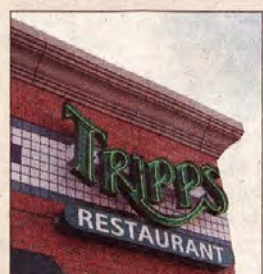
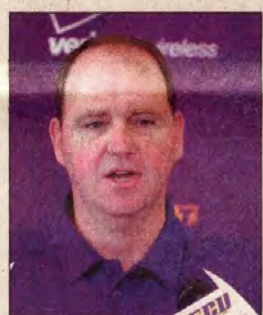




John Bosco has chosen various different years of music to review, but he's left the entire decade of the 80s out. Now, check out what he has to say about 1982, the year when the compact disc was introduced.....**Page B1**



Greenville is a growing city with many different businesses springing up throughout the year, read about new businesses that are on their way here.....**Page B1**



Skip Holtz and the Pirates held their first spring practice yesterday. Find out who is poised to a breakout season.....**Page B4**



The ECU softball team hosted "tobacco road" rivals UNC last night. See if "Most Valuable Pirate" of the week Keli Harrell and the Pirates could hold home field advantage.....**Page B4**

5	2	7	9	3	8	4	6	1
6	3	1	2	5	4	7	9	8
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1	4	3	8	2	9	6	7	5
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2	6	5	7	1	3	8	4	9
3	1	2	6	7	5	9	8	4
7	5	8	4	9	2	1	3	6
4	9	6	3	8	1	5	2	7

Test your skills at SuDoKu.....**Page A7**

NEWS.....**Page A2**
PULSE.....**Page B1**
SPORTS.....**Page B4**
OPINION.....**Page A4**
CLASSIFIEDS.....**Page A7**

Campus Dining in preliminary stages of bid process



Students enjoy a meal at West End dining hall. To avoid a lapse in services, Campus Dining is in the preliminary stages of the bid process.

Service agreement expires in August of this year

ZACK HILL
SENIOR WRITER

Aramark's current contract with the university runs out in August of this year.

The company, which has been the campus services dining provider since 1990, is in the early stages of preparing a bid to have their contract renewed.

"We believe that a fair competitive bid process is in the best interest of the students," said Todd Johnson, associate vice chancellor for campus living and dining services. So that there is a seamless transition of services, the bid process will start before the current agreement expires.

Aramark has served ECU since 1990, and its services were renewed in 1995, 2000 and there was a two-year extension in 2005 that is nearing its end.

Johnson said that a 2006 survey rated ECU students higher than the national average in regards to campus dining, with 98 percent of students being satisfied.

He also said that a priority of Campus Dining is to make "sure that students recognize all the avenues they have to give feedback on their dining experience. We do give students numerous different avenues."

"A strong campus dining pro-

gram has mechanisms in place for students to express their overall satisfaction with services," said Mike Lysaught, resident district manager for Aramark. "We have several ways in which students can provide feedback on campus dining issues. They include comment cards, our Web site, our dining liaisons throughout the campus community and our student advisory board."

Lysaught said that surveys are also regularly used to get feedback from students.

"In addition to that, this year we've started a new program called the Dining Services Liaison Program, in which we have liaisons in each residence hall who are responsible for meeting with students to discuss dining service issues," Johnson said.

Even though they may not win the bid, Lysaught said that Aramark is looking to the future.

"We have a strategic master plan for the next 10 years. To keep up with increased enrollment and dynamic changes in student needs and preferences, ECU Campus Dining continues to improve existing restaurants and add additional services throughout the campus," Lysaught said.

Johnson said that the bid process follows North Carolina state best procurement practices.

"The process for awarding this type of competitive bid is very inclusive, involving

see **DINING** page A6

Report: N.C. graduation rate is at 68 percent



A little over two-thirds of ninth-graders receive a diploma in four years.

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Slightly more than two-thirds of North Carolina ninth-graders earn a high-school diploma within four years, according to new graduation rate data released Wednesday.

State education officials didn't defend the 68 percent graduation rate, but also cautioned against assuming that the remaining 32 percent of students dropped out, saying that students who took longer than four years to graduate weren't accounted for in the measure.

"The high school graduation rate has been a long-standing problem in North Carolina and the United States. Our rate is not where we want it to be," state board chairman Howard Lee said. It's the first time North Caro-

lina officials have released the cohort graduation rate, a measure recommended by the National Governor's Association that shows what percentage of first-time ninth graders graduated four years later. Several other states also have agreed to use the rate and change the way they report graduation information.

"It sets the foundation on which we are to build to make sure that all of our students graduate from high school," said June Atkinson, North Carolina's Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Earlier this week, Atkinson said improving the graduation rate will require several changes that could include raising the compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18 and targeting attendance rates in middle schools.

"What do you think about dining on campus?"

"There are healthy choices in the dining halls on campus but many times they are overlooked"

TARA BARBER
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR NUTRITION SERVICES



BARBER

"The dining halls need healthier foods and more variety"

SCOTTY KENT
FRESHMAN MIDDLEGRADES EDUCATION MAJOR



KENT

"Ms. Bernice from West End is great!"

JENNIFER NNAMANI
SENIOR



NNAMANI

ECU researcher shows use of foot reflexology helps cancer patients

(ECU News Services)—In a two-year study, an ECU School of Nursing researcher saw significant decreases in pain and anxiety in cancer patients whose partners used reflexology or manual pressure applied to specific points on their feet.

The findings of Dr. Nancy L.N. Stephenson, associate professor in the school of nursing and principle investigator, were published in the January issue of Oncology Nursing Forum. Co-investigators include her colleagues in the nursing school, Dr. Melvin Swanson and Dr. Martha Engelke, as well as Dr. JoAnn Dalton at Emory University and Dr. Frances J. Keefe at Duke University. The study was funded for \$279,000 by the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health.

Stephenson, a certified reflexologist, has applied for additional federal funding to continue her research into the effects of partner-delivered foot reflexology.

86 patients with different types of metastatic cancer and their partners were recruited from Pitt County Memorial Hospital, Carteret General Hospital, Lenoir Memorial Hospital and Craven Regional Medical Center to participate in the study which began in July 2003. The largest group, 23 percent, had lung cancer followed by breast, colorectal, head and neck and lymphoma. The mean age of patients was 58.3 years and 51 percent were female. The majority, 66 percent, had a high-school education or less. Of those, 58 percent were white, 40 percent were black and one percent was Filipino.

Patients were randomly placed in an experimental or control group. Partners in the experimental group were taught by Stephenson how to apply foot reflexology to the patient while in the hospital. A reflexology documentation form and protocol and a list of signs and symptoms of deep vein thrombosis were provided. Control group participants received usual care and a 30-minute reading session from their partner.

An immediate decrease in pain intensity and anxiety was seen in patients receiving reflexology. Relief was strongest for patients with moderate to severe levels of pain. Minimal changes were seen in the control group.

"We had positive responses particularly from spouses who felt like they were able to do something for the patient," said Stephenson.

This is the fourth pilot study that Stephenson has conducted that

see **REFLEXOLOGY** page A3



The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center will host a day-long event for students today.

Ledonia Wright Cultural Center celebrates, welcomes all

Events for the entire ECU community

ALYCIA WENDT
STAFF WRITER

Events will be going on all day in the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center to celebrate the culture center and ECU's upcoming centennial.

The LWCC is a center where the ECU community can come

to learn about different cultures. There are computer labs, a library with books written by people from different cultures, an art gallery, meeting rooms, and printing services.

LWCC Day started in 2004. The celebration reoccurred in 2005 and was skipped in 2006. The Career Center chose the month of March this year to host these events to go along with the centennial events and celebrate the whole university.

"We are most excited that this year's LWCC Day is focused solely on students from beginning to end, and encourage as many that can stop by to please do so," said Interim Director for the LWCC Khadine McNeill.

The events are open to everyone today, beginning at 8:30 a.m. when the LWCC staff will be handing out doughnuts in front

see **LWCC DAY** page A3

News

{ Campus & Community }

CORRECTIONS

The *East Carolinian* is dedicated to accurate reporting and will correct errors published in the paper.

To submit a correction, send an e-mail to editor@theeastcarolinian.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Feb. 26 – March 2 Yearbook Portraits

Wright Auditorium 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. Portraits for the 2007 yearbook, the *Buccaneer*, will begin on Monday, Feb. 26 through Friday, March 2 in Wright Auditorium. You can schedule your appointment now by logging onto our year.com, entering school code 453.

You can also call 1-800-OUR-YEAR (687-9327), during normal business hours, to schedule an appointment. When you schedule your appointment, you will receive complete information on how to prepare for your portrait sitting and other pertinent information.

Feb. 27 & 28

Spring Graduates March 1 & 2 under classmen, faculty and staff Walk-ins are welcome. Bring you cap and gown if you would like to purchase a cap and gown picture. All yearbook photos should be in business casual attire.

Cap and gown pickup

Seniors who were unable to attend the Graduation Expo last week can pick up their caps and gowns this week at Dowdy Student Store.

Summer Study Abroad in India

Austin 235 Applications are currently being accepted for the 2007 Summer Study Abroad program in India. The 25-day program will visit a broad array of religious sites, including the Taj Mahal, the Ganges River, and Dharamsala, the home of the Dalai Lama. Participants will go on a trek in the Himalayan Mountains. The program provides six credits that satisfy Gen. Ed.: Humanities requirements.

For more information about the program, including a photo gallery, blog and media coverage of the 2006 trip, please see: ecu.edu/religionprogram/india/

To apply, contact Dr. Maher, maherd@ecu.edu

Laptops available for checkout

Joyner Library Joyner Library has 10 laptops available for checkout and use anywhere in the building. All laptops have wireless access and Microsoft software. Simply ask for one in the Digital Learning Center, which is the computer lab in the back of the building. Perfect for working on papers and other assignments in a quiet, cozy corner of the Library.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Little Willie Center needs volunteers to help mentor/tutor children and teens. Volunteers are needed Monday-Friday from 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Contact Melissa Alston if you are interested. (919) 495-3732.

1 Thu

***LWCC Day**
The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center will celebrate its namesake, the students and the community during this day long tribute to the efforts of the LWCC.

Chat with the Chancellor
An Evening with Chancellor Ballard presented by the SGA, ODK and Student Union. This is an occasion for students to ask Chancellor Ballard questions. A reception will follow at 6:30 in MSC Room 244. Hendrix Theater 5 – 7 p.m.

ECU Hispanic Film Series: The Basque Ball
The Basque Ball: Skin against Stone. Free. Spanish with English subtitles. 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

2 Fri

Softball
vs. Delaware
ECU Softball Field
4 p.m.

Baseball
vs. Pepperdine
Clark-LeClair Stadium
5 p.m.

Softball
vs. Vermont
ECU Softball Field
12 p.m.

3 Sat

ECU Hosts Great Decisions Seminars
The fee (textbook included) is \$49 for all eight sessions for World Affairs Council members and \$59 for the general public, if registered by Jan. 12 and \$69 thereafter. Full-time students and teachers can attend for free and purchase the program book for \$20 (\$15 if WAC members). The cost for individual sessions is \$10. Rivers West Building auditorium 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Women's Tennis
vs. Wofford
ECU Tennis Complex
10 a.m.

Baseball
vs. NC State
Clark-LeClair Stadium
3 p.m.

Softball
vs. Binghamton
ECU Softball Field
12 p.m.

Softball
vs. James Madison
ECU Softball Field
4 p.m.

4 Sun

Baseball
vs. Western Carolina
Clark-LeClair Stadium
3 p.m.

Men's Tennis
vs. Charleston Southern
ECU Tennis Complex
12 p.m.



*Featured Event:

LWCC Day
The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center will celebrate its namesake, the students and the community during this day long tribute to the efforts of the LWCC, beginning with doughnuts for those who stop by during breakfast.

5 Mon

Advising for Summer session and Fall semester 2007 begins.

SGA Elections
Filing for Congress and Executive office begins. All interested in filing for office must file between these times. If you have any questions regarding filing, please contact the elections chair at electionschair@ecu.edu or go by the SGA office located in Mendenhall Student Center. SGA suite in Mendenhall Student Center 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

6 Tues

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Christenbury Gym
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Baseball
vs. NC A&T
Clark-LeClair Stadium
3 p.m.

Softball
vs. Virginia
ECU Softball Field
4 p.m.

Softball
vs. Virginia
ECU Softball Field
6 p.m.

7 Wed

Technology Career Fair
For a complete listing of employers attending visit Web site: ecu.edu/e3careers Minges Coliseum second floor concourse 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Business & General Career Fair
Minges Coliseum first floor concourse 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

ECU Centennial Kick-off
The students will begin the Centennial Celebration with a cookout, cake, ice cream and live music, as well as the unveiling of the ECU Centennial commemorative Pepsi can. ECU campus mall 4 p.m.

BRIEFS

Officials call for voluntary evacuation at dump fire

CLAYTON (AP)—A voluntary evacuation was recommended for residents within five miles of a stump and debris fire at a private Johnston County dump. Fire officials said they were monitoring the fire at the private dump near Clayton and set up a shelter at Clayton High School for anyone who wanted to escape the smoke. No one was in the shelter Wednesday morning. "It's still on fire, and we're doing everything that can be done," said firefighter Jason Stephenson. "We are checking the air quality and going around the neighborhood and making sure everything is as safe as it can be." Johnson County spokesman Pat LaCarter said the fire first was noticed Monday. The fire burned deep in the landfill and firefighters struggled to get water on it. LaCarter said investigators believed the fire started from heat produced as the wood decayed.

Survey ranks Wilmington living costliest in N.C.

WILMINGTON (AP)—Wilmington is the most expensive North Carolina city in which to live, according to a survey released

this week by the city's Chamber of Commerce.

Results of a survey by the American Chamber of Commerce Research Association showed Wilmington at the top of 13 localities, including Raleigh and Charlotte, based on the price of everything from food and rent to gasoline. The cost also was higher than Charleston, S.C., and Atlanta and lower than Richmond, Va. The most expensive part of living in Wilmington is housing, the survey said. Housing costs about 10 percent more than the national average, while housing in Raleigh is 7.1 percent below the national average, the survey showed. "You've got to pay a little bit more to live at the beach," said Scott Czechlewski, spokesman for the Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce. "We're lucky to live at a place that a lot of people only get to visit once or twice a year."

Robber charged again at same bank, then gets robbed

FAYETTEVILLE (AP)—A man charged with robbing a bank, for the second time since 2005, tried to show police the loot, but discovered he had been robbed, Fayetteville police said. Joseph Thomas Mulkerin, 46, was arrested at a Bragg Boulevard

motel Tuesday and charged with common law robbery of \$2,179 from the Wachovia branch on Green Street, said police spokeswoman Jamie Smith. He had been released from prison Jan. 11 after serving a sentence for the 2005 robbery of the same bank, in which he pleaded guilty to taking \$1,098. Mulkerin went to his motel room to show officers the money, but discovered some missing. Police later charged motel maintenance man David Mims, 49, with breaking into the room and taking some of the cash, Smith said.

Democratic leaders developing anti-war plan that wouldn't cut funds for U.S. troops in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Democratic leaders are developing an anti-war proposal that wouldn't cut off money for U.S. troops in Iraq while requiring President Bush to acknowledge problems with an overburdened military. The plan could draw broad bipartisan support but was expected to be a tough sell to members who said they don't think it goes far enough to assuage voters angered by the four-year war. Bush "hasn't to date done anything we've asked him to do, so why we would think he would do anything

in the future is beyond me," said Rep. Lynn Woolsey, D-Calif., one of a group of liberal Democrats pushing for an immediate end to the war. Democratic protests to the war grew louder in January after the party took control of Congress and Bush announced that he planned to send 21,500 more troops to Iraq. Earlier this month, House Democrats pushed through a nonbinding resolution opposing the troop buildup. Since then, Democrats have been trying to decide what to do next. Some worried that a plan by Rep. John Murtha to restrict funding for the war would go too far. Murtha, D-Pa., is extending his support to the revised proposal.

San Diego diocese files bankruptcy protection to put off going to trial in abuse cases

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection hours before it was scheduled to go to trial in the first of more than 140 lawsuits accusing priests of sexual abuse. The filing automatically halted court proceedings scheduled for Wednesday. In a letter posted on the diocese's

Web site, Bishop Robert H. Brom said the diocese made its decision because any damage awards in the earlier trials could deplete "diocesan and insurance resources" and leave nothing for other victims. The diocese claimed in the filing late Tuesday \$95.7 million in property holdings and \$60.4 million in liquid assets, including stocks, bonds and operating accounts. San Diego is the fifth diocese in the nation to file for bankruptcy protection.

Liz late for her 75th birthday

HENDERSON, Nev. (AP)—Elizabeth Taylor, decked out in diamonds and fur, arrived fashionably late to her 75th birthday party. The Hollywood icon was in a wheelchair when she came down the red carpet Tuesday at a Las Vegas-area resort. She was escorted by her 52-year-old son, Christopher Wilding, who shares the same birthday. Taylor smiled and batted her trademark violet eyes as photographers sang "Happy Birthday." When asked about the secret to her longevity, she quipped: "Hangin' in."

Feds net \$45 million in drugs during sting on Mexican cartel



AP Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzalez speaks during a press conference Wednesday in San Diego.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Dozens of people accused of working for one of Mexico's largest drug cartels were arrested Wednesday in a multistate bust that netted more than \$45 million worth of cocaine, heroin, marijuana and methamphetamine, federal officials said.

At least some of the drugs were carried over the U.S.-Mexico border on a bridge made from sandbags partially submerged in the Colorado River outside of Yuma, Ariz., authorities said. All of the narcotics were sneaked into the country on the porous Southwest border exploited by cartel kingpin Victor Emilio Cazares-Gastellum.

In all, the 20-month sting, code-named "Operation Imperial Emperor," so far has swept up 402 of the cartel's alleged lieutenants and foot soldiers, including 66 on Wednesday who were arrested in California, Arizona and Illinois.

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales was to announce the arrests at a news conference in San Diego. The investigation began in nearby El Centro, Calif.

Cazares-Gastellum, also known as Victor Emilio Cazares-Salazar, was indicted in the sting but not arrested, officials said. Authorities said his workers

included U.S. citizens and Mexican nationals, who distributed the drugs in 23 states. They will face either federal or state charges.

Among the cache so far collected by the Drug Enforcement Administration:

- 27,229 pounds of marijuana.
- 9,512 pounds of cocaine.
- 705 pounds of methamphetamine.

- 27 pounds of pure methamphetamine, or "ice."
- 11 pounds of heroin.
- \$6.1 million in property and assets.

- An estimated 100 weapons and 94 vehicles.

Authorities said the cartel shipped or drove metric tons of the drugs from Colombia and Venezuela to Mexico. From there, they were taken over the southwest border and broken down in Los Angeles, San Diego and other cities before being distributed nationwide.

The drugs were distributed in: Nevada, Arizona, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Colorado, Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Illinois, Kansas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Washington and Oregon.

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REFLEXOLOGY continued from A1



demonstrated positive results. More research is needed to determine the duration of pain relief and whether repeated reflexology treatment would provide additional benefits, she said.

Reflexology is a complementary and alternative medicine therapy in which manual pressure is applied to specific points on the hand or feet thought to correspond with specific organs or parts of the body. It is one of several complementary and alternative medicine therapies seeing increased use in recent years. An exact number is unknown, but an estimated 90 percent of cancer patients use some form of alternative therapy such as massage or music therapy, biofeedback, yoga or acupuncture, which advocates say addresses the mind, body and spirit without side effects found with some medications or procedures. More than one million new cancer cases will be diagnosed this year, according to the American Cancer Society.

Graduate research assistants Lucinda McMillan, Carrie Young and Bobbie Perkins, who have since received their master's degrees, worked with Stephenson on the project. Young and Perkins worked throughout the entire study, which ended in June 2005. "It was good to have that continuity," Stephenson said.

A study by Dr. Nancy L.N. Stephenson found cancer patients who had reflexology treatment reported less pain and anxiety.

LWCC DAY continued from A1



A focus group made up of students, faculty and staff will discuss their opinions of the LWCC today.

of the Center.

At 10 a.m. until 10:50 there will be a focus group where students, faculty and staff can discuss their personal opinions about the Center.

Discussions will include if the Center is obtaining its goals for the community, and what can be improved upon.

There will also be another focus group from 2 until 2:50 p.m.

At 3 p.m. until 3:50 there is an open discussion about race relations at ECU.

This discussion will focus on race relations in the past, the progress that has been made and what there is to strive for in the future.

Following the discussion, at 4 p.m. the awarding of the Ledonia Wright Memorial Scholarship will be given. The Ledonia Wright Memorial Scholarship is given out to one student in the amount of \$1,000 for next semester. The applicants had to submit an essay and their grades. The decision regarding who receives the scholarship is based on the essay, grades and the student's leadership roles on and off campus.

The final event of the day is Brother to Sister. During all the other discussions, men and women will be separated for the most part. In this final part

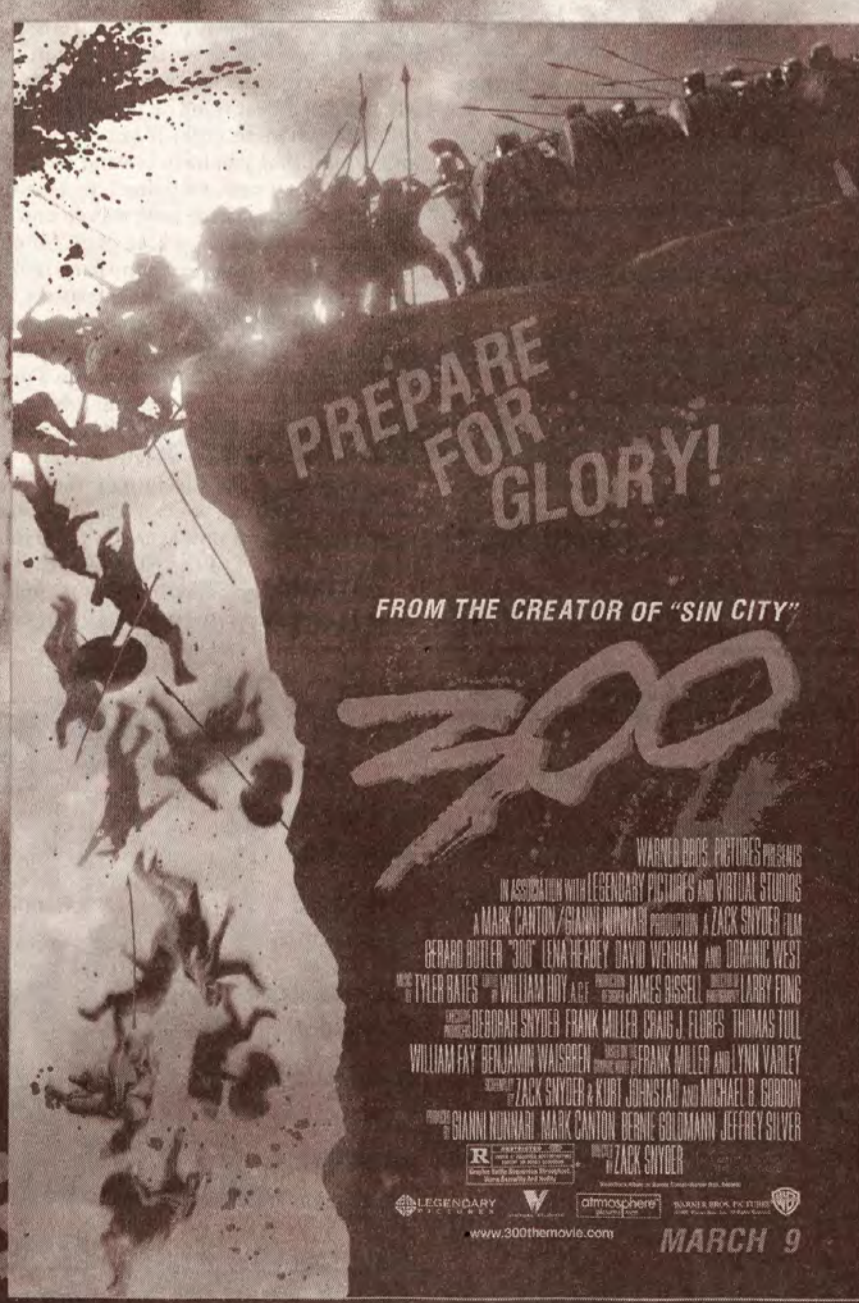
of the LWCC day, both males and females will be face to face discussing their personal opinions about gender issues.

According to McNeill, the LWCC is hoping that students will take advantage of all the opportunities available at the LWCC Day.

"I think it is going to be an exciting day. We definitely tried to center it toward the students. It is all about the students and hopefully they will enjoy it," said Shannon Mulvaney, a graduate assistant at the Career Center.

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

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Opinion

{ Your personal study break }

RANT OF THE DAY

If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments.

Aramark keeps it classy

Nothing says delicious like mass food poisonings

BRIDGET TODD
OPINION WRITER

At a recent SGA meeting, I was quite pleased to find free food. As someone who is both cheap and greedy, I was delighted. After munching on a few free cookies, however, I learned the food was compliments of Aramark.

If I weren't so darn hungry, I would have thrown away my plate and left. A few free sandwiches and some ruffled chips weren't about to make me forget all of the awful things Aramark has contributed to.

Now Aramark isn't inherently an evil corporation, but they do have some questionable practices, from both business and ethical standpoints. Because we support Aramark everyday by eating on campus, we should be informed about what the corporation does in the world other than serve quesadillas to ECU students.

For instance, in October 1999, Aramark was found liable in an incident that took place at Giants Stadium. Aramark employees continued to serve beer to an obviously intoxicated patron who later went on to cause a car accident that left an 18-month old girl a quadriplegic.

Fans are only allowed to buy two beers at a time but the patron was able to sidestep this pesky rule by classily slipping the cashier \$10. The show *Inside Edition* did an investigative story on Aramark's alcohol serving practices and found that stadium vendors routinely broke rules involving limits of beers per transaction.

In addition to serving stadiums and colleges, Aramark also provides food to prisons. The food Aramark provides to prisoners is so bad; prison officials worry about it causing riots.

After all, a hungry inmate is often a problematic inmate. Journalist for the *St. Petersburg Times* Thomas Tobin, reflects on the state of food services Aramark provides to Florida prisons, writing, "In Marion County, inmate kitchen workers, on orders from an Aramark supervisor, soaked spoiled chicken in vinegar and water to take away the smell before cooking. Corrections officers found out and ordered 500 pieces of chicken thrown out."

In Putnam County, corrections officers discovered food refrigerated with altered dates, a serious infraction that sparked a major investigation. Officials suspected Aramark was subverting the prison system's strict rules on using leftovers - rules intended to prevent mass inmate sickness. In Brevard County, inspections in March and May found maggots on serving trays and kitchen floors. Inspection reports in other institutions described Aramark kitchens as "filthy" and in one case, "horrendous." That sounds pretty cruel and unusual to me.

Now I know what you're thinking: Prisons are one thing, but Aramark would never serve food that bad to college kids right? Wrong! In 1999, 120 students at Pomona College became ill with a salmonella related outbreak after eating at Aramark run dining halls.

If you think Aramark is known for treating their employees well, a quick Google search will quickly dispel that notion. William Norman, who was an Aramark manager at High Point University, claims the company threatened him after he refused to fire mentally and physically challenged employees in 2000.

In addition, after 10 black Aramark employees filed a discrimination suit against the company with the U.S. Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, employee Michelle Catagnus claims that she was asked to lie about one of the black employees by Aramark managers.

Catagnus claims she witnessed manager Chris Hornbaker yelling at a black employee and later Hornbaker asked her to sign a document stating that the employee started the altercation. After she refused and complained to supervisors, she alleged that she became the victim of "retaliation treatment" which included unwarranted write-ups and being assigned more work than possible to complete in a shift. After complaining to the Aramark corporate offices, Catagnus maintains they took "no corrective action of any kind."

There have been a score of incidents involving Aramark's unfair treatment of workers at UNC over the last few years. Dining hall employee LeNcie Sumpter was fired after speaking out publicly against the sexual harassment perpetrated by male supervisors who weren't chastised.

In January 2005, Aramark employees at UNC dining halls began organizing with the Service Employees International Union. Students helped out by distributing leaflets and translating meetings for Spanish-speaking employees. Aramark responded by removing the student activists and sending threatening anti-union letters to their employees.

In 2005, Aramark had police investigate Vel Dowdy, a vocal union supporter. Aramark discovered she had given a handful of free meals to students and had Dowdy removed in handcuffs and charged with felony embezzlement. Students protested, claiming that Aramark only wanted to get rid of an enthusiastic union supporter.

If this makes you a little uneasy out about dining with Aramark, think twice when purchasing Aramark-prepared foods. After all, this is a public institution and that is our right. Oh, but wait, if you live on campus you are required to purchase a meal plan. Score another win for Aramark!



I know you're wondering...

It's my turn to rant

RACHEL KING
OPINION EDITOR

Sometimes, I think I want to give up, but the thought of this page not coming out and you all not having your Pirate Rants keeps me going. Some of you are my good friends. Some of you like me, and some of you hate me (this could be because I don't publish your Rants), and some of you just met me when I was having a bad day, which is unfortunate because I consider myself to be a relatively pleasant person. Most of you don't know me personally, but if you're reading this now, you've probably already read the Rants, and so I would venture to say that in your own way, you do: I am the one who decides what goes into the Opinion page, and what doesn't, and I'd like to take a moment to respond to some of the things that I've read and experienced this semester.

When I first started here, it was scary. I was a staff writer in News and very new to journalism in general. My first stories consisted of finding out why the manholes (they were really just steam vents) all over campus smelled terrible and spending hours talking to wily professors that wanted only five percent of what they said to actually make it into the paper ("This is off the record, right, Miss?")... Some of them even wanted the prepublication copy so they could approve it first.

Then one day, I was bumped to News Editor. This happened literally overnight. I did my best to pick up the pieces. I learned quickly out of necessity and kept plugging away and making mistakes until I was doing the best job that I knew I could. I spent about a year in that position, and this semester I switched over to the Opinion page. Let me tell you: Nothing I ever dealt with in News compares to the way people treat each other's opinions. It's been a heck of a ride for a whole new number of reasons.

I've learned that having an opinion makes you an easy target because the vast majority of the population will not share theirs for fear of retribution. This is where the Pirate Rants come in. Anonymous as a thief in the night and as cruel as any dictator has ever been, a person can truel out all the hate in his or her heart and send it right to me. Sometimes it's funny and sometimes it's hurtful. Sometimes you all say things to each other that I can't hardly fathom, much less print. Why? No one can connect it to you, of course.

Other times, though, this is the best job I've ever had because you send me the funniest things, which I have the honor of sharing with the rest of you. Others rant just to say things like, "I'm Ranting right now because you won't print my Rants!" Lovely. Thanks for that. Also, "who is Jack Bauer?" It's been driving me crazy. The student body sends about 300 Rants per day, so please... Don't send me hate mail because I didn't print your stuff. Be wittier, more sincere, wackier or funnier next time. Finally, as many of you point out, yes it is bad if you have to ask whether or not it's bad. The same goes for "weird" and "wrong," too.

Also, sometimes I see Rants that make really good arguments for a real cause, or are simply a valid message. For instance, perhaps ECU will spend a few dollars to make sure Whichard gets some signs soon... or the community may take notice when students voice their opinion on the MLK/fifth street issue or something else that matters. Honestly, though, if you have that strong of an opinion that you have to send me the same Rant five times in a row, why don't you write a letter to the editor? That is the best way to end up with significant space on the opinion page. Since I had some space to work with and it's my turn to have an opinion, I thought I'd answer the questions I keep seeing and share with you all, (who also love the Rants, from what I can see) what I love about this page as well. However, this is my opinion; I'm fully aware that I have a job to do here, and I don't strive to run some Rants and not others due to anything other than the standards by which this entire newspaper operates. Also, the disclaimer that you see when you rant is necessary. I can't help if you don't like it and ranting about how you don't like it is not going to get it taken off of the page. Ah, that feels better.

So rant on, or come fill out an application. Just be prepared for criticism. The Rants are ruthless.

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

PIRATE RANTS

The *East Carolinian* does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants. Questions regarding Rants can be directed to Rachel King, Opinion Page Editor, at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com. Log onto theeastcarolinian.com to submit a Rant of your own.

I love the way I smell after the tanning bed!

Will you marry me? Like, today? Right now?

I'm a shy boy...

I spend all day thinking about good Pirate Rants to do, but when I sit down at the computer, like now, I can't think of anything.

Intramurals are so complicated. You can't get on a team unless you start one yourself. Doing that is even more complicated, I'll stick to pick-up sports.

Six years of college is the new five.

This warm weather makes me miss recess!

I swear when I find out the girl(s) who pee on the seat in the bathrooms, I am going to take them and give them a swirly!!

If you don't start paying more attention to me, then I'm going to start seeing other people whether you love me or not.

Can anyone else spend all day watching TBS?

I think it's funny how last year everyone thought that I was the witch and had problems, but this year they've realized it was you being the witch the entire time! I'm glad they all know how fake you really are!

Gosh, some people are so annoying. I wish I could just get rid of them.

To whoever was complaining about having a job where they do nothing and still get paid 12 dollars an hour... Stop trying to put it in the faces of the people who need a job and would die for yours. If you hate your boring job that much, I will be glad to take it.

I hate how most of the time I get drunk, I black out. It's like I go autopilot without GPS.

Beware: Psycho Creepmasters will sneak in through your keyholes when you are sleeping!

Ahhh, U.S. Marines. How do I love thee? Oh, let me count the ways...

This past weekend I went invisible fishing and caught a Holy Mackerel!

Myspace and Facebook aside, the internet is good for nothing but porn.

The only thing worse than never getting full is being too poor to buy food.

Hey, I like your green pants.

Who the crap is Jack Bauer?

I love my English teacher! He makes my day because he's so hot!

I am a nice girl who would really appreciate a nice guy, but it's been statistically proven I will break your heart.

To the older lady who couldn't stop staring and giving me mean looks the other day... It was Ash Wednesday. Just to let you know I'm Catholic and I'm sorry that you're ignorant and rude. I'm praying for you.

How fast you get down four flights of stairs dider than me when I took an elevator, are you the Flash?

I think the construction at Wright Fountain is a cover up for Pee Dee's buried treasure

If you don't like the swim test, then transfer, but when you drown in a kiddie pool...

Wow. Are you serious? You would send someone to war to fight for your freedom, and yet deny them those freedoms? That's exactly what is wrong with our society.

I like our late night truth or dare games.

Mythbusters keeps me up at night.

Does anybody else think the club basketball team should be playing for ECU as the actual team? Maybe then we would win.

I'm happy!

I mean, why are my cap and gown purple?

I find myself in Bate, in one of the computer labs when I'm bored. Are you there too?

I think you're in love with her, not me.

Why do you have over 200 friends on Facebook just at ECU? Do you really know that many people? I think not!

...siht daer of gniryt fo daetsni won eb ylaborp ruoht noY (Translated) **You should probably be paying attention to your professor right now instead of trying to read this...**

Can we push Spring Break back a couple weeks? I'm not in shape, yet.

I know this sounds kinda mean but I really wish Red Cross would stop calling me all the time! I thought donating blood was a voluntary act.

I'm giving up smoking for lent, all kinds!

Here's something you don't read in the Pirate Rants very often: I am actually very happy and have nothing negative to say!

Why is there nothing to do at ECU unless you are drinking?

I love saying, "Your mom" in response to everything.

I hate... Oh, hold on, dinner's ready.

Is anyone else pissed that the breakup at the pit at UNC was fake?

When I go to the bathroom in my dorm, and sometimes, I look through the cracks at them!

I need to stop getting so attached to every girl I hook up with, it's obvious by now ECU girls aren't looking to be tied down.

I would LOVE to be able to make \$12 an hour for just sitting around; let's trade!

Maybe that changed your life because you sold out your so-called "best friends," just maybe.

I wonder how many people walk around after reading Rants thinking that one they read was about them.

I wish there was a well on campus and that a little boy named Timmy would fall in it and need to be rescued. That would make a great front page TEC story!

Yesterday my boss called me a purple people eater. He's like, 70 years old. I couldn't help but smile.

Is it too late to change my major?

I've forgotten what life was like before you, and not in a good way.

I am falling in love with an acid queen.

Wander women seem to know what I want!

The only things I eat at the dining hall are three bowls of cereal, and that is the way I like it.

Girls with booties like mine do not talk to boys with faces like yours.

To all the white students who have been whining about not having a "White History Month," I found out that May is indeed, "European-American History month" and April is "Hispanic History Month". So, please, enough of the whining!

I saw you undressing me with your eyes in class. Did you like what you saw?

It's incredibly redundant to say "The TEC," since the first letter in that particular acronym happens to stand for "The" already, so stop referring to it that way.

I know you've been sending in Rants about me behind my back lately you spineless excuse of a man. I hope karma hits you like a ton of bricks. No, make that cinderblocks.

Why does the fresh potting soil on campus smells like hot, spoiled garbage?

Yesterday, a first grader tried to teach me how to do a cartwheel. I think I pulled a muscle.

I hate when my best friend has to go when we are in the middle of a deep conversation.

When I'm sick I still snuggle with my favorite stuffed animal.

Anyone else wishing this virus/flu crap would go away?

I just saw a blind guy leading two more blind people across the street... seriously.

Professors who won't take doctors' notes are crazy.

Krispy Kreme is making a reduced fat donut... YAY! I think.

I hold your seat in class so that I can smell your cologne.

My roommate is going to send her boyfriend some cupcakes to Georgia through the mail. Is that love or what?

If you smoke cigarettes, don't tell me that pork is bad for me!

I love... Me!

Let's "study" at my house next time.

No! You can't borrow my calculator; I'm taking the same test that you are.

Don't speak to me alone if you can't speak to me with your girlfriend.

Stop driving your car in the 'bus only' section of Speight. You're holding us up.

Don't be the bunny.

You may have a expensive car, but you still live in a crappy apartment.

Okay, who put a stop payment on my reality check?

My hockey mom can beat up your soccer mom.

Learn from your parents' mistakes: Use birth control.

I get enough exercise just pushing my luck.

If ignorance is bliss, you must be orgasmic.

I took an IQ test and the results were negative.

I'm as confused as a baby in a topless bar.

I didn't say it was your fault. I said I was going to blame you.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

A bartender is just a pharmacist with a limited inventory.

All generalizations are false, including this one.

I should not have to wait 30 minutes for two chicken biscuits! That is all kinds of wrong!

Parents, I need more money. I spent all of mine on cigarettes, booze and entry fees.

My phone's broken! What am I going to do with my life?!

Stop insulting your words out, Fergie. You're spelling our intelligence!

Someday we'll know why I wasn't meant for you.

Sometimes I lie to my friends about the Rants that someone else sent in and tell them they're mine.

Dear God, I'll never drink again. Please don't give me any more community frigg'n' service.

I'm so tired of just being your "friends with benefits" girl. Break up with your girlfriend! Do it.

Our ethics are down the drain. Hardly anybody knows right from wrong anymore.

Why is the ECU e-mail so hard to use? They made everything so bloody difficult.

Will someone please marry me so that people will stop making fun of my last name?

I haven't cried in two weeks, and I am so proud of myself that I could cry. Wait... no.

Why is it that my stomach only makes crazy sounds when I am watching a movie with the guy I like?

When I agreed with you that we shouldn't date, what I really meant was that it broke my heart a little.

Who knows what bands are playing this year at Barefoot on the Mall and Reggae on the Lake?

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Applications will be available in the SGA Suite – 101 Mendenhall
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**Candidates must file an application
by 5pm on March 6th**

All candidates must attend a compulsory meeting on March 7 at 6:30pm.
Elections will take place March 27th and 28th on OneStop.

DINING continued from A1

students, faculty and staff who review submissions based on very comprehensive [Request for Proposal] specifications," Johnson said.

A committee reviews the bids and makes recommendations. In the past, student bid committee members have included the SGA president or someone he or she designates, an off campus student representative and a representative from the Residence Hall Association.

"The goal is to get a good cross-section of student representation on the committee... so the entire campus will be represented," Johnson said. "Materials Management will chair the committee, and we'll also have Campus Dining officials on the committee."

Johnson noted that Aramark has been an asset to the university.

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

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GRAPHIC DESIGN MAJOR



CUNNINGHAM

"The food has gotten better, I can now eat the vegetables."

RACHELLE WOOTEN
FRESHMAN
MATH EDUCATION MAJOR



WOOTEN

"The bad fruit has caused me to not eat on campus in over four years"

ERIK DUBROFF
SENIOR
GEOGRAHY MAJOR



DUBROFF

NASA delays new moon ship because of budget crunch

WASHINGTON (AP)— NASA will delay the first manned flight of the new spacecraft designed to take humans back to the moon because of budget constraints, the agency's boss said Wednesday.

The craft, called the Orion, won't fly until early 2015, four to six months later than planned, NASA administrator Michael Griffin told lawmakers.

"We simply do not have the money available" to fly in 2014 as originally planned, he said.

The delay is the result of a \$545 million difference between President Bush's request for the agency this year and the money Congress included in a spending bill Bush signed this month. Lawmakers gave the space agency the same amount of money it received in 2006.

"The net result of the decrease will be a four- to six-month delay of the Orion crew vehicle," Griffin told the Senate Commerce Committee's space subcommittee.

That's more time the U.S.

will go without any manned spaceflight capability — the Space Shuttle is slated for retirement in 2010. It will fly 13 or 14 more missions to finish the International Space Station and maintain the Hubble space telescope.

Griffin said the gap between the shuttle's retirement and Orion's debut raises practical and strategic concerns.

"When you don't fly for four or more years, people become stale... facilities degrade. It's not a good thing," he said. "Our human spaceflight expertise will be depleted to a certain extent."

Griffin also pointed out that other countries would continue to fly humans and cargo into space while the U.S. is in a position of purchasing crew and cargo services from other countries.

The Orion is the ship designed to carry astronauts to the moon and later to Mars. Bush announced the new manned space program in

2004, the year after the shuttle Columbia accident that killed seven astronauts. Bush called for a return to the moon by 2020.

Griffin said he wasn't looking to that deadline just yet. "I'm not worried about the moon right now. I'm worried about replacing the shuttle," he said.

Five of the crew members who flew aboard space shuttle Discovery last December were recognized by senators at the hearing. Missing was pilot William Oefelein, who was hasn't made a public appearance since the arrest of astronaut Lisa Nowak earlier this month on charges she tried to kidnap and kill a woman she regarded as her rival for Oefelein's affections.

"Clearly, she is in major trouble and clearly we failed as an institution to recognize that she was very troubled," Griffin said when asked about Nowak. "I don't think one incident should ever be allowed to paint a picture for an entire group of people ... and certainly not for our astronauts."



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NOAH WYLE, Star of NBC's hit show ER

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The National Guard is seeking an individual for a part-time Health Care Specialist position. Must be able to pass aptitude test, physical examination, meet moral qualifications and have a high school diploma or GED. No experience necessary, will train. Benefits include 100% College Tuition, monthly paycheck and \$20,000.00 bonus to qualified person. Those interested should call (252) 916-9073

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GREEK PERSONALS

Congratulations to Katy Money for being the Alpha Xi Delta Sister of the week! Thanks for all your dedication girl! Love your Alpha Xi's

The sisters of Alpha Xi Delta would like to Congratulate their basketball team for winning the Championship game. Way to go girls!

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
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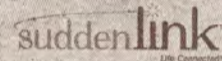
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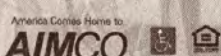
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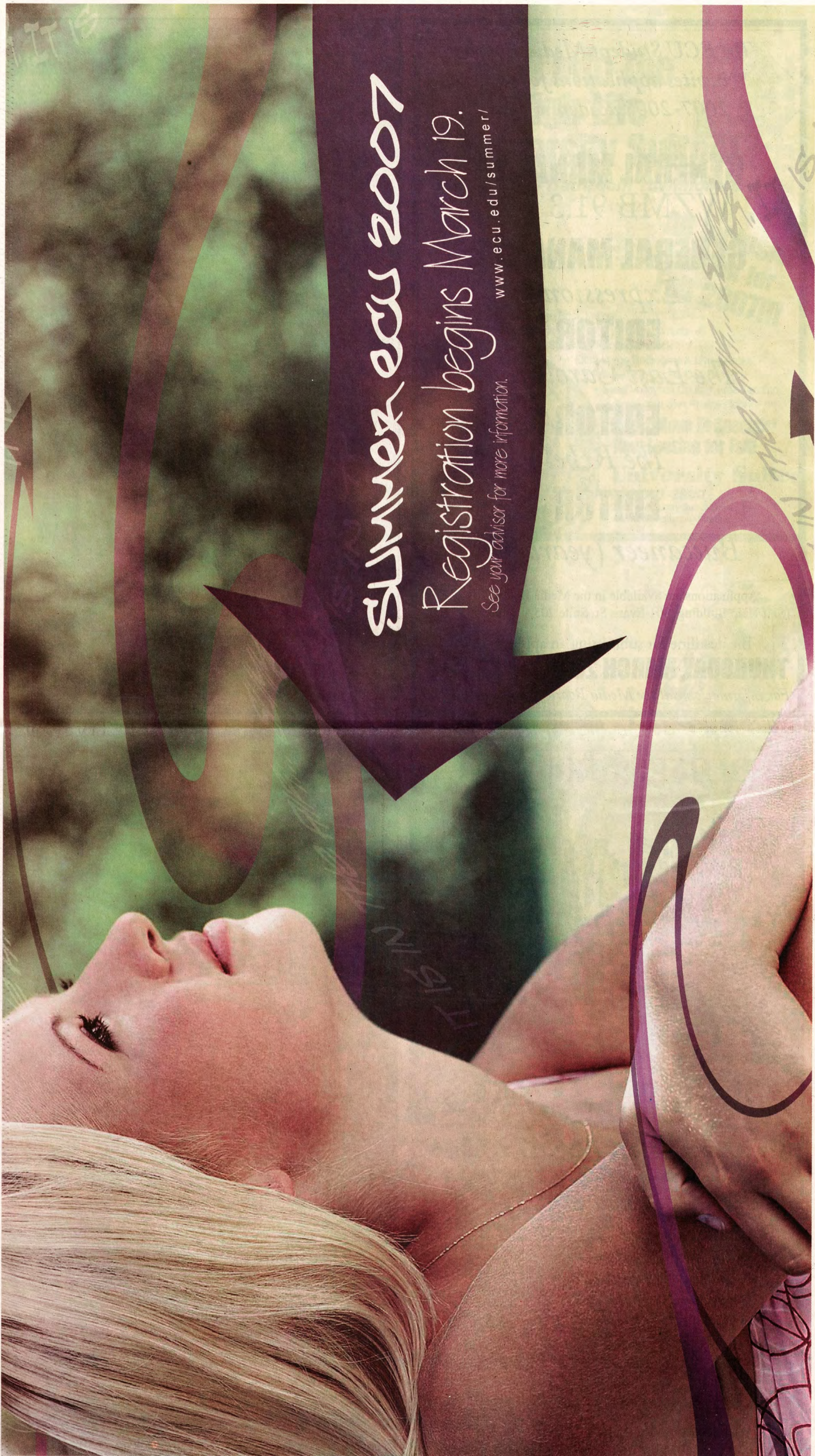
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Aries
You're very attractive now but you don't feel very much like working. This is not necessarily bad, if you've already finished your chores.

Taurus
The fun part of this project is you're gaining as you spend. Invest in a place you can live now, and turn it into money later.

Gemini
You'll have more time to study now; so don't waste it running around. Have the pizza delivered and get back to work.

Cancer
You can go shopping, but only get things that make your future more secure. In other words, buy things that will ultimately reduce your expenses.

Leo
Don't spend a lot, but do show everybody your appreciation. It means more to them than you know, but you'll learn as you go along. Besides, it's fun.

Virgo
Keep thinking about the reward you'll give yourself, when this project's done. Don't wait around for somebody else's praise.

Libra
A remarkable discovery disrupts your work routine. Make a change in priorities. Set aside what you were doing, for now.

Scorpio
Provide the necessary services with a smile and a friendly manner. Others want to pay even more than you're asking for.

Sagittarius
You're getting closer to solving the mystery. Keep it to yourself. Others want to know what you know, but they aren't all on your team.

Capricorn
Don't talk about your wins or losses yet, you're not finished. You're in a position to spend more than you have.

Aquarius
Training a helper at first seems to cost you more than it's worth. Don't give up, this turns out to be a good long-term investment.

Pisces
There's more work coming in, and this time you're ready for it. You have a routine in place that will make the load easier to process, and more profitable.

Fresh findings pop up in Greenville

A preview of what's to come in the next couple of years

JENNY AYERS
STAFF WRITER

From one academic year to the next, one never knows what kind of changes will be taking place around Greenville. The downtown area has already seen an influx of new businesses in the past couple of years with its inauguration of various new restaurants, boutiques and other establishments. Over the next couple of years the rest of the city will be catching up with new businesses popping up around every corner.

Perhaps the most appealing on this list of new businesses is the number of restaurants that are moving in. It is no secret that Tripps Restaurant and another Moe's can be added to the phone book's "restaurant" listing.

Tripps, which specializes in fine steaks, seafood and pasta dishes, has already opened its doors to the public and is located off Greenville Boulevard on Red Banks Road. A second location of Moe's opened last Thursday on Arlington Boulevard near Starbucks and Coldstone Creamery.

There are a few other restaurants and businesses that have yet to begin construction but are definitely in the works, according to Wayne Harrison, of the Community Development Department's Planning Division. While Mr. Harrison was able to provide the names of upcoming businesses, details such as what kind of food is featured are unavailable at this time.

Two new restaurants have been confirmed. Rucker John's will be located on Memorial Dr. in front of Audi's grocery store. University Chopp's, according to Harrison, will be a "...nice restaurant with an area for outdoor dining," and is going to go in the newly built building by Best Buy and Lowe's foods.

The ever-growing Starbucks

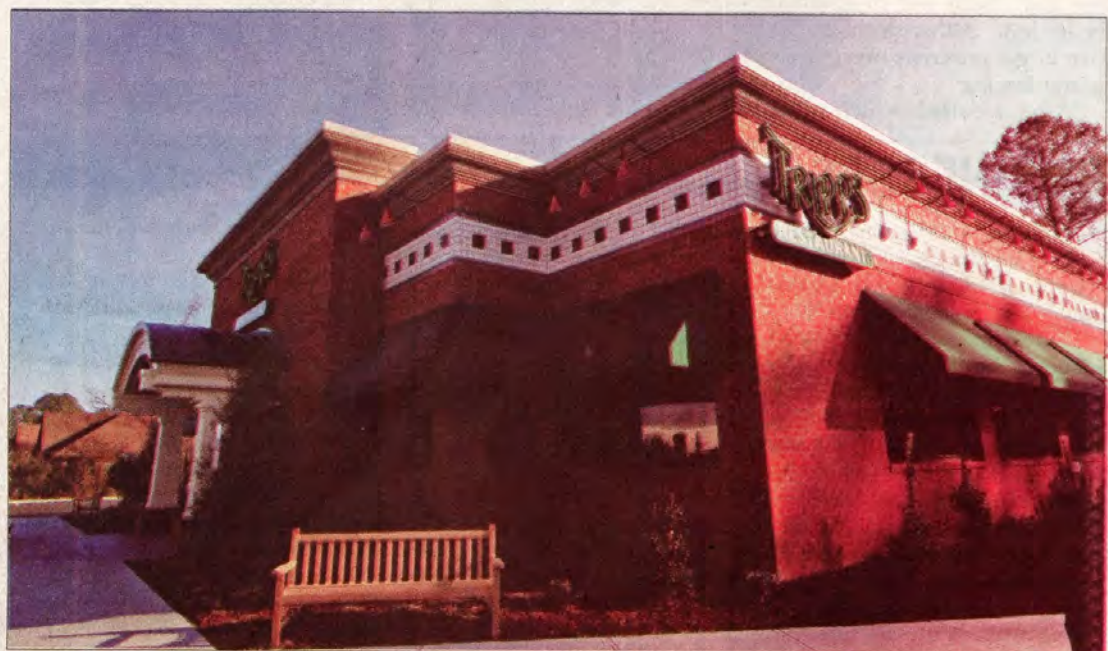


The newly-opened Sheetz is located across from the Krispy Kreme at the intersection 10th and Cotanche Streets by ECU's campus.

will open another location on 10th street along with another unconfirmed retailer. Also making a second appearance in Greenville on 10th Street is the popular convenience and gas station, Sheetz. In addition, an Arby's is being built on Firetower Road and Arlington Boulevard near Bojangle's.

Some new buildings are going up to give these businesses a home and some businesses are simply moving in to previously unoccupied areas. The Shops at Greenville Greene by the Carmike Theater are going to be home to two new and unconfirmed restaurants. As for the old Carolina East Mall, plans are in motion to demolish it to make way for new retailers.

In place of the old Carolina East mall, the shopping center



Tripps Restaurant, specializing in steaks, seafood and pasta, is located off Greenville Blvd. on Red Banks Road.

Dessert Recipes:

Three Chocolate Cookies:

1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
1/2 cup vegetable shortening
3/4 cup sugar
1 3/4 cups firmly packed brown sugar
3 large eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 (12-ounce) package semisweet chocolate morsels
1 cup milk chocolate morsels
3 (1-ounce) squares bittersweet chocolate, chopped
1 cup almond bricicle chips
Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Lightly grease baking sheets. With an electric mixer, beat butter and shortening at medium speed until creamy; gradually add sugars, beating until fluffy. Add eggs and vanilla, beating well.

In a small bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt; gradually add to butter mixture, beating until blended. Stir in chocolate morsels and almond bricicle chips. Drop cookies by 1/4 cupfuls about 3-inches apart onto prepared baking sheets. Bake for 11 to 12 minutes, or until lightly browned.

Pecan Dreams

1 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 8-ounce package cream cheese, at room temperature
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, at room temperature
1 cup chopped pecans
Topping:
1 cup heavy cream
2 tablespoons granulated sugar
1 cup Heath Bits O' Brickle Toffee Bits
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly grease a 9-inch square pan. Stir together confectioners' sugar and flour in a bowl. Using a pastry cutter or fork, cut cream cheese and butter into flour mixture until crumbly. Press mixture into prepared pan, distributing evenly. Pour nuts over mixture and press into dough. Bake for 30 minutes. Remove from oven and cool completely. For topping, whip cream and granulated sugar together with a hand-held electric mixer until stiff; fold in almond toffee bits. Spread over cake. Cut into squares. Store in refrigerator.

Black militant mellows out some

Nikki Giovanni cooks up good poetry

BRIDGET TODD
STAFF WRITER

In the 1970s, Nikki Giovanni was as black and as militant as they come. Her previous poetry collections were fiery, angry and just racially hostile enough to frighten some of my white friends.

I liked Giovanni when she sported an Afro and a dashiki and wrote poems about revolution. Now, she has aged into a beautiful woman with cropped grey hair and a "Thug Life" tattoo on her forearm (she identifies with Tupac's struggle). Aging has provided Giovanni with insight, tranquility and peace as evident from her new collection, *Acolytes*.

Giovanni tackles a variety of subjects in her 80 new poems: "Rainbows," "Nina Simone," "Emit Till," "Hurricane Katrina," "Libraries," "Virginia Tech pride" and "Rosa Parks." Her strength lies in her ability to be both nakedly frank and playfully lively at the same time.

In her stylish yet mischie-

vous voice she weaves together stories, memories, histories and eulogies. She writes lovingly about deceased figures and friends, even fondly recalling her first date, Herbert Albright, and gleefully writing that, "he was so cool."

Her poetry hasn't completely abandoned her earlier anger and calls for social justice, but she has tempered her rage with perception.

Giovanni writes, "Poems are not beer commercials... They need to bring down presidents who/ Start wars they themselves wouldn't go to."

Although *Acolytes* falls short in comparison to the lively shouts of her earlier works, Giovanni still shines. It's full of down-home soul and charm. Reading her new poems is a lot like sitting at the foot of your grandmother's rocking chair as she tells you stories about her life: Touching, sweet and always a little heart-breaking. Another reason *Acolytes* will conjure up memories of your favorite granny: It includes recipes for "the best midnight snack ever."

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



Try being silent for a day
The life of a monk isn't easy

ELIZABETH LAUTEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Recap: I'm now into the third week of project that I'm taking part in to fulfill my graduation requirements and I'm living a lifestyle similar to that of a monk.

I went to work at Logan's Thursday morning, for the first time since this project began. Let me tell you, the temptations of a restaurant on such a restricted diet were almost unbearable. It wasn't so much that I wanted to eat what I saw in front of me, but rather it was the little things that were the most difficult to deal with - I longed for sweet tea, fountain drinks, and crackers of all things.

Before going home for the day, my co-workers asked me to go out with them for drinks sometime during the weekend. I had to say no because I'm not allowed to consume alcohol during this process.

That of course made me realize just how difficult keeping up this lifestyle would be. It's one thing to "play monk" for a month, but actually committing to abstaining from all of these changes for a lifetime, after having experienced and enjoyed them, seems unachievable. Perhaps I'm just too weak of a person to be devoted to something so intense if it weren't for a grade.

Regardless of whether or not that's the case, I'm very much into this project. It drives me crazy on so many levels, but certain aspects of it are undoubtedly eye-opening and life changing.

I spent five hours after work Thursday evening at my professor's house with my classmates and other participants in the Monastic Project. Let's just say, during those hours I experienced a night unlike any other.

We spend the first 45 minutes chanting as a group. I obviously had no idea what to expect with that, but it was intense. And as crazy as this may sound, when the chanting ended and the room filled with silence, you could feel something intangible lingering in the room. It was as though you could reach out and touch the energy around you.

I thought it was just me, but

What's great about the music of the 80s?

A look at 1982, the year of the compact disc

JOHN BOSCO
SENIOR WRITER

While I've already exposed years from nearly every other decade - as far back as the 1960s, and as recent as the 1990s, there's been one decade that's been overlooked: The 1980s.

Late in 1982, the invention that would change the music industry forever (for better or for worse), the compact disc, was born.

Fittingly, 1982 saw the release of a lot of memorable music, and while not as acclaimed as some other eras, the 1980s saw an interesting blend of emerging punk acts pitted against pop mega-stars.

Well before he changed his name to a symbol and then changed it back again, Prince released *1999* in 1982. His fifth studio album, and the album that propelled him to a new level of fame, *1999* deals with such content as Armageddon and, of course, sex. The album is probably best remembered for the smash hits "1999" and "Little Red Corvette."

Not unfamiliar to name changes himself, John Cougar (also known as John Mellencamp), released *American Fool*. Who can forget the insanely catchy hit

single "Jack and Diane" and the sweet video that went along with it? The Recording Industry Association of America even named the song on their "Songs of the Century" list released in 2001.

In the hardcore scene, Bad Brains released their self-titled debut album in 1982. The album is largely considered one of the most important albums in punk rock history. "Fearless Vampire Killers" has to have one of the best guitar intros in a punk song ever.

Also noteworthy for punk music, the Clash released *Combat Rock*, which is noteworthy in that it was the last Clash album to feature their original lineup. Guitarist and vocalist Mick Jones would later be "fired" from the band, while drummer Topper Headon would be kicked out for his heroin abuse.

Maybe the best punk album to come from American soil, the Descendents' *Milo Goes to College* was released in 1982 and perfected the art of concise songwriting, having only one song longer than the two minute mark.

Bad Religion, the hugely influential southern California native punk rockers, release their first full-length album *How Could Hell Be Any Worse*, rounding out a solid catalog for the year's punk music.

R.E.M. showed their first signs of promise, releasing the *Chronic Town* EP. The acclaim the



Disney star falls short

Ashley Tisdale releases
Headstrong

ELISE PHILLIPS
ASSISTANT PULSE EDITOR

If you think that the world is being taken over by pop princesses like Hillary Duff and Lindsay Lohan, you haven't heard the new stylings of Ashley Tisdale.

Some of you may know Tisdale from Disney's hit show, *The Suite Life of Zack and Cody* or a character in Disney's *High School Musical*.

Now, 21-year-old Tisdale is trying to make her mark in the music industry.

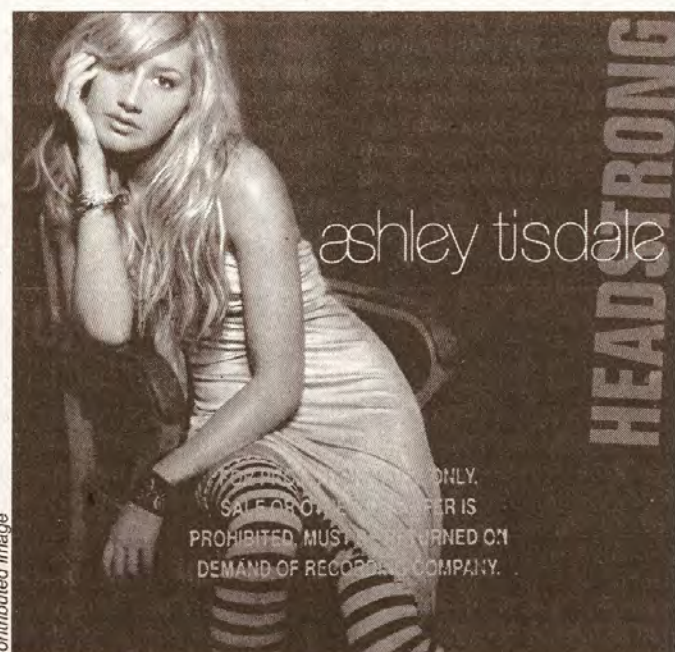
I think that "trying" is the correct word to describe Tisdale's CD, *Headstrong*, released Feb. 6.

Every song, from her attempt to achieve club-hopping music to her poor attempt at sultry ballad songs, *Headstrong* is not something I would even want my 15-year-old sister to listen to.

The CD starts off with an upbeat "So Much For You," which almost sounds like Britney Spears' "Oops I Did It Again." (Which doesn't surprise me since Spears is one of the collaborators of *Headstrong*.) Tisdale belts out her promise to do anything for her boyfriend.

An attempt to be sexy follows with the next song, "He Said, She Said," which also sounds like an early Justin Timberlake song. Of course this song proclaims that a boy will do anything to get Tisdale's love, and Tisdale will do anything for his love. Although cheesy, it's sure to get pre-teens everywhere up and dancing.

After a ballad, which testi-



Contributed image

fies Tisdale's hurts from a prior boyfriend, *Headstrong* comes to a climax with the hit "Not Like That."

I say "hit" carefully, because anyone over the age of 12 would think that this song is tacky. Tisdale croons about how all the girls in the club "got their eyes on me" and that they "put her down because of jealousy" but she is not the kind of girl who cares.

Another attempt at a hit, "Don't Touch," warns male fans and prospective love interests of Tisdale to "don't touch" unless they want to get hurt. Maybe Tisdale is trying to sound tough in this one, but comes off more as an inexperienced teenager.

The song used to name the CD, "Headstrong" proclaims Tisdale's independence and love of the spotlight. With her child-like beats and

immature sultry, it is hard to take this song seriously.

Songs like "Unlove You" and "Positivity" sound like something from the Radio Disney scene.

In other words, middle school kids everywhere will probably love Tisdale's *Headstrong*.

So, maybe I shouldn't be so hard on her. I mean, with collaborators like Britney Spears, Hillary Duff and Ashlee Simpson, who can blame her for her immature sound?

For all of you who thrive on the Disney, pre-teen, pop-princess music, Tisdale's *Headstrong* is for you.

For everyone else who craves something a little deeper, don't buy this album.

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

BUSINESSES continued from B1

"11 Galleria" will be constructed. Sears will remain and the only other Kohl's retailer at this time is Kohl's department store.

"Most major retailers don't announce their arrival until they're ready to move in," Harrison said.

The shopping center will be a combination of boutiques and department stores, along with two other restaurants that have not yet been determined. The center's estimated completion date is two years from now.

As for improving and multiplying what is already present, a few businesses are opening up new locations or expanding their current ones. A new Harris Teeter is complete on Firetower Road. This store is significantly larger and will have a presumably wider selection than its counterpart. This store, whose doors open on

March 7 to the public, will have a Starbucks Coffee located inside as well as a pharmacy.

Lowe's Home Improvement is doubling their capacity with the scheduled construction of a new store on 10th Street past University Manor apartments. The Sunshine Factory tanning salon will open another location also on 10th Street near Miami Subs. Lastly, Target is going to expand its current store by adding on to the front of the building, allowing for more products and easier access to its customers.

In addition to retailers and restaurants, there are also plans for new student housing units on 10th Street. Two projects have been confirmed in the way of new apartment complexes geared toward ECU and Pitt Community College students. Details aren't

clear just yet, but the plans are indeed definite.

"I think it's great that Greenville is expanding and adding new businesses. It's always good to have a new place to dine or shop, so that you don't end up doing the same things all the time," said Alan Wood, sophomore communication major.

Business is booming in Greenville and students might have to scramble to keep up. With the rapid introduction of new businesses, retailers and restaurants, the city is literally growing by the minute, and with all the traffic these places are going to bring, the city might just have to break down and ease the access with some road construction.

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1982

continued from B1

EP received made it possible for their following year's epic debut release, *Murmur*.

Moving to a much different genre, Boy George's Culture Club released their debut album *Kissing to Be Clever*. The album is best known for its mega-successful hit, "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me?"

Possibly the best album of 1982 was Bruce Springsteen's release of *Nebraska*. Recorded as demos by Springsteen on his own four-track recorder, the album's lo-fi sound was a shock to the general public, expecting something more like his previous album, *The River*.

Other notable albums from 1982 include Brian Eno's *On Land*, The Cure's *Pornography*, Elvis Costello and the Attractions' *Imperial Bedroom* and Roxy Music's commercially successful *Avalon*.

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MONK

continued from B1

other classmates said the same thing. It was one of those things that you need to experience firsthand in order to understand, but it truly was something else.

Monday, as outlined in the project guidelines, I spent the day in modified silence. That is to say, I was only to speak when absolutely necessary and as little as possible. If you know me, a day without talking sounds hopeless.

As expected, I struggled all day long to keep quiet. There were so many moments where I wanted to speak more than anything else in the world. Yet, as the hours passed, I started to adjust to the deafening silence.

That didn't stop my thoughts though, and there were moments where being more aware of them became overwhelming. I don't think I've ever stopped to be that aware of what was going on inside my head outside of meditating for the project.

It was then that I came to the realization that I find comfort

in speech. It makes noise, and in that noise, I find solace. Generally, we think of speaking as communicating and way to feel more connected with the world, but for me I realized that I use talking as a barrier in many ways. Perhaps not consciously, but keeping up constant chatter I can control my environment and what people are able to learn about me. Moreover, in listening to others talk, I can focus on them instead of myself.

All this said, I have no idea how the final week and a half will play out. However, I can confidently say, that while it may be a mountain of a task to complete, it comes with perfect timing. I'm about to graduate and take on the world, this is the kind of soul-searching, self-awareness people pay big bucks to sort through, and I'm very glad I stumbled into this project.

This writer can be contacted at
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Heard of poprocks and coke?

Web site offers insights
on urban myths

BEN HARRIS
STAFF WRITER

Did you know that a husband and wife each won a lottery by playing numbers recommended by a fortune teller? How about the one where a blind girl "saw" the flash of the first atomic bomb test? These are just two of the hundreds of myths and interesting facts that can be found on snopes.com.

The site features just about every myth known to man and is constantly proven itself to be the *Mythbusters* of the Internet. Founded in 1998 by Barbara Mikkelson, the site attempts to prove or debunk every myth it comes across.

Every myth is categorized into dozens of sections such as military myths, food myths, love myths, sciences myths and many more.

There are categories that deal with famous quotes and the people

who supposedly said them. In addition there is something for the users who do not feel like reading much. Mikkelson has just added a category that deals entirely with pictures. She offers up a variety of famous pictures and tells the reader whether the pictures are true or faked.

The user can spend hours looking through the site when there is utterly nothing else left to do just browsing through. A great thing about the site is that it is very easy to navigate. The site administrator does an excellent job of making myths and categories easy to find. The administrator also does a great job of researching and educating visitors to the site about different myths.

She not only tells the reader whether a myth is true or not but she also spends vast amounts of time telling the reader about a myth's particular origin and history. She also makes it easy to ask about myths. Each myth she receives with the exception of a small few are given to her by users.

Just like the television show *Mythbusters*, users can send in different myths and Mikkelson will attempt to prove or disprove them. She even goes a step ahead and provides very interesting and valid links to different sites that will give the user even further information about a myth.

Myths are on a four-scale rating system. A green light beside a myth means that it is true, a red light false, a yellow light is plausible and a white light means that the administrator has no idea where the myth came from.

The site's design is fairly simple and doesn't go over the top with annoying banners or insane, unneeded colors. This can prove to be bad for the site though because many people associate simple design with bad, illegitimate sites. The site is a great way to spend a rainy afternoon for those who just don't feel like writing that paper or studying for that test.

The writer can be contacted at
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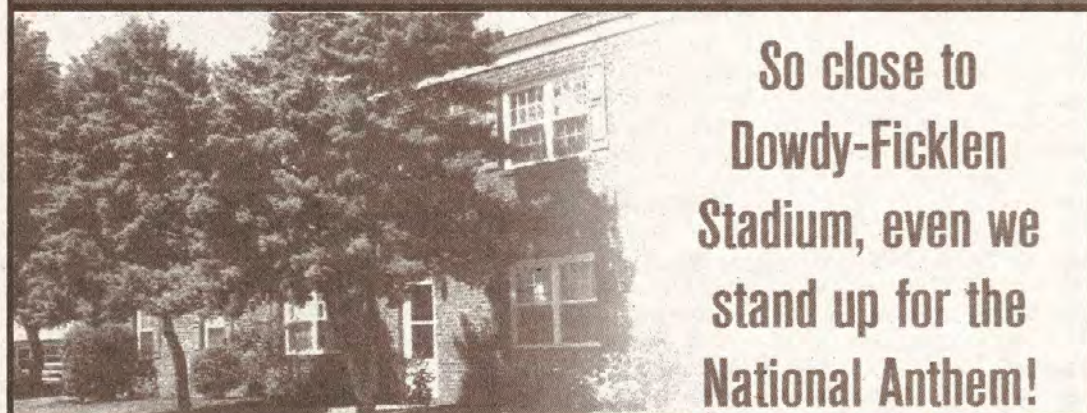


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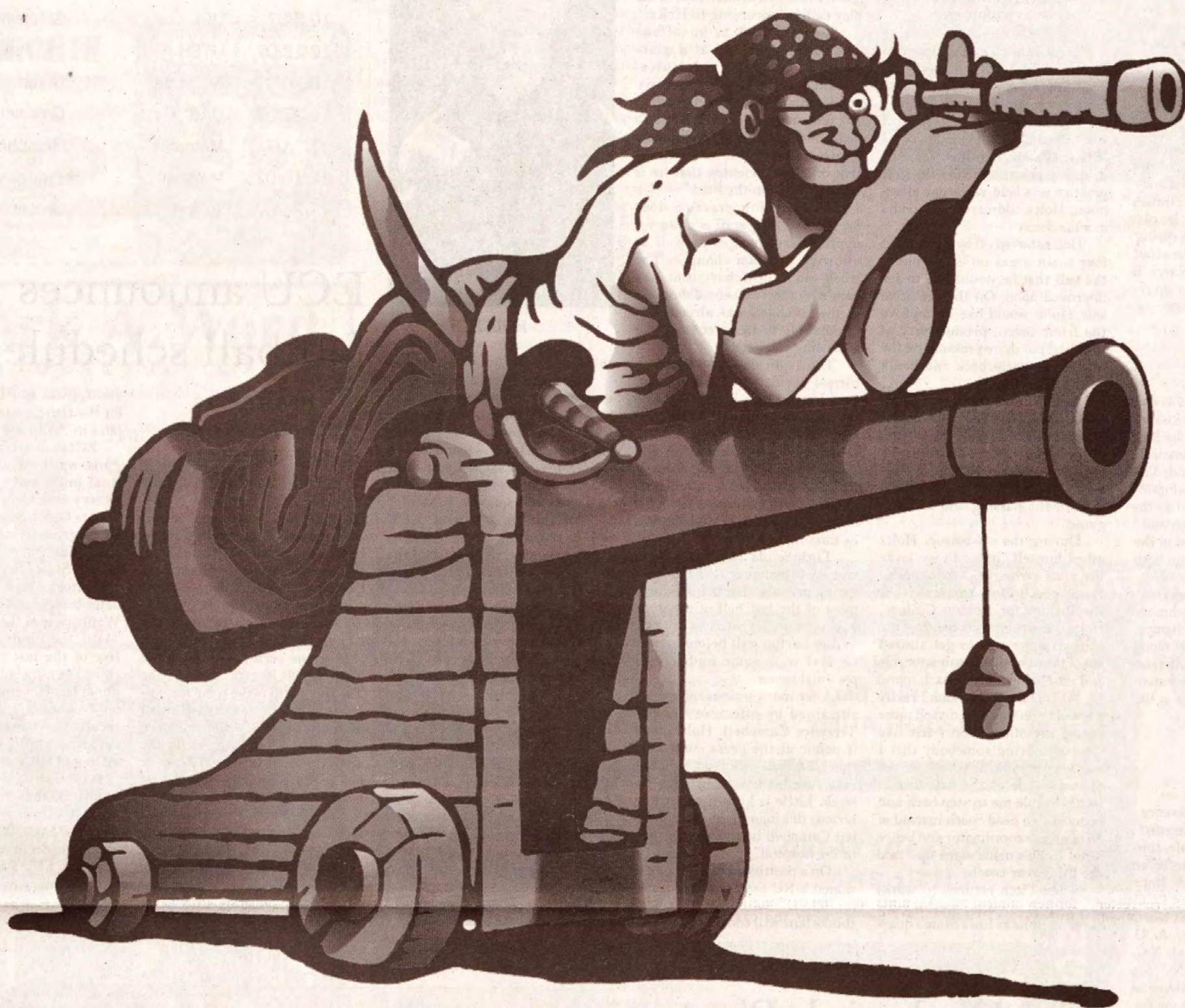
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Sports

{ECU's Inside Source}

BY THE NUMBERS

1

Quarterback on the ECU 2007 spring football roster that has attempted a pass in a ECU varsity football game; Sophomore Rob Kass went 14-30 for 184 yards last season as a backup to departed starter James Pinkney; the other four quarterbacks on the spring roster have never attempted a collegiate pass; Sophomore Brett Clay also saw limited game action last season but never attempted a pass; Kass, Clay and junior Patrick Pinkney (no relation to James) figure to battle for the starting quarterback vacancy this spring; redshirt freshman Dwayne Harris could also play some quarterback this spring as he quarterbacked the scout team last season, but Harris is listed as a wide receiver on the official spring roster

2

Goals scored by the ECU club hockey team in a 5-2 loss to Appalachian State in the Blue Ridge Hockey Conference semifinals last weekend; The Pirates lost to the Mountaineers despite going 14-1 in the BRHC regular season and earning the No. 1 seed in the postseason tournament; both ECU goals were scored by freshman defenseman Dan Duda; ECU lost to Richmond in last year's BRHC championship game, 6-4; Richmond also won this year's conference championship as it defeated Appalachian State 9-1 in the title game

3

Atlantic Coast Conference teams that are on the 2007 ECU football schedule; this is the most ACC teams on an ECU football schedule since the 1981 season, when ECU played at N.C. State, at North Carolina and at Duke; ECU will host in-state rivals N.C. State (Oct. 20) and UNC (Sep. 8) inside Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium in the same season for the first time in school history; ECU will also start the 2007 season at Virginia Tech on Sep. 1; The Pirates hold an 23-56-1 overall record against ACC opponents, but Skip Holtz is 3-1 against the ACC since becoming head coach of the Pirates

4

Combined earned runs given up by the starting pitchers that the ECU baseball team is likely to face this weekend in the Keith LeClair Classic; Barry Enright of Pepperdine, who ECU will face tomorrow, has allowed only two earned runs in 30.2 innings pitched this season and N.C. State pitcher Andrew Brackman, who will pitch against ECU on Saturday, has only allowed one earned run in 17.1 innings pitched this season; Western Carolina's starting pitcher on Sunday could be Drew Saberhagen, son of two-time Cy Young award winner Bret Saberhagen; Saberhagen has only allowed one earned run in 13.2 innings pitched this year; All three starting pitchers that the Pirates could potentially face this weekend have a ERA of below one; Baseball America ranks Pepperdine 17th in the nation and N.C. State 21st

THEY SAID IT:

"Our 2007 schedule, arguably, is about as challenging as they come. We certainly won't have the luxury of easing into it in September but it does represent a great opportunity for our program." ECU football Head Coach Skip Holtz

"One of the things that I really wanted to do was take myself more out of the offense. So I felt like if I could bring somebody that I was very comfortable with on the offensive side of the ball, then it would enable me to step back and be more of a head coach instead of an offensive coordinator and hence Todd Fitch's name came up," said the third year coach.

Todd Fitch returns to working with Holtz after working for three seasons as Iowa State's quar-

Holtz and the Pirates are ready to get a jump on the season

ECU holds first spring practice

JARED JACKSON STAFF WRITER

The weather is getting warm in Greenville and that can only mean one thing for football fans; spring football practice is upon us.

Wednesday held the first of what Head Coach Skip Holtz coins "Phase II" or as most people know it, spring practice. Before the first practice was held yesterday afternoon, Holtz addressed the media at a luncheon.

Holtz started off by addressing four main areas on each side of the ball that he would like to see improved upon. On the defensive side, Holtz would like to improve the front seven, productivity of the blitz, put more pressure on the imposing quarterback and break on the ball better.

As for the offensive side, coach would like to see a reduction in loss of yards plays, a solid mid-section of the offensive line, the ability to get short yardage in crucial situations and get the ball down field in both the passing and running game.

During the off-season, Holtz asked himself "how can we make the staff stronger" after special teams coach Don Yanowski left the Pirates for Boston College. Holtz's main goal of making the staff stronger was to get himself out of the offensive coordinator role and into being a head coach more.

"One of the things that I really wanted to do was take myself more out of the offense. So I felt like if I could bring somebody that I was very comfortable with on the offensive side of the ball then it would enable me to step back and be more of a head coach instead of an offensive coordinator and hence Todd Fitch's name came up," said the third year coach.

Todd Fitch returns to working with Holtz after working for three seasons as Iowa State's quar-

terbacks coach. Holtz and Fitch previously worked together for 10 seasons, five each at Connecticut and South Carolina beginning in 1994. Fitch will handle most of the play calling, according to Holtz.

"I hired him as an offensive coordinator and as a quarterback coach," said Holtz. "I think coach Shank [offensive coordinator Steve Shankweiler] has done a great job the last two years but has had more on his plate than he can say grace over with the five offensive linemen that he is trying to put on the field."

What spring practice does for the coaching staff is allow for depth chart changes as well as allowing position changes. The week old depth chart that was handed out to members of the press at the luncheon was already out of date due to fierce competition according to Holtz.

The depth chart has also been turned upside down due to injuries. Linebackers Pierre Bell and Quentin Cotton will both miss spring practice after having shoulder surgery. Ronald Wright, a defensive back for the Pirates, will also miss practices after being injured participating on the ECU track team; Stacy Walls also will be missing in action.

Tight ends Martin Tanski and Jay Sonnhalter will also miss spring practice after being injured most of the last half of the 2006 season as well. Offensive lineman Willie Barton will be out as well to deal with some undisclosed personal issues.

A far more serious injury was sustained by offensive lineman Terrence Campbell. Holtz made it public at the press conference that Campbell suffered a situation involving his heart earlier in the week. Little is known about how serious this injury is at the moment but Campbell is currently resting in the hospital.

On a positive note, Holtz mentioned UNC defensive line transfer Khalif Mitchell, whom he thinks fans will come to know well



Photo by Zach Siskin

HOLTZ

this fall. "He plays with a passion, an excitement, an enthusiasm, and emotion. He plays the game the way it's supposed to be played," said Holtz. "He plays it and he's all heart. I'm really excited; I think he is one of the guys that has a chance to make a real splash this year."

For the 2007 season, ECU will be returning 73 percent of its lettermen and nearly 60 percent of its starters. 30 members of the spring roster are also upperclassmen.

The upperclassman will be key for a team that is facing one of the hardest schedules in the history of the program. The Pirates open at Virginia Tech then play North Carolina and Southern Mississippi at home before going to West Virginia and Houston.

"I think coach Holland, with the schedule he has put in place, has given us the opportunity to play a lot of the better teams on the East Coast, and that's where we want to build this program," said Holtz.

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

2007-2008 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
09/1/07	Virginia Tech	Blacksburg, Va.
09/8/07	North Carolina	Greenville, N.C.
09/15/07	Southern Miss	Greenville, N.C.
09/22/07	West Virginia	Morgantown, W.Va.
09/27/07	Houston	Houston, Texas
10/6/07	UCF	Greenville, N.C.
10/13/07	UTEP	El Paso, Texas
10/20/07	NC State	Greenville, N.C.
10/27/07	UAB	Greenville, N.C.
11/3/07	Memphis	Memphis, Tenn.
11/10/07	Marshall	Huntington, W.Va.
11/24/07	Tulane	Greenville, N.C.

ECU announces 2007 football schedule

Home games against ACC rivals highlight season

(SID)—Home contests against regional ACC members North Carolina, N.C. State and a pair of road games at nationally-ranked bowl qualifiers Virginia Tech and West Virginia highlight East Carolina's 2007 complete football schedule released by C-USA.

After the Pirates open the campaign Sept. 1 by renewing a 12-game series with Virginia Tech which began in 1956, the Tar Heels will make their second-straight visit to Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium Sept. 8. ECU will face off against West Virginia for the sixth consecutive season Sept. 22 before the Wolfpack travel east nearly a month later on Oct. 20.

The meeting against the Hokies, who wrapped up the 2006 season with a No. 18 national rank and an appearance in the Chick-fil-A Bowl, will be the first since a 45-28 Virginia Tech win at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium Sept. 7,

2000. ECU and UNC will clash for the 11th time in history a week later in the Pirates' home opener.

ECU's match up at West Virginia, which stood No. 10 in both final polls and owned a 38-35 victory over Georgia Tech in the Toyota Gator Bowl, will continue an 18-game series that started in 1970. The trip to Greenville will be N.C. State's first since 1999 and will extend a series with ECU that dates back to 1970. Although the Wolfpack lead the all-time ledger since 1987, including a 21-16 triumph last November in Raleigh.

In addition to playing 11 consecutive weekends before an open date Nov. 17, the Pirates will face all four of last season's bowl qualifiers on their schedule in the first month of the season. Meetings against Virginia Tech, Southern Miss (GMAC), West Virginia and Houston (Autozone Liberty) will complete ECU's September slate.

see FOOTBALL page B5

Tar Heels sink Pirates

ECU looks ahead to second home tournament this weekend

ROBERT MATTHEW PARKS STAFF WRITER

The ECU softball team lost a hard-fought game to the University of North Carolina Tar Heels 3-1 last night.

Last night's game was Keli Harrell, who had pitched a no-hitter against St. John's over the weekend, to face the Tar Heels.

Harrell gave her usual solid performance holding UNC to just one run over the first five innings. The Pirate offense was able to muster one run off of the Tar Heels and found the game tied 1-1 in the top of the sixth inning when ECU Head Coach Tracey Kee decided to pull Harrell from the game and insert freshman Toni Paisley.

Kee made a similar move over the weekend in the Baymont Inn & Suite Pirate Classic championship game against Appalachian State and found success. Harrell had pitched the first five innings, and Paisley came on to put the Mountaineers away.

The Tar Heels would not be subject to the same fate.

With two outs and one on base in the top of the sixth the Tar Heels offense came alive. UNC first baseman Jennifer Jacobs hit a two-run homerun off of Paisley, giving the Heels the lead, 3-1. She rounded third on her way to home to the chorus of cheering fans donned in sky-blue that made up slightly under a quarter of the stands behind home plate.

It was Jacobs' second home run of the game and it made all the difference. Harrell returned to finish the inning and go the last two innings, holding UNC for the rest of the game.

The Pirates couldn't get any offense firing in the sixth and seventh innings despite Harrell's performance.

UNC improved to 9-8 on the season while the Pirates fall to 9-6.

"Toni Paisley has an unbelievable curveball and she had shut

[Jacobs] down twice in the fall with curveballs," said Kee regarding her choice to bring Paisley in for Harrell.

"I went to Toni's best pitch and she drove it out of the park," said Kee.

The Pirates, offensively, only managed four hits scattered

see SOFTBALL page B5

MOST VALUABLE PIRATE

WEEKLY SOFTBALL AWARD

KELI HARRELL, SR



Harrell

In an impressive 9-0 stomping of St. John's this past weekend senior ace Keli Harrell was one wild pitch away from throwing the first perfect game of her collegiate career. Harrell settled for her third complete game no-hitter. This sent ECU on its way to the Baymont Inn and Suites Pirate Classic championship. Harrell was not quite as dominating in her performance against UNC, but still struck out eight in seven innings. Harrell has 70 strikeouts on the year and is finishing 42.7 percent of the batters she's faced. Harrell boasts a 0.85 ERA and is holding the opposition to a .128 batting average.

"Keli has really stepped up as a senior. She has had a great career here but the growth in maturity I've seen from her junior year to now has been priceless. Any time you can throw a no-hitter at this level it says a lot about your pitcher. She is a dominating force on this level." ECU softball Head Coach Tracey Kee

Ice hockey season comes to an end

Pirates fall to Mountaineers in semifinals

JARED JACKSON STAFF WRITER

The ECU hockey team went into this past weekend's Blue Ridge Hockey Conference Tournament as the No. 1 seed, as it finished the regular season with a 14-1 BRHC record. Despite beating Appalachian State twice in the regular season and clearly outplaying the Mountaineers Saturday night, the Pirates season came to an abrupt end with a 5-2 loss. Appalachian State beat Clemson Friday night to move on to play the Pirates on Saturday.

"To be honest I think it's [the bye] not necessary," said junior forward Corey Fleitz after the Clemson series two weeks ago. "I would rather have two games in front of us than just one, but it can either hurt us or be good for us."

Fleitz's thoughts on having a bye after the Clemson series certainly appeared to ring true. According to starting goalie Brent Falcon, the Pirates went into the game against ASU overconfident.

The Pirates two goals came by sensational freshman defenseman Dan Duda. One goal was assisted by Brent Percy, while the other was unassisted. ECU out shot ASU 34-25 but the Mountaineers were efficient, scoring five goals on less chances.

"Obviously this weekend didn't go as we had hoped it would," said Falcon. "I think that it was a good wake up call for us; I think we kind of went into the weekend thinking that the trophy was polished and ready for us and all we had to do was show up. Last year we were the underdogs and really didn't have anything to lose, this year we were the ones with the target on our backs."

Connor Brearley, the backup goalie for the Pirates, agreed with Falcon's assessment.

"The game was dominated by us, they just got a few more quality scoring chances than we



ECU faced off against Appalachian State Saturday and lost, 5-2.

did," said Brearley, who compiled a 6-3 record in place of injured starter Brent Falcon. "And the team was back to our old style of playing down to our opponent."

Brearley however added that he has never felt more proud to wear the purple and gold.

"I think everyone was extremely proud with the way our season ended, I feel very bad for the seniors who don't have the opportunity to get back at them next year," said Brearley. "Certainly no one wants to end on a loss, so hopefully we will take something from this weekend and regroup in the off season and put a championship team on the ice next year. It's not like the whole season was a disaster, I was very proud to be a part of such a great hockey team this year and we had a lot of success in the regular season, in fact, I have never been more proud to wear any other jersey than I am when I pull the ECU jersey over my head."

The Pirates have now played in the BRHC tournament two years in a row in only two years of the program's existence. Last

season ECU lost 6-4 in the conference championship to a powerful Richmond team. This season the Spiders held on to their title by crushing ASU, 9-1.

ECU started the year 9-1, but stumbled down the stretch. The Pirates went 7-6-1 in the second half of the season. While ECU played some of the toughest teams in the region, the Pirates were good enough to finish with a 14-1 mark in the BRHC regular season.

"I'm very happy with where we are as a second year program," said Falcon. "We're one of the top teams in the South region and have gained respect from some of the best [Division III] programs in the nation. This program can really only get better and we're continuing to see increased support from the community, volunteers and the media. It's going to be exciting to see where this team goes from here. I certainly don't think that you can let one loss define this team and this program, we'll

see HOCKEY page B4

HOCKEY continued from B4

move on and next year we'll be better." ECU is now focused on next season. While the Pirates lose four players, they are bringing in some exceptional talent for the 2007-08 season. "Next year we already have some great talented freshmen and transfers coming in," Falcon said. "We're only losing four players and will have a solid core to build around. I think that next year's team will be improved in all areas offensively and defensively. Look for a tougher schedule that we

hope will give us the opportunity to advance to Nationals. We're also going to do whatever we can to get more home games so our fans can enjoy more great hockey in Greenville." Falcon added, "However, we're looking to add a new manager and we always need volunteers to help on game days as well as in other areas." Fans interested in helping with the team can find contact information on

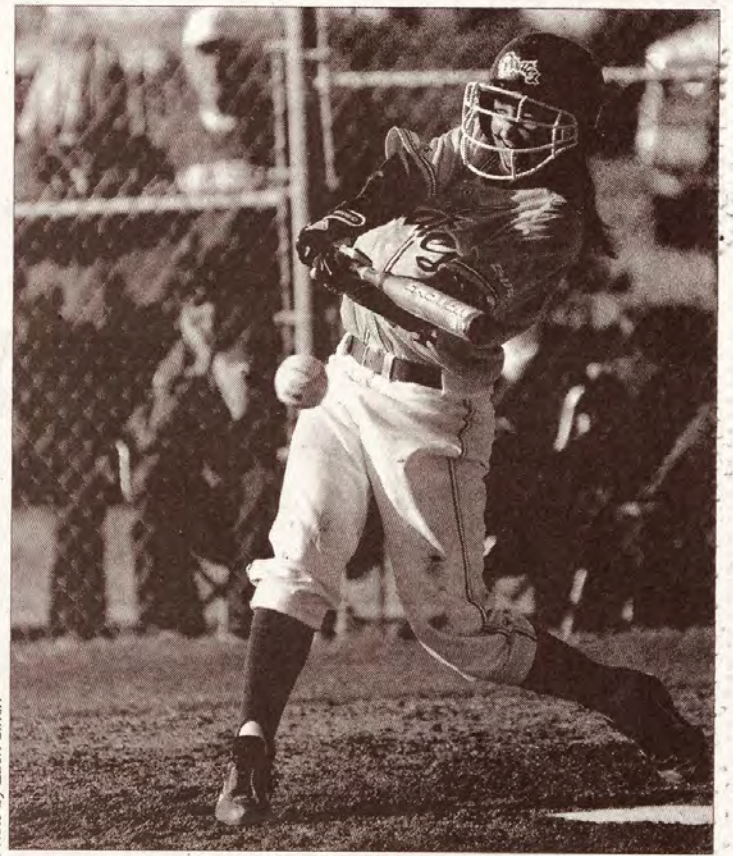
This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

SOFTBALL continued from B4

throughout their lineup. Junior infielder Paige Baggett reflected on the Pirate's offensive performance after the game, noting that it seemed to get better as the game went on. "In the beginning we really were not hitting the ball well and we were not swinging the bats hard at all. We had lazy bats," said Baggett. "We did not get a shot until about the fourth inning. We were hitting shots at the end but we were just hitting them right to people." After the game Harrell was determined to look forward to the team's upcoming games this weekend as part of the Holiday Inn Express Pirate Clash. "We have got to refocus," said Harrell. "We have got a lot of work to do in the bullpen and we have got to work on cutting down the long-ball." Perhaps one of the biggest issues for Kee right now is teaching her young team how to assert home-field advantage.

"Right now we have to figure out how to win at home," said Kee. "I have been very disappointed in our last week here at home when we have been seeing opponents that we should be beating." The team will have several chances to do that this weekend as they welcome Vermont, Delaware, Binghamton and James Madison to Greenville. The Pirates begin play tomorrow at noon against the Vermont Catamounts. Then the team will take on the Delaware Fightin' Blue Hens at 4 pm. The Catamounts are currently 0-5 on the season and looking to break their losing streak. They were swept in their season opening tournament, losing all five games. Delaware has yet to begin their season. Their scheduled opener against St. Joseph's was postponed due to snow.

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



The ECU softball team struggled to string hits together against the Tar Heels.

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FOOTBALL continued from B4

"Our 2007 schedule, arguably, is about as challenging as they come," ECU Head Coach Skip Holtz said. "We certainly won't have the luxury of easing into it in September but it does represent a great opportunity for our program. Obviously, I think everyone associated with the Pirate Nation is excited to open at Virginia Tech, play North Carolina and N.C. State at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium and make the trip to West Virginia but when you add

that our first two Conference USA games of the year are against the two teams that played in the league title game a year ago, it will be tough task, no doubt. We won't have a lot of time to get ready to go." Sandwiched between the North Carolina and West Virginia tilts, ECU will host the Golden Eagles Sept. 15 in its C-USA opener before making a visit to defending league champion Houston Sept. 29. The 2007

season will mark the start of a new two-year rotation in C-USA's out-of-division scheduling arrangement as the Pirates will face the Cougars, UTEP and Tulane over the next pair of campaigns after wrapping up a two-year commitment with contests against Rice, SMU and Tulsa in 2005 and 2006. ECU will play three of its four October games at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium when it hosts UCF, N.C. State and UAB. The

Pirates will make the long trek to El Paso, Texas for a first-ever meeting against the Miners at the Sun Bowl Oct. 13 before returning home and facing the Wolfpack. After road dates at Memphis and Marshall, and an off week, ECU will close out the season by welcoming Tulane to Greenville. The Pirates have won six of the eight all-time meetings against the Green Wave, which includes a 27-25 home victory in 2004.

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