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Photo by Tanesha Sistrunk

The decision to raise tuition for all 16 universities in the UNC system will affect more than 180,000 students.

Campus tuition increase under further discussion

BOG requires more time to analyze cost of quality education in NC

NICK HENNE
STAFF WRITER

ECU's proposed tuition increase, originally scheduled to be finalized Feb. 13, is under further evaluation by the Board of Governors, and a decision will be made March 19.

"I wouldn't account it in terms of a delay, it's the next step in the process," said Brad Wilson, chairman for the BOG.

"It's a complex, important decision and the committee wants to make sure they have all the information necessary to make the right decision for the universities."

Wilson said he doesn't think there is a delay in the decision-making process.

"The fact that we're not making the decision [in February] is not unusual. We usually make the decision in March."

Wilson said people might think there is a delay because last year the BOG immediately made their decision in March not to grant any of the proposed tuition increases due to the shape of the economy at that time.

In the last three years, the UNC-system increased by approximately 21,000 students, Wilson said.

This increase in population requires an increased amount of faculty, staff, classroom space and other necessities used in the education process.

The state of North Carolina also decreased the amount of money given to each university by $700 per in-state student, leaving each school with a significantly lower amount of revenue.

"Students I talk to say we want tuition to be low, but we want a quality education ... we want to be able to get what we want when we need it. There is the dilemma," Wilson said.

"Low tuition at the expense of quality is no bargain."

Wilson said he visited and observed the majority of the schools in the UNC-system throughout last year and has spoken with students, faculty and administrators.

He observed overcrowded classrooms and a low number of core courses available for undergraduates.

"I am convinced the quality of the educational experience is eroding at an unacceptable pace," Wilson said.

Wilson said the BOG has listened to and considered the opinions of the students on the matter.

"The students' voice is important and has been heard, and I congratulate the manner of which they have advocated for their decision."

Chuck Hawkins, senior associate vice chancellor for financial services, said if the proposed tuition increase is passed, 42 percent will go to faculty salaries, 30 percent to financial aid, 13 percent to advising programs, 8 percent to SPA worker salaries and the remaining 7 percent will go to non-teaching EPA positions, such as administrative workers and dean salaries.

The largest portion of the funds will go toward making ECU's salaries more competitive with peer universities.

"Universities are people-driven organizations," said Hawkins.

"We are well behind any of our peer competitors in salaries. In order for us to remain competitive,

see **TUITION** *page A3*

Campus political views unbalanced

Debate over academic freedom targets liberal professors

HOLLY O'NEAL
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Students and lawmakers across the nation are attacking what some call biased left-wing higher education, responding to the ideological gap between college students and their professors.

At ECU, like other parts of the country, the accusations are supported or denounced according to political disposition.

"There's definitely a left-wing slant here," said Henry McRee, junior political science major and Republican.

However, the view from across the political spectrum is different.

"I've not noticed that there are more liberal professors," said Haley Transou, political science major and president of ECU's College Democrats.

"As to my knowledge, there are the same number of conservatives and liberals in the political science department ... I think the school's done a pretty good job keeping it equal."

Statistics support McRee's statement. A 2003 study by the Chronicle of Higher Education found only 15 percent of faculty at private and public universities described themselves as conservative.

In contrast, 21 percent of surveyed college freshmen said they were conservative, according to a University of California study released in January. Twenty-four percent were liberal and the rest were moderate.

Since the 1960s, the conservatism trend has increased among college students.

The discrepancy raises worries that conservative students could face discrimination from liberal professors, resulting in lower grades and fear of expressing contradictory opinions.

David Conradt, Ph.D., political science professor and adviser to the College Democrats, agrees that politics and academia are sometimes contentious partners.

"Professors should not let their political bias interfere with their research, but that's easier said than done," said Conradt.

"Especially in political science, professors have strong opinions that shouldn't distort the professor's responsibilities."

Conradt said although students may know his opinions on a given subject, they never receive penalty or personal criticism.

"When I comment on political affairs ... it's to lighten up the class or start a discussion. Students here are quite conservative – I try to challenge them, but not interfere with grading," Conradt said.

The center of the debate revolves around whether or not instructors' political views compromise academic freedom. Some fear a politically minded faculty aren't teaching all sides of an issue.

"If students never have people striving to be unbiased – if they never hear from the other side ... are they getting a real education?" said Nancy Spalding, Ph.D., political science professor and adviser to the College Republicans.

"We're here about academic freedom, not just academic freedom for the political flavor of the month."

Spalding said a faculty comprised mostly

see **VIEWS** *page A2*

Would you prefer liberal or conservative leadership? Why?



CHASE BAKER
FRESHMAN

"Liberal, because doing things different is better sometimes. We can learn more."



CJ LUCIA
SOPHOMORE

"Liberal, because Bible-thumping, war-happy conservatives scare me."

JAMIE RAUB
SOPHOMORE

"Liberal, because we live in a liberal-minded nation in which conservativism leads only to social, political and economic progression."



OWEN GIRTMAN
FRESHMAN

"Conservative, because I believe in traditional values.

Textbook theft at area stores on rise

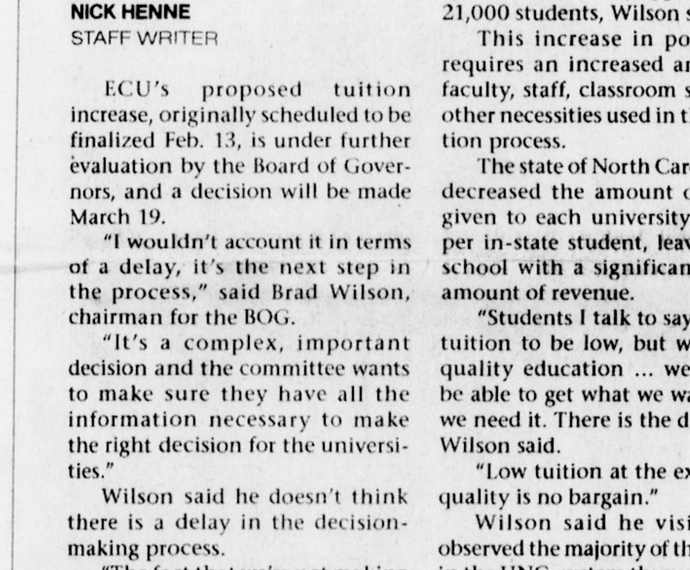


Photo by Tanesha Sistrunk and Juan Doig

Dowdy Student Stores caught 10 students stealing last year.

Apprehended students face serious charges

ERIN RICKERT
NEWS EDITOR

University Book Exchange, Dowdy Student Stores and the ECU Police are teaming up to help put a stop to the increase in student book theft.

Wanda Scarborough, director of Dowdy Student Stores, said she has seen almost $40,000 worth of merchandise stolen in the last year. While Tony Parker, textbooks manager at UBE, has only seen a visual increase, they both agree book theft is a problem that must be stopped.

"They [students] are making a lot of money off of these books for nothing," said Parker.

"The gamble for them is worth the risk."

The increase in theft is a result of students stealing both directly off the shelves and from each other. The thieves then try to cash their crime in for profit during textbook buyback times at both locations.

Both UBE and Dowdy Student Stores have noticed this pattern of activity and are working collectively to deter the theft.

"We have a very good relationship with UBE," said Scarborough.

"They [UBE] will let us know if there are repeat customers coming back to sell their books. We keep a record of everyone that comes to us and they [UBE] do the same thing. If someone is selling back more than one book of the same title, that sends up a red flag."

Scarborough said Dowdy Student Stores does charge people, and they caught close to 10 last year.

Depending on the circumstances, textbook theft can carry an "obtaining property by false pretense charge," which is a felony in the state of North Carolina.

Amy Davis, crime prevention sergeant with the ECU Police Department, said students should be aware of the consequence of this crime – a conviction will follow them later in life when they try to pursue careers after college.

As a result of theft, Dowdy and UBE must take extra precautions when people enter the store.

Backpacks and large pocketbooks must be checked before entering textbook areas.

Dowdy Student Store has even heightened its security measures by adding cameras. The store originally had three, but now has 10 and is thinking of installing another in July or August.

During peak times, at the beginning of semesters and during book buyback, Dowdy now hires three additional employees to monitor front and back doors.

Dowdy is also deliberating purchasing metal detectors, but Scarborough said they are quite

see **THEFT** *page A3*

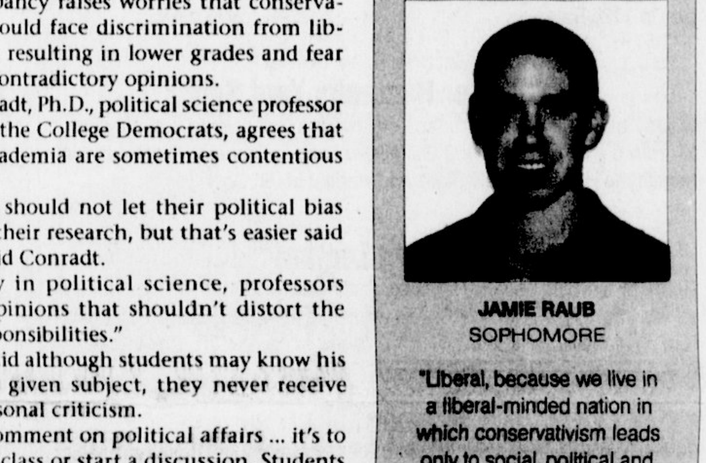


Photo by Juan Doig

Senate members debated and passed new rules for the spring SGA elections.

Students Day rescheduled

SGA plans for March tuition protest

STEPHEN RICE
STAFF WRITER

Even though the Board of Governors decided to delay their decision on tuition increases, the Student Government Association will convene in Chapel Hill this March to protest.

Student Body President Ian Baer spoke to the senate Monday about the importance of Students Day.

Baer said he was pleased the BOG postponed their vote on tuition increases until March 19.

Baer assured the senate members students could still attend the day, but it will be inconvenient for many ECU students because the date of the meeting rests in the middle of Spring Break.

The SGA also confirmed four new senators to fill vacancies.

"I'm glad to be on the senate," said newly confirmed senator and junior social work major, Maria Bruner.

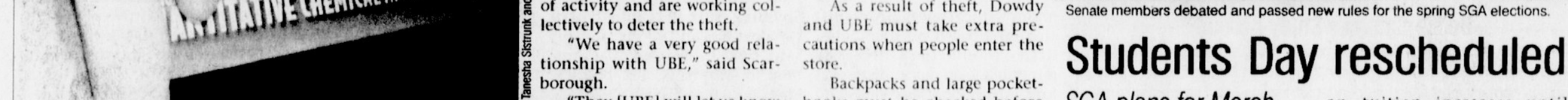
SGA members voted in favor of a resolution to modify the red transit route

see **SGA** *page A3*

Black History Awareness throughout February

Aug. 9, 1936 Jesse Owens won four gold medals at the Summer Olympics in Berlin.

Benjamin Davis Sr. became the first black general in the U.S. Army on Oct. 16, 1940.



Forecast
Snow Showers
High of 46

TEC REQUIRED READING

Online
Visit www.theeastcarolinian.com to read about Sen. John Kerry's campaign trail through Milwaukee.

News page A2
The army is offering a new 15-month enlistment program starting in fall of 2004.

Features page A5
ECU's School of Theatre and Dance will do a production of Steinbeck's The "Grapes of Wrath."

Sports page A7
ECU baseball will host Campbell University today and Delaware this weekend at Harrington Field.

FYI
Don't forget to attend the business and hospitality career fair today from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in Bate.

NEWS

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Announcements

Introduction to Business Ownership
A workshop on how to get started in business will be held today from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in the Willis Building Auditorium.

Summer Study Abroad Open House
The Foreign Languages Department and College of Business will have a summer study abroad open house today from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. in 3015 Bate. Professors leading the trips and students from past trips will be in attendance to discuss opportunities and requirements.

Drop Deadline Extension
The last day for undergraduate students to drop term-length courses or withdraw from school without grades has been extended to Wednesday, Feb. 25. Block courses may be dropped only during the first 40 percent of their regularly scheduled class meetings.

Media Speaker
J. K. Chambers, professor of linguistics at the University of Toronto, will speak on "Mass Media, Literacy and Your Language" Friday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. in 1026 Bate.

Habitat for Humanity Yard Sale
ECU's Habitat for Humanity chapter will have a yard sale on Saturday, Feb. 21 from 6 a.m. - noon at 102 Guinevere Lane in Camelot. Proceeds will benefit the Habitat Resale Store and Habitat of Pitt County.

Fulbright Lecture
Fulbright scholar Shahla Naghiyeva will give a lecture on her poetry translation research of Azerbaijan and American literature on Monday, Feb. 23 at 4 p.m. in 1031 Bate.

Resume Blitz
Career Services presents a Resume Blitz where students can have their resumes critiqued on site Thursday, Feb. 26 from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. in 129 Speight.

How to Work a Job Fair
Career Services presents a workshop on how to work a job fair Wednesday, Feb. 25 from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. in 129 Speight.

Education Career Fair
There will be an Education career fair Friday, Feb. 27 from 9 a.m. - noon in Mendenhall.

Dances of Universal Peace
The Office of Adult and Commuter Students Services sponsors the Dances of Universal Peace Sunday, Feb. 29 from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. in 244 Mendenhall. The participatory event features simple circle dancing and singing led by a trained leader and accompanied with live music.

SRC Family Fun Day
The Department of Recreational Services and the Office for Adult and Community Students will co-sponsor Family Fun Day on Saturday, March 6, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the SRC. Events will include group fitness, sports, a climbing wall, bowling, a movie and arts and crafts. Students, spouses and dependent children of students above age 6 may participate for no cost.

Belize Summer Study Abroad
The Englsih department is hosting an opportunity to study abroad in Belize, an English speaking country, and gain three credit hours in English, ethnic studies, humanities or other independent studies topics. The program runs from May 29 - June 20. Space is limited. For more information, contact Gay Wilentz at 328-6678 or wilentzg@mail.ecu.edu.

Sophomore Survey
Students who have completed 45-60 credit hours, 30 from ECU, must take the Sophomore Survey before pre-registering for summer or fall 2004 semesters. The survey will be available on OneStop beginning March 3.

Daily Reflector Scholarship
Students interested in media-related careers can apply for two of the annual $2,500 James M. Cox Jr. Foundation Scholarships offered by *The Daily Reflector* Applicants must be a junior at ECU with a minimum of two full-time semesters remaining until graduation (excluding summer school), show interest in a media-related career, have a minimum 3.0 GPA in the last academic year and no grades below a C in their major.
Applications are due April 1 and can be obtained from Vicky Morris, director of Donors Stewardship, Greenville Centre, Suite 1100, 2200 S. Charles Blvd. For more information contact Morris at 328-9573.

Special Olympics Fundraising
The ECU Police Department is raising funds for the Special Olympics of North Carolina this year. T-shirts, hats and car magnets are available in the Blount House from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Paper Person
The person featured at the top of today's paper is Minsung Kim, freshman undecided major.

News Briefs

Local

Most still jobless six months after NC's largest layoff

KANNAPOLIS, NC (AP) – Nearly seven months after textile giant Pillowtex shut down, wiping out 4,800 jobs in the largest mass layoff in North Carolina history, the hunt for work is growing more pressing.
Job hunters are growing nervous. For most, benefits will expire this summer.
Of the 4,300 Pillowtex workers in Cabarrus and Rowan counties who lost their jobs, ESC officials estimate that 400 have found work. Perdue Farms' chicken-processing plant in Concord took about 50, and NorthEast Medical Center has hired about 25, ESC officials said.
At least 1,500 have flooded locai colleges, particularly Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, where many are wrestling with fractions or algebra after decades away from the classroom.
Others have retired, or moved away. However, perhaps as many as 1,800 people are still hunting for work.

Police call in extra manpower for cheating investigation

CHARLOTTE (AP) – Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officials have called in 12 extra sergeants to assist with a widening investigation into whether recruits cheated on police academy exams.
A recruit accused of plagiarism told supervisors last week about the existence of a computer disk that contained questions and answers to 20 of 32 tests given during the 26-week police academy.
Police say information on the disk has been shared among recruit classes since the fall of 2000. In that time, 279 recruits have gone through the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Training Academy, though police have said not all recruit classes were involved.
There are about 1,600 officers on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg force.

National

Panel promises soon to provide states with $2.3 billion to improve election process

WASHINGTON (AP) – States can expect by mid-May to get a long-awaited $2.3 billion in federal help to buy new voting-booth equipment and make other election improvements, the head of an electoral reform commission promised Monday.
Still, millions of voters again will be using the much maligned punch cards in this fall's presidential balloting. Many of the improvements, including plans for statewide computerized voter registration data, aren't expected to be in place before 2006.
Members of the new Election Assistance Commission assured state officials at a conference Monday that they will expedite the distribution of $2.3 billion in federal funds for election improvements. About $650 million already has been provided.
DeForest B. Soaries, the commission's chairman, said the various state plans for using the money will soon be published in the Federal Register with funds to be disbursed 45 days after that – or about the middle of May.

Muslim chaplain's case sparks questions about military justice system

WASHINGTON (AP) – James Yee, a Muslim chaplain in the Army, spent 76 days in a prison cell while authorities tried to build a capital espionage case against him. Now he is free, the most serious allegations replaced by lesser ones like adultery and possession of pornography, and the military justice system itself is on trial.
Yee is due to appear Wednesday in front of a military judge in Fort Benning, Ga., for his preliminary hearing. Originally scheduled for Dec. 2, the hearing has been postponed four times – for a total of 78 days – so the Army can review classified documents in the case.
Both sides say it's possible his preliminary hearing could be delayed again.
Prosecutors aren't saying much publicly about this case, but it's apparent they are no longer pursuing charges of spying, which could carry the death penalty. Initial reports had said Yee was a target of an espionage probe at the U.S. military base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where he ministered to suspected terrorists.

World

Haiti rebel force expands with paramilitary troops as aid workers prepare convoy of supplies

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) – A rebel force trying to oust President Jean-Bertrand Aristide grew in size as former exiled paramilitary troops joined the insurrection and aid workers hurried to get doctors and supplies to the cut-off north.
A humanitarian convoy left from Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, for St. Marc, a northern port city where rebels burned the police station and torched a clinic. The Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross would lead the convoy, officials said.
Rebel roadblocks have halted most food and fuel shipments since the unrest began. Emergency supplies of flour, cooking oil and other basics are projected to run out in days in northern areas, where roadblocks are guarded by rebels.
The rebels launched a rebellion on Feb. 5 from Gonaives, 70 miles northwest of Port-au-Prince. Although the rebels are thought to number less than Haiti's 5,000-member police force, exiled paramilitary leaders and police have reportedly joined them.

U.S. general visiting Ethiopia warns that a clear terrorist threat exists in East Africa

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) – A clear terrorist threat still exists in East Africa, and greater military cooperation is needed to defeat it, a top U.S. general warned on Monday during a visit to Ethiopia.
Gen. John Abizaid, whose Central Command is responsible for Afghanistan, Iraq and East Africa, said closer "military and intelligence cooperation" was needed between East African governments to prevent extremist groups like al-Qaida from gaining an "ideological foothold" in the region.
"The threat is clear, but the threat can be deterred and can be defeated," he told journalists in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.
"This terrorist threat knows no boundary, and when we operate only on a nation-state basis we will be unable to really get at the heart of the terrorist problem which is transnational."
Abizaid pointed out Somalia – which has had no central government since 1990 – as a potential trouble spot in the region.

Army offers new enlistment program

Shorter commitment for college students

JASMINE D. HARRELL
STAFF WRITER

The decision to enroll in college or enlist in the U.S. Army can be made easier with the Army's offer of a 15-month plus training enlistment option beginning in October.

"This option allows college students who want to serve their country, but don't want to do a four-year enlistment, to join [the army]," said First Sgt. Brian Edwards.

Run by the Department of Defense, this option is designed to promote and facilitate military enlistment in support of National Service.

This new program encourages younger people to join the army because the term is not as long.

It also gives soldiers who would otherwise not attend college an opportunity to extend their education.

Those eligible for this option are students who have a high school diploma, score 50 or higher on the Armed Services Vocational Altitude Battery and meet the Army's physical and moral qualifications.

With 60 job openings available, including dentistry and infantry, students can learn about their chosen field with about two months of job training, depending upon their occupation.

Participants must then complete nine weeks of basic training in order for the 15-month enlistment to begin.

Sgt. Edwards said after completion of all required training, students can choose a $5,000 bonus, $18,000 loan repayment program or an educational allowance in which students receive $546 per month for a year.

Enlistees can receive college assistance that pays the entire cost of tuition and books.

Once students finish their 15 months, they are required to do a two-year reserve commitment.

To fulfill this requirement, students must complete duties at their assigned base one weekend a month and two weeks a year.

After that, enlistees enjoy more benefits such as the G.I. Bill and the Veterans Affairs Loan, which guarantees a loan to buy a house.

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



Photo by Kyle Fisher

The new enlistment program offers college students a shorter enrollment period and more benefits.

Views *from page A1*

of one viewpoint suffers from major educational problems: curricula based on ideologies, little intellectual diversity presented to students, disrespect for students' opposing views and the introduction of personal convictions into unrelated fields.

Though Spalding said she has heard negative comments directed toward students based on their political views, she is unaware of anyone "treated badly."

However, she said the ECU faculty is "too one-sided" and does not take students' views into consideration.

"I think as many of our students are leaning more conservative, it wouldn't be so bad if they had a little more respect, opportunities to explore different views in an open environment and have role models in the university," Spalding said.

A national movement to ensure conservative instruction in universities began in June 2003, when prominent Los Angeles conservative David Horowitz founded Students for Academic Freedom.

SAF is a chartered campus organization designed to promote the Academic Bill of Rights, a statement promoting diverse – namely, conservative – viewpoints in public universities.

The bill would accomplish this by disallowing faculty comments on controversial matters not related to their field, prohibiting partisan domination of student fees and giving students the right to be graded according to knowledge, not political beliefs.

So far, the bill has been proposed only in Colorado's legislature.

According to an article in the Sept. 12, 2003 *Denver Post*, educators worry the bill's passage would instate hiring quotas and too much "political meddling" in the university system.

In Oct. 2003, a similar measure, also named the Academic Bill of Rights, was introduced to the U.S. Congress by Rep. Jack Kingston, R-Ga., and Rep. Walter B. Jones, R-NC.

Unlike Colorado's bill, the national proposal's wording recommends hiring and promotions based on competence, not politics.

Jones represents North Carolina's third district, which includes Pitt County.

He said his decision to co-sponsor the bill did not arise from any bias problems he saw with ECU, but from students' complaints at other state universities, UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State.

"We need a number of professors with different political views," said Jones.

"The atmosphere should allow a student who might be conservative to share his thoughts and not be penalized."

Jones said certain curricula need greater intellectual diversity and preferably a balance of opinions.

Psychology professor Nate Vietor, Ph.D., said the distribution of political ideas generally shifts in predictable patterns according to the academic field.

"You find variation from department to department – economists would be more conservative and social scientists more liberal," said Vietor.

The reason for this trend is unclear, Vietor said, but may be partially due to environmental factors and stereotypical expressions of ideologies. For example, sociologists may have a more positive outlook on changing human behavior and attribute flaws to environmental and social problems – a traditionally liberal viewpoint.

"It would be good to have more intellectual diversity, but by no means would I support a system where the department would have quotas. The worst thing that could happen at a liberal arts college is that everyone agrees," Vietor said.

After going before Congress, the national Academic Bill of Rights was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. A hearing with professors and university presidents will be held to determine if academic freedom is at risk.

Support for the bill is largely partisan.

"The point [of the bill] would be a restatement of long-held principles by the American Association of University Professors – hiring and teaching would be done on scholarly competence, not agreement or ideology," Spalding said.

However, the AAUP, which has the power to influence universities' recruitment of faculty and students, has spoken out in opposition to the bill.

Opponents claim the measure is a "Trojan horse" that would open the door for hiring quotas, but Spalding said its greatest impact would be as a symbolic statement of academic freedom.

"I don't think anyone would disagree with the principles, but with the implied applications ... there are tremendous amounts of hysteria over this, but it doesn't make sense in the context of the words," Spalding said.

The heightened awareness of political discrimination the bill would bring could also lead to more complaints over hiring or tenure decisions based on bias.

Conradt said approving the bill would be a mistake.

"It would be a laughingstock. Colleges would risk losing accreditation," Conradt said.

He said it is doubtful Congress has the power to enforce such a measure, unless they incorporate the use and restriction of federal funding. Therefore, the bill is more an election year campaign strategy.

"It's a political move to appeal to the conservative base," Conradt said.

Theft *from page A1*

expensive and will not be added anytime soon.

Although the stores' precautions help, Davis said students can deter theft by being aware of their surroundings and not giving thieves the opportunity to grab their belongings.

Charles Moore, course packs manager at UBE, said if a student's textbook is stolen, one of the best ways for students to get their textbook back is to mark it in some way that is identifiable to them.

Moore suggests students pick a random page in the book and make a distinct mark so if someone attempts to return it to the store, staff members can identify it and return it to them.

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

Tips

The best deterrent to book theft is prevention. Here are some tips to help keep books in your possession:

-Don't leave your book sitting out in your car or anywhere else unattended, especially the library or bus.

-Always mark a random page in your textbook with an identifiable symbol so the bookstore can help you recover your book if it is stolen.

-Help keep other students' books safe by keeping an eye out for suspicious activity and reporting it to proper authorities.

SGA *from page A1*

to include College Hill. Freshmen who live on College Hill had complained about having to catch two different routes to get back home.

After a review of parliamentary procedure, the senate continued last week's debate over the merits and legality of proposed election rules for this year's spring election.

One amendment proposed the position a student files to run for must be the position they campaign for.

The amendment addressed problems with last semester's election.

The senate approved the new election rules.

Another amendment suggested inputting a grandfather clause in the election rules concerning the election chair's tenure.

The senate approved the constitution of several student organizations and the appropriation of money for the ECU Ambassadors and the Phi Alpha Theta.

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

Information

There will be an informational presentation about SCT Banner Monday, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. in Hendrix Theater. SCT Banner is tentatively scheduled to be implemented in fall 2006.

Tuition *from page A1*

we need funding."

According to ECU's tuition-based proposal, the salaries of the EPA and SPA workers of ECU are below the 50th percentile of comparable institutions.

Hawkins said the higher faculty salaries will benefit ECU's quality of education and programs in the long run. Higher salaries will create a higher retention rate for professors, which would eventually improve the overall performance of ECU professors.

"If we let everything stay the way it is and do nothing, we will have key faculty leave because we can't compete with other institutions," Hawkins said.

"Over time, that will have an adverse impact of the quality of education."

ECU's current faculty salaries put the university at the 52nd-55th percentile when compared to the faculty salaries of our peer competitor institutions, Hawkins said.

The tuition increase will put ECU in the 60th percentile, which is closer to the BOG's goal – the 80th percentile.

Survey results have shown students expressing a need for improved advising programs, Hawkins said.

"We will add 13 and a half full-time advising positions ... that would also bring us more in line with the ratio of students and advisors," Hawkins said.

Increased tuition requests are taking place nationwide as a result of the struggles with the economy and state schools receiving less funding from their state.

Tuition for in-state students in North Carolina is currently, and will remain, in the lower quartile when compared to nationwide institutions.

All the institutions in the UNC-system are asking for a similar tuition increase, Hawkins said.

If ECU's tuition increase is passed, ECU's tuition ranking will not be affected.

Michael Hoane, director of the brain injury laboratory and psychology professor, said he can see the importance of the tuition increase and the benefits it will bring to students and faculty.

"As a faculty member who struggles when trying to get equipment to benefit students, I think it's important," said Hoane.

Hoane is leaving ECU after the spring semester for another institution, seeking an increased salary and better research facilities.

Reginald Watson, English professor, said he and other faculty members are not satisfied with the salary increases at ECU.

Watson said he understands the increase, but wishes there were alternate means of upgrading the university and retaining good faculty.

"I think we need to revisit the discussion about the lottery ... people are going to play it anyway. You cannot govern morality," said Watson.

Watson said the money made by a state from the lottery has provided cheaper tuition for students than in other states that do not have the lottery.

Elizabeth Plating, freshman theater design and production major, said she understands the reasons for the increase.

"I think it's a good decision as long as we [students] see the benefits from it," said Plating.

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

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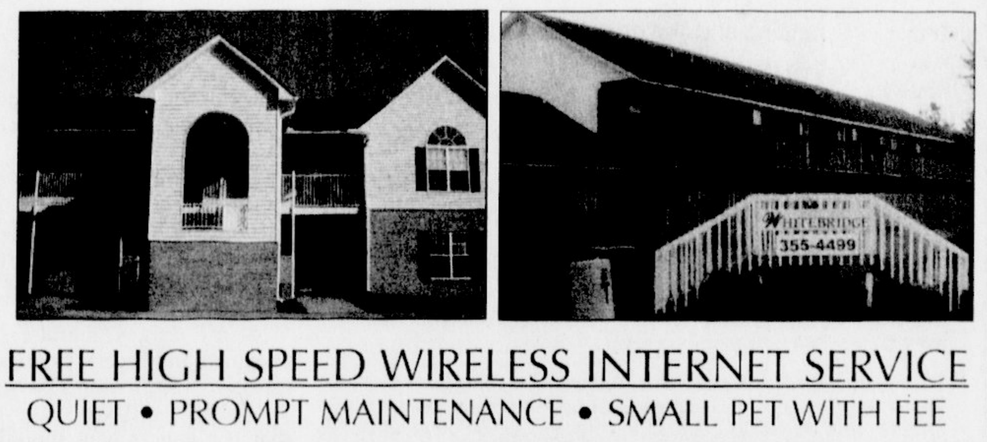
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OPINION

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Our View

Our confidence in the abilities of the CIA, the Pentagon and the Department of Defense to do their jobs is deeply shaken.

Like many Americans, we've been under the impression that the CIA and our government were the foremost leaders in intelligence gathering.

Besides the ever-present Sept.11 attacks and lack of evidence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq we have to question what the government has been doing lately

Our confidence in the abilities of the CIA, the Pentagon and the Department of Defense to do their jobs is deeply shaken.

In the Feb. 9 issue of Newsweek, John Barry and Mark Hosenball said there was speculation on part of the CIA and the Pentagon for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

But what good is speculation when lives are at stake? If half of these efforts had gone into the checking on the tips given about the Sept. 11 attacks, maybe the outcome of that day may have been different.

Barry and Hosenball also indicated that Saddam Hussein, being the dictator that he was, lived within the illusion that he was still producing weapons of mass destruction – an illusion he didn't mind embellishing when it came to weapons inspectors. In fact, the CIA had been told this on several occasions by Iraqi defectors.

Did anyone really sort through the information that was gathered before the war started? Probably not.

What disappoints us most is that the agencies that were put in place to serve as a check and balance of the elected officials that may be failing us.

Instead, they're becoming products of politics. They're being influenced by the threat of cuts in funding and pushed to relay false information, just to save face.

The goal of the TEC Opinion page is to evoke discussion as well as action on topics pertinent to the ECU community.

We encourage a response from our readers. If you have an opinion in reaction to one of our columns or perhaps in regard to the overall presentation of TEC, please express your view in one of four ways: direct a letter or fax to the editor, email a response to the editor or simply phone in a response.

The 20,000 ECU students read our paper on a regular basis. There's no better way to express your opinion than to take the time to sit and react to a situation affecting the students of this university through our Opinion page.

To be printed, the letter must be signed and contain a phone number for verification.

Letters will appear as space permits. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length.



Guest Editorial

IAN BAER
SGA PRESIDENT

The Student Government Association has not wasted any time in this new year getting to work for the students.

There are a variety of things that we have done already to improve student life on this campus and there are also a number of things planed for the rest of this semester.

The Chancellor Search Committee is well underway with its quest to find a leader for ECU.

As Student Body President I represent the student's view in this search.

This is a job I do not take lightly; ECU will need a leader who is first and foremost, a friend to the students. I make a promise to the students of this university that I will fight for a person with this quality.

We are improving our communication with the student body. SGA now has a Friday spot on the campus radio station WZMB and we are constructing an SGA Web site.

The Web site should be completed in late March or early April. This site will contain projects SGA is working on as well as a place where students can voice their concerns about our university.

One of the biggest issues that SGA is working on currently, is the campus-based tuition increases that await approval from the North Carolina Board of Governors.

The BOG was supposed to vote on this issue on Friday, Feb. 13, however Chair Brad Wilson stated a need for more information about the use of the proposed increases. BOG will review the proposed tuition increases at the March 19 meeting.

The postponement also came after a letter sent by Gov. Easley to Chair Wilson encouraging the BOG to take a closer look at tuition increases and how that money would be utilized on the individual campuses.

Over the next month I will be working with my staff to try and raise awareness about these tuition increases.

These increases will most certainly affect students across the UNC system.

However the greatest burden will be fall on the students coming after us as well as their families.

March 19 is when the board will vote on the proposals for campus-based tuition increases.

Unfortunately this is during ECU's Spring Break.

I have cancelled my plans for the break to work on this extremely important student issue.

I know this is a time for relaxation from all of our hectic schedules and I not asking students to change their plans; however, if anyone is going to be in North Carolina over the break and wants to help fight these tuition increases you are more then welcome to participate with us.

In the mean time it is important that we support Gov. Easley and Chair Wilson in their search to relieve students of this pending burden.

As always, I have an open door policy and I welcome any student to come discuss these issues or any other issues that you feel are significant to the student body.

My office is located at 255 Mendenhall Student Center.

Take care and Go Pirates!!!

In My Opinion

Fair-skinned Abercrombie & Fitch image is just plain racist

(KRT)—While cruising the mall recently, I couldn't help but notice the sea of white streaming in and out of the Abercrombie & Fitch store.

"Oooh, Abercrombie's having a blow-out sale," my friend said. "Let's go in."

"Uh, I don't know," I told her. "Black folk don't really shop here. I'll walk around the food court or something."

But secretly, I wanted to know what all the buzz was about. I had never had the courage to walk into an Abercrombie before.

"C'mon, it'll only be a minute, promise," my friend said.

As I stepped foot in that store, I felt I was in dangerous territory. An uneasiness swelled in my stomach as the customers looked on in curiosity. Feeling outnumbered and out of place, I tried to look as natural as possible. I shuffled my feet and poked at the clothing. A bubbly sales clerk chirped, "Uh huh, yeah, that tube top looks great with those low-rise jeans," as techno music pulsated in the background.

Every couple of minutes, though, she would look over my shoulder and when I'd catch her glance, she'd squeeze off an uneasy smile. Not once did a sales clerk ask if I needed anything or wanted to try something on.

But I've long dealt with this reality of Shopping-While-Black: either you're ignored or followed.

The billboard of handsome white jocks and beautiful white women frolicking in fields reminded me of how different I am from them. They are tall, slender and fair-skinned or Asian _ everyone from the customers to the cashiers.

"Traitor, you don't belong here," that little voice in my head admonished. "Black people don't shop here."

I had had enough and was ready to leave when my friend chimed in, "Great, I found it; he's going to love this shirt."

"OK, let's just get out of here."

When I walked out, I was reminded of the many reasons why I refuse to spend my money in a place like Abercrombie & Fitch:

- I don't have the "A&F look."
- The suburban lifestyle doesn't appeal to me.
- The Abercrombie image is just plain racist.

We all know that beauty is largely defined in this culture as white.

Even some of the most popular black actresses and pop stars, such as Halle Barry and Beyonce, have lighter skin and long silky tresses.

At a young age, we are taught that white is beautiful — from Cinderella to Barbie. As a child, I used to smear my mother's dark foundation all over my Barbie's face and plait her hair so she could look just like me.

Imagine what message this is sending to the little black girl with dark skin, textured hair and full lips. Is she not beautiful or American enough?

Abercrombie employs these live Barbies to reinforce the Eurocentric ideal of beauty - or as they call it, the "all-American look." I always thought "all-American" referred to the melting pot theory we're taught in school. But I guess Abercrombie had something else in mind.

This controversial image is at the very heart of a racial-discrimination suit filed against Abercrombie & Fitch by nine Hispanic and Asian employees who accuse the company of unfair employment practices.

Perhaps surprisingly, there are no black plaintiffs in the suit. In a way, we've created color-coded fashion associating the urban look of flashy tennis shoes, puffy coats, baggy jeans and jerseys with blacks, and the suburban look of khaki pants, polo tops and Dr. Martens with whites.

And Abercrombie represents this image perfectly, further propagating stereotypes and hatred with its racist message.

Does Abercrombie have an obligation to represent minorities on their billboards and in their stores and catalogs?

That's for the courts to decide.

In My Opinion

The creeping hand of the FCC

(KRT)—As long as there has been television, viewers have complained about it. Archie Bunker of "All in the Family" was a bigot and spewed slurs that had never been heard on television. "Charlie's Angels" helped popularize what became known as "jiggle" television. And the outrageous antics of some guests on Jerry Springer's show and others not only push the boundaries of good taste, they crash through them at breakneck speed.

All of those shows, and many others, have stirred torrents of complaints from viewers. But few have unleashed a storm like the flash of Janet Jackson's breast on the recent Super Bowl halftime show. That exposure on one of the most widely watched television shows of the year was, indeed, inappropriate, and the outrage was easy to understand.

But some folks in Washington seem intent on turning outrage into opportunity - an opportunity to extend government control over what we see and hear and say.

Some angry members of Congress and Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael Powell are suggesting that the government should set rules and regulations over what is shown on cable TV, if the cable industry doesn't voluntarily clean up some of its programming.

That idea should be canceled faster than a trashy sitcom. It's nothing more than a creeping, unwarranted government intrusion into American homes and an attempted end-run on the First Amendment.

For most media - newspapers, movies, books, Internet sites - the rules are quite clear. With rare exceptions, the government keeps its hands off anything that is said, printed or transmitted because the First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech and of the press.

For broadcast television and radio, however, the rules have been different. The government determined that the limited over-the-air broadcast spectrum was owned by the public, and granted permission for stations to occupy certain slots on that spectrum.

Under the guise of protecting the public airwaves, the FCC has set certain rules on broadcasting. The FCC now bans the broadcast of obscenity (hard-core pornography) at all hours and forbids "indecency" - a broader and vaguer category that includes some profanity - except between the hours of 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Sen. John Breaux, D-La., argued in hearings last week that it didn't make sense that networks were regulated while cable outlets were not, since they often shared the same dial or box. In a way, he's right. The traditional networks and upstart cable outlets are just a remote control's click away from each other on most televisions now.



"Hard-working Americans will see through this president's effort to wrap his radical agenda with a compassionate ribbon."

Howard Dean
Democratic Presidental Candidate

FEATURES

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Did You Know?

– Actress Molly Ringwald (1968), rapper/producer Dr. Dre (1965), actor Matt Dillon (1964), actor John Travolta (1954) and actress Cybill Shepherd (1949) all call today their birthday.

– This month is National Cherry Month.

– On this day in 1930, scientists discovered the planet Pluto.

Announcements

Films

The Student Union Films Committee presents *Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin* today at 7 p.m., Friday at 7 p.m. and midnight, Saturday at 9:30 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m. *Kill Bill: Vol 1* is showing today at 9:30 p.m., Friday at 9:30 p.m., Saturday at 7 p.m. and midnight and Sunday at 3 p.m. All movies are free with a student ID and are located in the Hendrix Theatre. For more information, call 328-4700.

Performance

The School of Music presents a performance by the ECU Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band and Concert Band conducted by Scott Carter and Chris Knighten at 8 p.m. tonight in the Wright Auditorium. This event is free.

Bingo

The Student Union Spectrum Committee presents Bingo at 9 p.m. tonight in Mendenhall Dining Hall.

Negro History Week

The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center presents "Negro History Week Celebration" from 1:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 19 in the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center Gallery.

African American Reading Day

The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center presents an African American Reading Day from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 19 in the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center Gallery.

Early Music Ensemble

The ECU Early Music Ensemble/Viol Consort presents *The Glories of the Fifteenth Century: Plainchant and Polyphony* at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 19 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. This event is free.

Top Fives

Top five movies



1. *50 First Dates*
2. *Barbershop 2: Back in Business*
3. *Miracle*
4. *The Butterfly Effect*
5. *You Got Served*

Top five singles



1. "Slow Jamz," Twista featuring Kanye West & Jamie Foxx
2. "Yeah!," Usher featuring Lil Jon & Ludacris
3. "The Way You Move," OutKast featuring Sleepy Brown
4. "Me, Myself and I," Beyonce
5. "Hey ya!" OutKast

Top five albums



1. *When the Sun Goes Down*, Kenny Chesney
2. *A Crow Left of the Murder*, Incubus
3. *Kamikaze*, Twista
4. *Closer*, Josh Groban
5. *Only You*, Harry Connick, Jr.

Top five DVDs



1. *Radio*
2. *Once Upon a Time in Mexico*
3. *Open Range*
4. *Out of Time*
5. *Cabin Fever*

Top five shows

1. "C.S.I.," CBS
2. "American Idol-" Tuesday, FOX
3. "American Idol-," Wednesday, FOX
4. "Friends," NBC
5. "Grammy Awards," CBS

Top five books



1. *The Last Juror*, John Grisham
2. *The South Beach Diet*, Arthur Agastson Rodale
3. *The Da Vinci Code*, Dan Brown
4. *Angels & Demons*, Dan Brown
5. *The Five People You Meet in Heaven: A Novel*, Mitch Albom

Students prepare for election season



Organizations support candidates, help register voters

JOHN BREAM
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

With Election Day a little less than nine months away, it may seem a little early to be preparing. But here on campus, students are already getting ready.

This year is a busy election year for NC voters who will have the chance to determine the outcome of four state or national-scale contests. North Carolinians will flock to the polls May 4 to determine the Democratic presidential nominee. With such a late primary date, however, the winner of the nomination will probably already be known. In November, voters will be given the chance to vote for a new representative in the Senate since John Edwards decided not to seek re-election, elect the governor, and of course, elect the next president of the United States.

However, if you aren't registered it is impossible to take part in the single most important act in democracy – casting your ballot on Election Day.

College Democrats is already hard at work registering voters to make sure that their candidates bring home resounding victories in November.

"We've had one voter registration drive at Wright Place last Thursday and are having another one Wednesday, [Feb.] 25, so that students can vote in the upcoming elections," said Haley Transou, president of College Democrats.

"Last week we registered over 100 voters."

Despite efforts to motivate young adults to exercise their basic democratic rights, most still do not vote because of lack of interest and the belief that their vote will not significantly alter the outcome of an election.

"Voting is important because without it you have no say," said junior geography major Phillip Nottingham.

"If you don't vote then you have any right to complain, but if you do vote, even for the other guy and he doesn't win, you can complain."

With 22,000 voting age students, ECU alone can be a major player in all elections.

"College students make up a large percentage of the voting population and we can make a huge difference as long as everyone is registered," Transou said.

As of right now, College Democrats has not endorsed any single candidate in the Democratic presidential primary because the club lends its support to all Democrats. As soon as the nominee is chosen, the Democrats will throw their full support behind him. Transou said a few of the officers have traveled along with Edwards to assist his campaign for president.

In April, College Democrats is sponsoring a forum with professors and students to get both the Democratic and Republican views on whether Bush can be re-elected. Democrats all over the nation realize that this is their chance to regain the White House with Bush's approval ratings falling due to his military record, robust spending and controversy over the war in Iraq. Bush's approval rating recently dipped below 50 percent for the first time during his presidency. However, with such huge gains in fighting terrorism and his handling of the 9-11 crisis, Bush still presents a formidable opponent for any challenger.

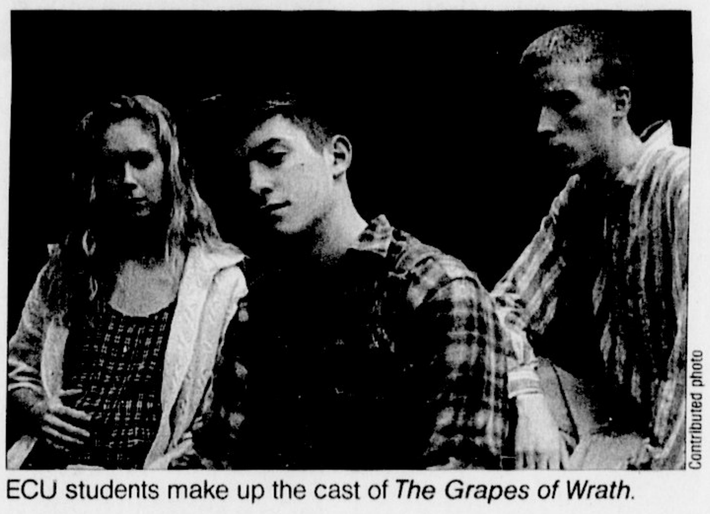
As of right now, College Democrats is not doing anything with governor Mike Easley's re-election campaign or Erskine Bowles' campaign for U.S. Senate, but they plan to get involved soon. It is still a bit early in the ballgame for those campaigns to become really heated.

College Republicans is currently returning from an inactive state and could not be reached for comment at press time.

College Democrats meet on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Political Science library, Brewster C-105.

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

Steinbeck novel comes to life on stage



Contributed photo

ECU students make up the cast of *The Grapes of Wrath*.

'Grapes of Wrath' is new ECU/Loessin Playhouse production

LISA TUMBARELLO
STAFF WRITER

Talents from the School of Theatre and Dance are taking John Steinbeck's age-old classic, *The Grapes of Wrath*, to the stage.

This inspiring story of life's struggles and desperations during the Great Depression is sure to warm the hearts of audiences and allow them to reflect on life as it was then and is now.

The Grapes of Wrath covers the epic migration of the Joad family as they cross from Okalahoma to California in search of land to call their own. The exhausting conditions created in the Dust Bowl became unbearable during the time of the Depression, leaving farming families no choice but to move on.

The Grapes of Wrath tells the story that many families faced and brings awareness to the situations and hardships of the time.

In addition to describing the plight of migrant workers in his novel, Steinbeck offers a pointed criticism of the policies that created these struggles. *The Grapes of Wrath* addresses the universal ideals and turmoil faced during the Depression and examines the economic and social system that gave way to its effects.

This 20th-century classic won the Pulitzer Prize in 1940 and was made into a feature length film. None of Steinbeck's other books compared to the national impact of *The Grapes of Wrath*.

The Grapes of Wrath is familiar to most and is included in many high school curricula. Its familiar story will surely make audiences want to experience it again.

"Audiences will enjoy seeing something on stage they have read before," said Jeff Woodruff, managing director of the School of Theater and Dance.

For those that have read the book and seen the movie, you can expect the play to portray the book. Having experienced the play, the audience is ensured a more emotional experience.

"Overall, it's more personal. The audience can see these real people living out their lives right in front of their own eyes," said J.T. Pitt, junior professional acting major. Pitt also plays a migrant worker and is the dying man's son in *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Woodruff said it is interesting to look at this period of time in history – it shows us how the enduring human spirit lets us thrive through such hardships.

see **NOVEL** *page A6*

'Sarah, Plain and Tall' entertains audiences

Family Fare series brings productions for the whole family

LENORA BOWLER
STAFF WRITER

The Family Fare series brings excitement, adventure, music and discoveries for all ECU students and school children.

Most of the productions, performed by the nation's top theatre companies, are musical stories that young audiences are reading or will read in school.

On Saturday, Feb. 21, the Family Fare series presents *Sarah, Plain and Tall*, performed by TheatreworksUSA.

Sarah, Plain and Tall, based on Patricia MacLachlan's Newberry Award-winning book, is a stage production that depicts a widower and his children who grieve the death of their wife and mother in their little prairie home in Kansas.

Jacob, looking for someone to help take care of his children and a companion, puts an ad in the newspaper.

Sarah travels from Maine to Jacob's doorstep for a one-month trial visit.

Sarah, although peculiar, takes the family by surprise. She is an atypical, spirited, woman who brings joy, excitement, happiness and laughter to their lives.

TheatreworksUSA, founded in 1961, has provided children with the fresh taste of live performance for more than 40 years.

The company brings thought-provoking shows that are educational – touring throughout the country to share original productions, literary adaptations and historical pieces with audiences of all ages.

Carol Woodruff, director of Cultural Outreach/Marketing, says she has taken her 6-year-old to see the Family Fare productions since she was two and she loves them.

Woodruff said these plays help school-aged children learn better.

"Seeing (the production) helps them to develop abilities to communicate ... and encourages them to read," Woodruff said.

Other plays included in the Family Fare series for the 2003-2004 season are *Dinosaurs, Wrights of Passage*, and *David Parker, The Pied Piper of Sign*.



Contributed photo

Sarah, Plain and Tall, a TheatreworksUSA production, will be performed on Feb. 21 in Wright Auditorium.

All of these provide an entertaining and educational theatre experience for the whole family to enjoy.

The Family Fare performances are presented on Saturdays from 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. at Wright Auditorium.

Tickets can be purchased at the Central Ticket Office. Subscription packages for remaining shows of the semester are available.

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

Event Info

Family Fare presents
'Sarah, Plain and Tall'

2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 21

Wright Auditorium

Tickets available at the Central Ticket Office, 1-800-ECU-ARTS

American Idol Watch



AMANDA LINGERFELT ☆
FEATURES EDITOR

After watching the last two episodes of the "American Idol" semi-finals, I can't help but think that the talent pool has somehow dried up from the first two seasons, and all America has to watch are leftovers gone bad.

Lisa Leuschner's performance of Mary J. Blige's "One Last Cry" is the only exception. While being an "Idol" leftover herself, Leuschner completely stole the show and proved her talent not only to the judges, but to America as well.

Expect Camille Velasco to join Leuschner in the final two tonight. Although Velasco's performance was good compared to last night's painful competitors, she will have to step it up a notch.



JOHN BREAM
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

Jesus Roman's version of Brian McKnight's "One" was just absolutely terrible – I had to cover my ears in embarrassment for him.

At least Camile Velasco didn't murder her McKnight song, "One Last Cry." It was definitely not her song, but she has a great voice and loads of potential.

Lisa Leuschner delivered a great performance of Mary J. Blige's "Sweet Thing." She finally gave the judges, and me, a reason to watch the show.



MICHELLE MCLEOD ☆☆
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Week two's contestants were just plain bad. Songs by the music industry's most popular singers, including Brian McKnight, Mary J. Blige and Norah Jones, were slaughtered. There's not much more I can say about tonight's performers. I'm just glad only two of them will move on to the next round.

In my opinion, 18-year-old Camile Velasco of Haiku, Maui and 21-year-old Lisa Leuschner of Watsonville, CA were both just okay, but still the best performers of the night and my predictions to move on to the next round.

☆ = Judges' prediction accuracy rating

Novel *from page A5*

"[Grapes] has made me much more humble about everyday pleasures we take for granted ... it really makes you appreciate things like a roof over your head, decent shoes and most of all, food," Pitt said.

American novelist, John Steinbeck was born in 1902. He earned his education at Stanford University where, among other things, he studied marine biology. He later moved to New York and then to California where he had an array of jobs from reporter to painter.

Steinbeck began writing in 1929, but his early novels went unnoticed by the public. However, by 1935 he had gained small recognition for *Tortilla Flat*. *In Dubious Battle* followedwith publication in 1936 and *Of Mice and Men* in 1937. Steinbeck's most recognizable and remembered novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, was published in 1939.

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

Event Info

The Grapes of Wrath

All shows at 8 p.m. except Sunday at 2 p.m.

Feb. 19 - 24

McGinnis Theater

Tickets are $10/$12 for general public, $8/$10 for senior citizens/students and $7/$8 for youth

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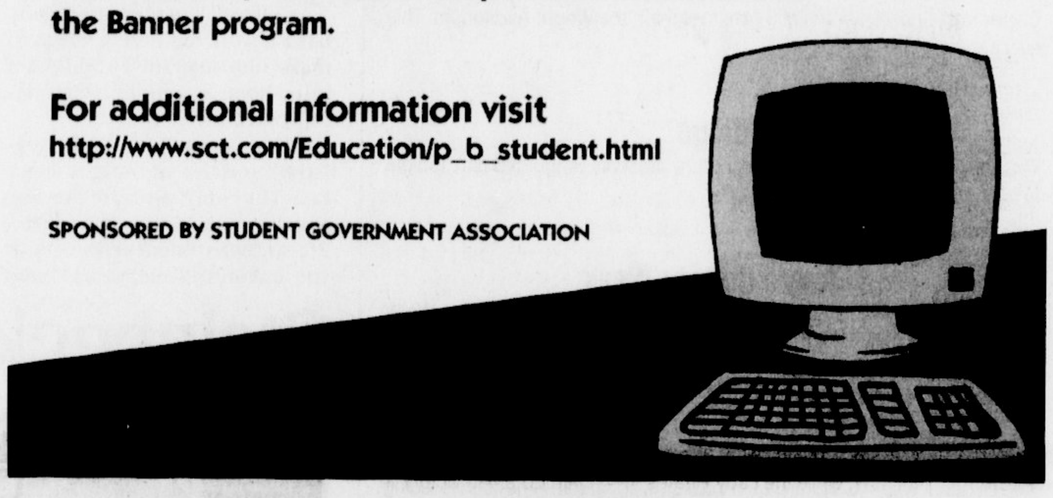
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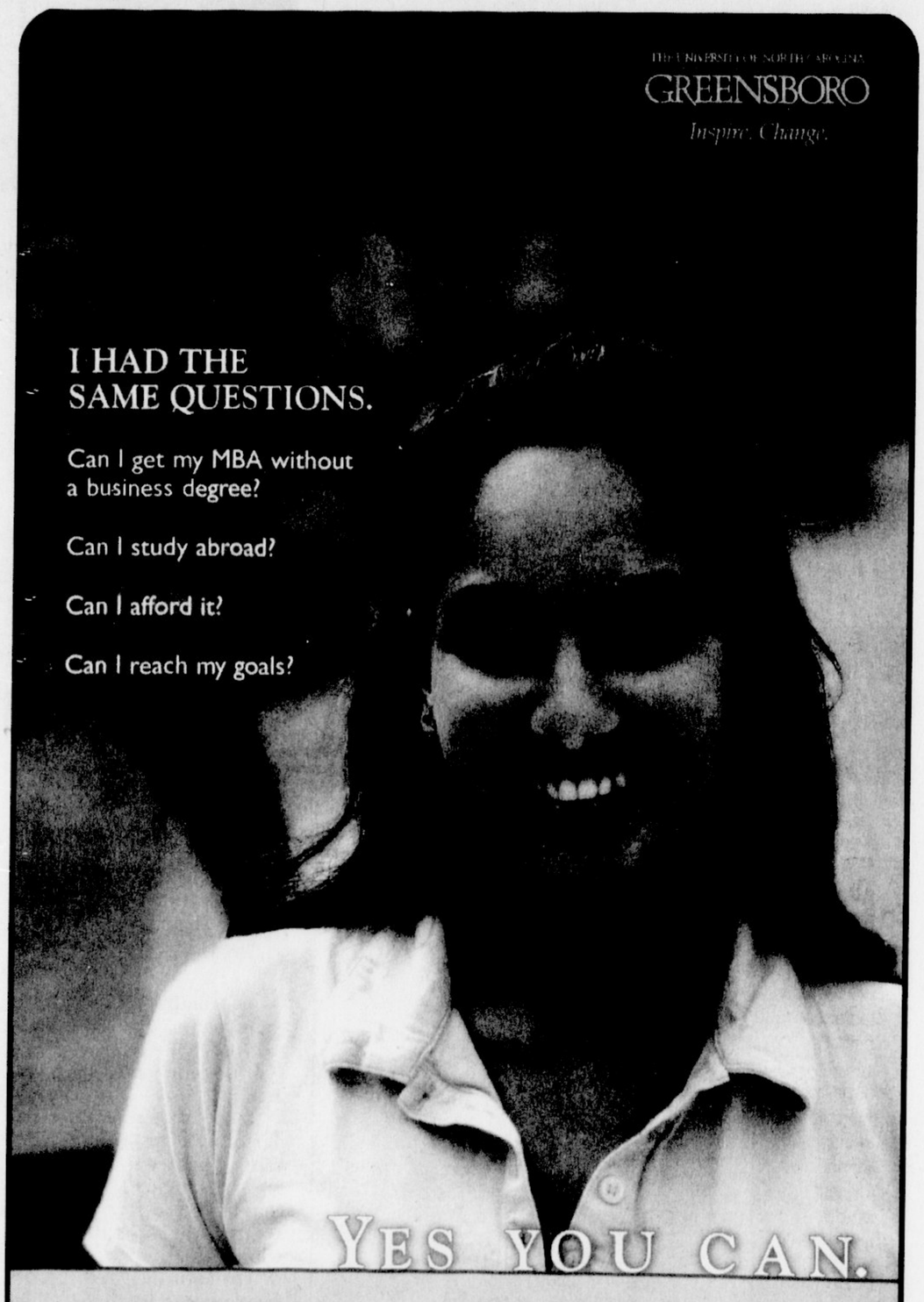
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- Students can view their financial aid awards, academic progress, student account information and track progress of their paperwork.
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SPORTS

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252.328.6366

Announcements

Smoke & Mirrors

Hollywood's Smoke and Mirrors, Fitness, Feb. 25; 5-6pm. Learn how the media manipulate images to fit an unreal ideal. You may not believe your eyes! This interactive program includes a short video and discussion on how to fight back and learn to recognize and respect our uniqueness.

Sports Briefs

Nichols named C-USA co-hitter of the Week

League officials announced on Monday that ECU junior Mandi Nichols had been named Conference USA Co-Hitter of the Week along with Audrey Rendon of Louisville. It was Nichols' first weekly honor of her career. Nichols went 3-for-5 with three RBIs, two runs and three walks to help the Pirates win over Virginia and Liberty at the Triangle Classic this past weekend. Nichols started the season opener against Virginia at third base and started the game against Liberty behind the plate. Nichols and her fellow Pirates will host the Hampton Inn/Pirate Classic this weekend with games played at both ECU and D.H. Conley High School. ECU opens play Friday morning on its home field against Delaware at 10 a.m.

Bunn named C-USA pitcher of the week

League officials announced on Monday that ECU junior right-handed pitcher Greg Bunn had been named Conference USA Pitcher of the Week. It was Bunn's first C-USA weekly honor of his career. In his first career start at ECU, Bunn registered the victory in dominating fashion on Saturday. The junior struck out eight batters, two shy of his career high, in only five innings in the Pirates' 8-0 win over UNC-Asheville. The right-hander walked just two batters and gave up only one hit. After giving up a single to the first batter he faced, Bunn retired 13 of the next 15 batters. Bunn served as ECU's closer the last two seasons and recorded nine saves in 2003. In his first two seasons for the Pirates, he posted 16 saves, which ranked him second all-time.

Tennis Teams Sweep Past South Carolina State

ECU's men ran their record to 4-0 while the women pulled out a close match as both squads posted wins at South Carolina State on Friday. The Pirate men won, 6-1, while the Lady Pirates (4-4) claimed a 4-3 victory. In a match closer than the final team score indicated, ECU's men took the doubles point by winning two of three. They then won five of the six singles matches. Three of the singles wins, however, went to third sets or tiebreakers. Nick Rose and Paulo Baumer won at flight two doubles, 8-5, while Mark Gellard and Felipe Fonseca won at flight three, 8-4.

Henderson Highlights Men's Track Day at BU

B.J. Henderson was one of three Pirates to meet the IC4A qualifying mark in the 400-meter run to highlight ECU's day at the FasTrack Invitational held Saturday at the Boston University Track and Tennis Center. Henderson turned in a season-best time of 48.22 to place fifth overall and first among all collegiate runners in the 400. He was followed closely by Darrus Cofield in seventh (48.27) and Michael Hillian in 13th (48.55). All three times qualified the runners for spots in the IC4A Championships in March; Cofield had already met his mark in a previous meet. Other performers for ECU in the meet were DeAndre Hyman, who was 13th in the 200 meters (22.04), and Ronnie Pollard, who was 12th in the 500 meters at 1:05.0 and ran an 8.03 in the 55-meter hurdles.

Panthers' Donnalley ends 13-year NFL career

Carolina Panthers offensive guard Kevin Donnalley retired Monday after 13 seasons, ending his career with a Super Bowl appearance. Donnalley went to high school in Raleigh and college at North Carolina. He began his pro career in Houston in 1991 and played six years with the Oilers before moving with the franchise to Tennessee in 1997. He also played for Miami. He signed with his homestate Panthers three years ago and immediately helped overhaul the team's once-porous offensive line. This season, the Panthers' line helped Stephen Davis run for a career-best 1,444 yards while setting franchise records for team rushing (2,091 yards) and fewest sacks allowed (26).

Nets sign Davis for rest of season

The New Jersey Nets signed guard Hubert Davis for the remainder of the season Monday. Davis originally signed a 10-day contract Jan. 26 and agreed to a second 10-day contract on Feb. 5. He has played for New York, Toronto, Dallas, Washington and Detroit in his 11-year career.

AP Men's Basketball Top 25

Rank	Record	Previous Rank
1. Stanford	21-0	2
2. Saint Joseph's	22-0	3
3. Duke	21-2	1
4. Mississippi St.	21-1	6
5. Pittsburgh	23-2	4
6. Gonzaga	21-2	7
7. Oklahoma St.	19-2	10
8. Connecticut	19-5	5
9. Kentucky	17-4	8
10. Louisville	17-4	9
11. Texas	17-4	11
12. Wisconsin	17-4	17
13. N.C. State	16-5	21
14. Arizona	16-6	16
15. Wake Forest	15-6	20
16. North Carolina	15-7	14
17. Cincinnati	17-4	13
18. Georgia Tech	18-6	15
19. Providence	17-5	24
20. S. Illinois	20-2	23
21. Kansas	15-6	12
22. Texas Tech	18-6	18
23. Memphis	18-4	NR
24. LSU	17-4	NR
25. South Carolina	20-5	25

Others receiving votes: Syracuse 194, Utah St. 117, Air Force 94, Illinois 87, Oklahoma 59, Florida 57, Dayton 40, Seton Hall 40, Charlotte 26, Kent St. 26, W. Michigan 25, Michigan St. 14, Boston U. 8, Maryland 6, Nevada 6, DePaul 1, ETSU 1, Hawaii 1,

Baseball team readies for two in-state rivals

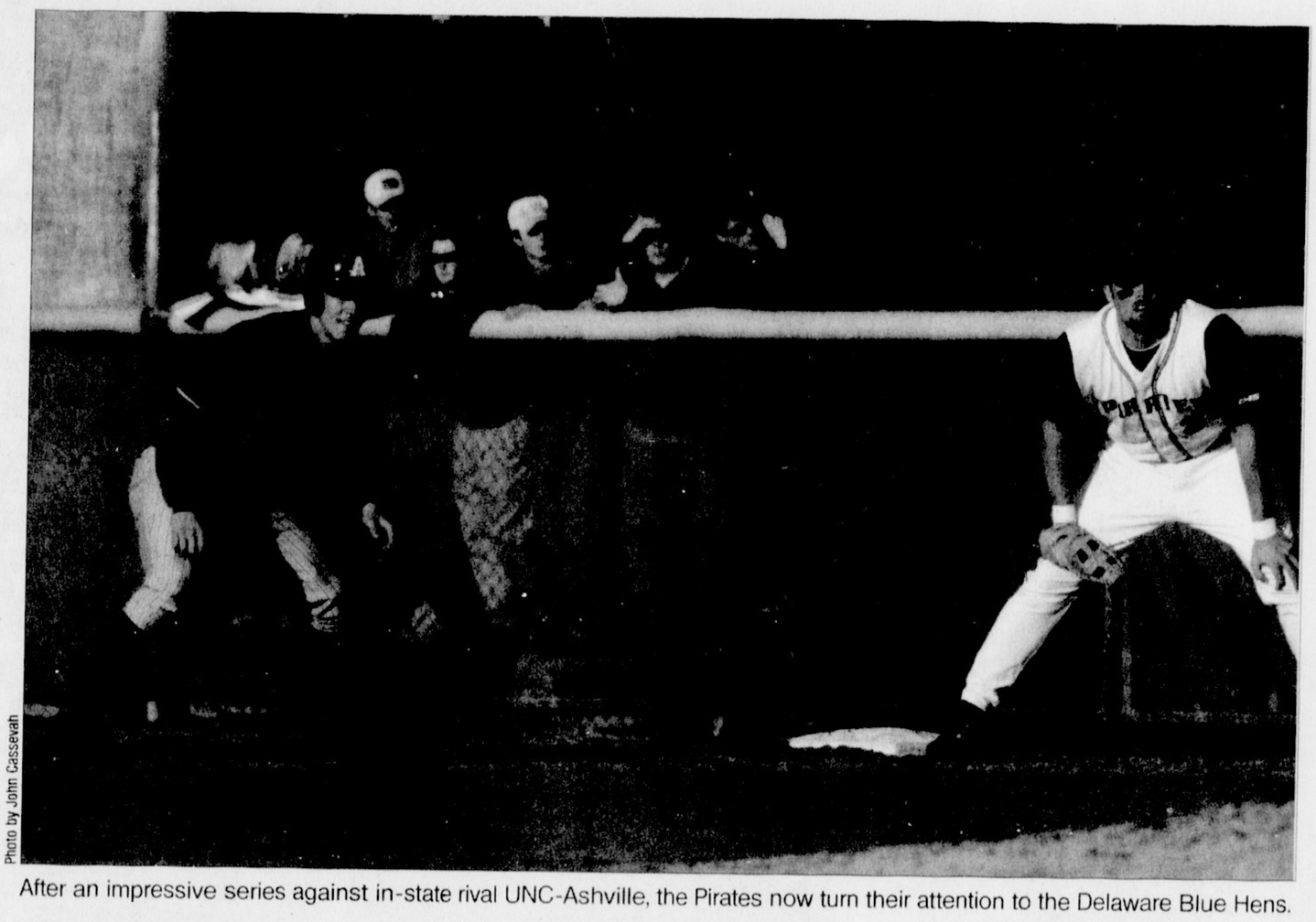


Photo by John Cassevah

After an impressive series against in-state rival UNC-Ashville, the Pirates now turn their attention to the Delaware Blue Hens.

ECU will host Delaware in a three game series

ROBERT LEONARD
STAFF WRITER

The Pirate baseball team is ready to add more wins as it prepares to take on Campbell today at 3 p.m. and Delaware this weekend at Harrington Field.

The Delaware Blue Hens will arrive in Greenville with an 0-1 record. Their first loss, 12-7 at Coastal Carolina, was supposed to be the first of the three game series, but the second and third games were cancelled due to rain.

If there is any edge in momentum, it will go the way of the Pirates. ECU started the season with a 4-1 win last Friday night against UNC-Asheville. Sophomore Mike Minicozzi was the star of the game, going 2-3 at the plate. His eighth inning 2-run homer gave ECU their three-run lead as Carter Harrell picked up the save.

The Pirates didn't stop there, capping off their performance with two more wins on Saturday, collecting 8-0 and 6-2 victories over UNC-Asheville as well.

This weekend will be the second series between the two schools . Last season, the Blue Hens traveled south to Greenville for a weekend series. In those games, ECU swept the series rather easily, winning 7-5, 12-0 and 14-3.

The Pirates will be led by outfielder Darryl Lawhorn. Lawhorn was named a preseason All-American after he hit .332 with 14 homeruns and 49 RBI's last season as a sophomore.

The team is also excited to have Lee Allen, a transfer third and first basemen from College of Charleston, where he hit .361 as a freshman

The first pitch of the series will be thrown at 3 p.m. on Friday at Harrington field.

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

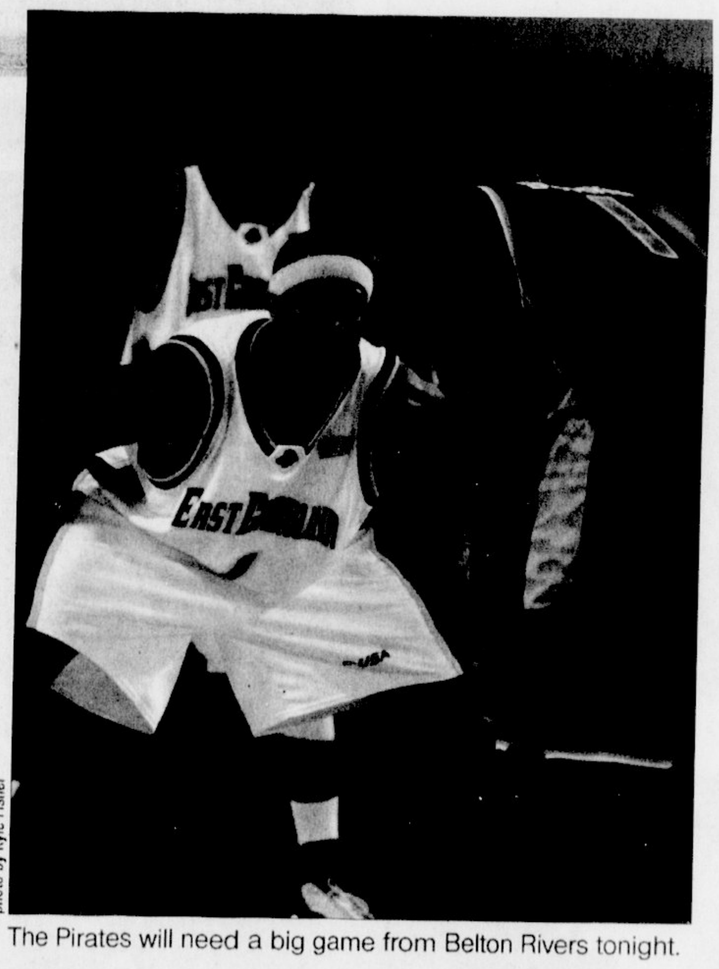


photo by Kyle Fisher

The Pirates will need a big game from Belton Rivers tonight.

Pirates prepare for victory against Green Wave tonight

Tulane has won three straight games

BRANDON HUGHES
SENIOR WRITER

The Pirates are coming off a heartbreaking loss to UAB and look to rebound and finish the season on a strong note starting with the Tulane Green Wave. Tulane is riding a three-game winning streak including a 67-66 win over TCU.

Tulane vs. TCU Recap

In a battle of Conference USA cellar dwellers, Tulane pulled out a huge win at home in the final seconds against the Horned Frogs. Sophomore forward Vytas Tatarunas hit the game-winner with 5.7 seconds left to give the Green Wave a one-point victory.

Tulane trailed much of the game, once by as many as 16 points, and by nine at halftime. The Green Wave battled back in the second half before TCU's Marcus Shropshire hit a clutch three-pointer with 35 seconds remaining for a 66-65 lead.

On the next possession, Tatarunas' three-point attempt missed, but the ball was knocked out of bounds by TCU. Freshman Dan Fitzgerald then found Tatarunas and this time the 6-foot-7-inch forward converted a hook shot to reclaim the lead.

The Horned Frogs had one last opportunity, but Shropshire's 16-footer bounced harmlessly off the rim and Tulane moved to 10-11 overall and 3-7 in C-USA.

Quincy Davis led Tulane with 14 points and nine rebounds and three others scored in double figures. Corey Santee scored a game-high 19 points for TCU.

Last Meeting

The Pirates last faced Tulane a little more than a year ago on Feb. 1, 2003 as the Green Wave pulled out a 67-56 win in New Orleans.

The Green Wave outplayed the Pirates in the first half on their way to a 40-26 advantage early in the second half. ECU finally went on the offensive. The Pirates went on a 7-0 run with 15:15 left, but Tulane quickly responded and pushed the margin back to 14 points.

The Pirates did go on a late run and pulled to within seven once again after a Travis Holcomb-Faye three-pointer. However, the rally fell short as

see **BASKETBALL** *page A8*

ECU pushing toward C-USA tournament

Pirates are in crucial part of season

ROBERT LEONARD
STAFF WRITER

Gabriel Mikulas missing the season due to a broken arm and close losses are two stories that dominated the men's basketball team this year.

Five out of the last seven losses have come by less than six points.

The skid started with a 55-53 loss at Houston. After two embarrassing losses to St. Louis and Cincinnati, the Pirates suffered a close loss in Minges against DePaul 65-70.

A six-point loss to Memphis and a road loss to UAB by three left the team at 9-12 overall and 1-10 in the conference.

Because of the magic of collegiate basketball, anyone can get in the NCAA tournament. All you have to do is win your conference tournament. Just getting to the conference tournament may be the true challenge for this team.

Conference USA only invites 12 teams to its annual tournament, leaving two teams to dream about next season. ECU felt this pain last year and it looked like this year the tournament would be a sure thing. However, those close losses have ECU sitting at the bottom of the conference.

The remaining five games come against teams that are down in the basement with ECU. Tonight, ECU will host Tulane. Tulane has three conference wins. After that, TCU comes into town.

TCU is not a great team, but they have five conference wins. After a week off, the South Florida Bulls travel to Greenville.

At this point, they have only one win. An ECU win will seal a spot in the conference tournament.

ECU's only conference win came at South Florida earlier this year.

After these games, ECU finishes at Southern Miss and at Marquette. Southern Miss has been a surprise this year, winning four games in the conference. Marquette has also been a surprise, but on the other end of the spectrum. After a Final Four trip, Marquette only has four conference wins this year.

Come out to Minges tonight and cheer on the Pirates, they really need a great crowd.

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

Special ticket promotions announced for Tulane game

A variety of ticket promotions and packages have been announced for East Carolina's upcoming men's basketball game against Tulane.

The Pirates will face the Green Wave in a Conference USA matchup on Wednesday, Feb. 18. Tipoff at Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum is set for 7 p.m.

The game has been designated as ECU Faculty and Staff Appreciation Night. All ECU faculty and staff may purchase $5 tickets for themselves and immediate family members. A valid staff ID must be presented at the ECU Ticket Office for this special purchase.

Student Appreciation Night will also be observed. ECU students, with a valid ID, can purchase guest tickets for $5. In addition, students should hold onto their ticket stubs as three students will be selected to participate in a halftime promotion. Wednesday night's winner receives a free T-shirt and large pizza and will be entered into a grand prize promotion at the ECU-South Florida game on Feb. 28. There, he/she will have a chance to win two free round-trip airline tickets for spring break. For more information on this promotion, contact ECU Sports Marketing at 328-4530.

A special corporate discount is being offered for Wednesday night's game. Any company or business wishing to bring their employees may purchase 25 tickets for $100. Additional tickets over 25 will be just $4 each.

Finally, the game is part of a baseball/basketball doubleheader day at ECU. Fans wishing to see both the Pirate basketball game and ECU's baseball game at 3 p.m. against Campbell may purchase a special doubleheader ticket for $10.

Basketball *from page A7*

the Green Wave calmly hit their free-throws to doom any hope of ECU's first C-USA road win.

Brandon Spann scored 20 points for Tulane and Waitari Marsh scored 19 points to go along with eight rebounds. Tulane shot just 42.3 percent, but held ECU to an even worse night as the Pirates hit just 37.7 percent of their attempts.

Players to Watch

Tulane is well balanced with a good blend of experience and youth. The Green Wave may be one of the deepest teams in C-USA as 11 players average more than 10 minutes of action per game.

The trio of Quincy Davis, Wayne Tinsley and Vytautas Tatarunas are the top three scorers and rebounders on the Green Wave squad.

Davis is a 6-foot-9-inch sophomore who leads the team in scoring and field goal percentage with 10.8 points per game and shooting 54 percent from the field.

Tinsley is a complete player. This senior can get it done outside and inside and is also a great distributor. Tinsley is second on the team in scoring and rebounding and first in assists with 3.6 per game. The senior guard showed his versatility in the last match-up with ECU as he tallied 15 points, eight rebounds and five assists.

Tatarunas has done much more than just hitting the game-winner against TCU; the sophomore forward is third in scoring with 10.3 points per game and leads the team with 7.3 boards a contest.

Key to the game

Control the Tempo: Tulane is a team that loves to slow the game down and work it down through the paint. The Green Wave average 65.9 points per game. If ECU can capitalize on the transition game, the Pirates may be on their way to a second C-USA win.

Pirate Trio

ECU has had several players step up and have big games in the past month, but it has only been one or two guys who have really lit up the scoreboard. Last game, it was Belton Rivers with 26 points. The Pirates really need a team effort or at least more than two players handling the scoring load.

Derrick Wiley leads the team in scoring with 14.3 points per game, but has had to shoot the ball often to get his average as of late. Wiley is only 15-of-64 (23.4 percent) from the floor in his last five games, and his field goal percentage has fallen to around 40 percent for the season. He needs to convert on his opportunities and improve on his shooting to give ECU a good chance to win.

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

Tiny school becoming big story

PHILADELPHIA (KRT)— On Friday, six guys and two gals played 4-on-4 at the Saint Joseph's Field House. Since this was Philadelphia, they were setting staggered picks for each other.

Underneath the stands, Phil Martelli sat in his office remembering the high school game he saw in 1999 - Chester vs. Pennsbury - and the night he knew Jameer Nelson would be his point guard. The "point" was merely a descriptive term. Nelson, a junior at Chester, didn't score one.

"I just sat there and said, this kid knows how to play," said Martelli.

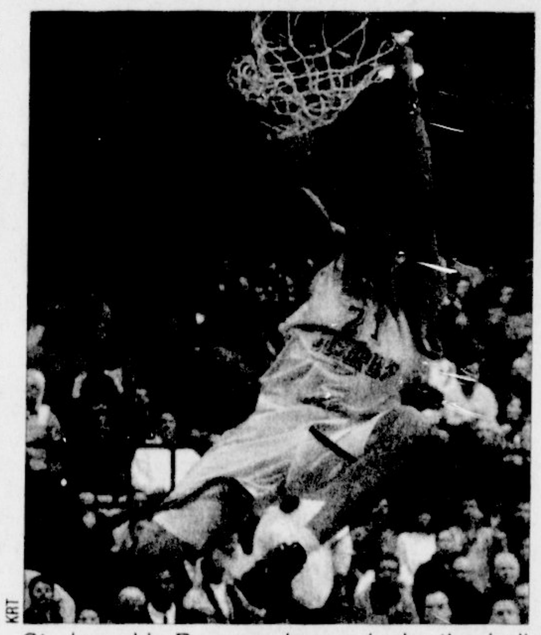
"He was playing a different game. He was on one level and everybody else was on another. I was amazed - and then I started looking around to see if there were other coaches around.

"Jameer understood that he was a point guard. Nowadays, people have turned that into 'the guard who scores.' Jameer knew exactly who he was."

Practice would begin in a few hours, and the noontime pickup game would stop, but the pickup players could stay around if they wished. Practices are open at Saint Joe's. When the phone rings on the coach's desk, he answers it. When the students see him, they tell him, hey, great game last night.

At Duke, Mike Krzyzewski's office is on a floor where the elevator won't go, unless you have a special key. At most big Division I basketball foundries, the coach is a mythic presence, more inaccessible than the school president. Martelli, Nelson and Saint Joseph's are in those clouds today - No. 3 in the polls and winners of their first 20 games. This might or might not continue, but they know exactly who they are.

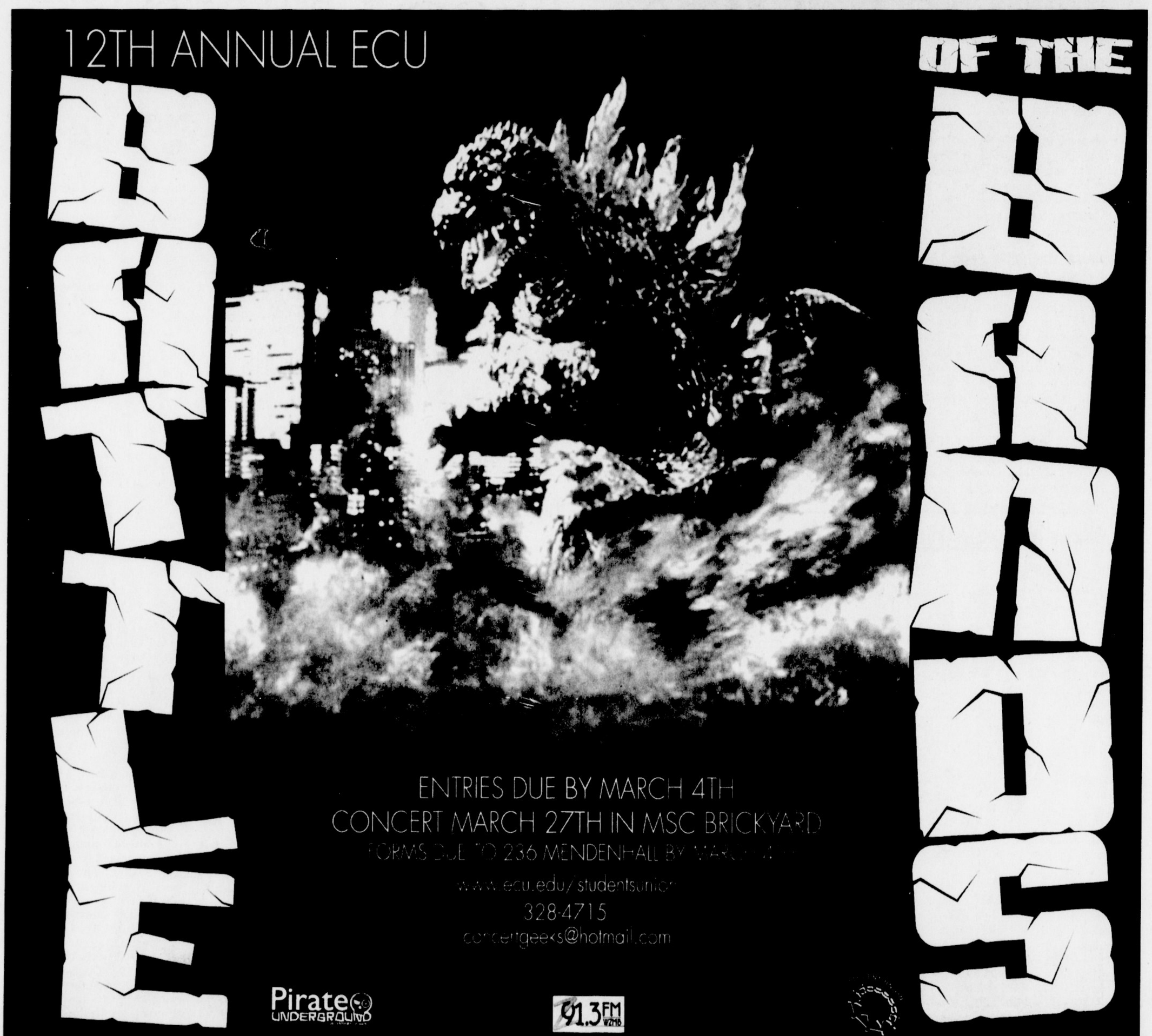
There are only 3,750 undergraduate students. Usually, the Hawks are trying to earn elbow room in Philadelphia's Big 5. They aren't rich kids, like Villanova's, and they aren't think-tank candidates like Penn's. Their campus takes up a couple of blocks on the south side of City Line Avenue, the jammed four-lane road that defines the boundary of Philadelphia. The Hawk, who flaps constantly during games, often has a chip on his wing. The adjustment this season is not campaigning for respect but handling a national wave of it.



KRT

St. Joseph's Dwayne Jones dunks the ball during the Hawks' victory over Dayton.





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Responsible person needed to watch 5 month old on Mondays from 7:00am to 3:30pm. Nursing, Education, Child Development majors preferred. Please call 355-6680 between 3:30 and 9:00pm or email ladypahe@cox.net.

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PERSONALS

The Card Post (...where every voice counts!) Report #316 Olivia's V-Day in the Land of Wuv (part 1) "I love you" said he. "Singular or plural?" asked she "We wuvvvv you" said he. "Oui! Oui" said she. TKD

Report #355 OV-DLW (part 2) Reba...not a hussie to be hussied by her best girl friend said "you can pet Bubber's dog Budgie...though not Bubber." Look 'n er in the eye 'n not missing a stroke on Budgie's coat...Olivia replied "One in the same". To which Reba exclaimed "you tickle me girl!" The next day... afta tickling Bubber down to Budgie's delight... & as one began to pluck the grey from Bubber's sideburns... the other whispered in his ear §"If you be keep 'n with us 'n our friends... you won't see anymore of these no time toooo soon!" TKD

P.S. OV-DLW's part 1-5 seek to address & resolve the dilemma in Olivia Newton John's 'Loving Both of You')

Other

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Come join us for the February 20 contra dance! Live, old-time music by a string band. Potluck dinner, 6 pm;.concert 7pm; lesson 7:30 pm; dance: 8 pm-10:30 pm. Band: Bill & Libby Hicks; Caller: Chris Mohr. No experience needed; we'll teach you as we go along! Come alone or bring a friend! $3 (students) $5 (FASG members) $8 (general). Co-sponsors: ECU Folk and Country Dancers (752-7350) and Fold Arts Society of Greenville (795-4980). An alcohol and smoke-free event. www.geocities.com/ecufolkandcountrydancers/ Location: Willis Bldg., 1st & Reade sts., downtown.

Volunteers Needed: Dr. Robert Hickner, PhD & the Human Performance Lab at ECU are looking for research volunteers to examine muscle blood flow in aging and how it is affected by exercise training. Who? Men & Women 18-40 yrs. and 60-75 yrs., no major health problems, non-smokers. When? Involvement will require scheduled days of participation over a 2 month time period. Appointment days/ times are somewhat flexible. What? Test procedures will involve: body composition measurements, exercise sessions, blood flow measurement. Compensation of up to $500.00 will be provided for those who complete the entire project. For further info, please contact Hannah Carrithers at 744-5104 or email carrithersm@mail.ecu.edu

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- of grumpy personnel
- of unfulfilled promises
- of units that were not cleaned
- of walls that were never painted
- of appliances that don't work

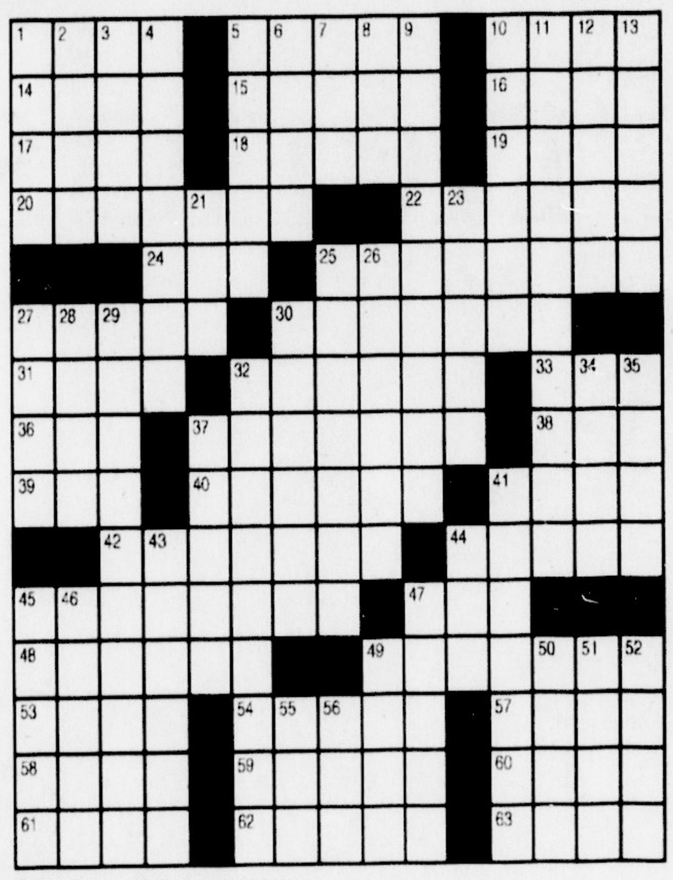
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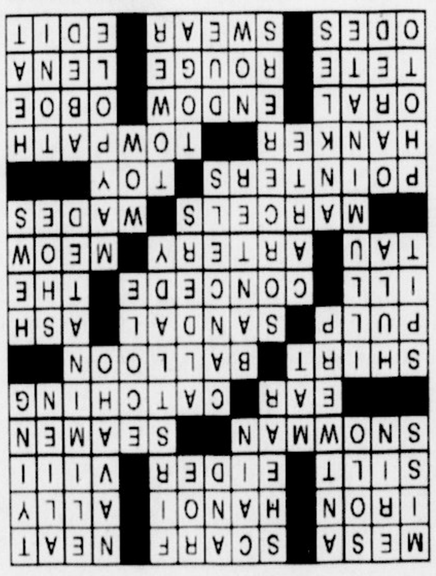


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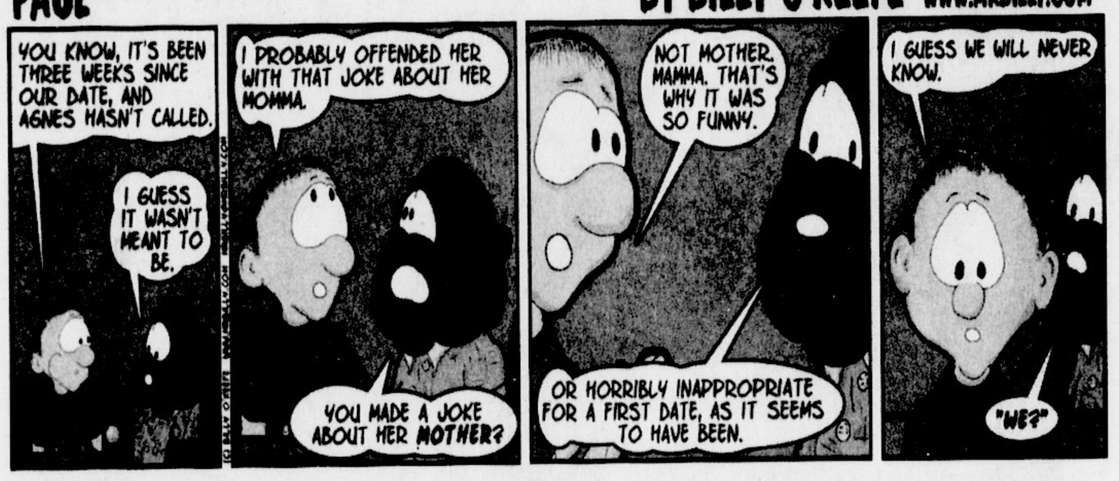
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22 Mariners
24 Corn serving
25 Contagious
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30 Birthday party popper
31 Tarantino film, "__ Fiction"
32 Open shoe
33 Silver-gray color
36 Not well
37 Yield
38 Definite article
39 Greek letter
40 Blood conduit
41 Kittenish comment
42 Marceau and Duchamp
44 Walks in water
45 Tips
47 Plaything
48 Long for
49 Boat-puller's route
53 __ Roberts University
54 Equip with natural gifts
57 Woodwind
58 Head of France
59 Blusher
60 Home of "Cabin in the Sky"
61 Lyric poems
62 Use profanity
63 Splice film

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5 Cut sheep's wool
6 Biblical slayer
7 Common conjunction
8 Fish eggs
9 White House VIP
10 Southwestern tribe member
11 Got rid of
12 Foreigner
13 Binding
21 Table protector
23 Parisian school
25 Annuls
26 Birch relatives
27 Roasting rod
28 Hawaiian dance
29 Light up
30 Good-humored ridicule
32 Wizards
34 Oxford or wingtip
35 Chops
37 __ blanche
41 Decorated centerpiece for 5/1
43 Low joints
44 Holy cow!
45 Finish record
46 Rowed
47 Eiffel, for one
49 Forum wear
50 Not up yet
51 Author Morrison
52 Cops, to criminals
55 At this time
56 Immediately owed

Solutions



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HOUSING GUIDE 2004

THE EAST CAROLINIAN tec

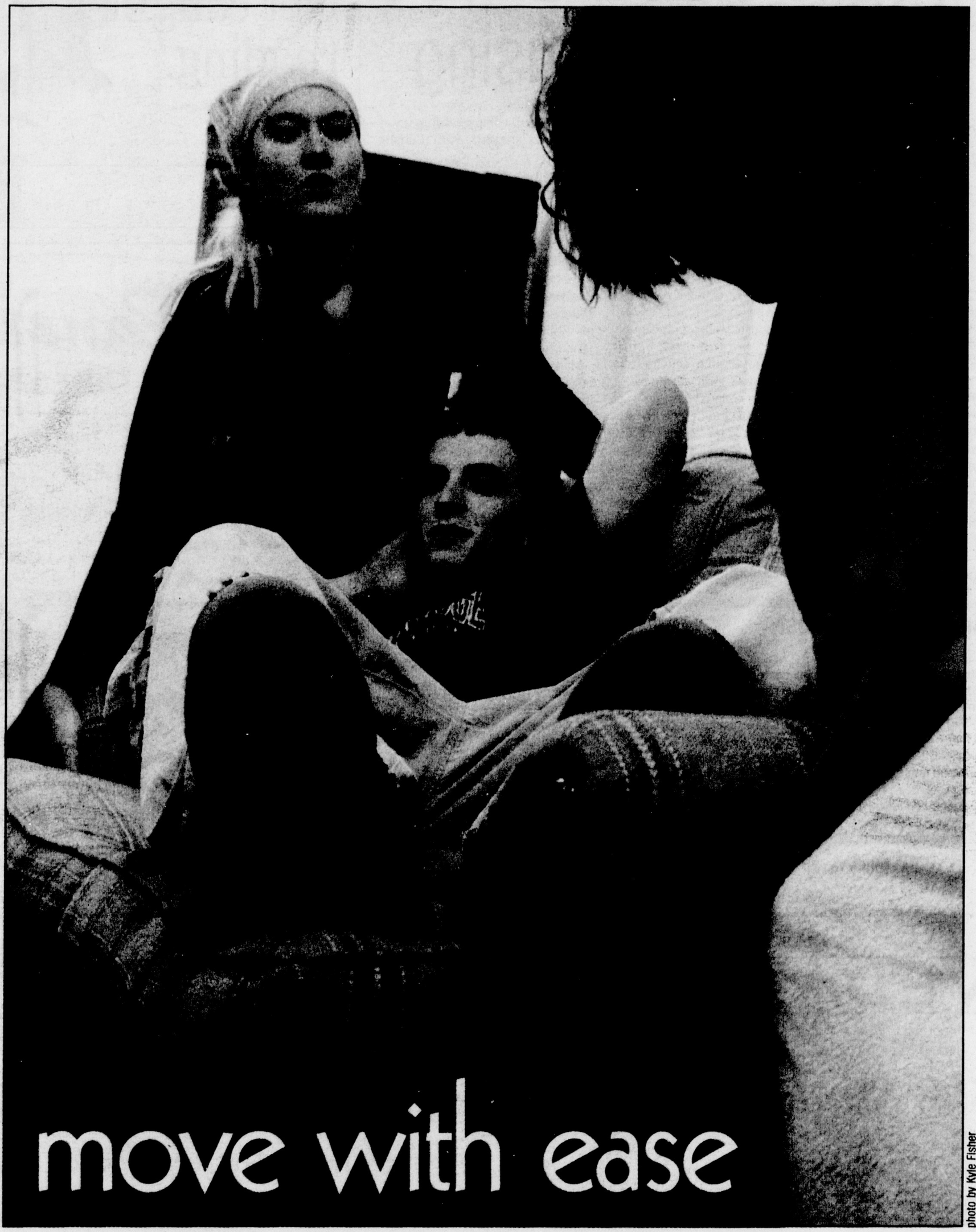


photo by Kyle Fisher

Pros, cons of on-campus vs. off-campus housing

Research is key factor to ideal living environment

TABATHA JAMES
STAFF WRITER

For many students, choosing whether they should live on-campus or off-campus is a major decision that requires a little research.

Students need to evaluate their options and weigh the pros and cons of their financial and personal needs.

"I'd say [living off-campus] is cheaper because when you live on-campus you have to buy a meal plan and buy groceries, and at the end of the semester what you don't spend [balance on meal card] at ECU, they take from you anyway," said Emily Keller, sophomore elementary education major.

For students who are thinking about moving off-campus, price as well as privacy are important factors to consider.

"Here at Pirate's Cove each individual gets their own private bedroom and bathroom, along with fully furnished apartments that helps parents and tenants from having to buy furniture," said Kelly Powers, Pirate's Cove assistant manager.

"The price is extremely comparable to living in the dorms."

Powers added, students on-campus are more involved with other students and campus activities, so they may have a social advantage.

However, certain aspects of dorm life can interfere with students' study and sleep habits.

"Living off-campus is much quieter for me, and I'm also thankful for more privacy," said Kenzie Hood, sophomore special education major.

Many students said moving into a dorm after high school brings back the sense of companionship most off-campus students don't initially receive.

"I've lived on-campus for three years, and I have three more to go. You can't beat it ... I'll live here until I graduate," said Stephon Darwald, junior economics major.

"Those late nights when you need to make a run to The Spot, or join your friends in on some fun at Mendenhall, or even hit the library, it's all here at your fingertips. Don't take it for granted."

Many students enjoy the freedom of their own house or apartment but find it takes a little more responsibility.

"Students living off-campus are forced to be more responsible because it takes a little more effort to keep yourself in line," Hood said.

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

Annual College Cost

Living on-campus
Room and board: $5,390
Living at home commuting
Room and board: $2,586
Not living at home and commuting
Room and board: $5,446
In-state tuition and fees:
$3,051
Out-of-state tuition and fees: $13,190
Books and supplies: $750
Estimated personal expenses: $1,360
Transportation expense: $680

On-campus pros
Major networking opportunities.
Closer to classes, activities
Food, library, computer labs at convenient locations
Studies show students that live on campus have higher grades

On-campus cons
Less privacy than an apartment
Some dorms close during summer
More supervision, less freedom

Off-campus pros
Freedom, independence
Your own bedroom and bathroom
Maintenance will still fix those little problems
A chance to learn how to manage money

Off-campus cons
Waking up an hour early to catch the bus or find a parking space
Tenants must learn responsibility

Get caught reading.



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LISA TUMBARELLO
STAFF WRITER

When deciding to rent an apartment or house, your credit history can play a large part in whether you land the place of your dreams. By learning what credit is and how it works, you prevent being denied on rental applications.

Building a good credit history needs to be learned early. However, without attaining the proper knowledge of how credit works, credit cards can damage your future.

The minute students step onto campus, they're inundated with credit card offers. It's hard to resist the free T-shirt or phone card that comes with signing up for a low-interest, no annual fee, $500-limit credit card. These cards are designed for college students.

Some say credit cards aren't meant to be in students' hands because they get them into financial trouble and ruin their credit history.

"Credit cards are the devil," said Melissa Britt, sophomore undecided major.

However, others debate that these cards, aimed at students, are a great way to learn money management skills and aid in building good credit history.

Good credit is determined by your credit history.

Credit history, also called a credit report/record, is vital to financial and personal success.

Good credit history is vital to some of the most important purchases in your life, such as buying your first car or house.

A credit report is like a resume of your financial success and failures over several years. All of your financial performances (applications for credit, late payments, non-payments, loans, etc.) are documented and kept in a database.

Prospective lenders, landlords, future employers, car dealerships, loan officers, mortgage officers, banks, insurance companies, government agencies and insurers may look into your financial past to determine if you're a desirable candidate.

Students can start building credit as soon as they can apply for a credit card. If you have a parent co-sign on a card with you, you're still building credit. Many students wait until college to apply for their first card. Studies show 78 percent of undergraduate students own at least one credit card.

First Service Financial Group, a consulting firm in Baltimore, Md., recommends students start small and work their way up by proving they're responsible with credit. They suggest students get a store or gas credit card and concentrate on making timely payments before moving on to companies with larger lines of credit and more buying options.



Photos.com

Managing credit is an important factor in off-campus living.

There are four golden rules to building good credit and emerging from college credit debt-free.

Rule 1: Always pay your bill on time. Paying your bill, even one day late, will result in late fees – often about $25. Your payment must reach the company before the day it's due. They suggest mailing it at least five days before the payment is due. In addition to the late fee, your record gets tagged. When future creditors look at your record they will see you have problems paying on time and they may deny you.

SECRET TIP: If you have accidentally acquired a late fee, call your credit card company. Tell them that you didn't receive that statement and offer to pay the

see **CREDIT** *page 7*



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Sample roommate contract

Each tenant within a rental unit has certain rights which should not be abridged by a roommate. As roommates we fully understand these rights, and the responsibilities of a shared living environment and agree to live together, for better or for worse, until the rental period ends.

When you have roommates, everybody should sign the lease. Remember that the lease is a binding contract. If the term of the lease is for one year, you are bound to its terms for one year.

To cover other issues and concerns about living together, roommates should sign a contract like the one below to reach basic agreements and avoid confrontation.

As a roommate, I agree:

1. To let my roommate read and study in quietness, and to not make any noise or other disturbances considered by that roommate to be a distraction.
2. To let my roommate sleep in quietness, and to make noises or engage in other disturbances that interrupt sleep.
3. To clean up after myself in the kitchen. bathroom, bedroom, or in any other room that I have created a mess.
4. To respect my roommate's personal belongings by not moving or touching them without permission.
5. To control the visitations of my guests so they do not interfere with my roommate's right to personal privacy and quietness.
6. To pay my share of the rent to the landlord per the rental contract I agreed to.
7. To pay my share of the food, telephone, utilities, and other financial obligations that my roommates and I discussed.
8. To not borrow money, car, or other personal property from my roommate unless it was offered.
9. To perform my share of cleaning (other than #3), cooking, and maintenance.
10. To openly and objectively discuss any problems and concerns that we have and attempt to negotiate a written settlement, if necessary.
11. To settle all unresolvable disputes by seeking a mediator.

Other negotiable roommate concerns:

All roommates should fill out the following information completely.

Signed _____ Date _____

I agree to pay _____ per_____ for rent

I agree to pay _____ per_____ for utilities

I agree to pay _____ per_____ for other expenses

Cleaning schedule:

Checklist of things to look for when searching for an apartment

IN GENERAL	YES	NO
Are there secure locks on the doors and windows?	—	—
Do the windows and doors shut properly?	—	—
Do the fridge and stove work?	—	—
Are you able to control the heat?	—	—
Are the sinks and taps in good condition?	—	—
Does the shower and tub work?	—	—
Do the lights and electrical outlets work?	—	—
Do the telephone and cable outlets work?	—	—
Are their cracks or holes in the walls and ceilings?	—	—
Are the walls soundproof?	—	—
Is there a smoke detector?	—	—
Is there any sign of bugs/pests?	—	—
Is the place clean?	—	—

Notes:

IN THE BUILDING	YES	NO
Are there fire exits?	—	—
Are there fire alarms/fire extinguishers?	—	—
Is there good lighting in hallways and outside?	—	—
Is there a lock on the main entrance?	—	—
Are the common areas and the outside kept clean?	—	—
Do the washer(s) and dryer(s) work?	—	—
Is the garbage area kept clean?	—	—

Notes:

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD	YES	NO
Is it near a bus route?	—	—
Is it near your school or work?	—	—
Is there a grocery store nearby?	—	—
Is it near services (day care, community, health centers)?	—	—
Are there parks and play areas nearby?	—	—
Do you like the neighborhood?	—	—

Notes:

TEC classifieds.

Examining all-inclusive apartments

Extra costs may be worth moving off-campus

ZACK HILL
STAFF WRITER

Most freshmen spend their first year at ECU living on campus. But many students tire of the communal atmosphere of the dorms and seek residence off-campus.

One feature attracting students to on-campus living is the convenience of having their room, cable, internet, water, sewage and electrical bills all included in one bulk payment.

Several apartment complexes off-campus offer all-inclusive units that include water and power in the monthly rent. Some also include cable and Internet in the bill. The complexes claim students not only save time and trouble in not having to write separate checks for each service, but that students save money in the long run by consolidating their payments.

One of these complexes is Sterling University Manor, located on East 10th Street. Sterling offers three and four bedroom apartments. The monthly bill at Sterling includes high speed Ethernet, water, sewage and trash pickup. The services not included at Sterling are electricity, phone and cable.

All apartments include a microwave, dishwasher and range. Sterling offers furnished apartments for $20 extra a month per person. Students also have access to a swimming pool, computer center, fitness center, hot tub, basketball court and game room.

"Privacy is king," said Kyle Greer, sophomore drama major and employee at Sterling University Manor.

"You have to be comfortable in your surroundings, and you can't do that in the dorms when you have to share a bathroom with eight people."

Matt Taylor, sophomore nursing major, said he picked Sterling because of their promotional deals last year.

"They had the best prices out of anybody," said Taylor.

The least expensive unit at Sterling costs $305 per month per person and the most expensive unit is $375.

Another all-inclusive apartment complex in Greenville is Pirate's Cove, also located on East 10th Street.

Pirate's Cove offers fully furnished, four bedroom apartments.

The monthly rent at Pirate's Cove includes electricity, water, sewage, cable and high-speed Internet. All units are equipped with a washer and dryer, dishwasher, refrigerator and microwave.

Additional amenities at Pirate's Cove include two swimming pools, fitness center, game room, basketball, tennis, beach volleyball courts and tanning beds.

"What makes us different is that with all the others, you still have some type of bill ... but not here," said Chad Broadwell, employee at Pirate's Cove.

"Pirate's Cove is designed for students, with everything they need," Broadwell said.

The rent at Pirate's Cove is $375 per month per person. But even though it's all-inclusive, each unit is only allotted $160 per month for utilities. If that amount is exceeded, the tenants must pay the difference.

"I'm a three year veteran here, and we've only gone over once, and that wasn't by that much," Sloan said.

Both of the complexes offer deals that include many or all of the amenities found with on-campus living.

But are all-inclusive apartments cheaper than the dorms?

The least expensive dormitory for the 2004-05 academic year is set at $2,750 per year and the most expensive is $3,690 per year.

Students move in during August, and final exams wrap up in May, so students reside there for about 10 months per year.

The average cost per month for the less expensive dorms would be $275 per month and the more expensive would be $369 per month, which makes the dorms cheaper than the apartments.

But to many, the difference in price is more than made up for by the privacy and space.

"The bottom line is, in the dorms, you can never really get away from everyone," Sloan said.

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

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Furnishing your apartment, house

Ideas for decorating on a tight budget

LAURA PEKAREK
STAFF WRITER

You've just moved into your new apartment and besides paying for the monthly rent and bills, furnishing your new home is a priority.

Putting together your perfect living space on a small budget may seem impossible, but it can be done. It just takes a little imagination to create a look that represents your unique style.

Decorating on a budget begins with organization. Make a list of items you absolutely need, such as a bed or a kitchen table. If you need help getting ideas, housing supply stores like Linens 'N Things offer a detailed checklist of the essentials to help get you started.

When shopping, compare prices between stores, and look for sales before making any quick purchases.

Sharing expenses with a roommate can also relieve the burden of spending so much money on furniture sets.

"I plan on having a roommate when I get an apartment, that way we can split the expenses for furniture, and we can have furniture we both like. At the same time, after splitting the cost we'll be able to spend the money we saved on other decorations and necessities for our place," said Caitlin Hayes, freshman business major.

A fully furnished apartment is another option. Even though the cost to live in these apartments would typically be higher per month, you wouldn't have to worry about spending money on furniture. That cost is already included.

"Moving into a fully furnished apartment saved me a lot of money in the long run. Besides that, it helped me save time and the hassle of having to move furniture," said Brandon Ikard, senior information technology major.

Gift registry is another alternative. You can register your checklist at any store. This is a helpful way to let people know what you really need.

Cheap places to look include local thrift stores, classified ads, garage sales and flea markets. You never know what you can find, and sometimes the outcome pays off nicely.

A used plaid sofa in decent condition can be transformed with a fitted slipcover.

An old, scratched nightstand might just need a little sanding and a couple of coats of paint to make a conversation piece. The total price of these minor projects should add up to a fraction of what a new item would cost.

Recycling pieces of furniture from other rooms or from your parents are other cheap sources.

"I brought a lot of random things that my parents didn't use anymore with me," said Layne Barnard, senior nursing major.

Salvaging furnishings is by far the most economical way to go. Maybe a desk that doesn't get used often can be placed in the bedroom as a vanity.

An old bureau can be converted to an entertainment center. Small, simple changes can go a long way.

Even if you don't consider yourself handy, according to bedbathandbeyond.com, the small things you change or add to a room are what make it feel complete.

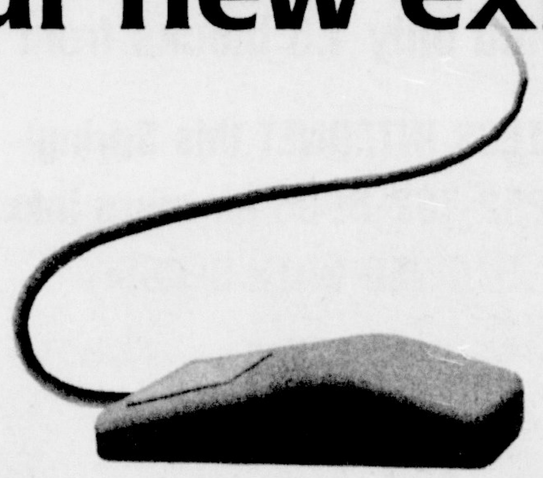
You can create your own artwork by gathering memorabilia from around the house and putting it together as a colorful collage. Curtains can be dyed or sewn for a brighter look.

Carpet can be cut into area rugs. Even something as cheap and easy as covering the walls with posters and pictures is a great alternative to paint or wallpaper, especially in rental apartments where such alterations are not allowed.

Once decor is matched by wall accents, pulled together with fabric and accented with your own color and style, no one will know how much (or little) you spent to accomplish your personalized and unique look.

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

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Credit *from page 3*

amount over the phone.

The company will often take the late charge off of your bill and out of your credit history.

This can only be done once per year and will not work if you have other late fees.

The key is to be nice. Creditors don't have to do this but are often willing to help for your little mishap.

Rule # 2: Always pay at least the minimum payment. This is the smallest amount of balance you can pay and still meet the terms of the card. Paying less than the minimum will result in tagging your history, bringing down your credit record.

The amount you don't pay off is what you pay interest on. The average interest rate on credit cards is 18.9 percent.

"Credit cards are great, until you get the bill at the end of the month," said Richard Kearse, sophomore communication major.

"That always makes me upset."

Rule # 3: Don't go over your credit limit. This will lead to extra charges in your statement.

Fees are about $20 for every month you're over your credit limit, this also tags your credit history.

Paying your bill in full and on time is the best thing you can do. By showing the card company you're responsible, they'll often lower your interest rates and reduce your annual fee.

Rule # 4: Live within your means. Don't spend more than you can comfortably pay off in a short amount of time. Having a credit card is not like having "free money."

You're simply using a credit company's money before you pay it back. Thus, for using their money, credit cards are equipped with finance charges. These are the charges set in place for using their service and must be paid in addition to your balance, interest rates and annual fees.

Chase Bank suggests students make a budget sheet of all their expenses in order to estimate how much they can spend.

By estimating your expenses, and adding up your income students help ensure they don't overspend.

By following these simple rules, a good credit history is easy to establish. Failure to follow them will damage your credit and may leave students in a lifetime of debt. It's easy to get into debt, but it's extremely hard to get out of it.

It's vital for students to start building credit at an early age because the discipline acquired with the responsibility of having a credit card will stay with you for the rest of your life.

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

Credit Statistics

ECU Student Credit Statistics

46 percent of students polled have a credit card
54 percent of students polled do not have a credit card
Brands:
- VISA: 64 percent
- Master Card: 28 percent
- Other: 8 percent

Number of credit cards:
- 1: 67 percent
- 2: 21 percent
- 3 or more: 12 percent

Who pays the bill?
- Student: 56 percent
- Parents: 30 percent
- Both: 12 percent

When did they get their first credit card?
- High school: 39 percent
- College: 61 percent

Most common uses of the card:
- Emergencies
- School supplies/books
- Everything (clothes, gas, food, etc.)
- Holiday Gifts
- Medical needs
- Small purchases; just to establish good credit

National Student Credit Statistics

78 percent of undergraduates at a four-year college carry at least one credit card.
Two out of three college students borrow money to attend school.
4 out of 10 face unmanageable debt upon finishing school.
The average college student has $1,843 in credit card debt.
Nearly one in four students with credit card debt owe more than $3,000; nearly 10 percent of students owe more than $7,000.
The average interest rate on credit cards is 18.9 percent
An $8,000 debt, at a rate of 18 percent interest will take more than 25 years to pay off and will cost more than $24,000 in the long run.

Student Credit Help Tools

www.studentcredit.com
www.studentmarket.com
www.creditfind.net
www.nelliemae.com

Terms to look for in rental lease

A lease sets out the rules landlords and tenants agree to follow in their rental relationship. It is a legal contract that needs to cover the basic terms of your tenancy, including the following items:

Names of All Tenants

Every adult who lives in the rental unit should be named as tenants and sign the lease or rental agreement. This can settle any rental payment disagreements with any roommates.

Limits on Occupancy

The agreement should clearly specify that the rental unit is the residence of only the tenants who have signed the lease. This guarantees the right to determine who lives in the property and to limit the number of occupants. This clause gives the landlord grounds to evict a tenant who moves in a friend or relative, or sublets the unit, without their permission.

Term of the Tenancy

Every rental document should state whether it is a rental agreement or a fixed-term lease. What's the difference between the two? Both rental agreements and fixed-term leases cover basic details such as tenants names and rent provisions; they differ mainly in the length of the tenancy they create. Rental agreements usually run from month-to-month and self-renew unless terminated by the landlord or tenant. Leases, on the other hand, typically last a year. The choice will depend on the arrangement with your landlord.

Amount of Rent

The lease should specify the amount of rent, when it is due (typically, the first of the month), and how it's to be paid, such as by mail to the office. To avoid confusion, there will be details such as: acceptable payment methods (such as personal check only) whether late fees will be due if rent is not paid on time, the amount of the fee, and whether or not there's any grace period, and any penalties if a rent check bounces.

Deposits and Fees

The use and return of security deposits is a frequent source of friction between landlords and tenants, especially in college environments. To avoid confusion and legal hassles, the lease or rental agreement should be clear on: the dollar amount of the security deposit how the deposit may be used (for example, for damage repair) and not used (such as for last month's rent) when and how the deposit will be returnedl and account for deductions after you move out, and any legal nonrefillable fees, such as for cleaning or pets. It's also a good idea (and legally required in a few states and cities) to include details on where the deposit is being held and whether interest on the deposit will be paid.

Repairs & Maintenance

Clearly set out your and the landlord's responsibilities for repair and maintenance in your lease or rental agreement, including: the tenant's responsibility to keep the rental premises clean and sanitary and to pay for any damage caused by their abuse or neglect a requirement that you alert to defective or dangerous conditions in the rental property, specific details on procedures for handling complaint and repair requests, and restrictions on repairs and alterations, such as adding a built-in dishwasher, installing a burglar alarm system or painting walls without permission.

Entry to Property

To avoid tenant claims of illegal entry or violation of privacy rights, the lease or rental agreement should clarify legal right of access to the property—for example, to make repairs-- how much advance notice landlord will provide the tenant before entering.

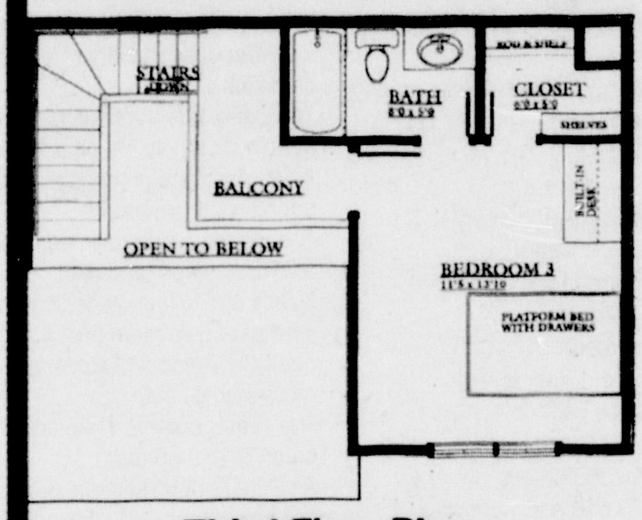
Restrictions on Tenant Illegal Activity

To avoid trouble among tenants, prevent property damage and limit exposure to lawsuits from residents and neighbors, include an explicit lease or rental agreement clause prohibiting disruptive behavior such as excessive noise and illegal activity such as drug dealing.

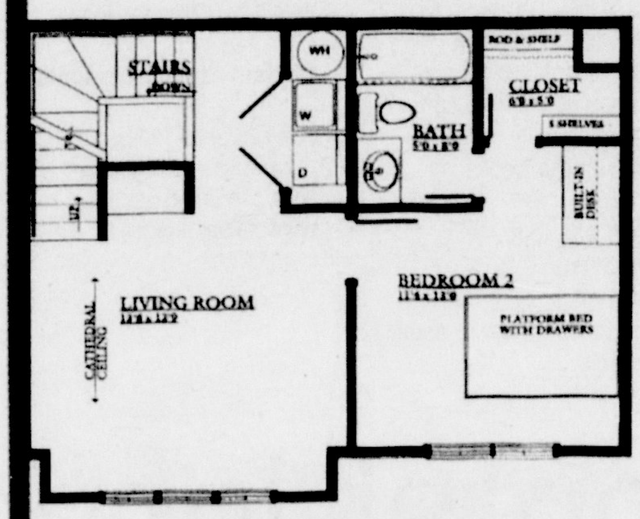
Other Important Rules and Restrictions

If pets are allowed, there should be any special restrictions such as a limit on the size or number of pets, or a requirement that the tenant will keep the yard free of all animal waste. Important rules and regulations covering parking and use of common areas should be specifically incorporated in the lease or rental agreement.

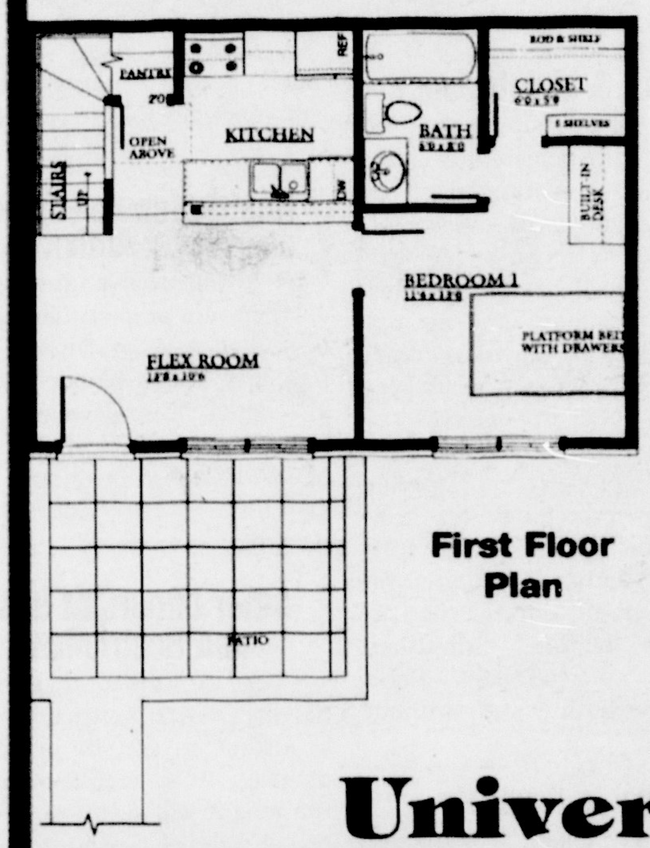
University Suites Apartments



Third Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan

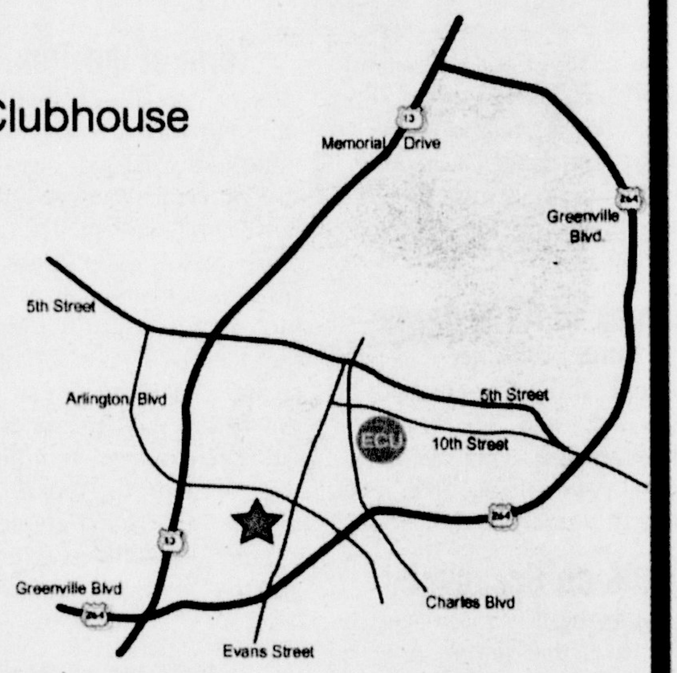


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- Cypress Gardens*@
- Eastgate*
- English Village*
- Fox Hollow#
- Gladious/Jasmine#
- Monticello Court I/II*#
- Moss Creek*
- Paladin West*
- Park Village*
- Park West*
- Peony*#
- South Haven (*at some units)
- Summerfield/Summer Place *#
- Tree Top Villas*
- Wesley Commons N.*#
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Area apartment listing

TEC has attempted to ensure that this list is accurate. But changes are made frequently and errors occur. Use this information as a starting point in your search and verify the facts with a call or visit.

Apartment Name and Address	Telephone	Lease	Bedrooms	Units	Furnished	Pets	Bus Access	Distance From Campus
1110 Oakbend Dr. Duplex	551-1002	1 yr.	3	1	no	w/ fee	no	Bradford Creek
5035 Devron St.. Duplex	551-1002	1 yr.	3	1	no	w/ fee	no	Bradford Creek
Allenton Estates Allen Rd.	756-6209	1 yr.	2	10	no	yes/fee	no	5 miles
Ashton Woods 108 Brownlea Dr.	758-1921	1 yr	2		no	yes	yes	6 blocks
Ayden Duplexes (Remco East)	355-1313	6 months and 1 yr.	1 and 2	6	no	no	no	12 miles
Beech Street Villas	756-6209	1 yr.	3	18	no	no	yes	1.5 miles
Branch Apartments 1809 East 5th Street	758-3781	1 yr.	1	60	yes & no	no	no	1 to 3 blocks
Brasswood Apartments 3216 Brasswood Court	355-4499	6/12 months	2		no	w/fee	no	5 miles
Brighton Park Brrighton Park Dri.	756-6209	1 yr.	1	-	no	w/fee	no	
Brookfield Apartments 108 Brownlea Dr.	758-1921	1 yr	1 and 2	83	no	yes	yes	4 blocks
Brookhill (Remco East)	355-1313	1 yr.	2 and 3	6	no	no	no	5 miles
Caldwell Court (Remco East)	355-1313	6 & 12 months	1 and 2	54	no	yes	no	5 miles
Campus Pointe (Remco East)	355-1313	6 & 12 months	3	26	no	no	no	less than 1 miles
Cannon Court A-1 Luci Drive	756-6209	1 yr.	2	58	no	no	yes	1 miles
Cedar Court Cedar Lane	756-6209	1 yr.	2	29	no	no	yes	1 mile
Cedar Creek Cedar Creek Rd.	756-6209	1 yr.	1 and 2	24	no	no	no	4 miles
Cheyenne Court (Remco East)	355-1313	1 yr.	1	26	no	yes	no	2 miles
Clubway Apartments 75 Clubway Drive	756-6869	1 yr.	2	128	no	yes/fee	no	4.5 miles
Collindale Court (Remco East)	355-1313	1 yr.	2	2	no	w/fee	no	8 miles
College Town Row 1103-1209 South Evans St.	756-6209	1 yr.	2	20	no	with fee	no	3 blocks
Cotanche St. Apartments 700 Cotanche St.	756-6209	1 yr.	1	8	no	no	yes	across street from campus
Cypress Gardens 1401 East 10th Street	756-6209	1 yr.	1 and 2	45	no	no	yes	4 blocks
Dogwood Hollow 1110 E. 10th St.	752-8900	9 and 12 months	2	125	no	cats/fee	yes	2 blocks
Dresend Place 1016 Charles Street	756-1234	1 yr.	2	6	no	no	no	2 blocks
Eastbrook Apts. 204 Eastbrook Dr.	752-5100	1 yr.	3-Feb	180	no	sm. dogs	yes	2 miles
Eastgate Apts. Moseley Dr.	756-6209	1 yr.	2-Jan	-	no	no	no	2 miles
English Village 1010 and 1012 Peed Dr.	756-6209	1 yr.	1 and 2	32	no	no	no	3 miles
Forbes woods Remco East	355-1313	1 yr.	1 and 2	12	no	no	no	3 miles
Forrest Acres off 10th Street	756-6209	1 yr.	1 and 2	10	no	no	no	6 blocks
Forest Glen (Remco East)	355-1313	6 and 12 months	1 and 2	66	no	no	yes	5 miles

Apartment Name and Address	Telephone	Lease	Bedrooms	Units	Furnished	Pets	Bus Access	Distance From Campus
Fox Hollow Apts. Stokes Rd.	756-6209	1 yr.	2 and 3	32	no	with fee	no	4 miles
Georgetowne Apts. P.O. Box 30883/2730 Stantonsburg Rd.	757-0079	1 yr.	2	25	no	no	yes	1 block
Gladiolus 1333 E. 10th St.	756-6209	1 yr.	1,2,3	27	no	with fee	yes	4 blocks
Greenridge (Remco East)	355-1313	1 yr.	2	2	no	no	no	8 miles
Greenville Manor (Remco East)	355-1313	6 and 12 months	1 and 2	7	no	no	no	2 miles
Jasmine Gardens 1303 East 10th Stret	756-6209	1 yr.	1 and 2	18	no	with fee	yes	4 blocks
Johnston Street (Remco East)	355-1313	6 and 12 months	1 and 2	26	no	no	-	3 miles
King's Row Apartments 200 GO Verdant Dr.	752-3519	6-9 months	1 and 2	108	no	no	yes	2 miles
Kingston Condominiums 3002 Kingston Circle	758-7575	9/12 months	1,2		yes/no	w/fee	yes	2 miles
Monticello Court 500 and 504 Paladin Drive	756-6209	1 yr.	1 and 2	30	no	yes/fee	no	4 miles
Monticello Court II 409 and 314 Paladin Drive	756-6209	1 yr.	1	30	no	yes/fee	no	4 miles
Moss Creek Lake Dr.	756-6209	1 yr.	1	-	no	no	no	by hospital
Paladin West Paladin Dr.	756-6209	1 yr.	1 and 2	28	no	yes/fee	no	4 miles
Parkview 3002 Kingston Circle	758-7575	9/12 months	1 and 2		yes/no	w/fee	yes	2 miles
Park Village 3005 and 3017 Adams Blvd.	756-6209	1 yr.	1 and 2	32	no	no	yes	1.5 miles
Park West Apts. Park West Dr.	756-6209	1 yr.	2-Jan	-	no	no	no	2 miles
Peony Garden 1323 East 10th Street	756-6209	1 yr.	2	16	no	yes/fee	yes	4 blocks
Peyton Circle Apartments Peyton Circle	756-6209	1 yr.	2 and 3	24	no	yes/fee	no	4 miles
Pinebrook Apartments 121 River Bluff Road	758-4015	6/9/12 months	1 and 2	120	no	yes/fee	yes	2 miles
Pirate's Cove 3305 East 10th Street	752-9995	1 yr.	4	264	yes	no	yes	2 miles
Pirates Place 1526 S. Charles Blvd.	321-7613	1 yr.	4-Mar	144	no	no	yes	1 mile
Quail Ridge (Remco East)	355-1313	1 yr.	2	2	yes	no	no	5 miles
Reedy Branch Apts. 2201 and 2203 East 10th St.	830-2072	10 and 12 months	2	40	no	sm. Pets	yes	7 blocks
Regency House (Remco East)	355-1313	1 yr.	2	2	yes	no	no	5 miles
Ringgold Towers 635 Cotanche Street	752-2865	1 yr.	2-Jan	155	yes	no	no	next to campus
Rolinwood (Remco East)	355-1313	1 yr.	3-Feb	3	no	no	no	4 miles
Rownetree Wood 2902 Cedar Creek Road	756-6209	1 yr.	3-Feb	8	no	yes/fee	no	4 miles
Shenandoah Court 1130 Greenville Blvd.	756-6209	1 yr.	1	16	no	no	no	3.5 miles
Sheraton Village Landmark St.	355-1313	1 yr.	2, 3	11	no	no	no	6 miles
Sherwin Court 3100 Sherwin Drive	756-6209	1 yr.	2	16	no	yes/fee	no	3.5 miles
South Haven Apartments South Square Drive	756-6209	1 yr.	1 & 2	56	no	no	no	4 miles
South Square Patton Circle	756-6209	1 yr.	2-Jan	-	no	w/fee	no	
Summerfield Peed Drive	756-6209	1 yr.	2-Jan	-	no	w/fee	no	

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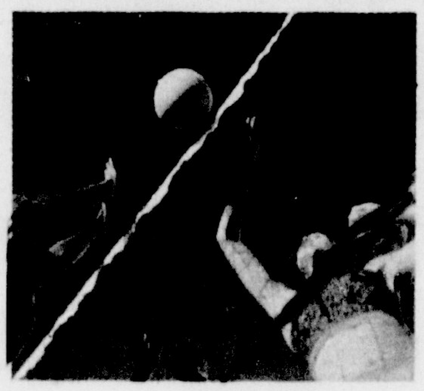


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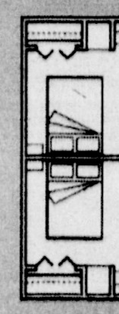
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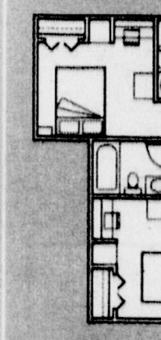
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Community Amenities

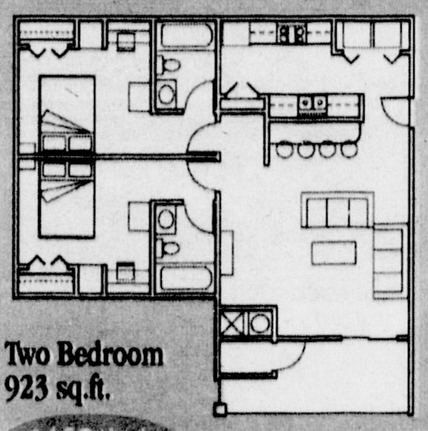
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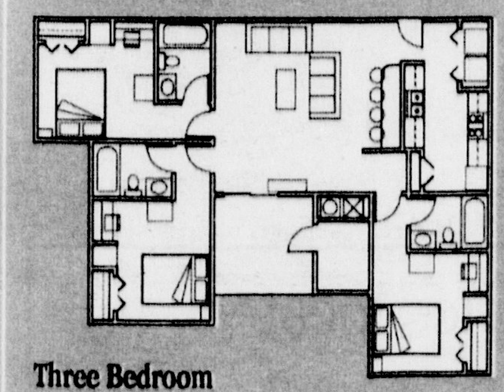
Unit Floor Plans



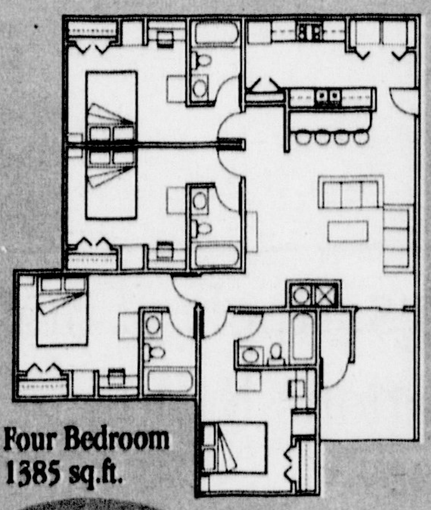
Two Bedroom
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Two Bedroom
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Apartment Name and Address	Telephone	Lease	Bedrooms	Units	Furnished	Pets	Bus Access	Distance From Campus
Summer Place Summer Place Dr.	756-6209	1 yr.	1 & 2	18	no	yes/fee	no	3 miles
Sterling Manor 3535 E. 10th St.	758-5551	1 yr./10 months	4,3	168	no/yes	yes	yes	2 miles
Stratford Arms 1900 S. Charles Blvd.	756-4800	6/12 months				w/fee	yes	2 miles
Tanglewood (of Farmville) (Remco East)	355-1313	-	2	27	no	no	no	3 miles
Tanglewood Apartments 125 Avery Street	756-6209	1 yr	1	16	yes	no	no	4 blocks
Tar River Estates 1725 E. 1st St.	752-4225	-	1, 2, 3, 4	220	no	yes	yes	5 blocks
Treetop Villas off E. Fire Tower Rd.	756-6209	1 yr.	1	-	no	no	no	
Treybrooke Apartments 701 Treybrooke Circle	830-0661	6/12 months	1,2	456	yes/no	yes/fee	no	5 miles
Twin Oaks (Remco East)	355-1313	1 yr.	2,3	4	no	no	no	3 miles
Twin Oaks Townhomes 102 David Drive	355-8731	1 yr.	2,3	12	no	no	no	5 miles
University Apartments 2901 East 5th Street	758-7436	1 yr.	2	47	no	no	yes	1 mile
University Suites	551-3800	6/12 months	3		no	no		2 miles
Upton Court (Remco East)	355-1313	1 yr.	2,3	4	no	no	no	8 miles
Village Green Apartments 204 Eastbrook Drive	752-5100	6/12 months	1,2	134	no	cats w/fee	yes	1 mile
West Hills (Remco East)	355-1313	-	1,2,3	54	no	yes	no	8 miles
Wesley Commons Brownlea Dr.	758-1921	1 yr.	1, 2	148	no	w/fee	yes	5 blocks
West Point Westpoint Dr.	355-1313	1 yr.	2	4	no	no	no	8 miles
White Oak Creek Oak Towne Dr.	756-6209	1 yr.	3	-	no	no	no	
Wildwood Villas 209 Beech Street	756-1234	1 yr.	1,2	8	no	no	no	1.5 miles
Willoughby Park Victoria Court	355-1313	1 yr.	2	107	some	no	no	4 miles
Wilmardell Apts. 1005 Elm Street	756-6209	1 yr.	1	12	yes	no	no	3 blocks
Windy Ridge (Remco East)	355-1313	1 yr.	2,3	4	some	no	no	3 miles
Winterville Square Mill Street	756-1234	-	1	40	no	no	no	10 miles
Woodside Apartments 98 Brookwood Drive	756-1234	1 yr.	1	22	no	no	no	3 miles
Wyndham Circle Brownlea Dr.	756-1234	1 yr.	2	8	no	no	no	1.5 miles

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Deciding between a house or apartment

Making the right choice for off-campus living

LAUREN MASON
SENIOR WRITER

Fire drills at 2 a.m. No air conditioning in August. Sharing a room the size of a closet. After living on-campus for a year or two, the time inevitably comes when students are ready to move off-campus.

In Greenville, students have many housing options and by the end of the summer, more new complexes will be available.

However, the first decision you will have to make about living off-campus is whether you will live in a house or an apartment.

While Greenville has many apartments, students are beginning to move into residential neighborhoods and townhouses near campus. The area between Tar River and Fifth Street has seen more students renting homes.

"Having a house usually cuts down on the noise because your neighbors aren't just through the next wall. It's also nice to have a yard to grill out or just enjoy hanging out, and you have so much more privacy," said Amy Neighbors, junior biology and chemistry major.

Other students see houses as a good financial investment for families who have multiple siblings coming to the university or are interested in staying in the area after graduation.

"Compared to renting an apartment, my house payments are much cheaper, and my parents will be able to use the townhouse as an investment later on if I choose to live here or rent it out to other students," said Jennifer MacNeill, senior social work major.

However, having a house requires more responsibility and, occasionally, more money.

"The main disadvantages of having a house would be the general upkeep of the house and the property, especially mowing the lawn. I also think that utilities are more expensive with houses because of having to use more electricity for the rooms," Neighbors said.

When looking at apartments, students have many choices, from all-inclusive prices that cover utilities, cable, rent and access to fitness centers to less expensive apartments that just include the basic rent. Typically, prices go up with the convenience of the complex – the closer to campus or a direct bus line, the higher the rent. Most new complexes are also more expensive, but the older apartments aren't always worn-down and can sometimes be the best deal.

Realty companies can show you the variety of choices available, while searching the classifieds can also prove successful in locating your new home.

Apartments do have disadvantages, most of which are understandable for living in such small quarters with lots of neighbors.

"It seems like we don't have enough room in our apartment for all of our stuff. There's very little storage space, and we have every corner full of boxes or containers. I would love to have more closets or space to store things," said Brandie Wilkes, senior social work major.

It can also be difficult to adjust from living on campus to off campus housing and being further away from classes.

"It's sometimes annoying to have to wait for a bus to take you back to your apartment instead of being able to walk right to your dorm on campus. I miss the convenience of living on campus, but I do like living in an apartment and having more space compared to dorm rooms," said Ashley Presar, senior biology major.

Choose your off-campus housing carefully, and enjoy searching for your new home.

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

Getting ready for a home of your own

Tips for finding the perfect house, apartment

WENDY EARP
STAFF WRITER

It's almost the time of year when many students will be trading in the keys to tiny dorm rooms for the keys of their first apartment.

Taking the step of true independence by joining the world of rent payers is not easy, but with the right knowledge of the renting process, you can avoid time loss and confusion.

Senior Family and Community Service Major Lauren Harris said a key tip to being happy with an affordable apartment or house in Greenville is realizing you have to make sacrifices and determine what you need.

A key step that will determine many other aspects of your apartment life is the choice of roommate. The number of roommates will limit your apartment complex choices.

The number of people living together will determine the number of rooms needed. Living with close friends is the route most renters choose.

Living with peopie you already know is convenient, but the extra stress of cleaning, bills and sharing can hurt a friendship.

The individuals must be mature enough to properly handle any events that occur. If you don't have a roommate in mind, apartment complexes such as Pirates Place, Sterling Manor and Pirates Cove will match individuals with roommates that seem compatible.

Determining necessities such as proximity to campus, bedroom size and laundry amenities should be agreed upon by each roommate to ensure that everyone goes into the rental process happily. Location is the second key factor to take into consideration when choosing an apartment.

Greenville has its area party spots as well as its more laid back communities. Researching the location's history of break-ins and noise violations can give students the heads-up on the type of atmosphere a complex provides.

One factor that is sometimes overlooked is safety. When assessing each possible house or apartment, you should determine if you would feel safe alone in the apartment or walking alone at night through the parking lot.

"Living with and near college students has its advantages, such as the opportunity to meet new people and party ... but if you're the type of person who likes to go out and be loud, you don't want to live near in a community of older residents who could complain a lot," said Mike Shalhoub, sophomore business major.

Students must be aware that all of Greenville's apartment complexes and rental agencies require a parent to co-sign with any person under the age of 21.

Parental consent is not only needed for the renting of the residency but will also be needed in order to forego deposits on utilities, phone and cable. Without a parent's signature, students can expect to pay out $125 dollars to have the lights turned on, in addition to the deposits for cable and telephone, which carry hefty installation fees.

Among the most important things to remember when deciding on an apartment is the financial debt that will be incurred.

Students who opt to live in apartments that include electricity and are leased by the year to each individual, such as Pirate's Cove, should expect to pay close to $375 per month.

This seemingly costly bill includes the rent as well as electricity and Internet. In addition, each roommate must then split the bills for food and telephone.

For students who do not choose to live in complexes that lease by the indivual room, the average rent for any two-bedroom apartment ranges from $400 - $600 per month.

The variation in rent is primarily based on location. Prices will vary with each complex and area of town.

The advertisement of the Eastgate Village apartment complex, located off Tenth Street on Mosley Drive, offers two bedroom apartments where you pick your roommates of choice and non-inclusive, but with cheap utility bills for an average of $302.50 per month.

Students must read carefully between the lines of these ads, however, because they require one-year lease agreements. It is rare that complexes offer anything less than a one-year lease.

Renting is not easy or cheap.

Students who decide to rent must make sure they can afford the bills and are capable of maturely handling both the stress and freedom that goes with being a renter.

Once you sign your name to a lease, it is under contract that you will pay for the bills, regardless. There is more that goes into renting your first apartment than just picking out color patterns and decorations.

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



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Compromise, communication key to roommate relations

What advice do you have for living with a roommate?



MARQUITA BANKS
JUNIOR ENGLISH MAJOR

"Room with someone that you can trust."



TIAH AUSTIN
SENIOR ECONOMICS MAJOR

"Set the rules at the beginning and respect them."



LAUREN STONE
FRESHMAN
COMMUNICATION MAJOR

"Make sure where you pick to live is convenient."

Tips for having a healthy living environment

AMANDA LINGERFELT
FEATURES EDITOR

When signing a lease to an off-campus apartment or house, not only are you committing yourself to staying in one location for at least a year, you're committing yourself to living with one or more roommates. Picking your off-campus roommate(s) is a task that should not be taken lightly.

"Being friends with someone is totally different than being roommates with someone," said Ben McLawhorn, freshman undecided major.

"You can be friends with someone forever, but you really get to know how they are after living with them"

Before signing a lease to an apartment or house, talk with your prospective roommate(s) to figure out what they expect out of off-campus living.

"The key to getting along is communication. Talk about some of the possibilities of things that might happen," said Nancy Badger, training coordinator at the Center for Counseling and Student Development.

Discuss things like bill paying, grocery shopping and what your weekday and weekend schedules will most likely be like. When you disagree on a topic, see if you can strike a compromise with the person. If the person is unwilling, then it may be necessary to consider a different roommate.

"The trick to it is to compromise," Badger said.

Of course, not all problems can be dealt with before hand. Many issues will arise after move-in day.

"When you get there, be sensitive to the other person's boundaries," Badger said

Some roommates may decide to bring home a pet or take up smoking. These and other issues can only be dealt with by respect and compromise.

"Always be willing to give in and compromise," said Paul Avant, senior history and English major.

Roommates need to be respectful of personal property and space. Some students are focused entirely on academics, and others are more focused on social aspects. It is best to tell your roommate in a polite and kind way what you're expecting the apartment or house to be like through the year.

When having guests over, it's important to take responsibility for their actions as well. If a guest breaks your roommate's dish or spills something on his or her couch, it is your job to repair the damage.

In apartments, conflicts are usually about cleaning. Be respectful of your roommate(s), and do your share of the household chores. The best way to deal with problems is communication; deal with problems one at a time.

Being respectful is one of the easiest ways to avoid conflict.

"My roommate and I got along so well because when someone would call for the other person we would leave a note saying who called. Or if one of us was studying, the other would be quiet or leave. It was just basically using courtesy and communicating," said Brent Best, a junior business major.

Much like in the dorms, setting up a roommate contract can be a good way to commit to certain behaviors. This will outline what your roommate expects of you and what you expect of your roommate.

If you and your roommate come across a problem you don't think you can deal with, it may be necessary to call in an unbiased negotiator, like a friendly neighbor, to help you and your roommates understand each other's point of view.

Living with a roommate for the first time doesn't have to be a scary thing. Just remember the three "C's": compromising, consideration and communication.

Jonathan Bartels contributed to this report.

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

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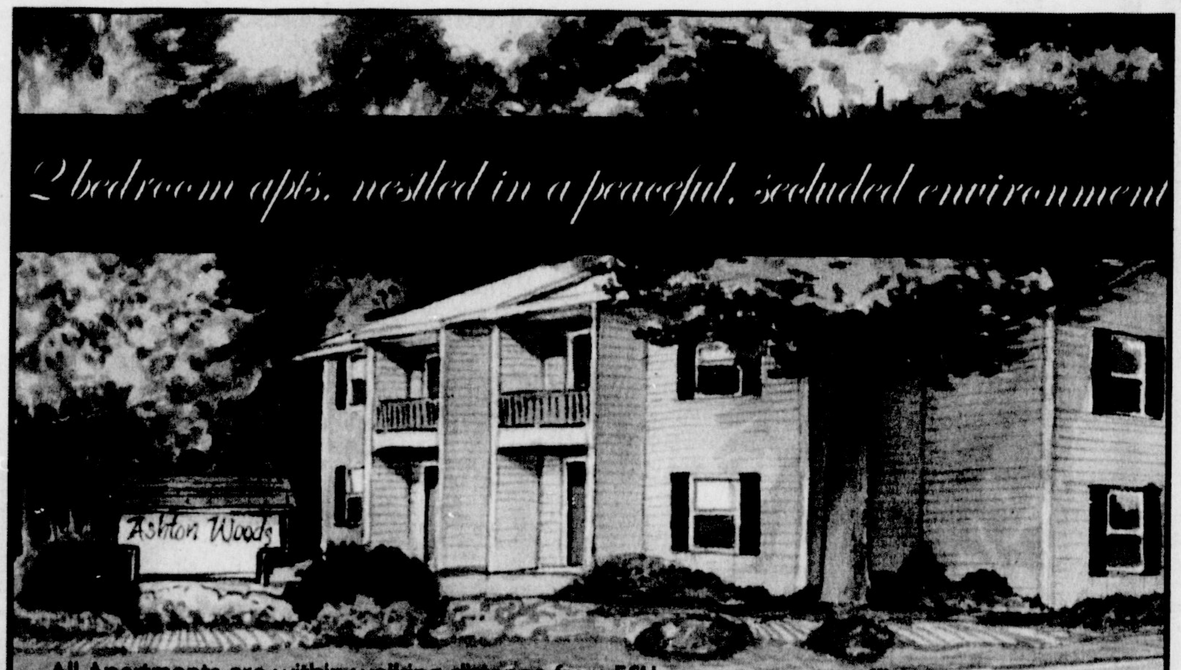
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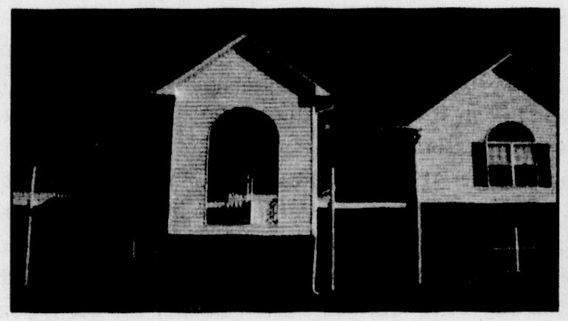
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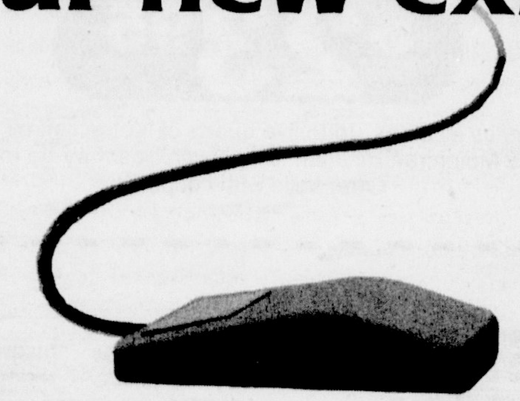
RACHEL LANDEN
SENIOR WRITER

Moving out on your own can be one of the most memorable and exciting events of your college years. However, with fun and freedom lie certain aggravations and frustrations. Fortunately, with a little organization and preparation, your apartment room walls won't close in around you. For the first few hours of move-in day, your apartment might seem pretty small.

Often, students bring too much with them to school or their new apartment. Unnecessary items will never be used – they clutter up the room and take up space. "You will never use about half the items that you bring from home that you're absolutely certain you will," said Filippa Duke, sophomore organ performance major. If you plan ahead and realize your apartment won't be incomplete without your life-size Michael Jordan cutout, you'll find you have more space for the important things – like pictures of new friends and those all-essential textbooks. If you're sharing a residence, it helps to consult your roommate before move-in so you don't bring the same items – like a television or stereo. "I've found that talking to your roommate first to make sure you don't duplicate items, like TVs or microwaves, is important," said Brett Weed, sophomore biochemistry major. Of course, when all else fails and you still have too much stuff for your space, storage solutions are for sale at malls and shopping centers all over town. One of the most popular storage items is the underbed box, available in a variety of sizes and styles. "As far as storage goes, the amount of room you have is largely dependent on the way that you decide to set up your room. For my roommate and I my freshman year, we were able to take advantage of the storage space under the beds, which is suitable for many Rubbermaid plastic containers," Weed said. They're especially perfect for storing and protecting clothing, bedding and towels. "The long boxes with wheels that go under the bed are nice," Duke said. Another way to make the most of the space beneath your bed is to raise it farther off the ground. If you cannot loft your bed, you may raise it by approximately six inches with proper equipment. Bed risers are a simple option for adding additional space without much effort. Take off the mattress before you try to put them underneath. Although planning ahead and making a list are helpful ways to remember the important stuff, the best guidance comes as a result of experience. After a couple of days you'll figure out the stuff you need the most and quickly settle in.

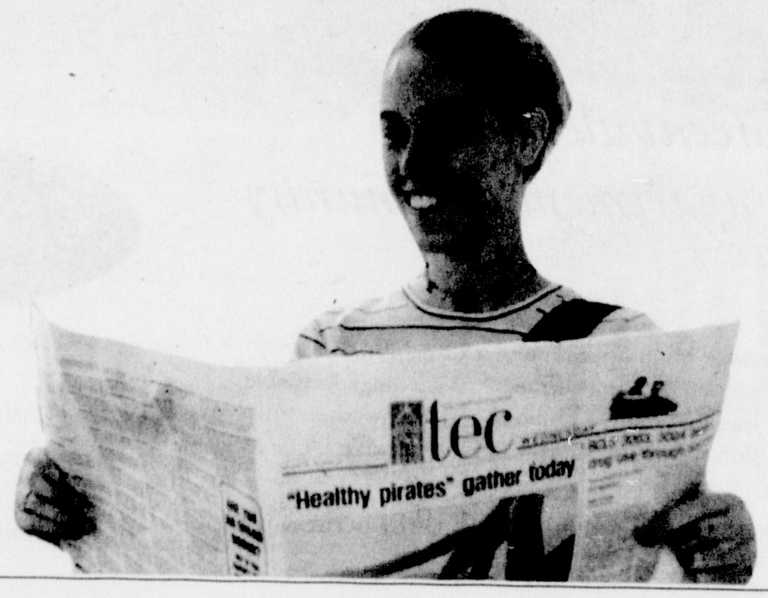
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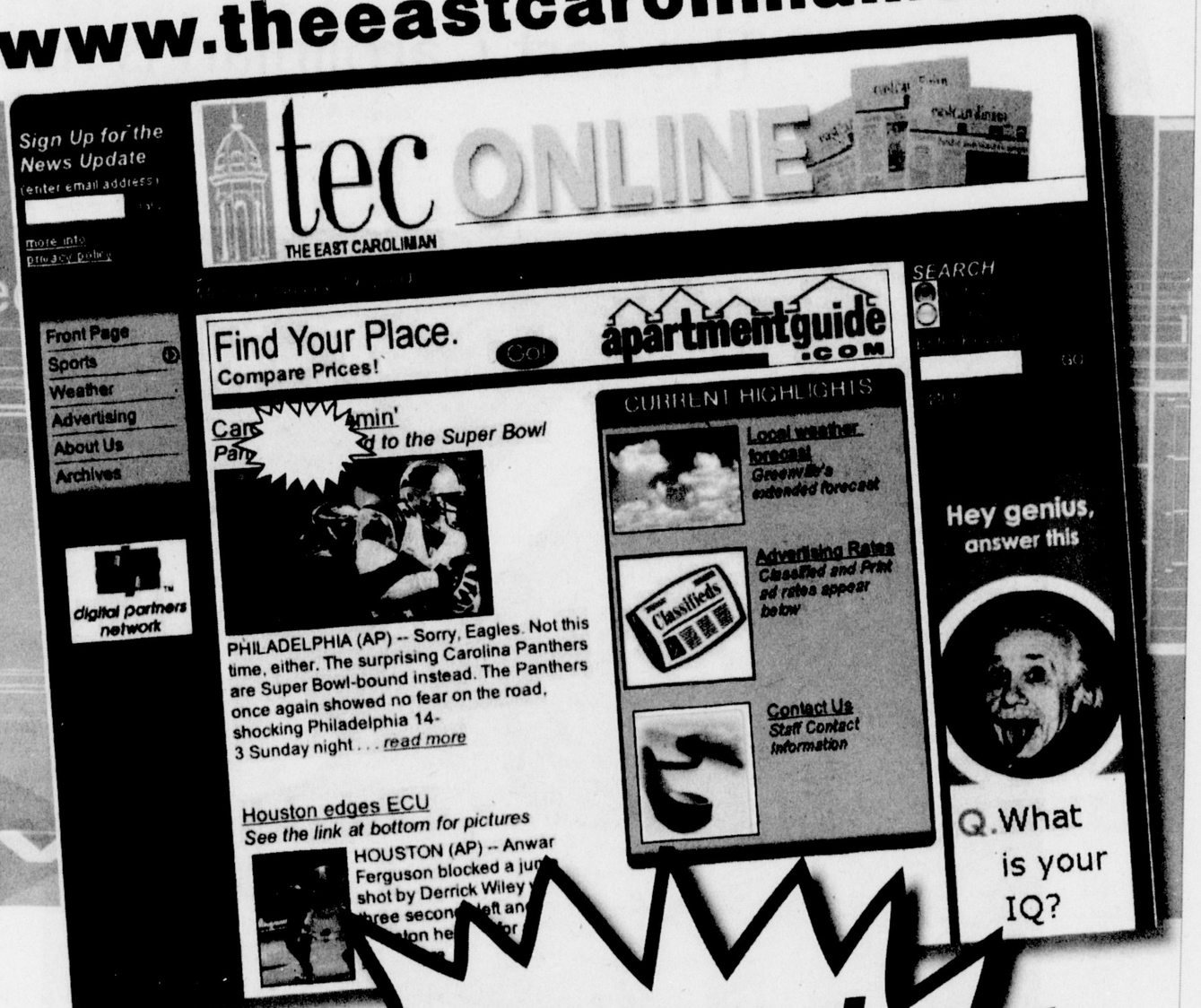
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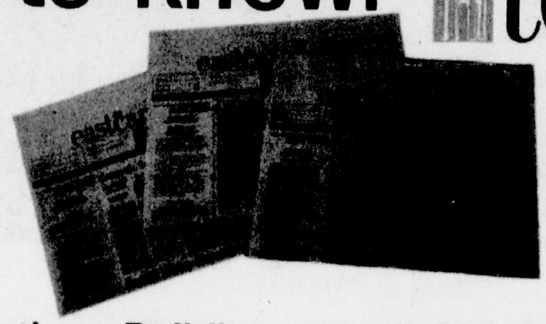
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