 16 to-17-year-old boys, while the other countries are probably two age groups below that.

"It is still a long way to go to catch up to the United States and Canada," said Finnish defenseman (woman, person?) Emma Laaksonen. "I don't know if (it can be done)."

So far, they haven't come close. The United States and Canada outscored opponents by a combined 84-4 in the preliminary rounds, and they're not expected to get much of a test in Friday's semifinals. Both teams are whopping favorites to win by five or six goals against Sweden and Finland before meeting in their inevitable gold medal final.

Olympic officials canned softball from the games for much the same reason, largely the American dominance. That isn't likely to happen to women's hockey because it fills 160 spots and helps level the gender imbalance in the Winter Games.

It looks good to have more women in the Olympics, but what really is the point if they can't compete? Does a 16-0 hockey blowout really add to the Olympic experience?

These are supposed to be the best athletes in the world. Some of them look like they're not even the best on their block.

Here's a suggestion: Reduce the field to four teams for the 2010 games in Vancouver and let them play each other several times.

The marginal teams will get better, fans will get to see more of the United States against Canada, and almost everyone will go home with a medal.

Better yet, the Canadians will have nothing to apologize about.

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