



The East Carolinian

YOUR INDEPENDENT
STUDENT NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 82, ISSUE 73

{ www.theeastcarolinian.com }

THURSDAY APRIL 12, 2007



Links recently moved into Uptown Greenville. Find out what they have to offer.....**Page B1**



Another local band is making their mark on the music scene. Read more about The Avengers.....**Page B1**



The Pirates are gearing up for the annual Purple and Gold game. For a player profile on redshirt freshman back Norman Whitley and a preview of the historical spring game, turn to.....**Page B4**



The ECU women's tennis team has hit the court with a purpose all season. Read what to expect from Pirates.....**Page B4**

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

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Tax-exemption for textbooks proposed

New bill, Web site could offer savings for students

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
SENIOR WRITER

To cut the cost of textbooks for students, two approaches offer different solutions. A tax exemption bill introduced by senator Harry Brown could cut the cost of textbooks. In addition, two N.C. State students have created a Web site that provides a trading post for students to sell their textbooks.

The tax exemption will apply for all 111 postsecondary institutions in North Carolina, which includes public and private universities, colleges and community colleges.

Students who are eligible for financial aid do not always receive an excess amount to cover their book costs.

Many students end up trying to go to school full time and work, according to Brown.

"My son just graduated from college about a year ago, so I know how the cost of textbooks has risen over the past few years," said Brown.

To fix the problem, Brown thinks that North Carolina should take the example of other states that have already passed legislation to decrease the cost of textbooks.

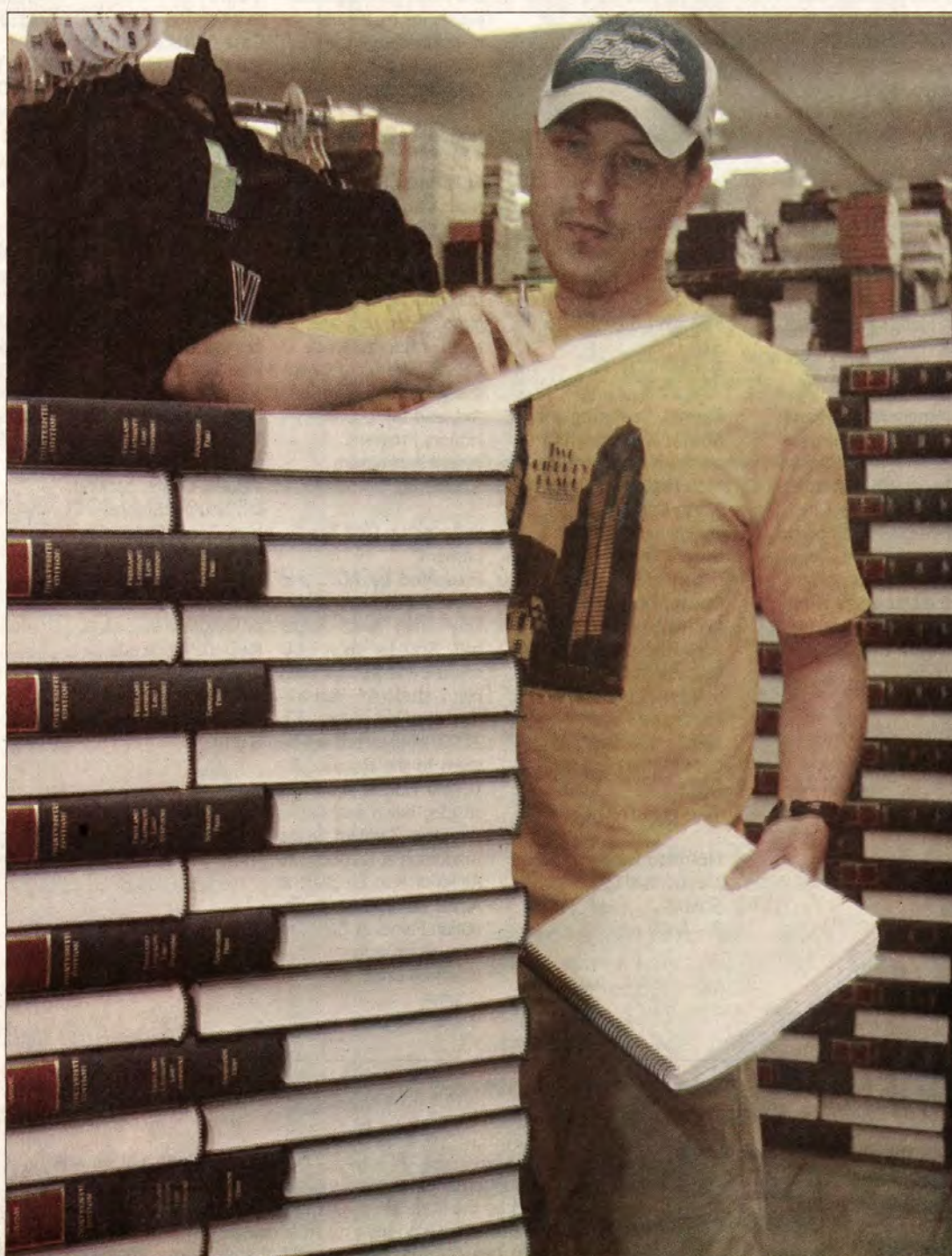
"At least a dozen states already exempt sales tax from textbooks; it is time North Carolina does the same," Brown said.

The bill could save students enough money to supplement the price of other necessary materials for school.

"Over a years time, we can save \$50 to \$70 on textbooks and that \$50 to \$70 can be used for supplies," Brown said.

The next step for the bill to take effect is for it to be heard by the Finance Committee, according to Brown.

The bill needs to be heard by the crossover deadline of May 17 and then it must be passed on the floor or it will die, according to Brown.



A student prices textbooks at the bookstore. Textbooks could be exempt from taxes if a new bill passes.

While the bill seems like a good way to put some money back into students' pockets, some students think that the bill has some flaws.

Two N.C. State students created a Web site called selli-

tatschool.com, which they think is a more efficient way to decrease the cost of books.

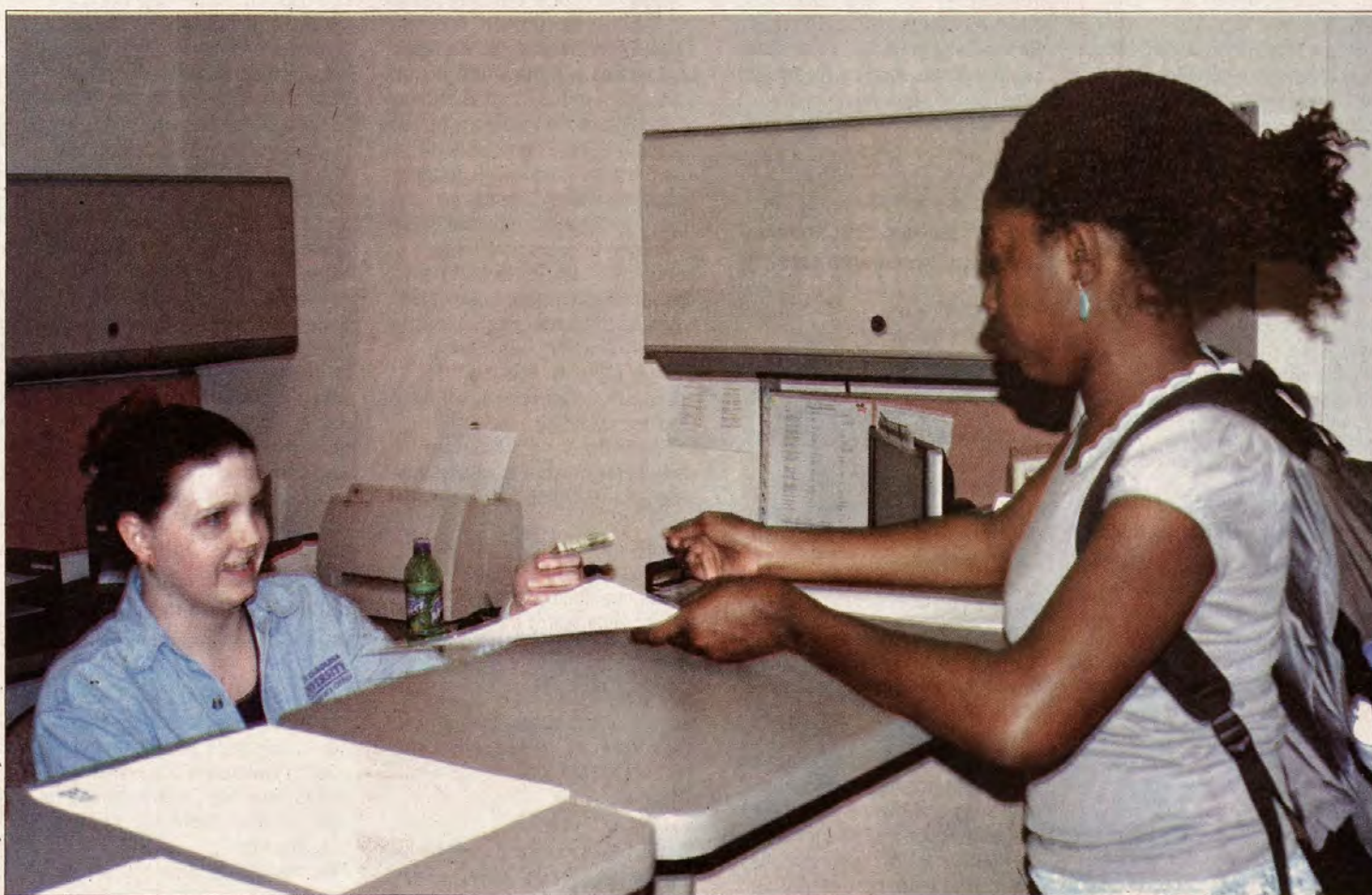
Oriah Ben-Gal and Ben Miller, co-founders of the Web site, noticed some things about the bill that may ultimately hurt

students.

"This will allow publishers to raise the prices of their books," said Ben-Gal.

see **TEXTBOOKS** page A6

Transcripts could become free of charge



A resolution was presented to SGA requesting the registrar give students two official transcripts for free, instead of the current \$5 rate per transcript.

Resolution proposed by Student Welfare Committee

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
SENIOR WRITER

A resolution was introduced to the SGA congress April 2, to mandate the registrar to give students two free transcripts.

Regina Twine, chair of the Student Welfare Committee, presented the idea to congress.

Congress approved the resolution but some members wanted to know if it was possible for students to get all the transcripts free.

Twine agreed to do more research to find out if students could get more transcripts at no cost.

"I'm trying to find other four year schools that offer the same deal and some history behind it," said Twine.

Arguments described in the resolution include the financial strain it may put on students and the multitude of applications and scholarships that require transcripts.

The current cost for each official transcript is \$5, which demonstrates the burden it can put on students who may be applying for scholarships and graduate schools simultaneously.

"I was applying to five schools and that was \$25, plus application fees that I just didn't have," Twine said.

After talking to other students who were in similar situations,

Twine decided that something should be done to improve the issue.

More students tend to purchase transcripts near the end of the semester when more application deadlines approach.

"Our traffic does pick up during the end of the term and after grades have been posted," said Amanda Fleming, associate director of the registrar.

The registrar averages around 125 transcript purchases per day according to Fleming.

That is about \$3,125 per week in sales from students needing transcripts for common requirements.

The charge of transcripts was increased from \$3 to \$5 in July of 2005, according to Fleming.

"There was a increase in production cost such as the security paper that was used and the price of postage," said Angela Anderson, assistant vice chancellor of the registrar, when asked about the reason for the increase.

Initially, transcripts were free for the first copy and \$1 per copy after the first one, according to Anderson.

That was discontinued because it became an issue of tracking if the student received their free copy after they moved from having a hard copy to an automatic record of tracking, according to Anderson.

The Student Welfare Committee feels that reinstating a

see **TRANSCRIPTS** page A3

Cuomo says student loan corruption widespread

(AP)—Cozy arrangements between colleges and the companies that lend their students billions of dollars are far more widespread than anticipated, New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo told The Associated Press Tuesday, just as two more college financial aid officers were suspended amid a probe into the \$85 billion industry.

Cuomo would not divulge where the burgeoning investigation is headed next, including whether more subpoenas are on the way. But he said the investigation could lead to criminal charges against high-ranking officials at both lending companies and universities.

"This is like peeling an onion," Cuomo said. "It seems to be getting worse the more we uncover. It's more widespread than we originally thought ... More schools and more lenders at the top end.

"We have demonstrated this is not just the exception," he said. "This is the rule." Cuomo is investigating alleged kickbacks to school officials who steered students to certain lenders. His investigators say they have found numerous arrangements that benefited schools, financial aid officers and lenders at the expense of students.

Investigators found that many colleges have established "preferred lender" lists and entered into revenue sharing and other financial arrangements with those lenders. Some colleges have "exclusive" preferred lender agreements with the companies.

So far, six schools, the University of Pennsylvania, New York University, Syracuse University, Fordham University, Long Island University and St. John's University, have agreed to reimburse students a total of \$3.27 million for inflated loan prices caused by revenue sharing agreements, Cuomo said.

The schools will return money to students who took out loans during the time the revenue sharing agreement was in effect. Students will be refunded based on the amount they were loaned.

On Monday, a loan company that has been at the center of the investigation, CIT Group Inc., placed three top executives at its Student Loan Xpress division on paid leave following allegations of stock transactions with a high-level U.S. Department of Education official and college financial aid officers.

The Department of Education official who oversaw parts of the student loan industry was also placed on leave after it was reported that in 2003 he owned at least \$100,000 worth of stock in Education Lending Group Inc., the former parent of Student Loan Xpress. The company was acquired by CIT in 2005.

A number of student loan officials at different schools have also been placed on leave pending the investigation.

On Tuesday, Widener University in Pennsylvania placed Walter Cathie, the dean of financial aid at Widener, on leave. Cuomo's office said Cathie was paid \$80,000 by Student Loan Xpress since 2005. Investigators said they believed Cathie had an agreement with the company to market its services to graduate schools, receiving fees based on loan volume.

Also on Tuesday, Capella University, a Minneapolis-based online school, said it suspended its director of financial aid after he acknowledged accepting consulting fees from Student Loan Xpress.

Financial aid director

see **LOAN** page A3

News

{ Campus & Community }

CORRECTIONS

In Sports, "Upcoming year crucial for ECU athletics" said ECU would host the 2007 - 2008 Conference USA basketball championship. We wish to clarify that ECU will not necessarily host the championship, but rather will have the opportunity to do so in the bid to host process.

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

April 12 - 15

The Tempest
By William Shakespeare
Prospero lives on a desolate isle with his virginal daughter, Miranda. He's in exile, banished from his duchy by his usurping brother and the King of Naples. Providence brings these enemies near; aided by his vassal the spirit Ariel, Prospero conjures a tempest to wreck the Italian ship. The king's son, thinking all others lost, becomes Prospero's prisoner, falling in love with Miranda and she with him. Prospero's brother and the king wander the island, as do a drunken cook and sailor, who conspire with Caliban, Prospero's beastly slave, to murder Prospero. Prospero wants reason to triumph, Ariel wants his freedom, Miranda a husband; the sailors want to dance. For more information, visit ECUARTS.com
McGinnis Auditorium 8 p.m., except Sunday at 2 p.m.

Contra Dance and Potluck Dinner

April 14
6 p.m. potluck dinner, 7:30 p.m. lesson and 8 - 10:30 p.m. dance
Live old-time and Celtic music by a string band. A smoke and alcohol-free event.
Sponsors: ECU Folk and Country Dancers

Now - April 17

Choose the Centennial Buccaneer Yearbook Cover
The department of Student Media is inviting all students, faculty and staff to help us choose the yearbook cover for the centennial edition of the *Buccaneer*, ECU's official yearbook!
You can view all three covers and place your vote using OneStop. All yearbook covers were designed by ECU students and staff.

April 19

Barefoot on the Mall

This event gathers musicians from all genres for an all day concert and features various games, rides and food vendors.

Scholarships being offered by NC National Guard

The North Carolina National Guard is currently offering two, two and one-half, and three-year scholarships. Those interested can see SFC Jimmy Smith in Room 344-A Rawl Building to pick up an application packet. Information can also be obtained by calling 916-9073.
344-A Rawl Building

Color Copies Now Available at Joyner

Library Copy Center, Joyner Basement, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
The Library Copy Center is in the basement of Joyner Library and is open Monday through Friday. It is a full-service copy center, with faxing also available. Cash or check only. Call 328-2326 for more information.

12 **Thur**

ECU hosts UN judge Bankole Thompson
Justice Bankole Thompson will present "The Role of International Law in Social Justice" presented by the Annual Carolyn Freeze Baynes Lecture on Social Justice presented by the College of Human Ecology. Justice Thompson serves as an appointee to the United Nations Special Court (War Crimes Tribunal) for Sierra Leone, Africa.
A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall 2 p.m.

Commoners of Amarna
"The Bioarchaeology of Residents from Pharaoh Akhenaten's Ancient Egyptian Capital City," will be presented by Dr. Jerome C. Rose, Department of Anthropology at the University of Arkansas.
Flanagan Building room 265 7 p.m.

13 **Fri**

Video Conference Lecture "International Projects, Our Experience"
Hosted by ECU Dept. of Engineering and Dr. Gene Dixon. Video Conference between ECU and Czech Technical University in Prague. ECU's 100th Anniversary and Czech Univ.'s 300th Anniversary. Lecture involves faculty and students from both campuses interacting in an information exchange.
Flanagan Building Room 312 8 a.m.

Storms, Seafaring and Strata: A Symposium on the Natural and Human History of Eastern North Carolina
Topics include, but are not limited to: the history of the Atlantic Ocean, local geology, Native American and post-contact archeology, ecosystem changes, maritime history and Hurricane Floyd.
Mendenhall Student Center Multipurpose Room 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Nutrition Bingo
Mendenhall Great Rooms 3 - 4:45 p.m.

14 **Sat**

ECNAO's Spring Powwow
The East Carolina Native American Organization holds its annual powwow displaying traditional Native American dancing, songs, and crafts.
Bottom of College Hill

ECU hosts Spring Open House
Activities include an academic fair, a student life and organization fair, walking and bus tours of campus, and tours of the residence halls. There will also be sessions from Financial Aid, and the University Honors Program.
Wright Auditorium 9 a.m.

"Lion's Cup Golf Tournament"
Presented by ADPi and LXA
Four man team super ball, \$50 for each ECU student and \$60 for each non student, registration deadline is April 11, 2007, all proceeds will be given to the Ronald McDonald House. Breakfast snacks, lunch and drinks provided. Contact Wylie Bindeman at Lambda Chi Alpha or Keri Brockett at Alpha Delta Pi for Registration Forms or Sponsorship information.
Bradford Creek Golf Course 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

15 **Sun**

Softball
vs: Memphis
ECU Softball Field 1 p.m.

Casey's Race "Run for the Kids"
Presented by The Greek Community at ECU. For more information, visit caseysrace.com/index.html

13th Annual Hamstring Hustle
Sponsored by the Brody School of Medicine Medical Student Council, the 13th annual Hamstring Hustle 5K will be held April 15. Late registration and T-shirt pick-up will begin at 1:45 p.m. in the Vquest Center parking lot, 2610 Stantonsburg Road, Greenville. For more information, contact Kasey Joyner at kaj1001@ecu.edu or Landon Williams at ltwo702@ecu.edu. Vquest Center parking lot, 2610 Stantonsburg Rd. 3 p.m.

16 **Mon**

Nutrition and Fitness Expo
Student Recreation Center Concourse 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

The Dating Doctor: David Coleman
Presented by ECU Student Union
Hendrix Theater 7 p.m.

"He is Risen" spring fireside
Sponsored by Latter Day Saint Student Association; The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Mendenhall multi-purpose room 7 - 9 p.m.

17 **Tue**

ECU's International Film Series: "Fearless"
Bate 1031 6:30 p.m.

"Real Talk" with Jonathan Perry
Hendrix Theatre 7 - 8:30 p.m.

18 **Wed**

Historian to discuss African diaspora at ECU
Science and Technology Building, Rm. C-309 4 p.m.

Am I Crazy?
Ledonia Wright Cultural Center 6 p.m.

Baseball
Clark-LeClair Stadium 7 p.m.

Featured Event

Monday, April 16

The Dating Doctor: David Coleman
Presented by ECU Student Union
Hendrix Theater 7 p.m.



BRIEFS

U.S. official: North Korea wants to delay shutting down atomic reactor

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea's key condition for halting nuclear weapons development has been met now that frozen funds have been released, but it wants to delay a weekend deadline for shutting down its atomic reactor by a month, a U.S. official said Wednesday.
North Korea will invite back U.N. weapons inspectors as soon as it can access the money from bank accounts in the Chinese territory of Macau and will return to international talks on shutting its nuclear program "at an early date," the official said.
However, North Korea wants to delay a Saturday deadline for switching off its sole operating nuclear reactor by 30 days, the official said, adding that any such change would require agreement from all countries involved in arms talks with the North.
The six-party negotiations involve the United States, the two Koreas, China, Japan and Russia.
The comments were made to a visiting U.S. delegation, said the official with knowledge of the discussions, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks.

Indicted Duke lacrosse players could learn soon if they'll stand trial in sexual assault case

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Three members of Duke University's lacrosse team could learn as early as Wednesday whether state prosecutors will drop the remaining charges accusing them of sexually assaulting a stripper at a team party more than a year ago.
"I think it's likely that they will do that," said Wade Smith, an attorney for charged player Collin Finnerty. "We certainly hope that would be true. But until we hear it, we're not going to acknowledge that's the truth. We'll wait and

see."

No formal announcements have been scheduled by the state attorney general's office, which took over the case in January after the local district attorney was charged with several ethics violations tied to his handling of the sensational case.
But a person close to the case told The Associated Press on Tuesday that prosecutors in the attorney general's office, which for weeks has said it was close to completing its investigation, wrapped up additional interviews last week.
The person, who spoke to the AP on a condition of anonymity because a formal announcement has not been made, said Finnerty, Reade Seligmann and David Evans could learn as soon as Wednesday whether the state plans to drop the charges or take the case to trial.

'This has scarred me for life': Rutgers players describe how Don Imus' comments hurt

PISCATAWAY, N.J. (AP)—Rutgers basketball player Kia Vaughn doesn't know what radio host Don Imus meant when he called her and her teammates "nappy-headed hos," but she's sure that she's not one.
"I achieve a lot, and unless they have given this name 'ho' a new definition, then that is not what I am," said Vaughn, the team's sophomore center.
Vaughn and the other 9 members of the Rutgers women's basketball team spoke publicly for the first time Tuesday about comments made last week by Imus the day after the team lost the NCAA championship game to Tennessee. Wearing matching red and black tracksuits and highlighting the on-court accomplishments and off-court academic accomplishments, the team portrayed the exact opposite image of the racially charged words Imus used to describe them.

The women include a class valedictorian, a future lawyer and a musical prodigy who plays classical compositions on the piano without sheet music. Some of them wiped away tears as their coach, C. Vivian Stringer, criticized Imus for "racist and sexist remarks that are deplorable, despicable, abominable and unconscionable."

Congressional Democrats keep pressure on Gonzales, White House by pushing for more documents

WASHINGTON (AP)—Newly empowered to conduct oversight on the Bush administration, congressional Democrats are giving Alberto Gonzales and the White House little space to plan for the attorney general's Senate testimony on the firings of eight U.S. attorneys.
The pressure points include the subpoena issued Tuesday by House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers that seeks hundreds of Justice Department documents that have been either withheld or heavily blacked out.
The deadline for surrendering them is Monday, less than 24 hours before Gonzales is scheduled to explain his role in the firings to the Senate Judiciary Committee in what is widely considered a last chance to save his job.
There's more where that came from, as the White House tries to balance its stated desire to be forthcoming about the firings with its fierce protection of internal documents.
The Senate panel is expected to keep up the pressure by authorizing subpoenas Thursday to compel cooperation from White House officials.

McCain pleads for patience in Iraq in speech Wednesday at Virginia military school

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. John

McCain, staking his struggling presidential candidacy on the Iraq war's outcome, embraced the unpopular conflict anew and defended his unwavering support for President Bush's troop increase.
"It is the right road. It is necessary and just," the Arizona Republican said in excerpts of remarks prepared for delivery Wednesday at the Virginia Military Institute.
"Democrats, who deny our soldiers the means to prevent an American defeat, have chosen another road. It may appear to be the easier course of action but it is a much more reckless one," McCain said as Democrats, who control Congress, continued their standoff with Bush over war funding and a withdrawal timetable.
All three leading Republican presidential candidates support Bush's decision earlier this year to send more troops to Iraq to try to quell violence in Baghdad and Anbar Province. But McCain, who has called for additional forces for years, is the only one directly connected to the policy, and, by extension, the war.
"I know the pain war causes. I understand the frustration caused by our mistakes in this war," the former Vietnam prisoner of war said. He added that while he sympathizes with Americans' war fatigue and regrets the casualties, "I also know the toll a lost war takes on an army and a country."

NASA aims for June space shuttle launch; repairs to continue on hail-damaged fuel tank

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—NASA has pushed back the launch of space shuttle Atlantis until at least early June so that technicians can finish repairing its hail-damaged fuel tank, officials said Tuesday.
The new launch date was set for no earlier than June 8 a nearly three-month delay for the first shuttle mission of the year. NASA has been trying to decide

whether to finish repairing the tank and use it for Atlantis' mission or swap it out with another tank. But NASA managers said they were pleased with the progress of repairs that already have been made.
"We don't see any show stoppers in front of us, but we understand there still is quite a bit of work to do on the tank," said Bill Gerstenmaier, NASA's associate administrator for space operations.
Golfball-sized hail left thousands of dents on the foam insulation on Atlantis' fuel tank as it sat on the launch pad in February. The space shuttle was rolled off the launch pad and sent back for repairs, forcing NASA to miss the original March 15 launch date.

Titans comeback 'Pacman' Jones suspended for season; Bengals' Henry suspended 8 games

NEW YORK (AP)—The punishment was aimed squarely at Adam "Pacman" Jones and Chris Henry. The message went far beyond them, to all NFL players. In suspending Jones for the 2007 season and Henry for eight games, Commissioner Roger Goodell not only cracked down on two of the league's most troublesome players on Tuesday, he also sent a warning to everyone: Mess with the law and your job's on the line.
"I must emphasize to you that this is your last opportunity to salvage your NFL career," Goodell wrote the two players, emphasizing they must end their wayward behavior to have a chance to play in the league again.
He also hit them where it hurts their wallets. Jones, who plays for Tennessee, will forfeit his \$1,292,500 salary; Henry, who plays for Cincinnati, will lose \$217,500.
Jones and Henry, former teammates at West Virginia, were suspended under the old disciplinary policy.

YOUR ALL DAY HANGOUT

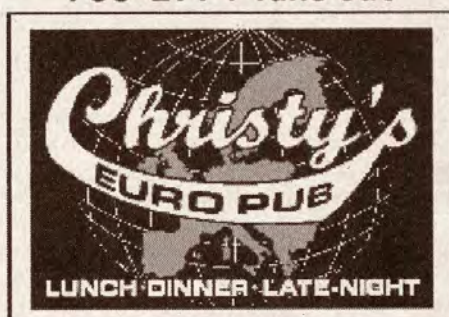
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Minority Health Week 2007

April 16th

Get Tested!**

10:00 am - 2:00 pm at Student Health Service
We will test your: Blood Pressure Glucose
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"Sister 2 Sister": Breast Cancer Program

5:00 pm at Student Health Services

Presented by Lanika Wright - Women's Nurse Practitioner

April 17th

"Real Talk" with Jonathan Perry**

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Hendrix Theatre

FREE Rapid HIV testing will be available



April 18th

"Does That Make Me Crazy": Mental Health Issues

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Mendenhall Student Center Room 212

Presented by Renita Moore, Mental Health Outreach Specialist and Dr. Tricia Leslie, Counseling Psychologist from the Center for Counseling and Student Development



April 19th

"Project Stretch"

6:30 pm - 9:30 pm at Mendenhall Student Center - Social Room

A Physical activity program that encourages people to exercise!



April 20th

"Build a Plate"

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm at Mendenhall Student Center Room 15

This program will focus on eating healthy portion sizes & colorful foods. Hosted by Campus Dining & their nutritionist, Janie Eubanks.



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Cannon Court - 2BR, 1.5BA	\$475
Cotanche Street - 1BR, 1BA	\$375-\$395
Cypress Gardens - 1BR, 1BA	\$405-\$430
2BR, 1BA	\$485-\$510
Eastgate/College Park - 1BR, 1BA	\$365-\$410
2BR, 1BA	\$445-\$470
Forest Acres - 1BR, 1BA	\$345
Gladiolus/Jasmine - 1BR	\$375/2BR \$435
3BR, 2BA	\$600
Park Village - 1BR \$345 / 2BR	\$410-\$425
Peony Gardens - 2BR, 1.5BA	\$410

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TRANSCRIPTS

continued from A1

policy such as the one that was initially set up would be a good step to take.

The committee thinks two free transcripts would allow students more leeway in deciding how the transcripts are used.

"It would give people a chance to have at least one for a scholarship application and one for a graduate school application," Twine said.

Before students get to experience the benefits of this resolution, it must get approval by multiple people.

"The resolution will be reviewed by M. Cole Jones, SGA president, and then go to the proper administration that makes the decision on this," Twine said.

The Board of Trustees must approve any changes to the charge of transcripts and it's a set time to do so, according to Anderson.

Members of the committee seem to be committed to getting this resolution approved when that time occurs.

Jon Massachi, speaker of the congress, and three others are working on getting resolution approved, according to Twine.

"This is something I would really like to fight for, for the students of the future," Twine said.

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

LOAN

continued from A1

Timothy Lehmann was put on paid administrative leave after Cuomo's office said he received more than \$13,000 in fees from the company. Capella President Michael Offernan says Lehmann disclosed the payments last Friday.

The school is cooperating with Cuomo's office and doing an internal investigation as well, Offernan said.

"No one is even defending the situation anymore," he said.

Cuomo said he suspects "dozens" of financial aid officers around the country have similar arrangements that he has called deceptive, unethical and at times, illegal.

Last week, Cuomo sent subpoenas to SLM Corp., commonly known as Sallie Mae, requesting information on any current or former employees who had worked at the Education Department over the past six years.

In some cases, investigators said, lenders provided all-expense-paid trips for college financial aid officers to exotic locations. Financial aid officers at schools in some cases served on loan company advisory boards, Cuomo said.

Cuomo said the arrangements are particularly predatory because of the relationship between students and the colleges they pick.

"Ninety percent of the students take the 'preferred lender,'" he said. "Why? Because that's the nature of the relationship. You trust the school. The school is in a position of authority. The school is there to nurture you."

Cuomo said various officials have been examining the issue for about a year but his investigation was spurred after a lender came to him to complain about the domination of a few lenders in the lucrative market. Cuomo would not name the lender.

"The new lenders were saying because they weren't doing the conferences, they didn't have these relationships with financial aid offices, they weren't willing to do or hadn't been doing the financial aid incentive," Cuomo said. "They couldn't even compete."

The attorney general said he has talked with lawmakers in Washington, including Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., who heads the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, about new legislation to rein in the student loan industry.

"There hasn't been enough supervision," he said. "There hasn't been enough regulation."

Earlier this year, House Democrats in Washington introduced a bill that would ban gifts from lenders to college employees and would require lenders to disclose the terms of their arrangements with colleges and universities.

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The time to reform is over, the time to disband is now

ELIZABETH LAUTEN
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

I'm not a SGA member myself, and for good reason—I'm involved in enough other activities on campus that I just don't have the time to make it a priority and I'm not someone who's going to do something halfway. Nevertheless, as an active student who cares about this university, I'm claiming my right to complain and demand something better. I'm tired of all the B.S. and lies SGA feeds me year after year. I think it's high time to disband the organization altogether.

That's right, disband. The Declaration of Independence reads "...governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government." I say we embrace our rights and act upon them.

There needs to be something that ECU's student body can do to keep the SGA in check.

At the University of Georgia, students voted to abolish SGA in 1979 because of its inability to function, only for it to be re-established in 1987. Now the university, votes every four years whether or not to keep SGA around, thanks to a "vote of confidence" clause added in their 1987 constitution. What a phenomenal idea. Can we please add that to our SGA constitution, because something needs to be set up in order to keep our SGA an effectual democracy.

Our SGA has become all too similar to our own national government. From the scandals, to election mishaps, to major cover-ups... it's hard to tell the difference between the two.

But, too closely paralleling our SGA to our national government is a mistake I'm not willing to make.

While students may elect representatives to the SGA, they don't empower it. Rather, the administration does.

While we'd all like to think that SGA would cease to have function without adequately representing students' rights, the reality is that administration has the upper hand and the final say in everything. And with that, the lack of expectations roll in from the student body—no one seems to believe in SGA and if you ask me, for good reason.

At least when a national branch of government makes an important decision, no outside force steps in to overrule it—there are instead democratic checks and balances. Moreover, national government leaders are impeachable. SGA couldn't even proceed in impeaching someone right now if it tried, thanks to an ironclad, flawed constitution.

And with the recent executive election debacle, I've heard more times than I can count that ECU should just do away with the SGA. So why then are we just talking about it? Why don't we really just do away with the organization altogether?

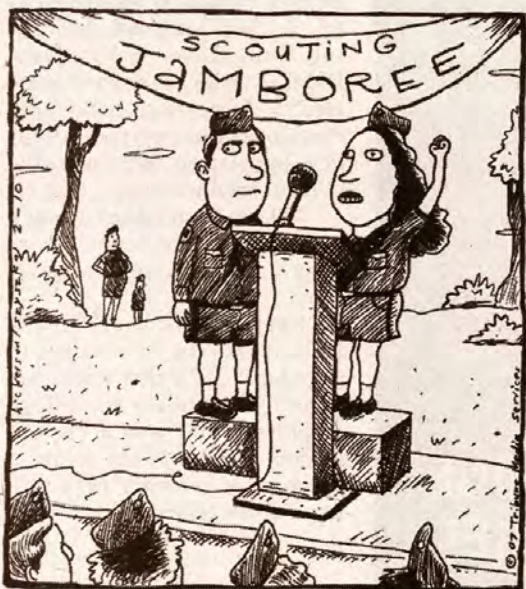
Someone, please give me a valid reason why we're keeping the SGA around. Aside from their own problems, they make decisions that the student body doesn't even agree with.

They are after all, the ones who have been voting to raise our fees the past few years. I don't care who that seemingly logical reason the administration fed them to make them do it. I can pretty much guarantee the student body would never vote the same way. Isn't the SGA supposed to be representative of the student body? Let the Board of Trustees make those kinds of decisions if nothing else.

The SGA should be voting in accordance to want the students want. They just can't seem to get it right, despite their best efforts.

Don't get me wrong, I wish that the SGA meant more to this campus than it presently does. But, in actuality, the organization needs either to grow a backbone, or do away with its pretense of power and ability—just disband, because a façade of student representation is actually detrimental to the university. People think students' voices are being accounted for, when in reality the campus has no voice.

I'm sick and tired of losing my rights to a bunch of people who act as puppets to the administration. So until the SGA can get its act together, we should just relieve all members of their duties and give everyone a sticker for sticking with an ineffectual organization that they can put on their resumes. Then we should demand a formal apology for their negligence, which of course would never come. Then, and only then, could we consider entertaining the idea of reinstating another SGA. But for now, let the revolution begin.



"The days of being so-called Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are over! We will shed our gender hang-ups and be reborn as Uniscouts!"

{ What's your stance? }



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'm nice, funny, and I consider myself attractive... so why don't girls acknowledge me? Being Puerto Rican has its pros and cons... PRO: Attractive and can dance, CON: People think we are Mexican because we speak Spanish.

To the person who asked what the reaction would be to someone writing "white power" on a fence would be—the reaction would be... nothing! At least at ECU and in Greenville it wouldn't be!

Has America ever heard of "sweep around your own front door?"

I invented pants.

If somebody did spray "white power" on a fence then it will just be an ordinary day. Be realistic. I'm not racist. I'm just stating the obvious.

Don't complain because you only get to see your boyfriend on the weekends; I only see mine twice a year because he's deployed in Iraq!

To the person that left 30 minutes on the parking meter this morning... thank you. I had absolutely no quarters.

If ECU is so smart, then why don't they get all the hints about the personals?

It's bad when it's cold outside and inside. Even worse, half of my class is wearing flip flops.

Why is it when a white comedian says something racist about black people everyone gets angry but when a black comedian says something racist about white people no one bats an eye?

I'll wait four more years of my life for you baby!

I seriously need to invest in ECU vending. Three dollars for turkey on wheat! Get out of here!

There are no true thugs on this campus. Believe that... at least, not compared to my hometown.

I can't believe somebody said that they gave out AIDS. If it was me you'd be a dead man running instead of walking!

'Betcha 10 dollars Imus runs for President.

Ah, May! That glorious time of the year when everything is duel

I wonder if you will ever see that I do so much for you but when you do one thing for me it's a major ordeal and I owe you big time.

I know my fish is out in the sea somewhere. I want to find him, but I don't have the time to go fishing these days.

The ECU buses don't play games. I've almost gotten run over three times in the past two days.

If I'm excited to drink this weekend does that make me an alcoholic? You're in my art class and I really like

you, I just don't know what to say.

Why must I toy with you?

Does anyone else find it strange that I, the girlfriend, am always the one to have to wait around for my boyfriend to get ready?

Since when has nappy hair become a racial slur?

Do not attempt to investigate the 1970 bio-chemistry experiments on the squirrels, or else accidents may happen and yes, we know where you live.

I find it disturbing that a pack of cigarettes is cheaper than a gallon of gas. Don't those things kill you?

Excuse me, very pretty girl that I see so often? Um... I'm just a little too shy to approach you. Do you think you can give me a sign to say hello and introduce myself?

If you are in a relationship, you need to stop crushing on other people and be happy that you have someone who loves you already. If you're not happy in the relationship, get out of it so we single girls who would appreciate it can have a chance.

Understanding faculty makes ECU worthwhile.

To the guy who isn't into smoking, drinking or sex, wish I could meet you soon, too!

My coordinator is the coolest person on campus!

Summer, summer, summer! So close, yet so far.

Good luck with final assignments and tests everyone!

The SGA agrees to higher tuition and then wants double ply toilet paper. Anyone else see the correlation?

How about that term, "foul play?" It makes it sound like the person died having fun.

I really like having all the tour groups around campus, because it gives me a chance to scope out hot high school girls and MILFs at the same time.

Ladies, he's all mine. Back off!

Why does my best guy friend have to be so attractive?!

I can't like you, but you're really growing on me.

Bathing suits make me insecure.

I'm so apathetic about everything.

Wow, what a bunch of whiners.

I am sorry for not answering all your calls five times a day but I really just don't like you.

I am in love with a Computer Science

major. He loves me to infinity... factorial.

The rising gas prices are giving me stomach ulcers... literally.

I really wish I knew who the guy is bragging about spreading AIDS every weekend. Way to brag about killing innocent girls. Seriously, I wish you would go ahead and die.

I'd love to read all the reject Rants one day!

Why does everything around here have to be about race? Let's all just paint ourselves purple... but wait, you can't do that because then it would be light purple against dark purple.

Did you know that the Registrar's Office is actually more than one office?

You know what really grinds my gears? People that actually use the phrase, "You know what really grinds my gears?"

There are a lot of liberals at ECU, and it is sad.

I love my friends so much!

Why be unfaithful? There is no need to hurt someone that way.

When I get out of the shower I love to dance around naked in my dorm room!

If the Internet didn't exist, I might actually be able to pass some classes.

I'm so excited to be on your top eight!

I got rejected from giving blood today. I feel so diseased.

Thank you for picking up the papers that fell off my lap when I turned to look at you walking down the hallway.

My cursor is a banana and it makes me smile every time I see it, too.

My hamster bit me, so I bit her back.

I smoke pot and according to OneStop, my GPA is higher than 90 percent of my class. Thanks for the stereotype, though.

I had a dream about you... It was hot.

Half off at IHOP and lots of hot guys there. What could be better?

My ex-boyfriend's new girlfriend is my neighbor and I love that girl!

All I wanted was two slices of bread and you gave me the two ends! Why would you even put that in a bag?

Where is this dog park going to be that everyone keeps talking about?

Goal: Replace beer with vodka.

I saw my soul mate today. He was holding hands and walking with his "sister." They must be pretty close!

Size does matter.

RANT OF THE DAY

I dropped my phone in the toilet and water splashed in my face; talk about a bad day.

Hollywood has cancer

An examination of how Hollywood blows

ALEX LARocca
OPINION WRITER

The Reaping, *Next*, *Halloween*, *Hostel 2*... what do all of these "films" have in common? They are all cancerous. Each one of these movies, along with the rest I shall name, has begun to spring up in the absence of anything better. Being blessed with such greatness as *300* and *Grindhouse* is still not enough for me to get over that *Hostel 2* is going to make more money than both of those combined, which leads this writer to blame not only Hollywood for its incurable cancer but you, too.

This past weekend I was blessed with the experience called *Grindhouse*. For those of you who do not know of it, it is a double feature, meaning literally two movies, by Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino. Not to give away anything, but it blew my mind with its bloody, comedic violence and well thought out script.

Unfortunately, I had to sit through what was once one of my favorite parts of the movies: Previews. May God help America for the recycled crap I saw. I do not know how but for some reason, it became acceptable for writers and directors who have no artistic talent to simply watch old movies, not even classics, and say, "Hey Bob, you know that movie that wasn't very popular 20 years ago? Yeah, well I have a great idea. If you give me \$35 million I will do it again, only this time there will be explosions!"

This, of course, then leads to the greats: *Flight of the Phoenix* (remake), *Halloween* (remake), *Casino Royal* (remake), *The Hills Have Eyes* (remake) and *The Poseidon Adventure* (remake). This does not represent even half of the stuff they redo. But alas, this is even better than the ADD-fueled writers of the 21st century who watch these movies of the past and then call Bob; "Hey Bob, I just watched this movie and the plot was pretty good but it was like, totally gay without computer graphics and explosions, so I was thinking I would write a script comprised of the same plot but add super cool CG and explosions."

In case you have no idea what I am talking about, this could be because you don't know that movies existed before the year 2000. The most recent of these supreme cancer films is one I saw a preview for this past weekend, and its title is *Next*. *Next* stars Nicolas Cage as a man who can see the future and it is up to him to help not just a really hot chick, Jessica Biel, but also the world. Hello? *Frequency*, *Paycheck*, and, let's not forget the USA television success, *The Dead Zone*. In case you haven't seen these, I will save you the time—they all suck. I honestly believe that writers sit around, place post-its with subjects, places and verbs on a dashboard and poof, *The Reaping*!

Think about it. The first dart: Godly apocalypse (sweet CG), second dart: Skeptical hero(s), third dart: Religious south. Hey, can we get Oscar-Winning Hilary Swank in this? Of course, she was star of *The Core* for Christ's sake. As for the case of *Hostel*, I am not so sure they used a dashboard as much as they just used ABC cereal mixed with dog crap and fake blood. And the sequel of course will incorporate those three things but mixed with hundred-dollar bills.

Where did it all go wrong? Why is this happening? Well I first and foremost blame anyone that sees these movies; even those who see it for comedy purposes are still responsible. We are all responsible for giving money back to an institution that thinks we are all morons. But ultimately, a large part goes to the directors and writers. I blame men like Peter Jackson, a man responsible for *King Kong*, a remake which not only made me want to cut myself, but is a three-hour stain on my life, and Steven Spielberg, who is so obviously full of himself he remakes *War of the Worlds* with enough CG for 40 video games, and Jerry Bruckheimer, who is by no means a director of any kind.

I believe it is time to send a message to these frauds. A message saying, "We are not tricked by your explosions, giant monkeys and shiny lights. We demand better acting and better writing." And for the love of all that is holy, remember this statement when you are thinking of going to see *Hostel 2*, *The Reaping* or *Halloween*. Remember that not only do they suck, but with every dollar you give their cancerous powers, they grow stronger and perhaps will be irreversible for our children and our children's children.

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JUST ASK JANE

Need advice? Want answers? Just ask Jane.

Dear Jane,

With less than three weeks left in the semester, I am getting very worried about my relationship. My boyfriend is from Florida and I'm from here in North Carolina, which is going to be a very big shocker for both of us. We spend pretty much all of our free time together and he is my best friend.

He doesn't know if he is coming back to East Carolina University next semester because he applied to a school closer to his home in Florida. He will be working all summer and I don't know if he is going to be able to take off to see me.

I am a little bit of a jealous girlfriend and have already had problems with my jealousy even with him here. I know he is the man that I want to be with forever. I love him and I don't want to lose him. I am afraid that if he moves away I might never see him again, except on the Internet through Myspace or something like that. I want to be with him. He seems to be the only thing, besides school and my family that I actually care about. Please help me!

Sincerely,
Scared of Distance

Dear Scared,

Some people are able to pull off the long distance relationship thing. Others have to face that they just can't. You'll have to figure out which type

you and which type he is before you can really make any decision about your relationship.

If you're a jealous girlfriend and you decide to stay together through this period of separation, you'll have to back off of that. Without trust, no romantic relationship can survive the miles between the two of you. Some people say that those that have a tendency to falsely accuse their significant other of cheating do so because they are guilty of having done it first. I'm certainly not saying that you have cheated or would ever cheat on him (it doesn't sound like it), but you wouldn't want to continually be jealous after he moves and have him start to question you because it's such a big issue for you.

What does your boyfriend say about all this? Have you had "the talk" about how this will change your relationship? Do you both need physical affection and/or face-to-face interaction to be happy and secure? If either of you says "no," your relationship may not be worth trying to keep alive. You'll have to give it a go and find out along the way.

No matter what happens, remember that your first priority is taking care of yourself and your education. Until you're legally responsible for someone else (i.e., a child), you're free to live as you choose. He's already realized this or he wouldn't have put in an application at a school closer to home. Deal with it accordingly and try to think with your head as much as your heart.

Good luck,
Jane

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carrepropertymgmt@hotmail.com**School of Communication hosts oratorical exhibition**

Photo by Deatrice Lockheart

ECU students were given the opportunity to display their speaking skills during the fifth annual oratorical exhibition in Hendrix Theatre.

Students test oratory skills

NIA RICHARDSON

STAFF WRITER

The School of Communication hosted its fifth annual oratorical exhibition Tuesday evening in Hendrix Theatre.

The exhibition was an opportunity for exceptional students enrolled in the courses Public Speaking and Business and Professional Communication to display their oratory skills. The theme for the evening was "Speaking Out For Change."

Students Mike Miller, Starr Stephenson, Latia Rouse, Max Gerringer, Chris Silverthorne,

Rocky Proctor and Thurston Smalls each spoke on topics relevant to social change. Topics ranged from the risks of casual sex to an informative speech on singer and civil rights activist Nina Simone.

"It gave me a chance to express things that we don't often hear about," said junior finance major and speaker Latia Rouse, who

spoke out against ethnic discrimination in the workplace.

The speakers were given six to eight minutes to present their speech before an audience of students and faculty.

"We had a two week span between the first rehearsal and when you go on stage," said

see **ORATORICAL** page A6

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TEXTBOOKS continued from A1

"In my opinion, I think publishers are going to raise the prices regardless so I don't think that's a valid argument," Brown said.

The bill may also reduce the amount of money that students will get for selling the book back to the bookstores.

Students would only get about 40 percent of the original cost back, according to Miller.

Ben-Gal and Miller said that they want to get rid of the middleman and try to lower the amount of students who buy from the bookstores.

Students can buy and sell textbooks on their Web site at no cost and there is only one requirement to do so.

"The only thing required for students is to have a [edu] school email address," said Miller.

Students nationwide can use the Web site but the main focus is to help decrease the cost of textbooks

for students within the state right now, according to Ben-Gal.

Other categories such as housing, employment and cars are also available on the Web site so students can find a roommate, transportation or a job.

This Web site is practically brand-new and the creators are trying to get the word out about it.

The Web site started in Charlotte, N.C. in November of 2006, according to Miller.

To make your own decision about whether the Web site is a good alternative to the rising cost of textbooks, you can visit the Web site at sellitatschool.com.

You can also e-mail or call Brown to support his tax exemption bill at 919-715-3034 or Harryb@ncleg.net.

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

ORATORICAL

continued from A5

speaker Max Gerringer, junior sociology major.

Both the School of Communication faculty and the speakers themselves were pleased with the outcome of the evening.

"The brave and willing rose to the occasion," said Dr. Deborah Thomson, public speaking professor.

"It was a good chance for the School of Communication to exemplify the excellence of the teaching and pay homage to the professors," said senior communication major Mike Miller.

The event was organized by the School of Communication's speech committee and was moderated by James Rees, professor emeritus of the School of Communication.

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

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GREEK PERSONALS

Congratulations to Jenna Beach and Kimmy Whelan for being the Alpha Xi Delta Sisters of the week! You girls really stepped up for us this week!

First Annual "Lions Cup Golf Tournament" presented by Alpha Delta Pi and Lambda Xi Alpha. Fundraiser for Ronald McDonald House Saturday, April 14, 2007 9-2 Bradford Creek Golf Course. More info call 252-758-5447

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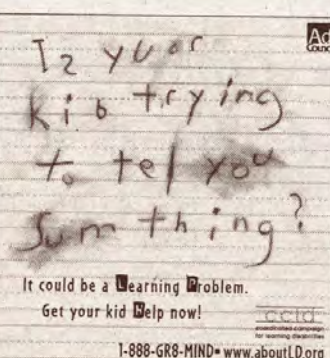
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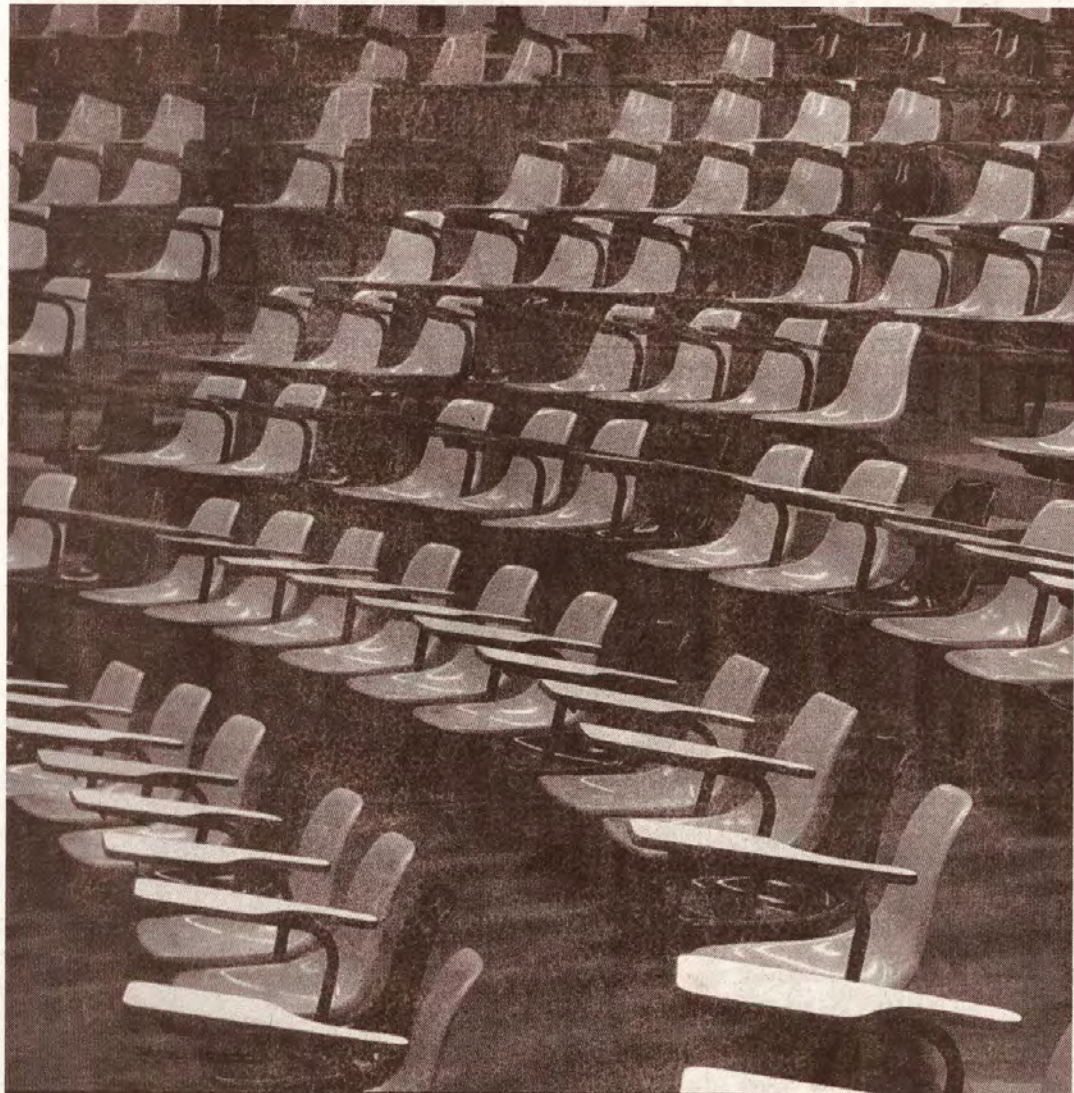
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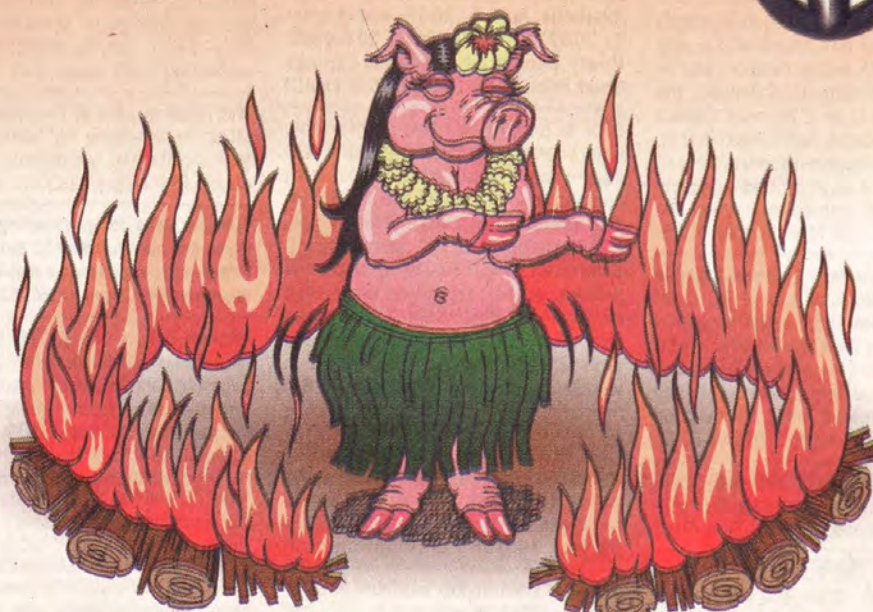
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Horoscopes:

Aries

You won't have to push other people around to get them to obey your orders. You're developing a righteously admirable command presence.

Taurus

People are starting to recognize how important you are. It's nice that they've noticed but don't forget to ask for the financial rewards that are due. Don't feel the least bit guilty.

Gemini

You'll find it easier to take control of the situation for the next several weeks. You're charming and you're lucky, even more than usual.

Cancer

There's lots of work. Don't feel overwhelmed. Don't try to do it all at once. Set a pace that works for you and nibble away at it.

Leo

Let your opinion be known when you select an assistant. You don't have to agree upon everything, just on your final objectives. Get that part down in writing.

Virgo

You're very imaginative now in your work, so don't worry. Even if you've never done this task before, you'll think of a way.

Libra

The truth is revealed, much to your delight. You couldn't be more pleased. A person you think is marvelous feels the same way about you.

Scorpio

A suggestion postulated by a family member or loved one turns out to be just the thing you've been looking for. You see? It pays to be polite and actually listen.

Sagittarius

You're pretty good mechanically, when you're in the mood. You should be really good at it now, so fix a lot of things.

Capricorn

Push really hard the next couple of days, and you'll make a bundle. Right about now you could find a good use for a pocketful of bills. Trade off for the bills you already have.

Aquarius

You're coming up with proofs for concepts that are way out on the edges. Is there a scientific basis for God, or vice versa? You're one of the ones who'll find out.

Pisces

Business is going well the way your routine has been arranged. Now, consider making a few technical improvements. Take your time, and do it right.

Drink Recipes:

Passionate Cosmos

Ice
3 ounces vodka
1 ounce passion fruit juice
1 ounce simple syrup (equal parts sugar and water heated until the sugar dissolves, then chilled)
1/2 teaspoon freshly squeezed lime juice
Passion fruit seeds (optional, for garnish)

Fill a cocktail shaker with ice. Pour the vodka, passion fruit juice, syrup, and lime juice into the shaker. Cover and shake vigorously, until combined and chilled, about 30 seconds. (In general, by the time the shaker mists up the drink is ready.) Strain cosmos into a chilled cocktail glass. Sprinkle with passion fruit seeds, if desired.

Cherry Lime Ricky

6 fresh cherries, pitted
1/2 lime, cut into 3 wedges
2-teaspoons sugar
3 ounces gin
1 cup crushed ice

Put the cherries, lime, and sugar into a large rocks glass. Muddle the fruit and sugar by pressing them with a pestle or a wooden spoon until juicy and fragrant. Add the gin and crushed ice. Cover with a cocktail shaker and shake vigorously, or stir, until combined and chilled, about 30 seconds. (In general, by the time the shaker mists up the drink is ready.) Serve.

Please drink responsibly.

Set sail tonight with 'The Tempest'



Students take time out of their busy lives to lend their sewing skills.

Shakespeare's take on a romantic comedy

LIZ FULTON
SENIOR WRITER

Magic, subterfuge and shipwrecks abound in William Shakespeare's *The Tempest* running April 12 – 17 in McGinnis Theatre.

Presented by the Loessin Playhouse and School of Theatre and Dance, it recounts the tale of Prospero, a sorcerer and rightful heir to the dukedom of Milan who is shipwrecked for 12 years with his daughter Miranda. During this period, Prospero is served by Ariel, a spirit he rescued and Caliban, a deformed monster who inhabited the island before he arrived.

Prospero's sorcery and cunning lead him to infer his current predicament is no accident. His jealous brother Antonio with the help of Alonso, King of Naples, transpired to have him killed by sending him adrift and eventually

perishing at sea. In the true form of karma, Prospero learns that Antonio, Alonso and others are aboard a ship passing by his island.

Conducting his magic, Prospero calls up a tempest through Ariel and manages to strand the ship's party with him. The plot begins to unravel with intersecting madcap adventures and romance resulting in a happy ending.

Directed by John Shearin, *The Tempest* consists of student actors, scenic designers and costumers. With a shortened time limit of only three weeks to put it all together, the designers have devoted all of their time to the show when not in class.

Assistant paint charge Beth Aderhold, spent an entire night painting the stage with the rest of the paint and prop crew.

"The floor requires two to three coats of sealer," said Aderhold. "We had to do it at night because the floor would be scuffed by show shoes before it is dry."

The scene crew is responsible



The task of painting the various sets and props for *The Tempest* is an important part of the overall performance.

for designing the set structure while the paint crew handles the props. Once a part of the set is built, it must go to the paint shop in pieces for the appropriate color and finish to be applied. It is then reassembled and placed on the stage.

Sound and lighting are also handled by students. They meticulously examine every angle and

section of the stage to make sure lamps hit the correct mark.

In the trenches of the Messick building resides a circle of hard-working and upbeat girls. Working tirelessly to outfit a cast of twenty-six with multiple wardrobe changes, the costumers spend hours with a needle and thread between their fingers,

poised to accommodate the most fussy of actors.

Costume designer Jeffrey Phipps maps out the entire wardrobe after conferring with the director.

"He spends time researching the time period, comparing mate-

see **TEMPEST** page B2

The Avenger creates music with a message



Alex Rust in the foreground jams out with Ray Hartsfield on bass and Ben Evans on drums in the background.

This local band wants to do more than just rock

JENNY AYERS
STAFF WRITER

While the members of The Avenger may not agree on musical influences or where they got their name, one thing they all stand by

is that they are here for a greater purpose—to spread the word of God through their music.

A little over a year ago, Ben Evans (drums), Alex Rust (guitar), Ray Hartsfield (bass/vocals) and Mark Lilley (guitar/vocals) all came together to form The Avenger. Just recently, they have added Matthew Dameron to the lineup to replace their former vocalist.

The band is a compilation of several different styles and backgrounds. Evans just gradu-

ated from high school in December, Rust is a recent ECU grad, Hartsfield is finishing up his last semester of high school, while Lilley and Dameron are pretty much just living.

With all their school and life obligations, it is hard for the guys to devote the time they would like to the band, but they still manage to have a steady lineup of shows.

You never know what you are going to see when you go to The Avenger's show. From fashionable

headbands to spiffy spandex, the guys like to keep the crowd on their feet by keeping them on their toes.

"We definitely like to stand out by putting on as intense of a live show as we can. Shows are about having fun, not being serious all the time," said Evans.

They classify themselves as a cross between hard core music and a softer style that some refer to as "screamo." Basically, they have a hard rock, screaming sound that is combined with smooth vocals and melodies.

"We're too mellow and groovy for hard core and too heavy and crazy for indie. It's a strange balance between the two, but so far I'm pleased with it," said Hartsfield.

As for recognizable comparisons, Lilley said "I've been told we sound like a cross between Norma Jean and mewwithoutYou."

With an assuming name like The Avenger, I asked the guys for clarification in the form of the name's back-story.

"I think it has something to do with superheroes... or pizza... I don't know exactly," Hartsfield offered. Lilley was equally enlightening, "It just kinda happened."

However, Evans' explanation of the band's name also sheds some light on the band itself; explaining that, while at first it simply started

out as a catchy name, it has biblical ties that reaffirmed their drive.

"Deuteronomy 32:43 [says] 'Rejoice, O nations, with his people, for he will avenge the blood of his servants'. After we found that verse it really struck me that the band was meant to be a God-based band... We just strive to be God's avengers and fight worldly deception with the word of God," said Evans.

Hartsfield confirmed the presence of their faith in their music, saying "All of our lyrics revolve around Christian concepts such as martyrdom, salvation, dedication and sacrifice. Our music aims to convey a message of commitment and full faith in God."

While they do have a strong Christian foundation, The Avenger is a very approachable and down-to-earth band that does not claim sainthood.

"Just because we're a Christian band does not mean we don't make mistakes as human beings. We mess up just as much as every one else. We're not perfect," said Evans.

They also act, fight and live like brothers. "We're all five guys that are just like brothers. I love each and everyone of my band

see **AVENGER** page B2

PirateFest offers entertainment



Photos by Zach Strick



Contributed image

This weekend students and locals alike can enjoy a number of events based throughout campus and within the community. Events include the 24th Annual Pigskin Pigout, International Festival, Uptown Arts Festival, Uptown's Sound Stage, Blackbeard's Marketplace and the Buccaneer Bash, along with many others. Log on to piratefestnc.com for a complete list of events and be sure to stop by the first-ever PirateFest to catch a piece of the action.

Uptown shop proves truly unique

Links offers endless variety

SHANNON DAVIS
SENIOR WRITER

Those driving down Evans Street lately may have noticed that a new business has recently decided to make the Uptown area their home. Links offers patrons to the Uptown Greenville area a unique mix of items and services that are sure to fit any lifestyle.

The store is family owned and operated by Sharon Shumaker, and her daughter, Erin Shumaker, which creates a warm, enchanting atmosphere.

They offer patrons an array of items, which include used books, antiques, oriental artwork, incense, photography, hippy style clothing, tapes, jewelry, fresh brewed coffee and ice cream.

For students interested in an uplifting, positive atmosphere to do their homework or hold group meetings Links is an excellent place to seek refuge. Comfortable tables and chairs create a relaxing experience. Free wireless Internet is among the many benefits that this establishment has to offer.

"The idea to me was to be a variety store. We don't cater to one particular type of person," said Erin Shumaker. "The great thing about being a variety shop is I'm not bound to sell items that aren't popular."

"I grew up here [in Greenville]. It's neat to have somewhere that people can find hippy stuff, which isn't too expensive and there's definitely a little something for everybody"

The prices are inexpensive, but if a buyer still



Photo by LeVina Tyrell

see **LINKS** page B2

Links provides patrons with a number of unique items.

Student Union brings screen gems to campus

Film packs a full house at Hendrix Theater

YAZID FINN
STAFF WRITER

The Student Union Films Committee has done it again. Following on the heels of the recent screening of *300*, the Student Union in association with Red Bull energy drinks previewed *Disturbia* on Wednesday, April 4 at Hendrix Theater. Over five hundred people attended the movie, as the line of anxious students stretched to Greene Hall an hour in advance.

"I got here around 5:15 p.m., I knew it would get really crazy, so I wanted to get here way in advance," said Alley Thomas, freshmen political science major, as she looked around, "besides, I like talking to people to pass the time."

While in line, the Student Union collected cell phones, laptops and backpacks to be returned upon the end of the screening. Two security officers were on site, more to stop cutting in line than anything else.

Jessica Bova, a freshmen and Films Committee member enjoys her work, recommending the job.

"It's a lot of fun. The planning, the marketing... maybe not the grunt work, but in the end I really enjoy it," said Bova.

Once inside students were asked to move towards the center of their rows in order to allow full capacity of the lower section of the theater, which alone could hold five hundred students. The balcony was then opened, allowing remaining students in line to take their seats.

"We give out 1,000 tickets to assure capacity for each event," said

David James Ray Mason, Films Committee Chair, "and we never have control over what we receive for these screenings. It's always random."

The film itself was outstanding, a sincere toast to the original. The original, *Rear Window* was directed by Alfred Hitchcock, starring film legend James Stewart and movie beauty Grace Kelly. The protagonist is once more stranded in their home, but a house arrest replaces the broken leg of the original. With little more to do with their time, our hero begins to peer around the neighborhood, looking into the lives of those he lives closest to.

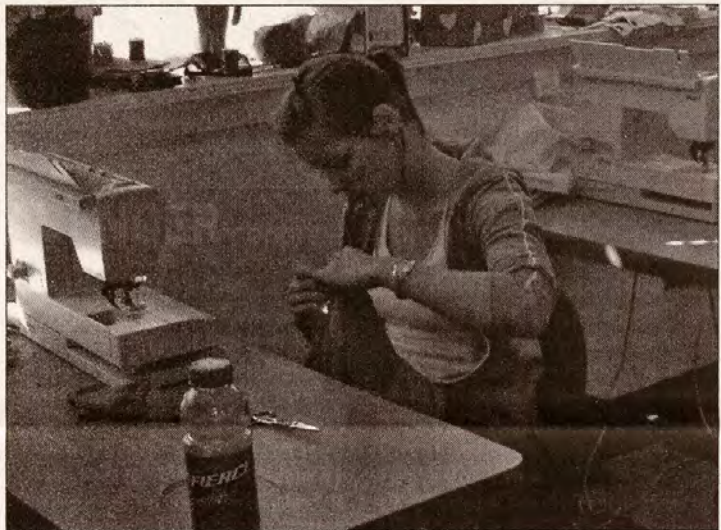
Disturbia employs classic thriller elements of suspense, dangling movie audiences and then snatching at them while they move to the edge of their seats. After the first 10 minutes, any moviegoer will be hooked until the credits roll guaranteed. For those faint of heart, fear not, the movie is not all jumping and screams, as comedic relief is scattered throughout to bring the audience's heart rate back down.

Aside from *300* and *Disturbia*, the Films Committee has also screened *Borat*, *Tenacious D* and *The Pursuit of Happiness*, with nearly five hundred students being turned away for the screening of *300*.

The Films Committee will be screening one more sneak preview before the end of the semester with *Knocked Up*, Monday, April 23. As always, students are asked to arrive in advance, as space is limited and tickets do not warrant seating.

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

TEMPEST continued from B1



Contributed Image

rials and choosing the colors that best fit the set," said shop manager Delta Childers.

Of all the aspects occurring behind the scenes in *The Tempest*, nothing is more intricate and time-consuming as the make-up. For the character Caliban, theatre major JT Pitt created a mask that requires four hours in the make-up chair. Even more intense, Caliban's mask can be used only once, which required Pitt to construct 12.

Take a break from studying and grab tickets for *The Tempest*.

As one of Shakespeare's most respected plays, it has been the inspiration for other artists. The premise of the television show "Lost" is supposedly taken from *The Tempest*, and track two of The Decemberists' album *The Crane Wife*, "The Island" appears to be a retelling of the story as well.

Tickets prices range from \$8 to \$12. For tickets, call 1-800-ECU-ARTS or visit their Web site at ecuarts.com.

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

LINKS continued from B1

can't afford to purchase a desired item upfront layaway and student discounts are available, with students receiving 10 percent off of all retail items.

Links has held two exhibit showings for students to display and sell their artwork. The most recent student showing included work by Josh Vaughan. Local artist, Pearlless Speller also has artwork displayed and available for purchase.

Among the recent additions to the store's renovated ambiance is jewelry making materials. Links has started carrying beads for customers to create their own jewelry if they are not interested in purchasing jewelry already made.

The music of 100.7 The River gives a soft rock feel with the classic sounds of rock and roll echoing throughout the store.

"With gas prices these days people need a place to go that they can afford. A lot of students work and are putting themselves

through school, we want to cut them a break" said Erin Shumaker.

On hot afternoons their claim to fame is their Maola ice cream sundaes, which combines a tasty sensation with a quick way to cool down. They house sixteen flavors as well as sugar free ice cream and non-fat yogurt.

The vintage accessories on display bring back the idea of peace, love and happiness from the 1960s.

The psychedelic love beads, perfume oils and antiques are unique and one of a kind. Erin Shumaker spoke of her desired milieu, "I want to shift towards a wholesome, open-minded environment," Shumaker said.

Links is opened Monday through Friday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Saturday 1 p.m. - 8 p.m. Stop by during business hours to experience this distinctive locale firsthand.

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

AVENGER continued from B1

members," said Evans.

Lilley added, "Every time we have an argument it teaches us how to better handle difficult situations. Being in this band has really developed my character and integrity."

Hartsfield had one thing he wanted to set straight, "I know there have been some rumors and confusion about Ben's long hair—Yes, it is real. No, you can't touch it."

Fussy, funny and faith-driven, The Avenger is a mixture of

unique individuals who have fused to form a rock band with a higher purpose. You can get a first-hand experience of their one-of-a-kind shows May 18 at The Silver Bullet with Knives Exchanging Hands and From Graves of Valor.

For more information about the band and to sample tracks, log on to their Myspace page at myspace.com/theavengernc.

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

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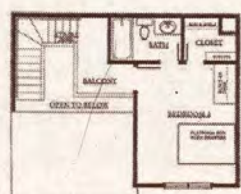
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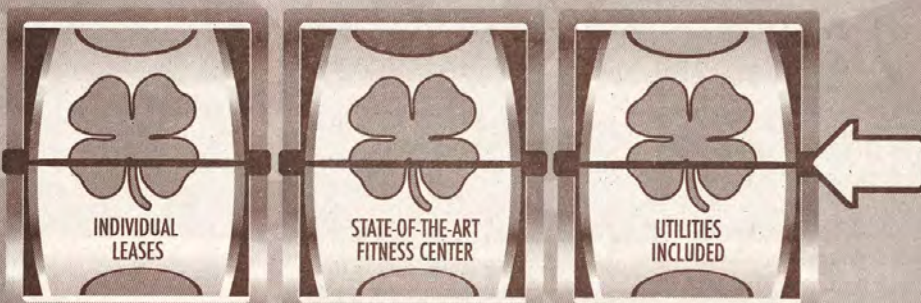
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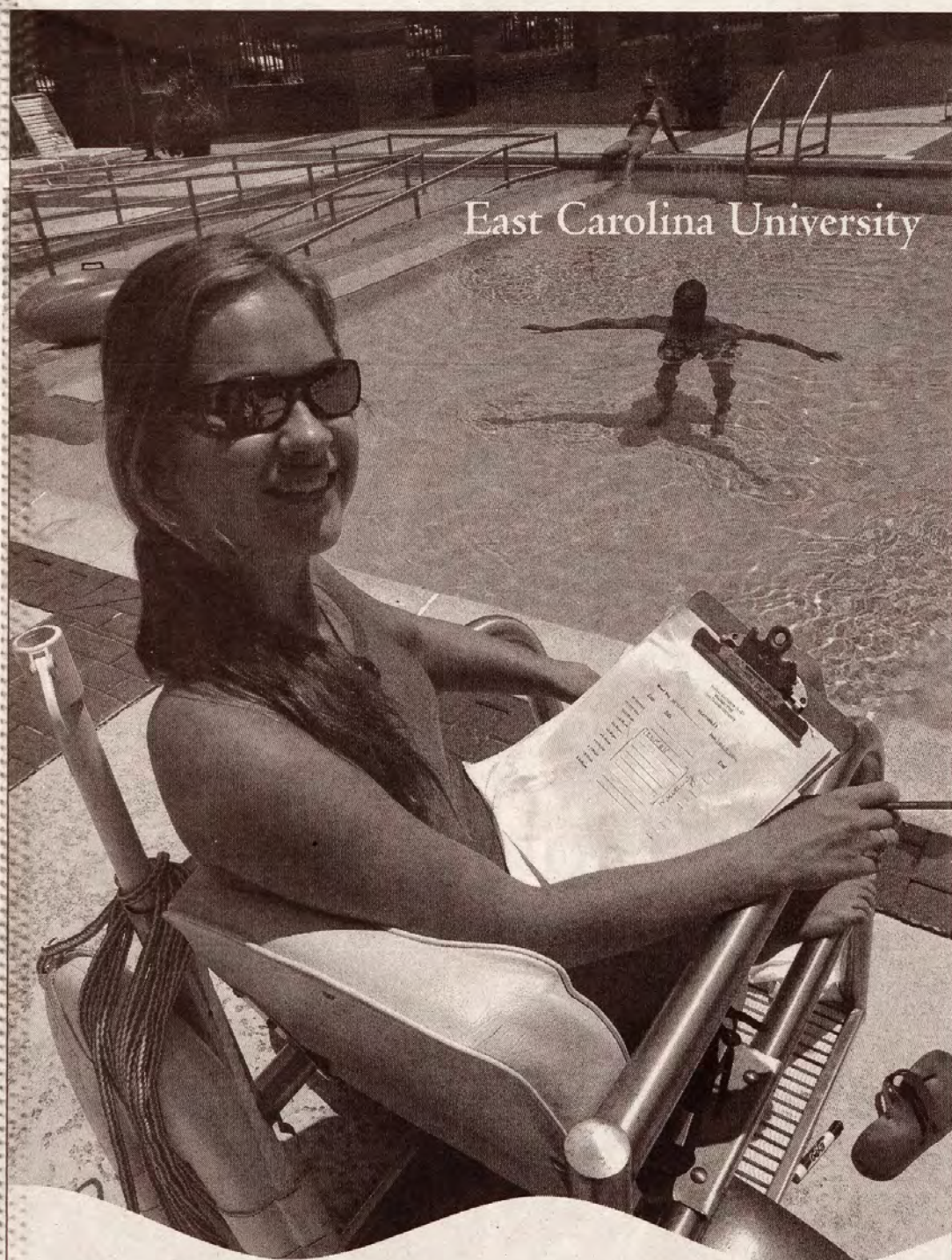
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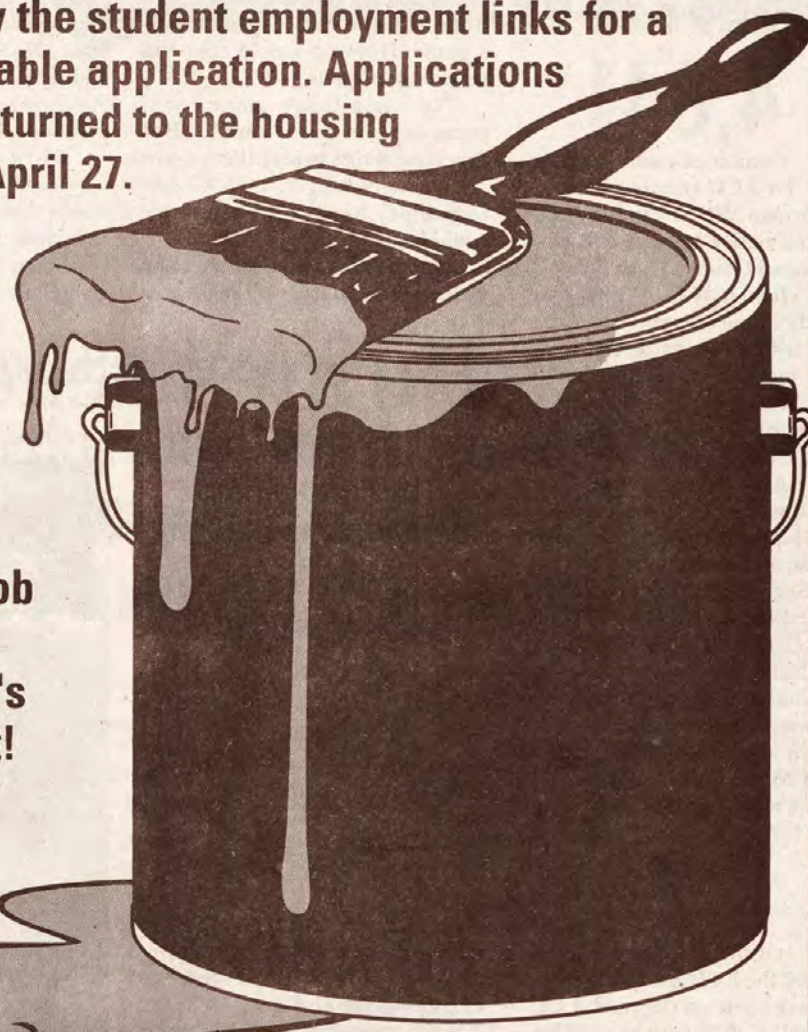


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Sports

{ECU's Inside Source}

BY THE NUMBERS

24TH

Annual Pigskin Pig-Out Party is scheduled for this weekend; the event is an all weekend event that is highlighted by ECU's Purple-Gold football scrimmage, which is set for 3 p.m. on Saturday; the Pig-Out also features a Pig Cookin' Contest, a number of live bands and local entertainment, carnival rides, fireworks, BBQ plates, kids' games and much more; the Purple-Gold scrimmage concludes the ECU football team's spring practice, which started on Feb. 28, and is an intra-squad scrimmage that allows fans a sneak peek at the 2008 Pirates

3

Running backs that are currently battling for the starting running position on the 2008 ECU football team; Senior Chris Johnson and Junior Dominique Lindsay currently sit in a tie for the starting spot on the latest depth chart released on March 28, while redshirt freshman Norman Whitley is right behind them; Johnson was a first-team all Conference USA member as a return specialist last season, and led the Pirates in all-purpose yards with 972; Johnson, who was used at multiple positions last year, tallied 314 rushing yards, 176 receiving yards and 482 kick return yards in his expanded role; Lindsay, a 212-pound Charlotte Independence product, battled injuries last season but has had a very productive spring, which landed him atop the depth chart; Whitley, who redshirted last year after a stellar high school campaign, is pushing the two upperclassmen on the first-team as he rushed for 233 yards and three touchdowns in a recent scrimmage

7

Match winning steak for ECU women's tennis player Mireia Gol; Gol, who was born in Barcelona, Spain, has excelled as the Pirates No. 2 singles player lately and is 9-1 in her last 10 individual matches; Gol, a junior, holds an overall record of 17-4 in individual matches and also has a 16-2 record in doubles play; the Pirates host N.C. Central and Old Dominion this weekend to close out the regular season and are looking to break the school record of 19 wins, as they are 18-8 heading into the weekend

4,841

Combined rushing yards for ECU running back Norman Whitley in his junior and senior seasons at Richmond County High School in Hamlet, N.C.; Whitley set Richmond County records with 2,666 yards and 39 touchdowns as a junior; Whitley followed up his record-breaking season with 2,175 rushing yards and 24 touchdowns as a senior for the Raiders; the 5-foot-9, 185-pound running back also earned MVP honors at the Shrine Bowl after rushing for 132 yards and leading the N.C. team to a 28-24 victory; Whitley, who redshirted in his initial season with the Pirates last year, was ranked as the 11th best prospect in the state of North Carolina by Super-Prep Magazine in 2006

2

Of the three series losses by the ECU baseball team have come on the road; ECU will look to turn around its road fortune this weekend as it plays at Marshall in a C-USA matchup; Marshall currently sits in last place in C-USA with a 0-6 record while ECU is in sixth place with a 4-5 record; The Pirates have lost five of their last six C-USA games after starting the C-USA slate with a 3-0 record

Back looks to muscle up the depth chart

Whitley is impressing as a redshirt freshman

JARED JACKSON
STAFF WRITER

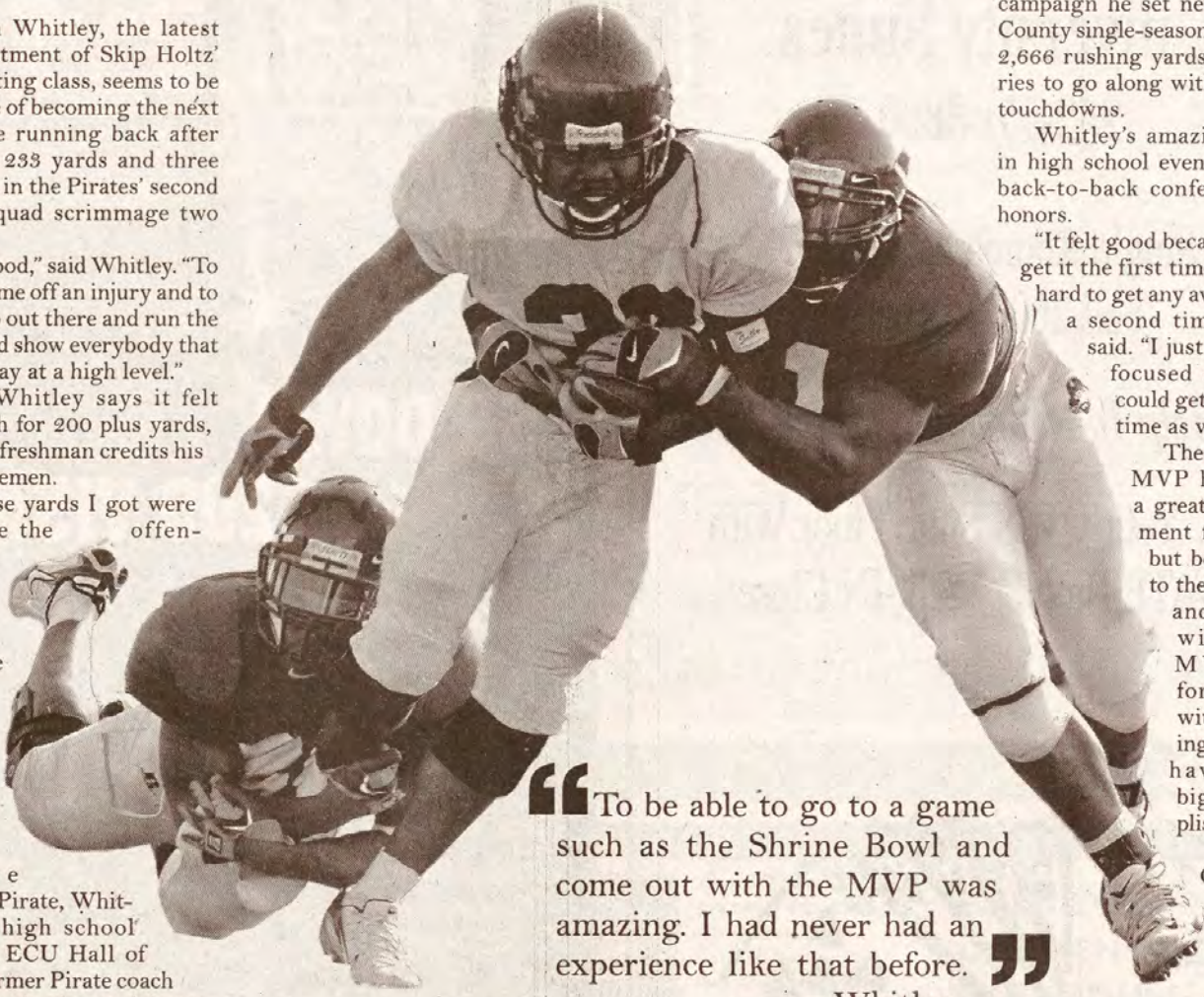
Norman Whitley, the latest gem commitment of Skip Holtz' 2006 recruiting class, seems to be on the verge of becoming the next great Pirate running back after rushing for 233 yards and three touchdowns in the Pirates' second full intra-squad scrimmage two weeks ago.

"It felt good," said Whitley. "To be able to come off an injury and to be able to go out there and run the way I ran and show everybody that I can still play at a high level."

While Whitley says it felt good to rush for 200 plus yards, the redshirt freshman credits his offensive linemen.

"All those yards I got were just because the offensive line put forth the effort to block and show me that I can trust them to open up holes," said the Hamlet, N.C. native.

Before becoming a Pirate, Whitley played high school football for ECU Hall of Fame and former Pirate coach Ed Emory at six time 4-AA state



"To be able to go to a game such as the Shrine Bowl and come out with the MVP was amazing. I had never had an experience like that before."
— Whitley

title winners Richmond County High School.

As a senior, Whitley rushed for 2,175 yards and 24 touchdowns. His junior season however could be considered his best. During that campaign he set new Richmond County single-season records with 2,666 rushing yards on 290 carries to go along with 39 rushing touchdowns.

Whitley's amazing numbers in high school eventually led to back-to-back conference MVP honors.

"It felt good because once you get it the first time it is kind of hard to get any award like that a second time," Whitley said. "I just tried to stay focused and see if I could get it the second time as well."

The back-to-back MVP honors were a great accomplishment for Whitley, but being selected to the Shrine Bowl and eventually winning the MVP honor for that game with 132 rushing yards could have been a bigger accomplishment.

"Oh my Gosh," Whitley said with excitement. "Going to the

Shrine Bowl was a really fun time. I played with a lot of D-1 athletes and against a lot of D-1 athletes. To be able to go to a game such as the Shrine Bowl and come out with the MVP was amazing. I had never had an experience like that before."

The Shrine Bowl signaled the end of an amazing career at Richmond County for Whitley, in which the program earned consecutive conference titles from 2002 - 2005 and held a combined record of 52-4 during his four years as a Raider.

The 11th best prospect in North Carolina according to Super-Prep Magazine had entertained interest from universities such as Virginia and North Carolina, but ultimately it was Appalachian State and ECU that offered scholarships to the 5-foot-9, 185-pound running back.

"I felt like I had the chance to come here and be a big time player here at East Carolina," Whitley said of choosing ECU. "I talked to coach [Skip] Holtz and coach [Junior] Smith night in and night out about this program and I felt like it was the place for me."

And while Appalachian State has won back-to-back NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision national titles, Whitley doesn't regret coming to ECU.

"I don't think I regret choosing ECU," said Whitley. "I think I'm here at ECU for a reason and

see WHITLEY page B5

Pirates have been giving opponents tough 'love' at home

ECU women's tennis team looks to establish new school record

STEPHANIE FU
STAFF WRITER

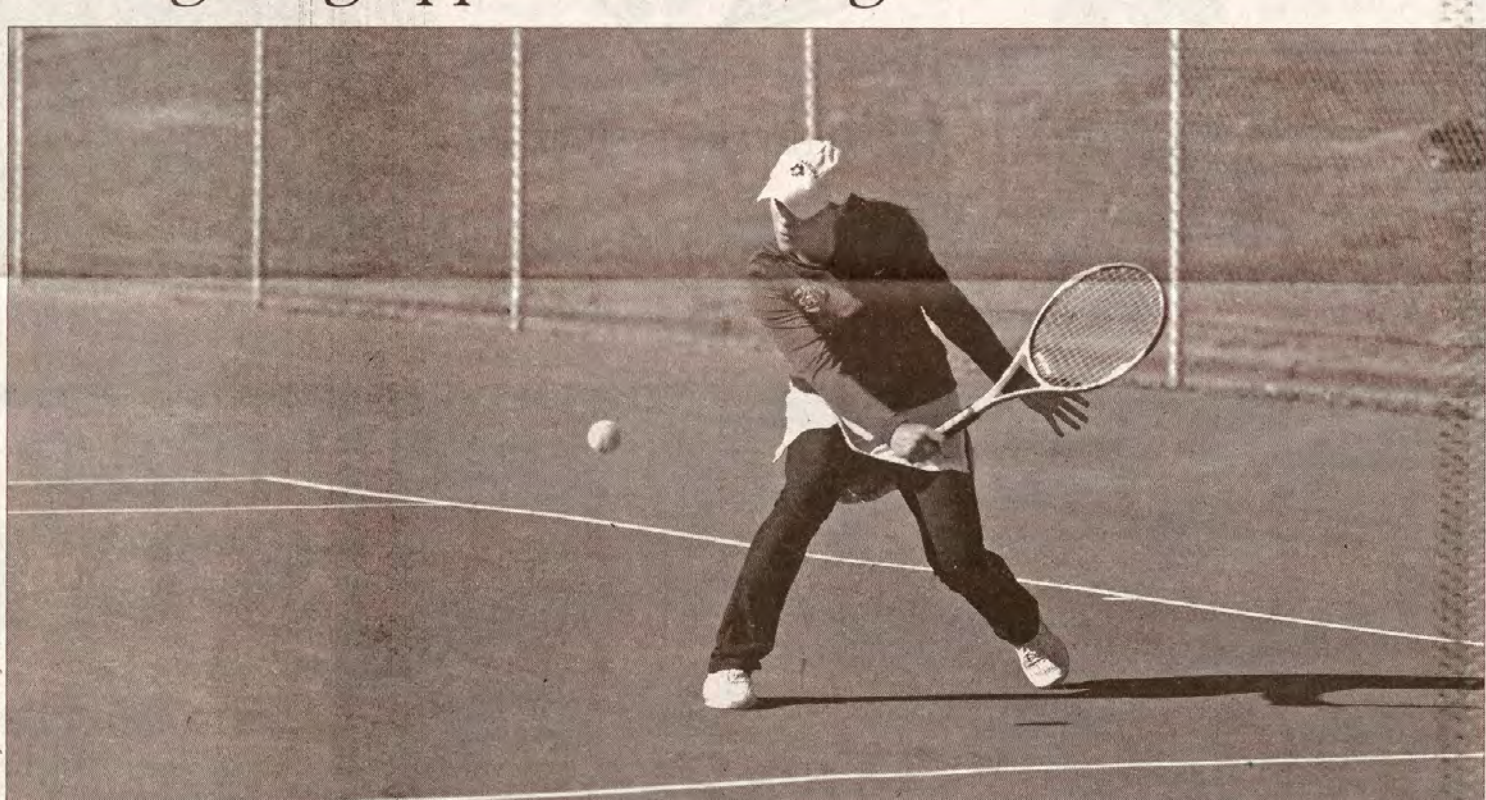
This season, the ECU women's tennis team upheld its reputation and continues to strive for improvement. So far the Pirates overall record for the season is an impressive 18-8. With a few more games left to play this season, the women's tennis team is hoping to break the school record of 19 wins in a single season.

The ladies opened up the season with a loss in Chapel Hill to a tough and seasoned UNC squad. However, this loss would not discourage their spirits as they moved on to an invitational in Richmond, Va. at the end of January. The Pirates brought back five wins against the likes of Georgetown, James Madison, Longwood, Delaware and George Mason.

The ECU women's tennis team also had the opportunity to play against a worthy Conference USA foe. Houston was in South Carolina at the end of March so ECU took the initiative and drove down to Charleston to challenge them to a game. Houston would take the hard fought game, 4-3.

"It was a tough game," said team captain Alex Smith. "But everyone wants to play them again [in the upcoming C-USA Championships] because we think we could beat them."

Home games have shown to be the bread and butter of the Pirates



ECU women's tennis has two huge home games fast approaching. The Pirates face N.C. Central and ODU this weekend to close out the season.

all season long.

ECU has played host to visiting teams such as Appalachian State, N.C. A&T, Barton College and UNC Wilmington with the Pirates taking all eight home games of the season.

We're right where we hoped we would be," said ECU women's tennis Head Coach Tom Morris. "We lost two good players last season and there's always an issue about how we are going to get used

to new combinations, but the girls have worked hard."

Morris praised freshman Brook Walter and sophomore Varinia Soler for stepping up this season.

"Brook and Varinia have come in and helped us a lot," said Morris. "We aren't losing anyone next year and we have a couple of people coming in as well."

Half of this year's Pirates are either freshmen or sophomores, so ECU looks to have a bright

future ahead.

"We've laid some good groundwork this season for next year," said Morris. "We're playing very well with a lot more confidence so I think next year will be an even better year than this year."

ECU will close out its regular season this weekend as it hosts North Carolina Central tomorrow and Old Dominion on Saturday.

"Old Dominion has been very good this season and last year they

beat us so this Saturday's game will be a tough one," said Morris.

Only a few more games remain in the season, and the ECU women's tennis team continues to pursue and break the record of 19 wins. The ladies have been very impressive thus far and bring great prospect to next year's season.

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

Pirates ready for Purple-Gold scrimmage

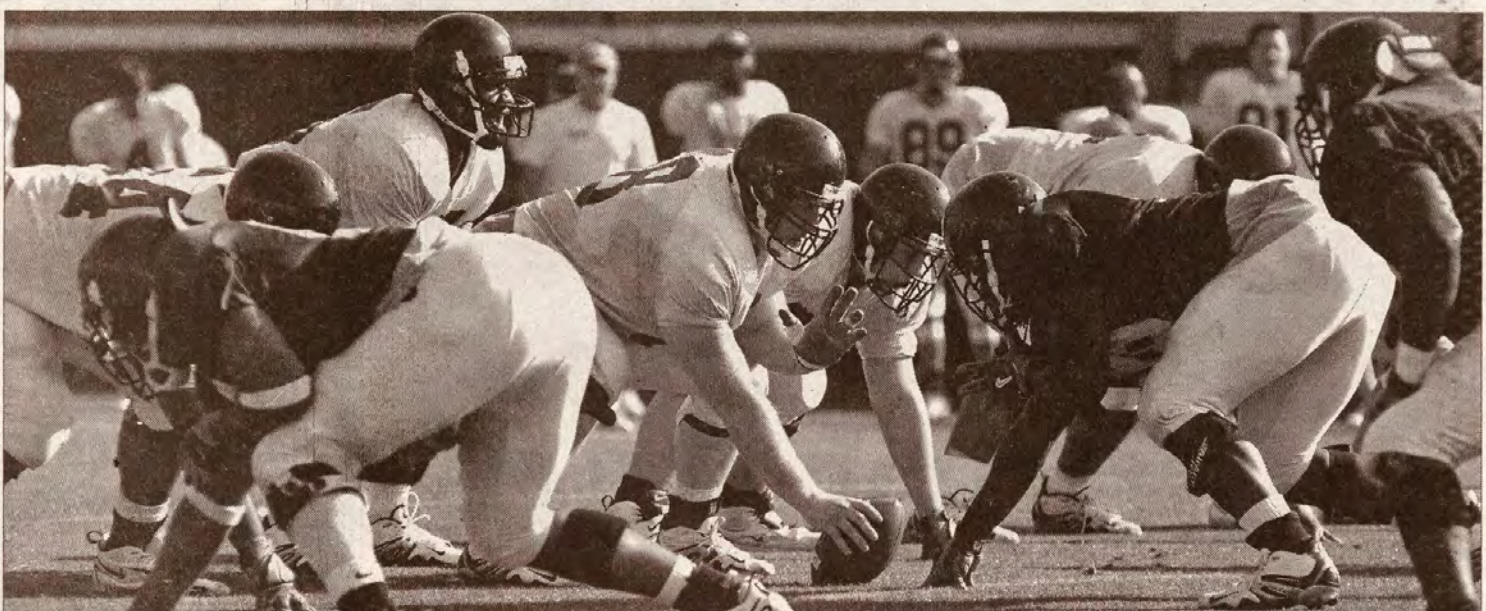
The Pirates best prospects will be on full display

BENJAMIN LLOYD
SENIOR WRITER

The Pirates will meet on Saturday, April 14 at 3 p.m. in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. The football team wrapped up spring practice Wednesday afternoon with a full-pad session to prepare for their big spring game.

ECU football Head Coach Skip Holtz and his staff have spent the last few days defining their current depth chart to identify the first and second units. They conducted a player draft Wednesday morning to select roster positions for the Purple-Gold Game.

"It took about an hour to draft the team, and they're set," said Holtz. "We feel like the teams are very balanced and the one thing we're going to look at is quarterbacks since all three are in it." The two teams will pit the



Junior Quarterback Patrick Pinkney will be one of the top three signal callers on display in the Purple-Gold game this Saturday at 3 p.m.

No. 1 offense and defense against each other in order to display true competition between equal football squads.

Holtz has said that the format of the scrimmage will be as close to a normal football game as possible, utilizing a clock and full contact at all positions. Although there will be no kickoffs, punts or return situations there will be field goals and extra points.

The Purple-Gold game has always given the next star player

their chance to breakout. Under Holtz the past two scrimmages have produced many top prospects.

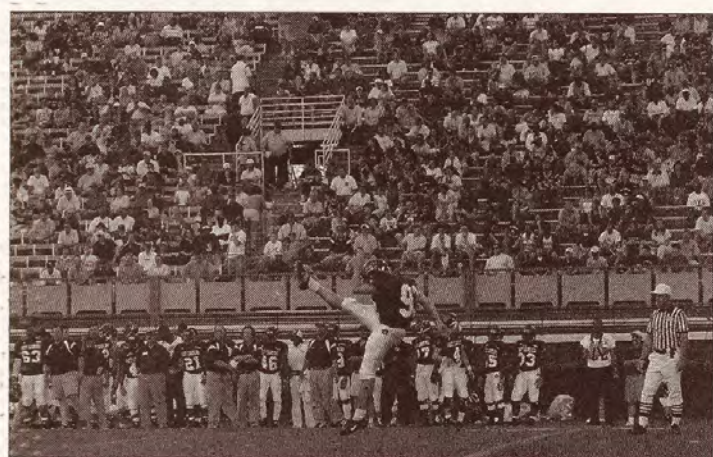
In 2005 Aundrae Allison recorded 94 receiving yards on five catches, including a 30-yard

scoring grab.

Quarterback turned tight end Davon Drew finished the game completing 14-of-30 passes for 138 yards, including the TD toss

see PIRATES page B5

PIRATES continued from B4



Fans fill the stands during the Purple-Gold game last year.



Junior RB Dominique Lindsay is battling back from a knee injury.



Sophomore WR Alex Taylor looks to get more involved in the offense.

to Allison, while running for 26 additional yards on 13 carries. Tailback Chris Johnson topped all rushers with 71 yards on 16 attempts.

In 2006 sophomore running back Dominique Lindsay rushed for 100 yards and a touchdown while senior kicker Robert Lee added three field goals to give ECU the victory over the Pirates.

In addition, senior quarterback James Pinkney completed

13-of-23 passes for 154 yards and a touchdown pass.

With the current quarterback roster the coaches decided to take a more unconventional route.

"We didn't draft the quarterbacks onto a team. We're just gonna roll them around a little bit. All three of them are going to end up playing for both teams," said Holtz.

The Purple-Gold game is really a chance for the younger

players to get that in-game experience.

"It's game like situations, when there are things on the line and their teammates are counting on them," said Holtz. "There's a crowd in the stands, and that's what a lot of these guys haven't played with. They've never been in that environment and you just don't know the response your going to get at this point."

Besides the game, this week-

end hosts the Pirate Purple/Gold Pigskin Pig-Out Party. Tickets are \$5 for the football game or \$10 with the addition of a plate of BBQ from the Pigskin Pig-Out Party.

The tickets can be purchased online at ECUPirates.com or by calling (252) 328-2300 locally or (800) DIAL-ECU outside the Greenville area.

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



QB Brett Clay wants to put together a strong performance in the game.

WHITLEY continued from B4



Junior quarterback Patrick Pinkney fakes a hand-off to redshirt freshman running back Whitley during a spring scrimmage in Dowdy-Ficklen.

I feel like so far everything is working out for me. I don't think I would pick another place over ECU."

After venturing to ECU, Whitley redshirted the 2006 season.

"It helped me to learn the program and learn how things work here as a player," Whitley said.

But while Whitley says the redshirt year helped him, he admits that it was hard to come in and have to sit out.

"Being a player and coming in after a Shrine Bowl, it's hard to redshirt your first year in college because you feel like you're ready," said Whitley. "But only the coaches know what is best for you and I think that is something that was good for me because I got to learn the system and it's got me to where I am now."

Now Whitley is preparing for the 2007 season and currently sits third on the spring depth chart released March 28.

"I think that after the spring game this weekend I don't think I'll be where I'm at now," said Whitley of his depth chart position. "I think that they'll [the coaches] re-evaluate the scrimmage again and see that I'm ready to step in and be a big time player this weekend."

The young man has set his team goals as winning as many games as possible and getting to a big time bowl game. As for personally, he wants to only get on the field and play the way he knows he can.

If Whitley displays the freakish athletic ability that he had in high school in the upcoming season then the Pirate Nation will likely rejoice in the rebirth of the ECU running back of old.

And that is just how Whitley wants it.

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