



Chris Johnson and the Pirates are headed to either the GMAC or Hawaii Bowl. Check out the sports section for a full recap of ECU's memorable season and what lies ahead for the team and coach Skip Holtz.....Page B1

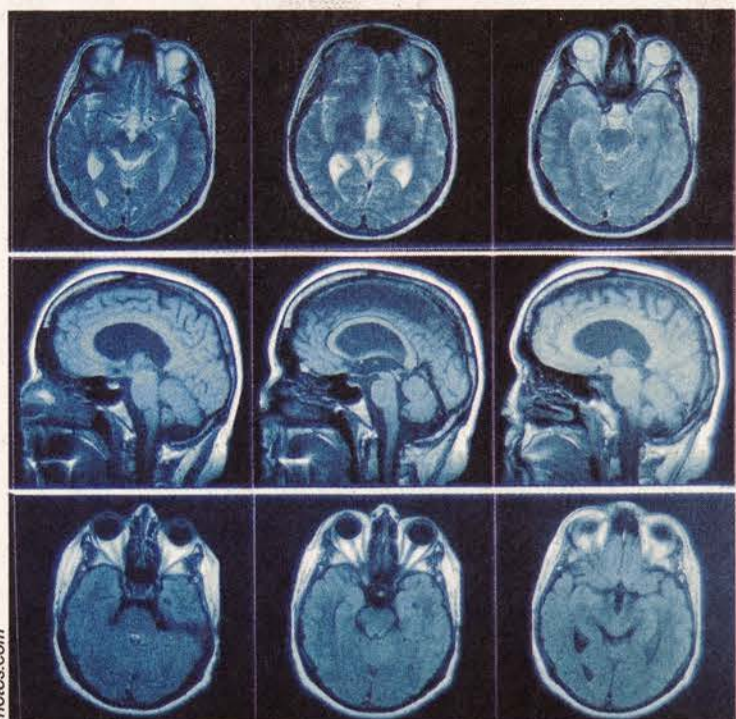


With the conclusion of the semester comes the end of the season for Fall Division I sports at ECU. In celebration of the success that the Pirates have had this season, the sports section is handing out awards, including the coveted team of the semester and coach of the semester honors.....Page B1



November marks Native American and Alaskan American Heritage Month, and the East Carolina Native American Organization is commemorating the month by hosting a Night of Cultural Awareness on Nov. 30 in Mendenhall.....Page A5

Speakers address topics at Neuroscience Symposium



Photos.com

The neuroscience symposium will educate attendees on the brain.

Open invitation to anyone interested

YAZID FINN
STAFF WRITER

A Neuroscience Symposium is being held today at the Willis Building on East First Street.

The event is an annual program hosted by the East Carolina Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience.

This year's event hopes to focus on means for "promoting neuronal regeneration in a variety of neurological disorders," including Alzheimers and schizophrenia.

Keynote speakers from around the United States including Johns Hopkins University, will be addressing and answering questions through the event.

"We have five invited speakers with international and national reputation," said Dr. Alexander Murashov, president of the Eastern Carolina Neuroscience Chapter.

The event is open to anyone who is

interested, not merely those attracted to a degree in neuroscience.

"To know how the brain works, is important not only for clinician but for every educated person," Murashov said.

"People need to know more about the brain and how to keep it "fit" and healthy for the lifetime."

While ECU has only recently established their own program in regards to the field of neuroscience, the numbers have grown.

"It (neuroscience program) is multidisciplinary and includes disciplines such as psychology, physiology, biochemistry, biology, chemistry and psychiatry," said Dr. Tuan Tran, neuroscience program director.

Tran noted the importance a degree such as neuroscience can hold for any medicine-bound student.

"Because of its multidisciplinary nature, study in neuroscience almost ensures that

see SCIENCE page A2

Children suffering from autism experience a day of surfing



SURFERS HEALING

Program provides a sense of normalcy

SARAH CAMPBELL
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Difficulties with social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication boundaries and sensory integration problems are just a few of the defining characteristics of autism, a developmental disorder that affects as many as 1.5 million Americans in the United States, according to The Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

The beginning stages of autism can be found in children as young as 3 years of age. This disorder plagues the lives of many, leaving them unable to participate in many typical childhood activities.

A sense of normalcy can be regained to individuals living with the disorder, thanks to the

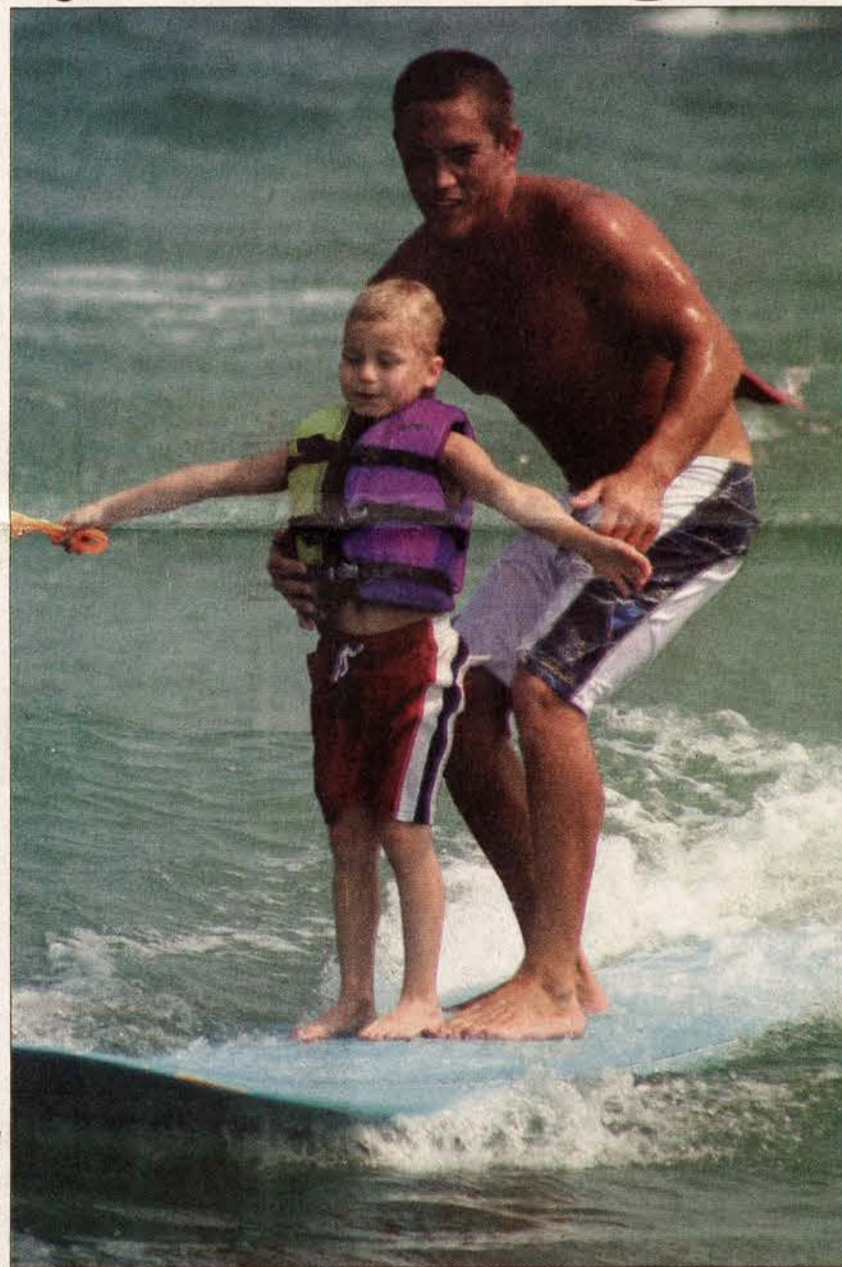
Surfer's Healing Program. It was founded by Israel and Danielle Paskowitz after their son, Isaiah, was diagnosed with autism. The program offers children a chance to experience surfing.

Senior communication major, Amy Gray, has been fundraising for the Wrightsville Beach chapter of Surfer's Healing since her brother, Andrew, participated in one of the events about three years ago.

Gray understands the toll that autism can have on a child. Since the cost for the day is completely free to the family of the child, it is important to raise funds to keep the program going.

"Autism presents many struggles and hard days for families; Surfers Healing helps give everyone that one good day. Seeing my brother stand

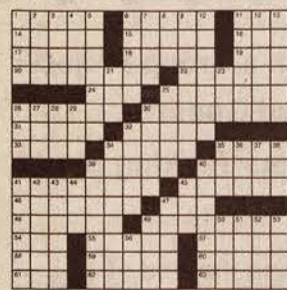
see AUTISM page A3



Contributed image

Members of the Surfer's Healing Program teaches children with autism how to surf.

Crossword



.....Page A13

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Task Force set to reevaluate ASG



ASG looking to change image

NIA RICHARDSON
STAFF WRITER

The University of North Carolina Association of Student Governments (ASG) announced the implementation of UNCASG Review Task Force on Monday, Nov. 12.

The task force will act as a review mechanism to determine what changes need to be made within the organization to allow ASG to serve the UNC system more effectively.

In October, plans began to implement a task force as a solution to reconcile concerns about the effectiveness of the

association.

After a review by the ASG Board of Directors and the General Assembly, ASG President Cody Grasty took the lead and established the task force as a committee as granted to him by the ASG constitution.

The present objective of the task force is to assess the state of ASG.

"We wanted to take a holistic view of the organization so we could make it more stable, better prepared for the future and an environment where SGA's felt comfortable bringing issues to the table and having faith they would be resolved in some fashion," Grasty said.

Other objectives include

reevaluating the structure of ASG in comparison with other statewide associations.

The task force includes in its mission statement, "The objective to develop an appropriate model that preserves the best of the Association's current format and structure and makes changes based on a comparison of UNCASG with peer institutions."

The task force will also assess the services that it offers to the UNC system community and analyze how it utilizes its finances.

The composition of the task force, as put together by President Grasty, will include three

see UNCASG page A2

Small restaurants struggle to meet regulations

Perks and problems business owners face

GREG KATSKI
SPORTS EDITOR

Mary Fedash and husband, owners of Café Europa, a quaint sandwich shop, enjoy their work but struggle to meet the challenging criteria set for restaurants to stay open.

The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Division of Environmental Health makes living a little more difficult for Fedash and other business owners like her.

"It's rough; I'm in the same position [as other small individually owned restaurants]. I mean I really love it and you know, you can't do everything they tell you to do, and you get no lead way," Fedash said.

Fedash understands that the Division of Environmental Health sanitarian examiners are simply following the strict guidelines of the "Inspection of Food Establishment" form, but believes that too much of an emphasis is being put on minor violations that severely cripple small restaurants.

Fedash explains, "I mean there's no possible way that I could go spend \$5,000 or \$10,000 to buy everything that they tell me I have to have, not in this place [Cafe Europa]."

While the cafe did receive a respectable average score of 97.25 spanning from 2006-07, the sanitation score displayed above the cash register in Cafe Europa only skims the surface of the dilemma.

Some of the important cooking equipment that Fedash uses is not commercially regulated, and therefore unacceptable for a restaurant.

"I was told I could not have a ceramic crock pot. I had to buy a stainless steel crock-pot. I was told where to go buy it. I went and I bought two of them. The next time I got inspected she [the inspector] decided I couldn't have them," Fedash said.

"She told me I need to go through an equipment company and have to pay five times as much as I would if I had gone someplace else."

Fedash explained that repeated violations for the same

see RESTAURANT page A6

{ Campus & Community }

PIRATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Sometimes I Cry"
Thursday, November 29
7 p.m.
Wright Auditorium

A complex and thought-provoking show, "Sometimes I Cry," was inspired by the real life stories of women who are infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. The show creatively examines the female struggle when coping with HIV and AIDS and offers an engaging window into the unique difficulties women face. Sheryl Lee Ralph becomes each character through word and song, with every move and simple gesture, breathing life into them and their stories. Tickets went on sale Nov. 1 at the ECU Central Ticket Office, Mendenhall Student Center. Ticket prices are \$15 general public and \$12 staff/faculty. The first 250 students receive free tickets, after which student tickets sell for \$5 each. A portion of the proceeds from ticket sells will be donated to the Pitt County Aids Service Organization (PiCASO). For more information on tickets contact the ECU ticket office at (252) 328-4788, 1-800-ECU-ARTS V/TTY (252) 328-473

SOAD welcomes Buddhist lecturer
Thursday, November 29
7 to 9 p.m.
Speight Auditorium, Jenkins Fine Arts Building

Peter Mugan Schellin, an ordained Buddhist monk, will speak on peace from the Buddhist perspective in a presentation, "This is It" in conjunction with the School of Art and Design's Countdown to Peace Art Exhibit.

ECU's Great Books, MRST, women's studies host lecture
Friday, November 30
4 p.m.
Bate 1026

Christine de Pizan's "Book of the City of Ladies" (1405) argues for women's potential as thinkers, leaders, warriors and visionaries. Recent scholarship has explored the author's feminism in depth, with one notable exception: its possible motivations. Christine's defense of women does not extend to actual social reform, so why did she bother to write it? To find an answer, we will take a closer look at Christine's work as well as some of her major influences, Augustine and Boethius. Dr. Holderness is trained at Yale, the University of Geneva, the Ecole Normale Supérieure (Paris), and Johns Hopkins. She teaches at Michigan State University, and is currently a Visiting Scholar at Harvard. This talk is sponsored by: ECU's programs in Great Books, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and Women's Studies, as well as the departments of English, history and philosophy.

CORRECTION:

The article printed in the Tuesday, Nov. 27, issue of The East Carolinian, titled, "First software engineering graduate degree in NC will be coming to ECU," included an inaccurate photo. The photo that accompanied this article said, "Department of Engineering." The Department of Computer Science is actually offering the new graduate degree. The East Carolinian strives to provide readers with accurate information. Any comments regarding issues of inaccuracy can be addressed with Sarah Campbell, editor-in-chief, at 328-9249 or by email at editor@theeastcarolinian.com.

29 Thur

"Sometimes I Cry"
7 p.m.
Wright Auditorium

SOAD welcomes Buddhist lecturer
7-9 p.m.
Speight Auditorium, Jenkins Fine Arts Building

30 Fri

Uptown Greenville ArtWalk
6-9 p.m.
30 downtown merchants

ECU's Great Books, MRST, women's studies host lecture
4 p.m.
Bate 1026

Tree Lighting
6 p.m.
Sheppard Memorial Library

Celebrating Native American Heritage Month
6:30-9 p.m.
MSC 221

1 Sat

Country Doctor Museum's 3rd annual Holiday Open House
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Country Doctor Museum, off U.S. 264, Bailey, N.C.

Greenville Jaycees Christmas Parade
10 a.m.
Begins on W.10th Street

Women's Basketball
VCU
2 p.m.
Minges Coliseum

2 Sun

Reindeer Dash for Cash
5k and 10 mile run
2 p.m.
Town Common on 1st St.

Holiday Concert
ECU School of Music's Friends Wind Ensemble
Christmas Concert
3 p.m.
Wright Auditorium

3 Mon

Blood Drive
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Wright Plaza

ECU Guitar Ensemble
8-10 p.m.
A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall

Last day of class!
Men's Basketball
Clemson
7 p.m.
Minges Coliseum

* Featured Event

Greenville Jaycees Christmas Parade
10 a.m.
Begins on W.10th Street



SCIENCE continued from A1

the student will be well-rounded in many facets of science, as it is trying to understand the brain-behavior relationship that makes the task challenging but very exciting!," Tran said.

The symposium is being held in part to additionally cover "research activities being conducted within ECU" and increase collaborative efforts with "leading scientists in the US."

"An event like this is a great means to educate students to a field they might

over look in the medicine field," said Sami Alam, freshmen exercise physiology major.

The event begins with their first speaker at 8:30 a.m. and will continue throughout the day.

Students and faculty interested in reading or finding out more information in regards to the event should send their emails to neuro-science@ecu.edu. <http://www.ecu.edu/neurochapter>.

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

UNCASG continued from A1

student body presidents to be appointed into position by the chair of the president's council, the General Assembly, two students at-large, one ASG alumni and one member of the UNC general administration.

All members, besides the three student body presidents, have a choice in whether or not to serve on the task force. The results on who will fill

the positions will be turned in to the General Assembly during the March meeting of ASG.

"Once the objectives of the task force are completed, then we will have a better picture of how to get better and we will have some idea of how to build up our association," said Grasty.

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

PIRATE NATION WEATHER REPORT

THURSDAY:

HI: 65F

LOW: 35F

WIND: SE 3-6 mph shifting to NW 5-10 mph

% PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY: 30%

GENERAL WEATHER: mostly cloudy with chance of rain in afternoon

FRIDAY:

HI: 60F

LOW: 34F

WIND: NE 3-5 mph

% PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY: 10%

GENERAL WEATHER: mostly sunny

WEEKEND:

HI: low 60s

LOW: mid30s on Saturday; mid 50s on Sunday

WIND: Northerly 2-6 mph

% PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY: 10%

GENERAL WEATHER: partly cloudy

Forecast presented by ECU GeoClub and Geography's Atmospheric Science Program.

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AUTISM continued from A1



up and surf a wave on his own and having an entire beach filled with people cheering for him, that gives him the chance to finally be in the spotlight," Gray said.

Gray has been working to raise money for the Wrightsville Beach chapter of Surfer's Healing by selling puzzle pieces in Wright Plaza. The puzzle pieces will be displayed on a huge

wreath in Joyner Library.

In addition, on display in Joyner Library on Dec. 4 - Jan. 5 will be wreaths that campus organizations and local business decorated during the wreath drive.

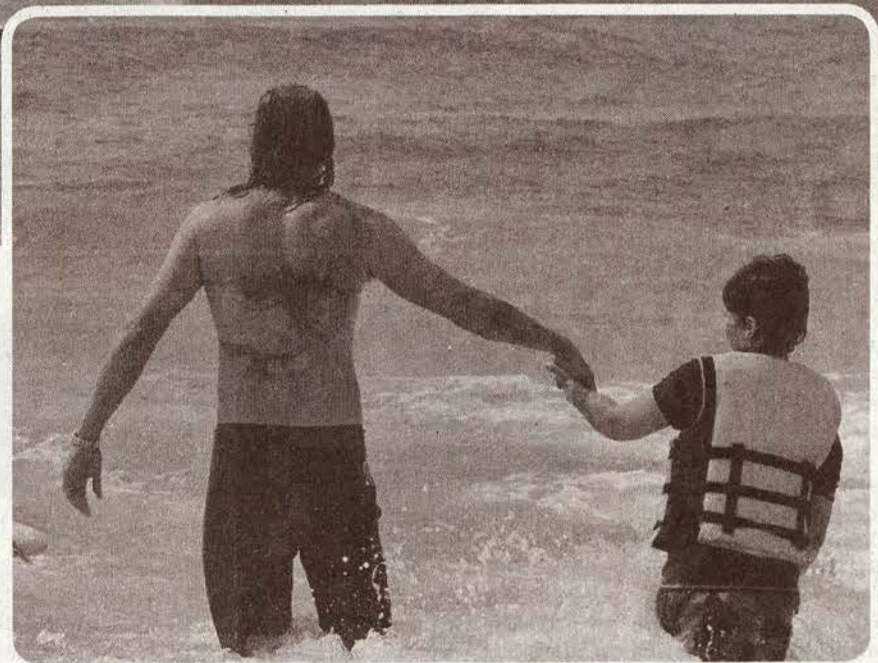
A reception to raise money for the Wrightsville Beach chapter of Surfer's Healing will take place at the Eclectic Gallery, located inside the Colonial Mall, on Friday, Dec. 7 from

7-9:30 p.m. Tickets to the event are \$10.

Paintings crafted by the ECU Painting Guild and inspired by photos of the children from the 2007 Wrightsville Beach Camp will be featured

A silent auction will include the sale of one or two of the paintings as well as gift certificate.

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



Contributed Images

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ECU concludes childhood obesity study

U.S. overweight problem

Almost 21% of the U.S. population, or about 59 million people, are clinically obese, according to a new study.

Body Mass Index (BMI), was weight indicator used in study

To calculate it, square the person's height (in inches), divide the person's weight (in pounds) by that number, then multiply by 700

BMI=
 $\frac{\text{Weight in pounds}}{\text{Height in inches}^2} \times 700$

Or use meters for height, kilograms for weight and simply divide

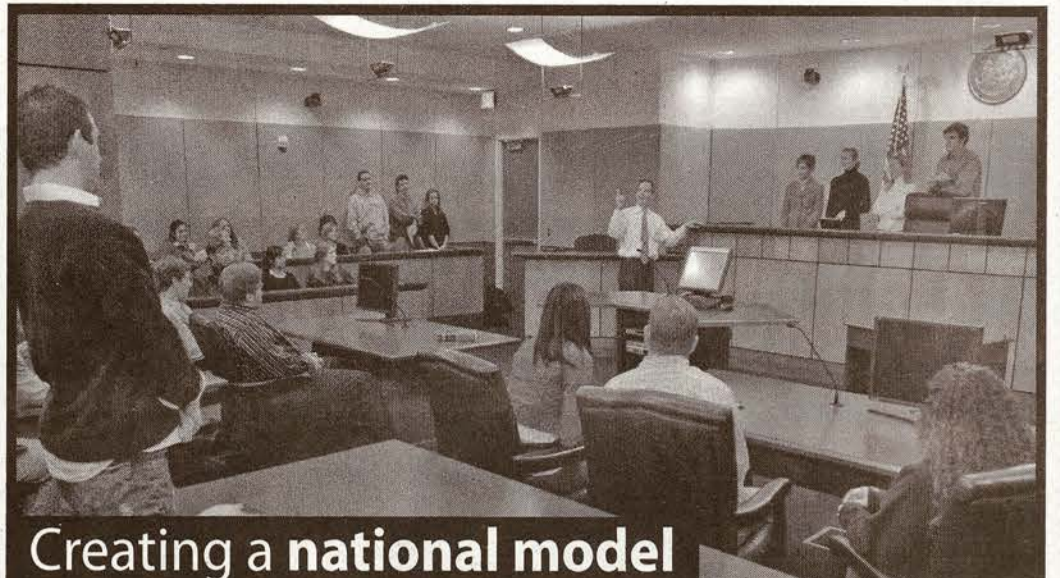
BMI=
 $\frac{\text{Weight in kilograms}}{\text{Height in meters}^2}$

Overweight and obesity are significantly associated with:

- Diabetes
- High blood pressure
- High cholesterol
- Asthma
- Arthritis
- Poor health

With a BMI of...	a person is...
Less than 18.5	Underweight
18.5 to 24.9	Normal weight
25 to 29.9	Overweight
30 or above	Clinically obese

Note: BMI is a good gauge of body fat for most people, with some notable exceptions: athletes and body builders have a lot of extra weight from muscle and often have a very high BMI.
 Source: Journal of American Medical Association, National Center for Health Statistics.
 Graphic: Tim Goheen © 2003 KRT



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Many participants see vast improvement

WILLIAM HALL
STAFF WRITER



Researchers from ECU's Brody School of Medicine recently concluded a three-year statewide evaluation of childhood obesity projects funded by the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund.

Participants came from the local health departments, after-school programs, school systems and community-based organizations that were conducting the projects.

The 1,546 participating children ranged from ages 4 through 18, and researchers followed them to see what choices they made concerning food and drink.

Before the projects began, the participants had to fill out a

survey documenting their average fruit and vegetable servings, snack choices and sweet beverage consumption.

44 percent of the participants were overweight when the projects began, but by the end of it, 90 percent of the children either stayed in their weight class or improved.

The percentage of children who preferred fruits rather than sweet or salty snacks went from 13.3 percent in the beginning to 17.5 percent in the end.

Among the overweight and obese participants, 51 percent improved in their weight class.

The 19 projects focused on teaching the participants to lessen their intake of sweets and increase their fruit and vegetable consumption.

Some of the projects focused on nutrition education, including cooking classes and physical activities in their studies.

see **OBESITY** page A5

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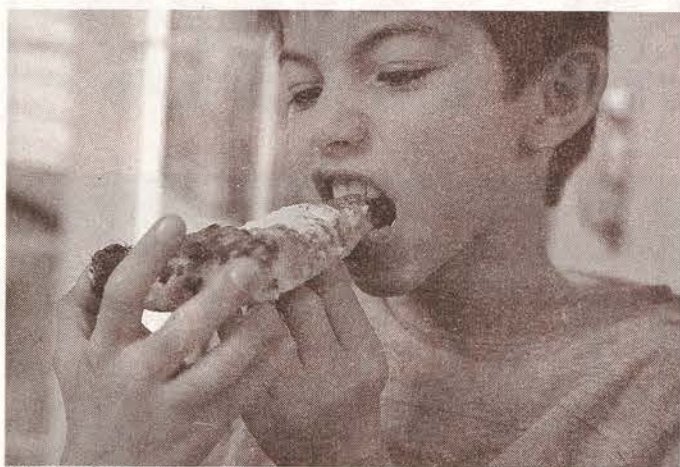
You can also pick up a kit at the Hanukkah table at WorldFest 2007* in the Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms from 12-4 on Wednesday, December 5.
 (If none of these times work for you, email Allison Sarran at aks0513@ecu.edu.)

Plus: join us at 4pm on December 5 (at the closing of WorldFest) in the lobby of Mendenhall Student Center to light the Mendenhall Menorah.

(Hanukkah starts at sundown on Tuesday, December 4)

*WorldFest is an annual ECU event that presents the food and traditions of winter holidays celebrated throughout the world. The Hanukkah table will feature latkes with sour cream and apple sauce and jelly donuts.

OBESITY continued from A1



Unhealthy food choices such as pizza are contributing to obesity in children.

"Despite each project being so different, teaching children about food and physical activity proved beneficial across the board," said Lauren Whetstone, clinical associate professor of family medicine.

"With these projects we can help keep obesity rates from increasing."

The study also focused on children that were already active opposed to kids that didn't get enough physical activity and ate unhealthily.

"This study was about children who had gym and recess every day, and was an attempt to put healthy foods back in the cafeteria," said Kathryn Kolasa, professor of family medicine and pediatrics.

Kolasa has also been a nutritionist for the last 30 years and has seen a significant increase in researchers actually doing

something about childhood obesity instead of just being concerned about it.

"There's never been this level of interest in obesity before," Kolasa said.

"With this study, the goal was to make a difference, and it did."

Some schools (including those in Pitt County) hope to continue learning from the successes of the projects by adding more healthy foods to its lunch menu and allowing students to have an active recess in the middle of the day.

The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund and The Obesity Task Force have been presented with the data; however, no publishing date has been announced.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com

Prominent African American academic surgeons honored in two exhibits

Laupus Library host the displays

WHITNEY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

The Laupus Library at ECU is hosting two exhibits featuring African-American academic surgeons and eastern North Carolina physicians.

"Opening Doors: Contemporary African American Academic Surgeons" is a preliminary exhibit that celebrates the contributions of black academic surgeons to medicine and medical education through the stories of four surgeons and educators.

These surgeons and educators exemplify excellence in their fields and believe in continuing the journey of excellence through the education and mentoring of young physicians and surgeons who are pursuing medical careers.

Currently on exhibit are Alexa L. Canady, the first African-American woman pediatric neurosurgeon and LaSalle D. Leffall, cancer surgeon and first African-American president of the American College of Surgeons.

Contemporary pioneers, Claude H. Organ, general surgeon and first African-American to chair a department of surgery at a predominantly white medical school and Rosalyn P. Scott, the first African-American woman cardiothoracic surgeon, are also featured at the "Opening Doors" exhibit.

The big-poster exhibit was developed and produced by the National Library of Medicine and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture.

The exhibit has been on display since Nov. 15 and will be on display until Jan. 28, 2008. As a companion to "Opening Doors," a second exhibit, "Pioneering African-American Physicians in Eastern North Carolina," will be on display through February 2008.

Dr. Andrew A. Best of Greenville and Dr. Milton Quig-



African Americans have more opportunities to become surgeons and other medical profession due to contributions by ancestors.

less of Tarboro will be featured. "Dr. Andrew Best was a well-loved physician in Greenville," said Dr. Ruth Moskop, Laupus Library assistant director for history programs.

"He taught hygiene classes to students and their teachers and he founded the Greenville Housing Authority."

Other pioneers to be featured at the second exhibit are Dr. Joseph Weaver, who practiced medicine in Ahoskie and Dr. John Hannibal, who studied medicine in Kinston.

These four leaders provided exceptional service to the community and "particularly to the African-American community," according to Moskop.

These two exhibits act as an example for younger generations who are interested in practicing medicine.

"I am happy that we can host this exhibit. It is important that we show students, particularly

African-American students, some important role models from their ethnic group who have become outstanding leaders in healthcare," Moskop said.

These exhibits also represent the boundaries that African-Americans had to overcome to practice medicine.

"Medical education for those seeking careers as physicians and surgeons was limited to a few black medical colleges including Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C. and Meharry Medical College, in Nashville, Tennessee, both established by whites in 1868 and 1876 respectively, and primarily under the control of white physicians and administrators," according to the National Library of Medicine Web site.

"For those achieving a medical degree, specialized studies and hospital privileges were

almost unattainable as few hospitals allowed black physicians access for training or to treat patients."

The exhibits are located on the library's fourth floor in the Evelyn F. Laupus Exhibit Gallery and are open during normal hours, which are Sunday noon-10 p.m., Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m.-midnight, Friday 7:30 a.m.-8 p.m., and Saturday 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

For more information about holiday hours and closings, go to www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/laupuslibrary/hours.cfm.

An expanded version of "Opening Doors" will return May 1-July 28, 2009, in which freestanding panels will be displayed featuring various physicians.

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

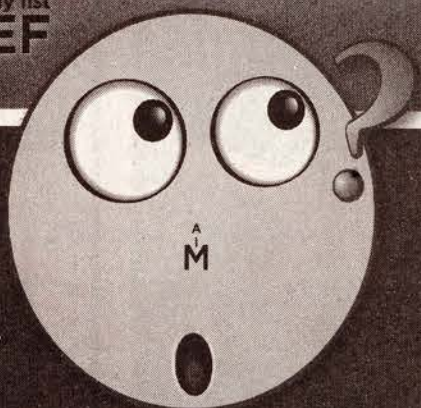
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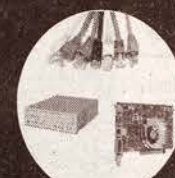
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RESTAURANT continued from A1

offense would result in a docking of 10 points off of a sanitation grade, therefore enforcing that all cooking equipment is commercially regulated.

Ann Clark, an Environmental Health Specialist and current Chairman of the Board for the North Carolina State Board of Sanitarian Examiners explained that restaurants are grouped into categories based on the hazardous risks of the menu.

Based on Clark's explanation, Cafe Europa and other cafes and coffee shops are considered to be category one, or low-risk restaurants. Category two is compiled of fast food restaurants, while cafeterias and meat markets make up category three, and extremely high-risk restaurants, including sushi houses and buffets are placed in category four.

Category one restaurants tend to have the highest average scores over the span of 2004-07, with many small businesses receiving sanitation scores over 97.

Admiral's Cup Coffeehouse (100.3 average), Debu Cafe and Catering (98.3) and Tea Cozy (100.2) are just three of over a dozen category one restaurants in Pitt County that received a sanitation grade of 97 or higher.

Even still, small restaurants and businesses with a more than respectable sanitation grades come and go in Pitt County.

Evidence shows that this is due to the limited resources that small restaurant owners have compared to the likes of McDonald's and other corporations.

Rachel Anderson is a banquet server and caterer at the Brook Valley Country Club. As a caterer, she

works in what is considered a category four restaurant.

According to Clark, the most common area where points are docked is the handling of food, in particular meat. Food poisoning is a serious concern, and cross contamination with chemicals and food is huge when inspecting.

Rachel Anderson can attest that at every banquet she's catered, there have never been any signs of food poisoning.

"All the banquets that I've [catered], I've had no complaints. It can be difficult because some banquets can have up to 150 people," Anderson said.

Her rationale is simple; if the food is taken care of properly and there are no signs of neglect, everything goes off without a hitch.

"All the meat is stored, it's wrapped, sealed and dated. All the meats are put in a certain part of the store, away from other food products," Anderson said.

Prominent Greenville businesses such as the Brook Valley Country Club have the right equipment and enough employs to maintain a profit margin. For smaller businesses such as Cafe Europa, a recall of equipment can prove costly.

"I had gotten a small refrigerator to store, because you can't keep your vegetables and things out and you need to refrigerate them right after you use them," Fedash said.

"So I just got myself a little refrigerator so I could have it right there with me, because I do not have a lot of space in the back. They told me I was not allowed to have that so they took it out and I lost a point; a full

point for that because I bought this little refrigerator and it wasn't all stainless steel."

Fedash added, "So I spent \$200 [on the mini fridge], and now have to spend \$1,000 to get a stainless steel fridge for the back."

Scott Jordan, a former cashier/stocker for Nick's Liquors in Belvidere, N.J. explained how health inspections done in New Jersey are not based on a sanitation grade system.

"It was a piece of paper [health certificate]; it didn't have a rating like North Carolina fast food [restaurants] do in the windows," Jordan said.

"It was just a certificate saying that we passed and were in compliance with all the rules and regulations; and it was signed personally by two members of the state health association."

Jordan stated that even though the family owned business he worked at has been in business for over 17 years, there have never been any problems related to failing a health inspection because of improper equipment.

"We always had perfect health inspections and we always hung that [certificate] right above the cash register," Jordan said.

Fedash hopes that the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Division of Environmental Health will consider a more balanced approach to sanitation grades, considering small businesses as well as corporations.

"They treat a small business no different than a corporate place; which we're not."

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

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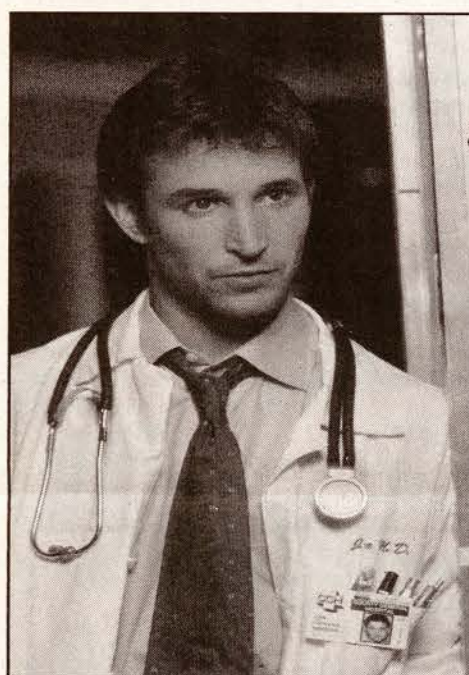
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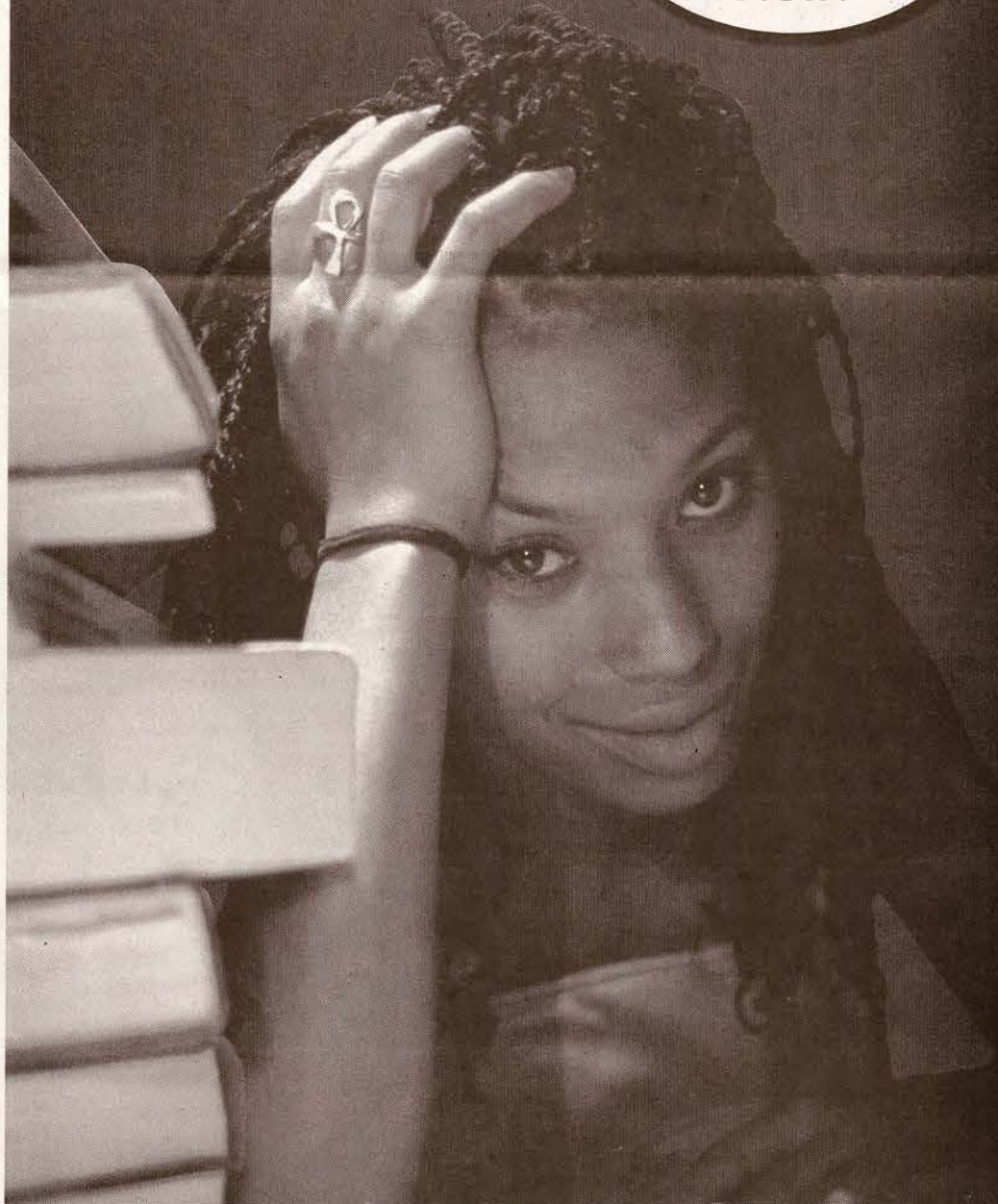
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Everyone needs to believe in something. I believe I'll have another beer.

{ Happy Holidays! }

Ron Paul: Hope for America?

He's won this writer's heart

JUSTIN SUMMERS
OPINION WRITER

Over the past few semesters writing for TEC, I have gone on many tirades about people and their issues. I have bashed Bush, denigrated the Democrats, affronted 50, renounced O'Reilly and well, I'm not going to try to rhyme Giuliani, cause any more rhyming would be gayner than cross-dressing.

My point with all of the Dr. Seuss nonsense is say, though I have issued my fair share of critique, now I have finally found someone deserving some praise. Ron Paul; maybe you have heard him? He is a man that, for many reasons, I have seen a predilection to; and millions around the tion apparently have too.

If you do not follow politics, only watch the news for celebrity rehab updates and read the paper for Sudoku, you may not know of Ron Paul. For your sake I will give you a brief introduction.

Ron Paul is the 2008 Libertarian nominee for president of the United States, though he is running as a Republican. From what I can tell, he runs on the platform of strict adherence to the constitution and fiscal frugality. Now I would not normally endorse any candidate that so much uttered the word Republican or Conservative, but in the past 18 months I've begun to change.

The main reason I, and you, have to like Ron Paul is his method of fundraising for his campaign. Most of you know, campaign fundraising is one of the sketchiest aspects of any election and always plays a major role in presidential decision-making. Like our founding fathers intended though, Paul has found a way to avoid the corporate big business business, by raising nearly all of his money through individual contribution. While most candidates rely on money donated by industry and self-financing (emoney), Paul earns 99 percent of his campaign finances through individuals (opensecret.org). This means that if he were to get into office there would be no policy change issued to return the favor to businesses and industries, just citizens.

Another thing I like about Ron Paul is that he is the only candidate that did not endorse the Iraq war. Like any Libertarian, Paul is against policing the world with aggressive foreign policy and would not endorse any other wars abroad unless they are absolutely vital to our national security.

Paul also has an approach unlike any other terms of spending. Currently we are a trillion dollars in debt as our politicians continue to set nitless heights in their spending. To reduce this debt Paul has vowed to take us back to 2000 level spending and abolish income taxes in the meantime.

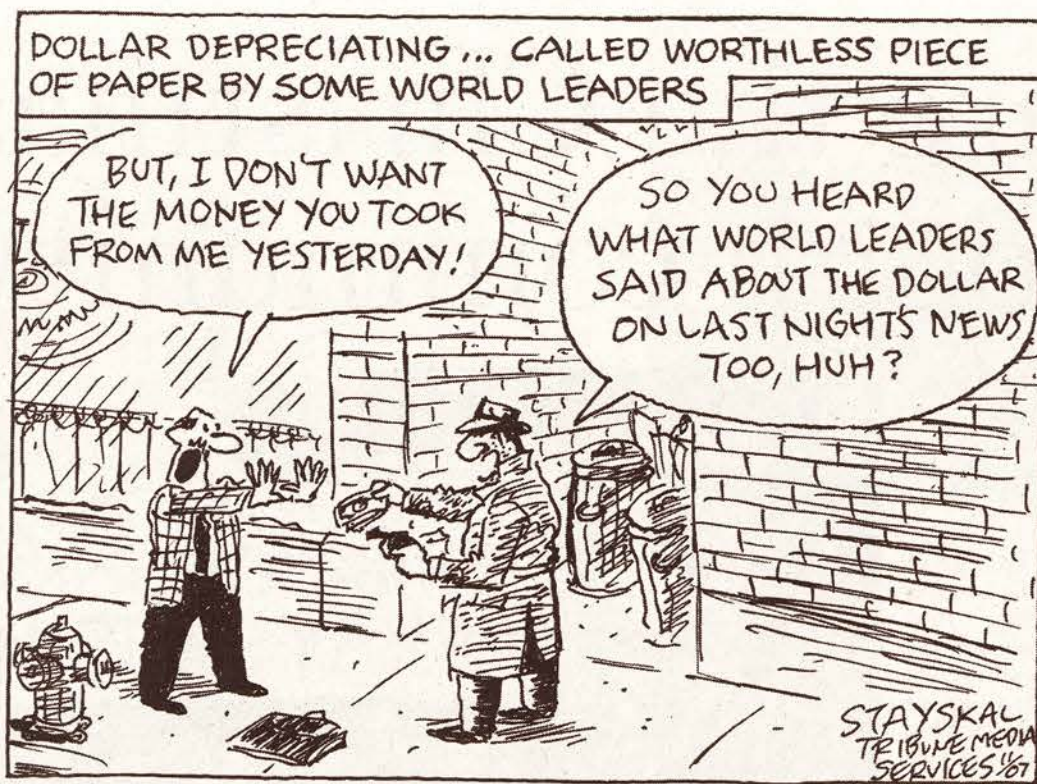
After writing almost three positive things about this guy, my fingers have stopped working. They will not let me issue another word of praise. It is now time to state the glaring incompatibilities I have with this Conservative Libertarian from Texas.

First off, he is anti-immigration. This means mass deportation, repeal of amnesty and a giant fence along our border. Secondly, he is pro-gun. He has endorsed nearly every bill pushing for less control of guns, and to me this is bad news. Lastly, he is a practicing obstetrician for decades which means he is an adamant Pro-choicer. Did I mention he is from Texas?

Ah, now I feel better. I finished an article without completely kissing butt, or demonizing someone. Isn't ambiguity great?

If you find something you like or dislike about Ron Paul I suggest you check him out. He's blowing up on Myspace and is all over YouTube. So if you want some time in-between Soulja Boy instructional videos, figure out for yourself if he's worthy of your praise or is just as evil as the rest of them.

This writer can be contacted at theeastcarolinian.com.



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.

Stop pretending to be sick so you get more attention from her.

Can you please stop leaving your stuff in my room? You don't live here, and neither should your junk.

Is it bad that I have a boyfriend and I dressed up for class today so that the hot guy a few desks over would notice me?

When you are single, all you want is a boyfriend, when you have a boyfriend all you want is to be single again. Why am I never happy?

I don't believe in monogamy...I think it's ridiculous to be with one person until you die! Most other creatures in the world aren't monogamous; it's our animal instincts that make us want someone different. Oh, did I mention that I am a female?

Now I know what the *East Carolinian* is good for... wrapping paper!

Roommate wanted: if you're not psycho, you're in.

I'm so ready for this bullhonkeydoodoo to be done with.

To the girl who loves World of Warcraft, dump your boyfriend for me baby. I'm a level 70 NE Rogue on Magtheridon, we can rock Alterac Valley all night long.

If you actually expect me to participate in "dorm activities," how 'bout inform me of them sooner than the day of the "event." Sorry but I have a life.

To the guy who thought he could fit through those two work trucks on his skateboard...WOW!!! Not your best idea, huh?!!??

I would join scuba just to see the really hot dive master in the blue swimsuit

Dear Quiz Bubble Sheet Ranter: I too was annoyed! I had forgotten my bubble sheet at home, but nearly killed myself to run by the bookstore before class so I would have one. And then, 10 minutes of my life is wasted sitting there waiting for bubble sheets to be handed out to the lazy bums in the class. UGH!

C'mon... We'll conspire as we sit by the fire.

It usually snows some place until I show up. It never snows some place until I leave. I must be that hot.

Everyone poops.

I totally believe that there are leaf fairies that collect huge bags of leaves and then drop them from the sky in the most random and illogical places.

My macro-econ teacher is so hot that I can't wait until we are not bound by the "teacher-student" relationship anymore!

I like you, do you like me?

Clint Eastwood is not the man.

Who really thinks that panchos are fashionable? They kinda just look like huge tents on people. Also, if anyone should NOT wear them, it should be anyone of the male gender.

Have you ever heard of taking a shower? It will do wonders.

Yes, we are cooking dinner. Yes, it smells good. NO, you cant have any. I think 2 of my friends are lesbians, how do I know for sure?

That "secret" you think you have... EVERYONE knows about it.

Stop hitting on me when you're drunk.

Your OCD is really intense and I can't handle it.

The number one rule to dyeing hair is that you also dye your eyebrows, and if you're a boy, your beard.

Excuse me, does anyone have a pipe cleaner?

I like pancakes!

I've always dreamed of pushing you down College Hill just to see how far you would roll...

Where are all of the hot football players?

I'm scared to go to the gym, because of your staph.

Does cellulitis mean inflammation of cellulite? If so, you should get that checked out ASAP.

Every time you walk by me, my nostrils burn and my eyes water, because of your rancid B.O. Please invest in some prescription-strength deodorant...for all of our sakes.

By the time I'm your age, I hope to have graduated college, have a steady job and possibly be married. Why are you still here?

Would you still do that if I told you I used to be into Wicca?

You played Mr. Innocent. You like me but didn't want to get in the way of him and me cause we're talking, hmmm? That must be why you manipulated us and told me he said he just wants to be friends. And then, the next day you ask me on a date? Did you think my suspicions wouldn't cause me to ask him about it? Looks like you're revealed for who you really are, Mr. Untrustworthy.

So I met you at the game, I see you on the bus, and you stopped to talk to me outside of Howell. I like you, but I don't know how to say it.

I'm coming off of a 4-year relationship and I feel like I wouldn't even know where to begin to talk to another girl. Could one of you make the first move?

Didn't it feel great laying in each other's arms Sunday. Wouldn't it be nice to do that again? I just want to cuddle with you again.

Who needs a therapist when you have anonymous releases of typewritten emotions?

Hey, at least if UCF wins the conference championship then we will be the only C-USA team to beat them all year.

My ex-girlfriend hasn't shaved her legs since we broke up. At least I know she isn't getting down with anyone.

I promise if you agree to work things out, I'll make sure to treat you like the princess that you are, because queens are old and nasty but princesses are hot and seductive.

Please respond to my away messages. You know they're about you.

Who cares what your parents think? They live in a tree house!?!?

I wish you weren't so handsomely gorgeous... then I would do my work instead of stare at you every time you walk by.

As I was standing outside my apartment at 11:30 last night, looking at the new ECU recreational fields brightly illuminated by all of the field lights, I heard a small voice whisper, "If you build it, they will come." And then I heard another small voice whisper, "Oooh, look how brightly your student fees burn!"

Here comes the underage bride

Don't rush to the alter

CHRISTINE HARDWICK
ASST. COPY EDITOR

As some of you may have noticed, there seems to be something of a marriage epidemic amongst college-age students. If you're between the ages of 19 and 24, chances are, you know of a fair amount of friends and acquaintances who have tied the knot or are planning to in the near future. While I am all for committing oneself to another person, for better or for worse, for richer or poorer, 'til death do you part, my question is...what's the rush?

During a person's late teens and early twenties, people make the transition from adolescence to adulthood. This transition involves a huge amount of personal development that can include asserting one's independence from their parents, establishing career goals and attempting to decide what one wants out of life. Getting married before even hitting age 20 can turn out to be a huge mistake; a person's ideals and goals are still developing during this transitional stage.

My concern is that many of my peers who are opting for the marriage certificate before the college diploma are doing it for the wrong reasons. There seems to be this timeline of life-milestones that people are in a rush to follow: your first kiss, getting your driver's license, graduating from high school, coming to college. For some, getting married seems the next logical choice, that final step toward becoming an official adult. At the ripe old age of [insert age here] they feel they are ready for that next "big thing" in life. Unfortunately, this particular big thing is intended to be a life-long decision that requires an amount of maturity and forethought that many young people do not possess.

Most young newlyweds-to-be have no problems planning their wedding parties' outfits or the perfect romantic honeymoon, but when it comes to life after the actual wedding, suddenly planning isn't so important anymore. They don't necessarily consider that, 10 years down the road, what they both respectively want out of life may not be in sync anymore, or the financial position they enjoyed as individuals in their late-teens/early twenties may have changed drastically.

Getting married should not be a decision that is made due to the romanticism of the wedding day, or because you want to wear "the dress," or because all of your friends are getting hitched and you want your day in the limelight. A wedding lasts for a day; a marriage is meant to last for a lifetime.

In our culture obsessed with lavish white gowns, five-tiered cakes and honeymoons in the Pokonos, it can be easy to be convinced that the person you're with sophomore year is "the one." That very well might be the case for some people. However, if you're so sure you want to spend the rest of your life with someone, how could a few more years of dating hurt? Does the lack of a ring on your left hand make you any less of a couple, or make you love each other any less? Do you really want to subject your friends and family to a dry wedding reception because you can't even legally drink yet?

If you think you've found the person you want to spend the rest of your life with, that's wonderful, but delay holy matrimony long enough to make sure that your sprint down the aisle will not end as a case study for your friends who are training to become divorce lawyers.

This writer can be contacted at theeastcarolinian.com.

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

The dangers of processed food

What is really healthy for you?

LISA ENSMINGER
OPINION WRITER

The general diet and food consumption of today's society is all garbage. The majority of the items you buy at the supermarket are processed to the point that they really aren't even that real product. We all know that junk food is bad for you, such as potato chips with some chip dip or any other type of snack, candy bar or treat you can find in the long aisle at the grocery store. But what about all of the "convenient foods" you buy, such as macaroni & cheese, frozen dinners, or Luncheables, that seem to be healthy?

It is quite difficult living the life as a college student and eating a healthy diet because frankly, we don't have an hour or two out of the day to prepare a well-rounded meal (not to mention the lack of money due to all of our expenditures). We are always on the go and that is exactly what our grocery store represents with the "quick and easy fix" meals and long-lasting products to save us from multiple trips to the grocery store. What you don't know is that these foods are completely unhealthy and causing obesity in today's society due to all of the unnatural substances in the product.

Have you ever noticed the "good foods" such as fruits veggies or even the organic sections are to the back or sides of the stores? Everything that is tasty and convenient is located right in the middle or front of the store right

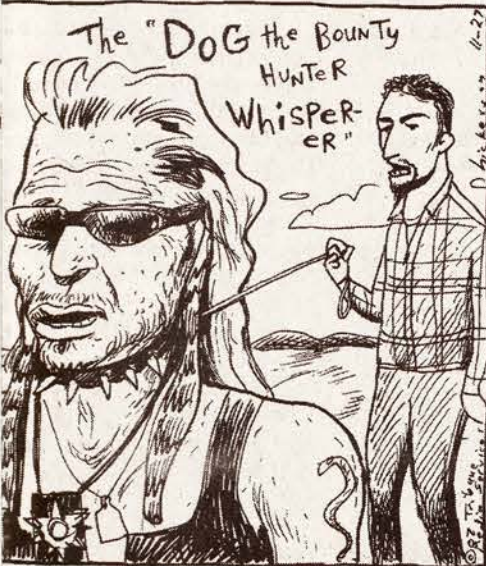
where you can find it. Our society is consumed with so many processed foods in the grocery store and with fast food, it leaves us used to the fact that processed foods are the norm and a natural diet is actually strange.

A diet consisting of fruits, vegetables and protein is ideal in order to achieve a healthy diet. Our body needs so many nutrients that pop tarts, chips, and a Big Mac from McDonald's is not going to do the trick. People wonder why America is the most obese country in the world and continue to ask how to prevent people from growing even larger...well, look around Greenville and count the number of Wendy's McDonald's, Bojangles', and other fast food restaurants; this is the answer to why people continue to put on the pounds day by day.

It makes me sick to see people treating their bodies so poorly by not paying attention to what they are putting in their bodies. Most of the food people consume has no nutritional value whatsoever and simply are leading causes to many other health problems today. The chemicals in the food are damaging to our health because there is nothing natural about them. Our bodies were not made to digest preservatives, food additives, trans fat or refined sugars found in a lot of food products. People need to start realizing how bad most of the food is at the grocery store and about what is put in their grocery cart the next time they shop.

Sources from this column include www.newstarget.com.

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



"When he acts out, barks or uses racial slurs, simply pull up on his leash."

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Features

{Campus Scene}

Horoscopes

Aries
You're in a glorious mood, but be careful what you say. Creative impulses are high, communication could be a disaster. Build something, don't talk about it.

Taurus
Give yourself time to think about the long-term goals you've set. Do you still want all that stuff? If not, scratch some items off your list.

Gemini
Don't get stuck in fantasyland. Make yourself be pragmatic. If you don't want to do the work, don't go into that kind of business.

Cancer
You're doing the work so it's no surprise that the money's coming in. Don't take risks with it, though. There's not enough to do that, yet.

Leo
You're coming close to discovering the truth, but you still need to be cautious. Don't believe everything you hear. Discretion is still advised.

Virgo
Want to have people over? Better get busy. Your place is looking pretty good, but there are minor adjustments you want to make before going public. Get on 'em.

Libra
Postpone financial discussions. Encourage the others to talk. You're better off knowing their secrets than having them know any of yours. Keep your business to yourself.

Scorpio
You're about to get serious about increasing your income. You're more confident now. Assume more responsibility and achieve great wealth.

Sagittarius
Anticipate delays and have alternative routes in mind. Nobody said it was going to be easy, but getting there is possible, wherever you want to go.

Capricorn
Your fertile imagination is about to come up with lots of ways to increase your fortunes. The next four weeks are going to be fun. Rest up.

Aquarius
Let friends take over the major duties now. It's good for you to learn how to delegate. If you already know how, practice. This makes them stronger.

Pisces
Follow instructions and a leader who's been there before. Make comments when appropriate, your judgment is required. They can't do it without you.

Did you know?

In the Ukraine, if you find a spider web in the house on Christmas morning, it is believed to be a harbinger of good luck!

In ancient Scandinavia, mistletoe was associated with peace and friendship. That may account for the custom of "kissing beneath the mistletoe."

The poinsettia is a traditional Christmas flower. In Mexico (its original birthplace), the poinsettia is known as the "Flower of the Holy Night."

Christmas cards only became commonplace in the 1870s, although the first one was produced in London in 1846.

The familiar image of Santa Claus, complete with sled, reindeers and sack of toys, is an American invention, first appearing in a drawing by Thomas Nast in Harper's Magazine in 1868.

Puritans banned Christmas in England in 1652, a move followed in Massachusetts seven years later. Christmas returned to England in 1660.

It's Donder, not Donner.

On Christmas Eve in 2001, the Bethlehem Hotel had 208 of its 210 rooms free.

A traditional Christmas dinner in early England was the head of a pig prepared with mustard.

56 percent of Americans sing holiday carols to their pets.

There are currently 78 people named S. Claus living in the U.S. -- and one Kris Kringle.

Average wage of a mall Santa: \$11 an hour. With real beard: \$20.

December is the most popular month for nose jobs.

Share the Christmas spirit through community service

Holiday opportunities to volunteer

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
NEWS EDITOR

Volunteering is a good alternative during the holidays instead of just watching, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and eating turkey with stuffing.

Multiple opportunities are out there for you to give a helping hand to help to ensure everyone has a happy holiday.

Although most students head home for the break, the amount of students that volunteer actually increases, according to Shawn Moore, volunteer and community partner coordinator.

If students are heading home for the break, they can still engage in community service events in the area.

"Our recommendation is to go to their local Salvation Army or United Way," Moore said.

Whether students are staying in Greenville or traveling to some other destination, volunteering is an option before, after and during the holiday break.

The Humane Society and the Creative Living Center have multiple dates scheduled, during which volunteers are welcome to help with wrapping gifts.

Gift wrappers are also needed to contribute their efforts to benefit the Marley Fund.

Both the Creative Living Center and the Marley Fund gift-wrapping opportunities will take place at Barnes and Noble, while the Humane Society gift wrapping will be located at Colonial Mall.



Volunteering for charities like Toys for Tots during the holidays can be a fulfilling way for students to give back to the community.

If gift wrapping isn't your thing, you can sign up for a shift to help the Humane Society take digital photos of children with Santa from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dec. 2.

Keeping people fed during the holidays is a task that many organizations try to get people involved in.

The Food Education and Dis-

tribution Center in Greenville, as well as the Salvation Army in Washington, NC, are in need of volunteers to assist with bagging or boxing up food.

"We need people to pack up boxes of food. We have to make about 600 boxes," said Marian Tabak, director of social work for the Salvation Army in Washington, NC.

The date you can help box up food is Dec. 7.

Volunteer opportunities involving toys have become a common way for students to get involved.

The Salvation Army also has activities that involve this type of volunteering.

"We pack bags of toys for each individual family," Tabak said.

The bags go toward each family that has applied for this type of assistance, according to Tabak.

The opportunity to help with toy bags will be on Dec. 10, 11 and 12.

A common name known for helping the effort in making sure

see **VOLUNTEER** page A11

Surviving your family, again

A how-to guide on getting through the holidays

ELISE PHILLIPS
FEATURES EDITOR

The holidays are approaching fast and students at ECU are gearing up to head home for time with their families. Whether they are traveling across the state or across the country, students need to be prepared to deal with their family.

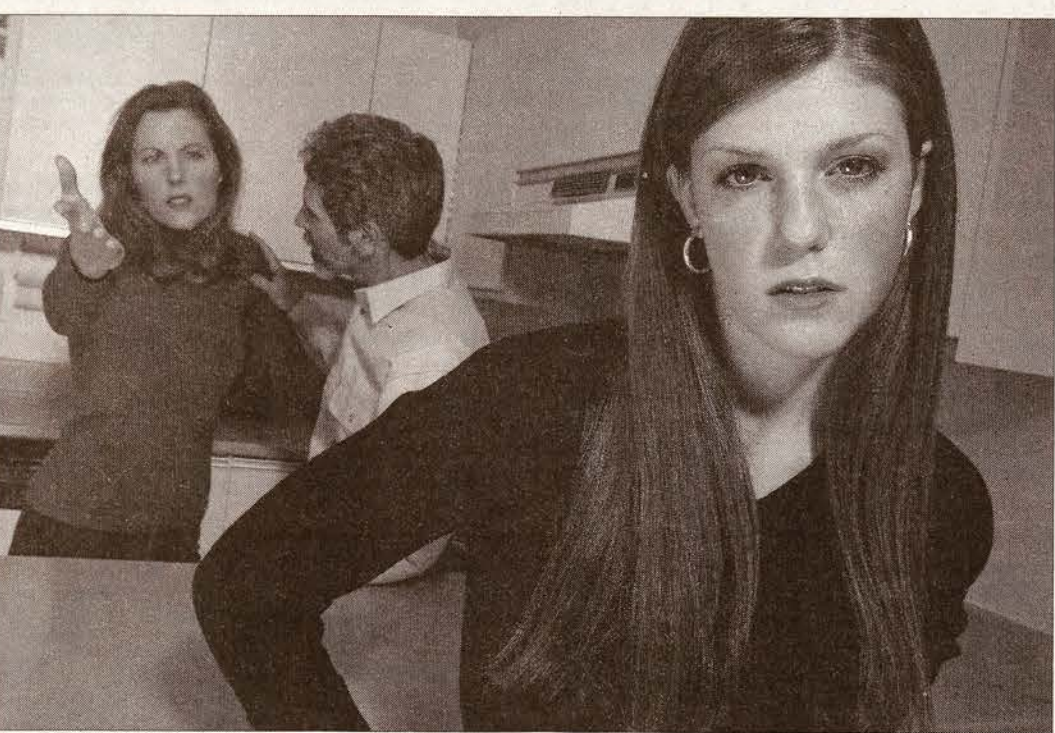
For some first-year students, this will be their first visit home since starting college in August, and going home to rules and curfews might be a "culture shock," causing conflict that could be prevented.

ECU sophomore Tiara Street was once one of these students.

"I found it difficult to come home after being an independent college student here at ECU, but I dealt with it by working most of the time," said Street.

"To my parents, I will always be their 'little girl.'"

Although visiting your hometown can be difficult for both parents and students, following some simple steps can make the holidays go by much smoother for both parties involved.



Being at home with family during the holidays can be a stressful time for both parents and students alike.

Renita Moore, mental health outreach specialist and outreach coordinator for the ECU Center for Counseling and Development, said that the key to being prepared for a holiday visit to a student's hometown is communication before the trip.

"As for preparation, the key here is talking to your parents

before returning home. Open up the conversation so that you can voice your expectations for the visit and they in turn can voice their expectations," said Moore.

Although a student may have spent 18 or 19 years of their life in their hometown, living for several weeks or months without parental restrictions

changes a student's outlook.

"Prepare to feel a little like a 'fish out of water,' because your ECU environment may be very different from your home environment, but try to find some middle ground where you can comfortably function in both

see **FAMILY** page A11

Air Force ROTC provides ample training

Students receive valuable learning opportunities

DAVID PUCKETT
STAFF WRITER

The ECU Air Force ROTC program offers military training in order to create future officers for the U.S. Air Force.

AFROTC Special Projects Officer Aaron Peterson said the ROTC program simulates the military lifestyle.

"I'm in that military environment; the actual Air Force detachment is on the 3rd floor of Wright Auditorium, and that is our military base. I wear a uniform three or four days a week, keep my hair cut within regulations and my face shaved, and we have PT [physical training] three times a week," said Peterson.

Cadets who enter the ROTC program as freshmen have two academic years to decide if they want to continue the military lifestyle.

"During your freshmen and sophomore year in ROTC, it's basically an extra class. There is no commitment your first year there; it is just participate and if you like it, stay, and if you don't, then you can quit," Peterson said.

The cadets that choose to stay in the program are required to complete official U.S. Air Force military training usually between their sophomore and junior years. After basic training, cadets must choose to sign a contract saying that they will serve in the U.S. Air Force for four years after they graduate college.

During AFROTC cadets' see **ROTC** page A11

November marks Native American Heritage Month

Native American Organization promotes awareness

CHELSEA CAMPEN
STAFF WRITER

A Night of Cultural Awareness will be held in Mendenhall's Room 221 on Friday, Nov. 30 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. to celebrate Native American Heritage Month, which commemorates the cultures of both Native American peoples and Alaskan Native Americans.

The event is sponsored by the East Carolina Native American Organization, the Office of Institutional Diversity, the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center and the Student Union.

"We don't usually do anything this big for Native American Heritage Month, but we are making a change. There are too many students at ECU who don't know anything about American Indians, so hopefully they can get a insight into our culture by attending this event," said Christie Hagan, senior Biology major and president of the organization.

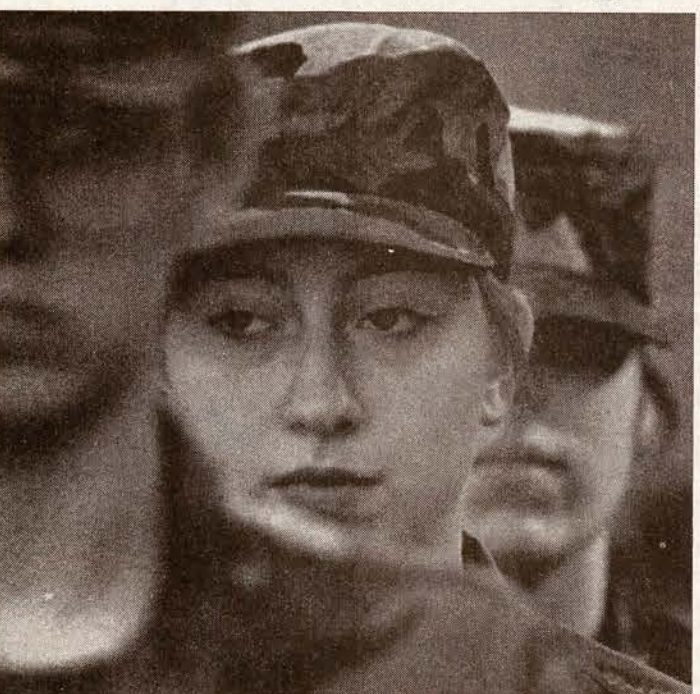
Featured at the event will be Charly Lowry, from the Lumbee tribe, a recent graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill and former American Idol Contestant.

Nationally recognized pottery-maker Senora Lynch from the Haliwa-Saponi tribe will also be attending the event. Flute maker Jim Cooper from the Metis tribe and wood craftsman David Lynch from the Haliwa-Saponi tribe will make their appearance at Mendenhall on Friday.

Pembroke, NC native Charly Lowry will be speaking and singing while Senora Lynch, a Hollister, NC native will be showing students how to make traditional pieces of pottery.

Hagan said that every member of the ECNAO was involved in planning this event.

see **NATIVE** page A12



ROTC cadets must do daily workouts while in the program.

Campus Scene: Holiday Traditions

Christmas traditions

A variety of myths, legends surround Christmas across Europe:

<p>NORWAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowl of porridge is left in the barn for dwarf who protects the farm 	<p>FINLAND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is traditional to have a sauna bath before Santa's visit
<p>U.K.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's letters to Father Christmas are thrown into the fireplace to fly to the North Pole 	<p>AUSTRIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When children hear a bell tinkling, they enter a room where the Christmas tree is waiting
<p>ITALY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good witch, Strega Buffana, flies around Italy on a broom and leaves treats for good children and coal for naughty children 	<p>FRANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children leave their shoes by the fire for a gift from Father Christmas
	<p>GERMANY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children decorate Christmas lists with pictures, leave them on the windowsill overnight for Father Christmas

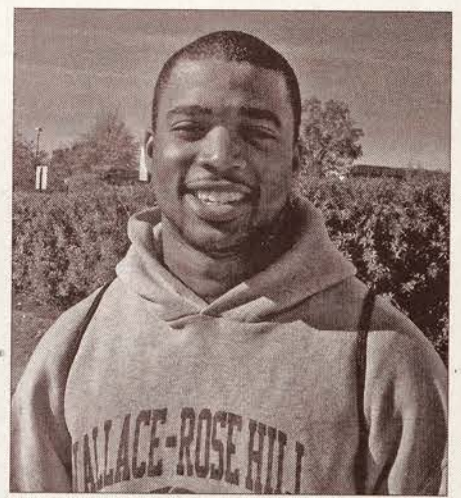
© 2003 KRT Source: Northpole.net Graphic: Jakob Jensby, Eeli Polli (Illustrations)



Staff Photos

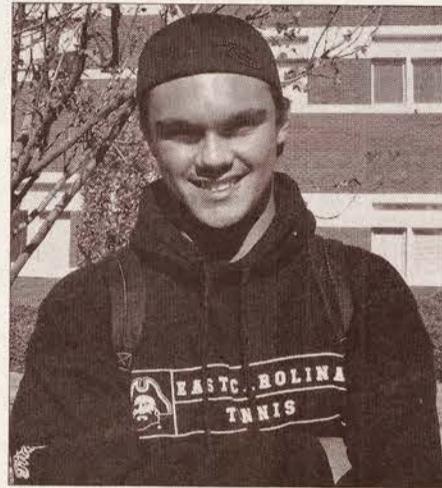
CHRISTY BYRD
FRESHMAN
NURSING MAJOR

My favorite holiday tradition is eating at my grandmother's house and opening gifts. [I'm from] Coates, North Carolina and we eat pigs in a blanket and little sausage biscuits on Christmas!



TRAVIS KORNEGAY
SOPHOMORE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE MAJOR

I like going home to be with my family. It's like Thanksgiving all over again...we eat a big dinner.



HENRIQUE VIANA
SENIOR
COMMUNICATION MAJOR

We eat more than ever. We all pray and hold hands before we eat, and my grandpa starts the prayer first because he is the oldest [family member]. This is all done on the 24th, and we can only open gifts after midnight!



PHIL ADAMS
DIRECTOR OF THE ACADEMIC WRITING CENTER

Thanksgiving is a big deal in my family. My favorite Thanksgiving tradition is our family's game of Trivial Pursuit of men versus women. The men usually win!

Happy Holidays from
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White House Christmas tree grown in NC



The Ashe County, N.C. couple who grew the White House Christmas tree met first lady Bush Monday.

Ashe County couple chosen to grow this year's tree

MCT--It took Joe Freeman 15 minutes and two chainsaws to fell the big Fraser fir that grew on his Ashe County, N.C., farm for nearly two decades.

He planted the fir 19 years ago, before he even owned the land on which it grew. Freeman, 45, will admit that wielding his saw Friday felt a bit sentimental.

But then came Monday, when Freeman basked for hours in the glory of having the Fraser welcomed to the White House on Monday morning by first lady Laura Bush.

"We had a big time," said Freeman later in the day.

Back in August, Freeman cut down a white pine on Mistletoe Meadows Christmas Tree Farm in Laurel Springs, N.C., and saw it selected as the "Grand Champion Christmas tree by the National Christmas Tree Association.

Two months later, White House staffers came to his farm to choose the official Christmas tree, one of the honors of winning the grand championship back in the summer.

The official welcome Monday was brief. At

10:17 a.m., a pair of horses clip-clopped 50 yards up the White House's northern driveway, tugging a wooden cart with the 20-foot Christmas tree lying on its side. A Marine band played a few bars of "O Christmas Tree."

The first lady strode out into a spattering of rain, smiled at the three dozen members of the press corralled behind a rope and praised the tree bundled behind her.

She thanked Freeman and his wife, Linda Jones, and a representative from the tree association.

Then she and the couple walked back in the White House. There, away from the press glare, they sipped hot cider and ate cookies and talked about the Christmas tree business.

After a lunch and private tour with the first lady, Freeman stuck around to watch his tree raised.

Workers wrestled it off the cart, through two sets of doors and into the White House Blue Room where it didn't fit.

Workers cut two feet off the bottom, so that the tree's top just brushed the ceiling.

"It's a perfect fit," Freeman said.

"I knew it was a big tree, but just like all Christmas trees when you bring 'em inside the house, it looks larger."

The East Carolina University Police Department would like to make you aware of the following services that are offered free of charge to victims of crime:

•The Office of Victim Services (737-1466) will assist all students who are victims of crime on or off campus free of charge and maintains complete confidentiality. A victim advocate is available to assist with crisis intervention and emergency assistance, emergency walk-in services, victim compensation for financial reimbursement of medical bills and will accompany you throughout the criminal proceedings (assistance with police reports) and follow-up on the status of the case. Even if you do not wish to report the crime to law enforcement they are available to assist you in any services you may need.

•The Center for Counseling and Student Development (328-6661) provides free counseling services to all enrolled students and also provides consultation services for faculty/staff, parents and students.

•The ECU Police Department also provides assistance to victims and/or witnesses who have been threatened, fear intimidation or further victimization.

Other available resources include:

- Student Health Services 328-6841
- Residence Life Office 328-4663
- Pitt County Memorial Hospital 847-4100
- Greenville Police Department 830-3937
- Pitt County Real Crisis Center 758-4357
- National Sexual Violence Resource 1-877-739-3895
- Rape, Abuse National Network 1-800-656-HOPE

If you or someone you know becomes a victim of crime please don't hesitate to contact one of these available resources. We at the East Carolina University Police Department are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week to assist you and/or refer you to whatever available resource best fits your needs. We can be reached by telephone at 328-6787 or feel free to stop by our police department located at 609 E. 10th Street.

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Alicia Keys strikes gold

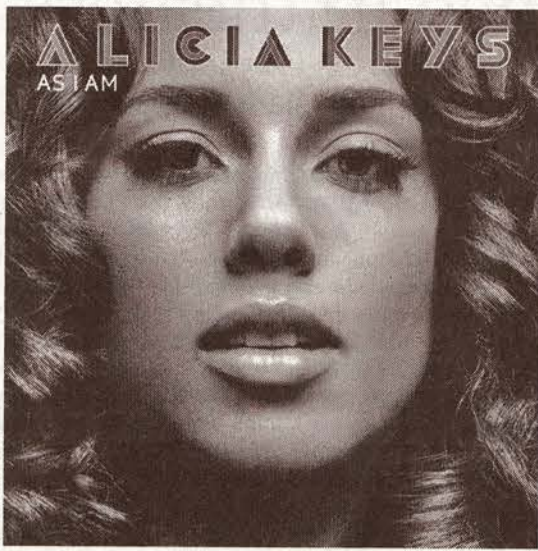
Singer/songwriter remains true to herself in *As I am*

DREW GLADDEN
STAFF WRITER

There is no arguing the fact that at the age of 26, Alicia Keys has done more in her career than a large majority of artists in the entire world. In her newest album, *As I am*, Alicia steps outside of the piano-driven sounds of her two previous studio records, *Songs in A Minor* and *The Diary of Alicia Keys*, and explores a different side that we have yet to see.

From the introduction track, it's clear that this is not going to be a usual piano pop-oriented album. The first song on the album, "Go ahead," showcases a synthesized bass-soul beat that ranks up there with the likes of John Legend.

This is absolutely a major change for Alicia Keys. Sure, her roots date back to the greats of Motown, however, this is



not the typical sound we have grown to expect from Keys. Nevertheless, her past success has assuredly granted her permission to experiment outside of her usual realm, and it looks as though it has paid off.

The first single from *As I Am*, "No One," premiered at number 65 on the Billboard Hot R&B Songs after only one full day of radio play. Needless

to say, it went on to spend several weeks at the number one spot on the Billboard 100. The second single, "Like You'll Never See Me Again," didn't impress listeners as much as the first, however, it is currently in the number 45 spot after debuting at 93. Whatever the secret is to having two top-50 songs at the same time, Alicia Keys could probably write a how-to book on it.

A few standout tracks on this album include "Superwoman," "Sure Looks Good To Me" and "Teenage Love Affair." John Mayer lends his songwriting, guitar and vocal talents

to "Lesson Learned," which probably has the best chance of being the next hit single off this album.

Another big change for Alicia Keys has been the addition of big Motown horn samples within her songs, which faintly resemble the enormously huge soul power sounds of the 1960s.

Although this album appears perfect, a few tracks seem to lack the luster that the majority of the album produces. These songs are "Prelude To A Kiss" and "I Need You." "I Need You" has a reggae tone that seems unnecessary for a Keys album.

As I Am presents a laid-back style without putting the listener to sleep. The smooth and smoky sounds of Alicia Keys' voice transcend emotions higher and stronger than ever before. The 50th Annual Grammy Awards will take place on Feb. 10, 2008; Alicia, get your acceptance speeches ready.

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

VOLUNTEERING continued from A8

children receive toys for the holidays is Toys for Tots.

According to Moore, Toys for Tots normally operates through the Salvation Army.

"They haven't contacted me yet, but that doesn't mean it isn't happening," Moore said.

One-on-one volunteering with individuals is an option if you would like to connect with people on a more personal level.

The Family Support Network is having an event called Story Time with Santa, in which volunteers will have multiple chances for interaction with people.

The event involves passing out books to kids, participating in the welcoming, helping the photographer take photos and clean-up, according to Tammy Nesbitt of Family Support Network.

This event (Story Time with Santa) is a part of the Family Support Network's ongoing community service project called Festival of Trees, in which volunteers can help put up, decorate and break down Christ-

mas trees at different points during the holiday season.

One of the main ways to interact with people while volunteering is to adopt-a-family or an individual for the holidays.

"South Greenville Church of Christ or any other local church has adopt-a-family," Moore said.

This normally involves you providing food or clothes for that family, according to Moore.

If you would rather donate your time on a singular level, you can adopt an individual.

"Some of the retirement communities allow you to adopt their elderly for Christmas," Moore said.

These are just some of the opportunities that are out there for the holidays, but you can find others by visiting the Volunteer and Service Learning Web site to view their calendar of events.

This information can be accessed at ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/volunteer/calendar.

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FAMILY continued from A8

environments," Moore said.

Moore also said that spending time with family and not rushing off with friends all the time can make the transition easier and more respectful to family members.

"Try not to make home just a place to sleep and eat during the holidays. Take the time to enjoy being around your family as well as friends, old and new," said Moore.

"Sometimes parents and loved ones forget that they are not the only ones who may enjoy your company. You may want to catch up with some old friends from high school or meet up with some new friends that you've made since being here at ECU. Keep in mind that your families are not mind readers; voice your expectations about your holiday visit in a way that's

respectful and considerate to your family's feelings."

According to Moore, following these steps can help students and their families during the holiday season:

*Let your loved ones know where you are going

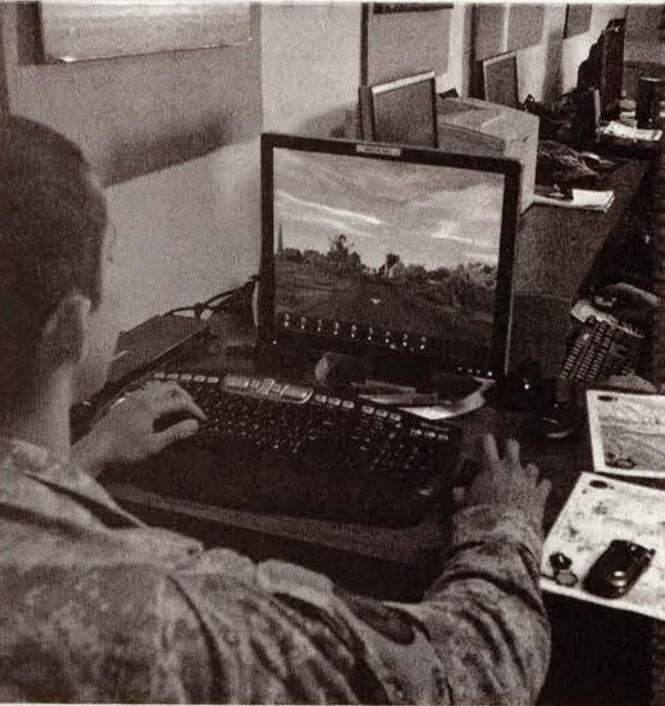
*Engage your family in conversation

*Remember that home is not a residence hall

Although going home during the holidays can be challenging, especially for those students who have become more independent and used to living on their own, remembering certain tips can make that transition from college to home much easier for both students and their family.

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

ROTC continued from A8



Members of ROTC use software like this for training purposes.

junior and senior years, their responsibility is to prepare the freshmen and sophomore cadets for basic training. Therefore, AFROTC cadets meet at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium every Wednesday evening for Leadership Lab.

"In Leadership Lab, all the instructions are done by juniors and seniors. We show the freshmen and sophomores how to march, we talk to them about self aid and buddy care...we teach them every thing they need to know before they go to field training," Peterson said.

People serving in the United States military get there by enlisting or completing the ROTC program. However, joining the ROTC program is the most efficient way for someone to become an officer in the military.

"Most people in the military are enlisted; probably about 80 percent are enlisted and the other 20 percent are officers. A lot of people will enlist at the age of 18 and stay in the military for twenty years. [But] when I graduate, I will be a 2nd lieutenant. I'll be an officer, and even though I'm fresh out of college, I still out rank that guy who has been in the Air Force for 20 years," Peterson said.

AFROTC cadets are required to attend two or three physical training sessions a week, either at 6 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, or 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Peterson said it was diffi-

cult attending the early physical training sessions when he initially enrolled into the AFROTC program, but he quickly adapted to the lifestyle.

"In the beginning, when I was a sophomore, one of the hardest things was get up for PTs. That was always difficult, but at this point, it is just one of those things you do and you become accustomed to it," Peterson said.

Joel Banjo-Johnson, Delta Flight Commander for the AFROTC program, said attending the early physical training sessions are not a problem for her.

"I actually enjoy getting up early to work out in the morning, because it gives me more energy in the day," said Banjo-Johnson.

"The most difficult thing about being a part of ROTC is time management, but I think that time management is a difficult for everyone."

Although the ROTC program's main goal is to effectively train cadets to become successful military officers, the program offers more to some.

"There is a lot more to ROTC than being trained to be an officer. ROTC is like a fraternity...it's a family and we take care of each other," Peterson said.

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

NATIVE continued from A8



Members of the East Carolina Native American Organization celebrated their heritage all November long.

"Our sponsors were ready to lend a helping hand; we definitely couldn't have done it without their help," Hagan said. Hagan said she feels that the student body will learn about the heritage, history, art and traditions of the American Indian and Alaska Native people through the event. "The event is ECNAO's way of celebrating Native American Heritage Month and getting others involved on campus while also learning about our culture and our traditions. Additionally, while having a good time," Hagan said.

Senior community health major Brandi Lynch said that the organization expects to have a good turnout and that they have received support from the faculty at ECU and Native American Students on Campus. "Hopefully the students that come out will see part of the Native American population here at ECU and gain an appreciation for the craftsmanship of the art and a better understanding of Native American people in general and realize that we may all look different and not generalize us," said Lynch. Free food will also be offered at the event.

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

Unique Christmas movie opened in theaters last week

"This Christmas" starts actor-dancer Columbus Short

MCT--Columbus Short is an actor-dancer and choreographer. He choreographed for Britney Spears, back when she toured. And danced. He has parlayed a jump-start from the sleeper hit "Stomp the Yard," about step competitions at predominantly black colleges, into a string of coming movies, including the graphic-novel adaptation "Whiteout," "Armored" with Matt Dillon, and one he is about to shoot titled "Quarantined." In "This Christmas," he plays a Marine who will do anything to get to his family's Christmas celebration, and anything to avoid telling them his "big secret." "America is all about the holidays and all about family. And while there are some differences in

the ways African-Americans celebrate Christmas, we're a lot more alike than you might think. Some of the traditions are going to be different. The music for instance. Maybe we're dancing like "Soul Train." But we're listening to "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire," "Rudolph" [and] "Santa's Coming to Town," said Short. "I wanted to be in this because it was going to have a great cast, a great look, because it wasn't going to look like a "scaled down" cut-rate "black" movie. You have so many good black actors in this it feels like "The Family Stone." It's "The Family Stone" with some more color in it," Short said. "This Christmas" is playing in theatres now.

Movie picks

- ★ Outstanding
- Worthy effort
- ▼ So-so
- A bomb



▲ New review

	Local critic	Chicago Tribune	Dallas Morning News	Detroit Free Press	Miami Herald	Newsday	Philadelphia Inquirer	Sacramento Bee	Seattle Times
August Rush	PG	▼	-	▼	-	●	▼	▼	▼
Beowulf	PG 13	▼	★	▼	▼	▼	▼	■	▼
Enchanted	PG	■	■	■	■	▼	★	■	★
Hitman	R	▼	●	▼	-	▼	-	-	●
The Mist	R	★	-	■	■	▼	■	-	▼
Mr. Magorium's ...	G	■	-	■	-	▼	▼	▼	▼
Redacted	R	▼	-	-	-	▼	▼	-	-
This Christmas	PG 13	■	-	■	-	■	■	▼	-

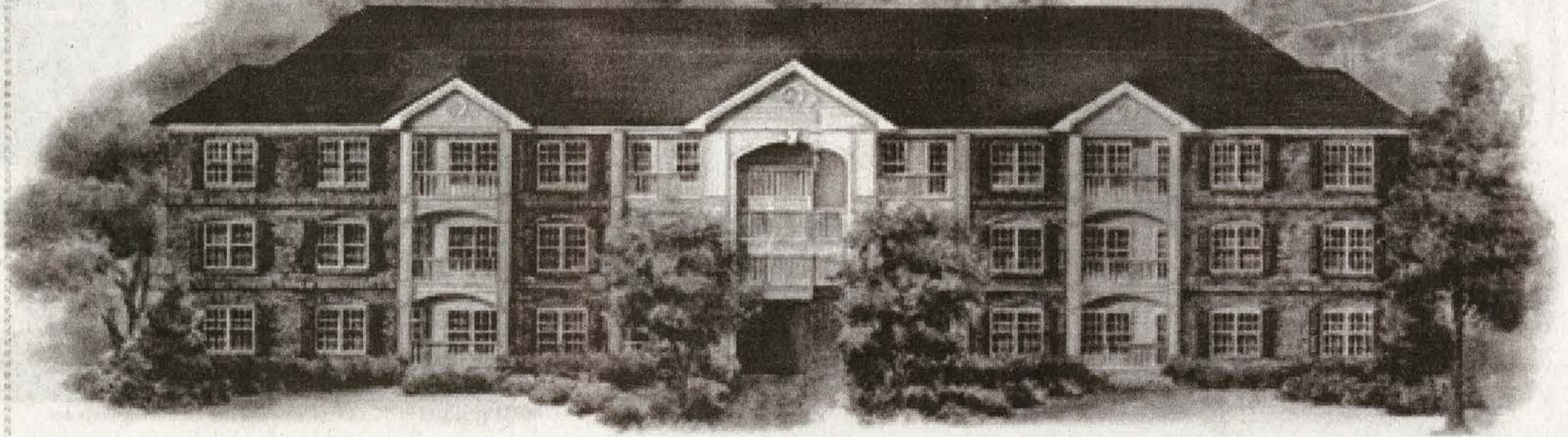
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Bridges of Hope, Inc. is now hiring, Associate Professionals and Para Professionals to work one-on-one with children/teens/adults, providing mental health, developmental and/or substance abuse services, implementing therapeutic interventions. Download an application at www.bridgesofhopeinc.com. For more info please contact BOH at 321-1621.

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Crossword

ACROSS
1 Mount in the Cascades
7 Beau Brummell
10 Pot meal
14 Type of balloon
15 Pint drink
16 Tableland
17 "Emma" writer
18 Astronomer Copernicus
20 Done up to the nines
22 Biblical twin
23 ___ of Cortez
24 Shepherd's stick
27 Part of ICBM
31 Side track
32 12-step program
35 13 popes
37 Ripen
38 Ms. Gardner
39 Haughtily aloof
42 Back of the bus.
43 Be penitent
44 Armistice Day mo.
45 Destine to tragedy
47 Exterior
49 Small guitars, briefly
51 Wilder play
54 Fringe benefits
56 Enthusiast
57 Teensy
61 Florida
65 Variola
67 Beast
68 Load luggage
69 The Greatest
70 Apollo 13 crew member
71 Large, commodious boats
72 Court divider
73 Borg and Bergman
DOWN
1 Lamp filter
2 Noon and midnight, e.g.
3 Confused
4 Seedless mandarin
5 Equal scores
6 "Gunsmoke" star
7 Stern overhang
8 Heavily spiced stew
9 Quarter bushel
10 Young salmon
11 See a difference between
12 NASA partner
13 Existed once
19 Towel word
21 ___ Plains, IL
25 Thematic musical piece
26 More liberated
28 In the same place: Lat.
29 Luau loop
30 Long, long time
32 Amassed
33 Call to mind one
34 Hiker's tote
36 Garbage boat
40 Talk baby talk
41 Face in the mirror?
46 Handyman

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Solutions

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53 Ryan and Tatum
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59 Hackneyed
60 Hollers
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63 Perforation
64 Winter fall
65 Mineral springs
66 Damage

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SATURDAY
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Attention Fall 2007 Graduates!!

Don't forget to have your **FREE** graduation pictures taken for ECU's yearbook!

Go to www.ouryear.com to make your picture reservation. Enter ECU's school code (453) and select a date and time to have your picture taken. Dress Code is business casual.

Dates and times for reservations:

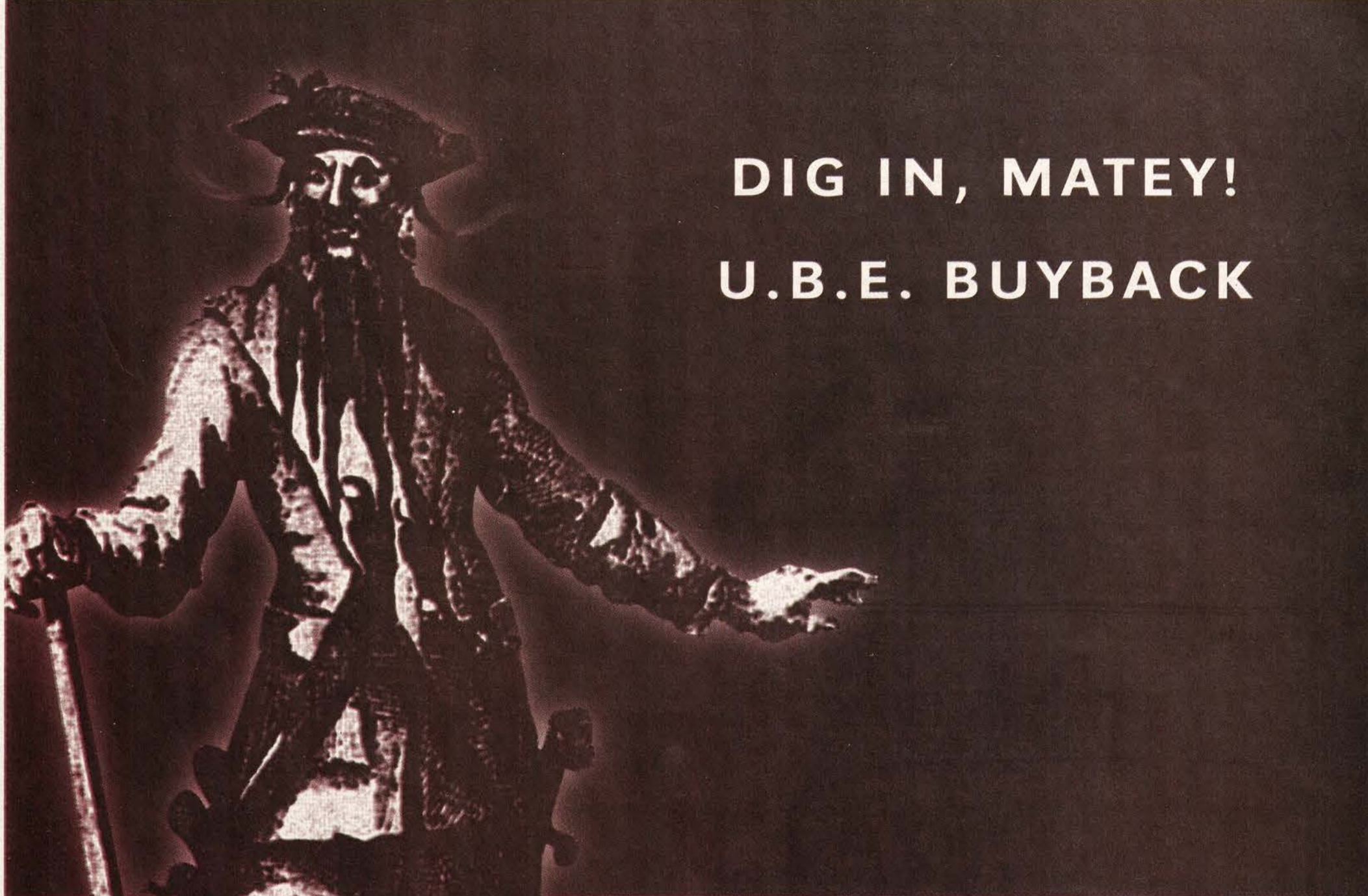
Monday (12/3/07)	10am- 5pm	Mendenhall- Room 244
Tuesday (12/4/07)	12pm- 8pm	Mendenhall- Room 243
Wednesday (12/5/07)	9am- 5pm	Mendenhall- Room 244
Thursday (12/6/07)	12pm- 8pm	Mendenhall- Room 243
Friday (12/7/07)	9am- 4pm	Mendenhall- Room 244

Spring graduates will take graduation pictures in the spring semester.

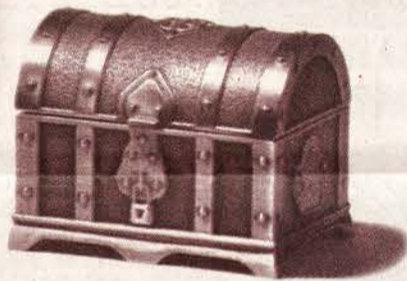
Questions should be directed to Terrence Dove via email (dovet@ecu.edu) or to the Buccaneer office, 252-328-4707.

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	Thursday, December 6 (reading day)	9:00 _{A.M.} to 6:00 _{P.M.}
	Friday, December 7	9:00 _{A.M.} to 7:00 _{P.M.}
	Saturday, December 8	10:00 _{A.M.} to 5:00 _{P.M.}
	Monday-Thursday, December 10-13	9:00 _{A.M.} to 7:00 _{P.M.}
	Friday, December 14 (last day of classes)	9:00 _{A.M.} to 6:00 _{P.M.}

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HOURS	Saturday, December 15	9:00 _{A.M.} to 6:00 _{P.M.}

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{ECU's Inside Source}

Conference USA Awards

Special Teams Player-of-the-Year

Chris Johnson, ECU

Co-Offensive Players-of-the-Year

Paul Smith, QB, Tulsa
Kevin Smith, RB, UCF

Defensive Player-of-the-Year

Gerald McRath, LB, Southern Miss

Freshman-of-the-Year

Case Keenum, QB, Houston

Newcomer-of-the-Year

Brennan Marion, WR, Tulsa

ECU's all-conference selections

Chris Johnson
1st-team kick return

Matt Butler
2nd-team offensive line

Zack Slate
2nd-team defensive line

D.J. Scott
All-Freshman team

Linval Joseph
All-Freshman team

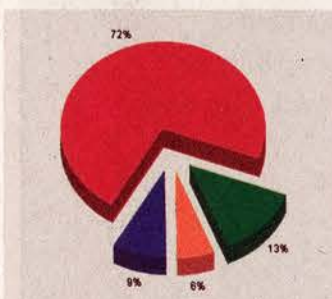
Travis Simmons
All-Freshman team

Jonathan Williams
All-Freshman team

Dwayne Harris
All-Freshman team

Poll question results:

Who do you think is the Most Valuable Pirate out of all the student-athletes participating in fall Division I sports at ECU?



72% - Chris Johnson, running back, football

9% - Kelley Wernert, outside hitter, women's volleyball

6% - Amber Campbell, goalie, women's soccer

13% - Patrick Pinkney, quarterback, football

Team of the semester



The ECU football team finished off its second straight winning campaign with a 7-5 mark in the regular season. Last year the Pirates went 7-5 before losing to South Florida in the PapaJohns.com Bowl, 24-7, finishing the year with a 7-6 mark. This season ECU looks to win its first bowl game since 2000, when former quarterback David Garrard led the Pirates to a 40-27 win over Texas Tech in the galleryfurniture.com Bowl. Among some milestones that the team achieved this year is winning six conference games for the first time since the 1973 season when the Pirates went 7-0 in the Southern Conference. In addition, ECU won five conference games in a row, a feat that hasn't been matched since the 1973 campaign, when the Pirates went undefeated in the Southern Conference. ECU also beat in-state rival UNC, 34-31, for the first time since 1975 when the Pirates beat the Heels 38-17.



End of the semester awards

Male Athlete



Chris Johnson
Football

Female Athlete



Kelley Wernert
Volleyball

Freshman



Amanda Broz
Soccer

Most improved



Blair Heffner
Soccer

Coach



Skip Holtz
Football

ECU football senior running back Chris Johnson finally lived up to the hype and promise of his roller coaster career in his final season as a Pirate. The versatile back has been the backbone of the Pirates, providing clutch performances on offense and special teams. Johnson is the nation's active leader in kickoff return yardage, averaging 28.5 yards per return, and all-purpose yards. Johnson was named the 2007 C-USA Special Teams Player-of-the-Year by a panel of conference media members for his performance on the season but has meant so much more to the success of the Pirates. Johnson has 22 total touchdowns on the year, trailing only Matt Forte of Tulane (25) and Kevin Smith of UCF (26) in Division I-Bowl Subdivision. In a testament to his versatility, Johnson has 16 rushing touchdowns, five receiving touchdowns and one kickoff return for a touchdown on the year. Johnson has rushed for 1,200 yards on the season for an average of 5.8 yards per run. Against Memphis, Johnson had the performance of his career and the second best rushing performance in program history when he rushed for 301 yards and four touchdowns. Johnson will be counted on in the Pirates' bowl game to finish out the season and his career, and if his senior day performance against Tulane (155 yards rushing and two TDs, 85 yards receiving and one TD) is any indication ECU should be in good shape.

Wernert ended her stellar career with a record-breaking senior season. Wernert shattered ECU's single-season kills record with 627 kills, which is exactly 100 more than the previous record holder, Wendy Schultz, set in 1992. Wernert's 31-kill performance against UNC-Wilmington on Sept. 11 was the most single-match kills in ECU history. She was named national player of the week from cvu.com after her 31 kills against UNCW. Wernert also received first-team preseason and postseason C-USA honors, all-tournament honors at Duke, N.C. State and George Washington, and was named tournament MVP at George Washington this fall. The Hoffman Estates, Ill. native leaves as the Pirates' all-time leader in kills with 1,620.

Broz had a huge impact on the ECU women's soccer team's successful season this semester. The Texas native had one-third of ECU's game-winning goals in her opening season with the Pirates. All three of Broz' goals were game-winners, and she also finished third on the team in points with seven. Broz played in all 18 games, starting in eight, and had one of the team's highest shot-on-goal percentages at .444. One of Broz' game-winning goals came in ECU's 1-0 win over then-conference leader Rice in Greenville on Oct. 21.

Junior forward Blair Heffner emerged as the leading offensive force on the ECU women's soccer team this season. Heffner, a native of King's Mountain, N.C., led the team with five goals on the season, three more than her total last year. In addition, she had a team-high 11 points and one assist on the year. With 17 overall shots and 15 on goal, Heffner had the best shot-on-goal percentage on the team at 88.2 percent. With two game winning goals on the season, she proved to be an asset on a team desperate for offensive firepower. Ironically enough, Heffner was named the Most Improved Player on the team during her sophomore campaign by her teammates.

Holtz has done one of the best coaching jobs of his career this fall. Despite losing numerous key players, most notably James Pinkney and Aundrea Allison, from last year's team that went to a bowl game, Holtz has guided this year's Pirates to yet another bowl trip, wherever it may be. This season, ECU beat UNC for the first time since 1975 and won more than five conference games for the first time since 1973. Holtz has done a tremendous job of getting the ball in his playmakers' hand, evident by breakout seasons by Chris Johnson and Dwayne Harris. Holtz' best coaching game of the year might have come in a losing effort however. After projected starter Rob Kass was suspended the week of the emotional season-opener, Holtz out-coached Frank Beamer and almost pulled off the unimaginable upset by rotating quarterbacks, shutting down Virginia Tech's rushing attack and manufacturing points on offense. Holtz now owns a 19-17 overall record, including a winning record against ACC opponents, in his three-year tenure with the Pirates.



Opportunities on the horizon

ECU is going bowling once again

JARED JACKSON
STAFF WRITER

ECU (7-5, 6-2) is taking a wait-and-see approach, and perhaps just not about a bowl game invitation either.

After an emotional and downright exhausting season that concluded with a 35-12 win over conference-foe Tulane, the Pirates are headed to their second straight bowl appearance.

Multiple sources have indicated that the Pirates could end up playing in the GMAC bowl in Mobile, Ala. depending on the outcome of the C-USA championship game Saturday.

If UCF (9-3, 7-1) beats Tulsa (9-3, 6-2) on Saturday then the Pirates chances of playing in the GMAC bowl are boosted significantly as the Golden Hurricanes' fans are not known to travel well. If Tulsa wins Saturday however, the Pirates would most likely be shipped to the Dec. 23 Hawaii Bowl in Honolulu.

UCF is favored to win Saturday, meaning a C-USA season that has already been wild enough could become even wackier.

The Liberty Bowl will select the winner of the championship game on Saturday, and normally the GMAC bowl selects the runner-up. But as the each day goes by without ECU accepting any sort of Bowl invite, the chances of the GMAC breaking normal protocol grows.

The Pirates however, will be pleased just to play in a bowl after starting the season 1-3 before winning six of their last eight.

ECU opened the season by playing Virginia Tech down to the wire before succumbing to a 17-7 defeat. The following week marked the biggest win of the season, according to many pirate fans, in a 34-31 nail-biting win over in-state rival



Back Chris Johnson jumps into the endzone against Tulane, a sign of what to expect when ECU appears in the GMAC Bowl or Hawai'i Bowl.

North Carolina.

The game proved to be quarterback Patrick Pinkney's coming out party as the junior passed for 406 yards and three touchdowns in a heroic effort.

Following the first emotional two weeks was a huge letdown game against Southern Miss in which the Pirates lost 28-21 after leading by a touchdown going into the fourth quarter.

Next up for the Pirates were the Mountaineers of West Virginia. ECU laid a giant egg in Morgantown, as WVU rolled to a 48-7 victory.

The season, only four

weeks in, already seemed to be a lost cause for ECU. But never count out a Skip Holtz squad when they are 1-3, as the Pirates were able to rebound from that same exact start in 2006 to go bowling.

The critical stretch that followed the WVU game was nothing short of miraculous. First up, the Pirates defeated UCF 52-38 in a shootout at Dowdy-Ficklen. Next, ECU defeated Houston, 37-35, as the Cougars' field goal kicker missed two short kicks in the final two minutes.

The Pirates were riding high as they entered the UTEP

game the following week, but appeared to be headed to a certain loss until ECU quarterback Rob Kass threw a 34-yard touchdown pass to Juwon Crowell as time expired to tie the game. The Pirates held the Miners to a field goal in overtime and in their first possession of the extra period, Kass added the winning score on a QB sneak for a 45-42 victory.

Following the miracle in El Paso, ECU dropped a home contest to the hated N.C. State Wolfpack, 34-20, before reeling off two straight conference wins against UAB (41-6) and Memphis (56-40).

Against the Tigers, senior running back Chris Johnson had a career day, rushing for 301 yards and four touchdowns on only 20 carries.

With destiny in its control, ECU needed to win the last games on its schedule against lowly Marshall and Tulane to host the C-USA championship game.

No problem right?

Someone forgot to tell the Herd that they were just supposed to lie down against the Pirates as Marshall ran rampant all over the ECU defense, crushing the Pirates' dream of a conference championship, 26-7.

And that brings us to last

week with the 35-12 win over the Tulane Green Wave.

The season can no doubt be viewed as a success, but it could have been so much more. ECU had lots of high points, such as the wins against UNC, UTEP and Houston, but many low points like the losses to Marshall, Southern Miss and N.C. State.

Chris Johnson and Patrick Pinkney proved to be the leaders and paved the way to the Pirates success, while freshmen as Dwayne Harris provided the Pirate Nation a glimpse of the future.

One thing is for sure however, and that is, despite all the injuries and the emotional roller coaster that ECU has endured, the Pirates are guaranteed a second straight winning season.

This is college football, and with winning seasons come job opportunities, especially for coaches who are not at the helm of a school in the BCS.

Skip Holtz could be one of those coaches to take the step to a big time program this off-season, as he has been rumored to be in the mix (and possibly interviewed) for such academic institutions as Georgia Tech and Arkansas.

Add to the mix that Holtz hasn't publicly addressed or denied the rumors, which means that the Pirate Nation will be in full crisis mode in the coming days and weeks.

Other job openings include Duke, Baylor, Michigan, Nebraska, Southern Miss, SMU and Washington State (so far).

Ah, the college football postseason. A time when heroes are made, but more often than not, when heroes are lost.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com

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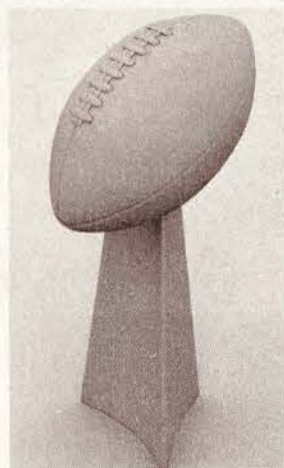
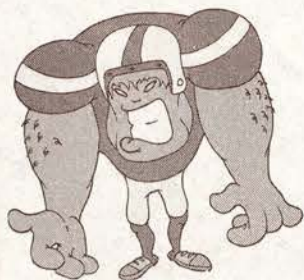
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Final Standings



1ST 2ND 3RD 4TH 4TH 5TH 6TH 7TH

KATSKI Sports Editor Last Week: (7-1) Overall: (68-32)	WOODWARD Asst. Sports Editor Last Week: (6-2) Overall: (67-33)	JACKSON Sports Writer Last Week: (5-3) Overall: (62-38)	BELLAMY News Editor Last Week: (2-6) Overall: (57-43)	SWANEK Head Copy Editor Last Week: (5-3) Overall: (57-43)	PHILLIPS Features Editor Last Week: (6-2) Overall: (53-47)	PARKER Web Editor Last Week: (3-5) Overall: (51-49)	SMITH Production Manager Last Week: (5-3) Overall: (49-51)
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Hockey wraps up fall season sporadically

ECU finishes ranked No. 9 in South

KELLEN HOLTZMAN
STAFF WRITER

ECU ice hockey coach Wayne Cox has insisted throughout the semester that the only team capable of beating the Pirates were the Pirates themselves. Cox's words rang true two weekends ago, as the Pirates lost an important game to Richmond.

The Pirates fell to Richmond, 5-2, before bouncing back and drubbing Virginia Commonwealth, 8-2, to close out the fall semester.

The showdown with the Spiders had huge implications, as Richmond came in ranked No. 4 in the South Region (ACHA), one spot ahead of the fifth-ranked Pirates.

ECU was on par in terms

of talent, but the Spiders took advantage of some favorable calls and some early Pirate mistakes.

"We took some penalties early on and just couldn't come back on them," said Cox. "When you get hit with penalties, it just disrupts your whole flow and that's what happened against Richmond."

Richmond snatched the momentum almost immediately, going up 1-0 in the first four minutes of play. The Spiders added an insurance goal at the 12:18 mark to up their lead to two goals.

ECU cut the lead in half on a Sean Burns goal with 7:14 remaining in the first period.

Richmond dominated the second period, holding the talented Pirate offense scoreless and pushing its lead to 4-1.

"We got a lot of penalties," said freshman goaltender Matt Dalgetty. "Once we started get-

ting penalties, it just got worse and worse."

Freshman Nick Dinardo scored with 8:10 left in the third period to bring the Pirates within two goals again. But Richmond's stifling defense wouldn't allow ECU to draw any closer as the Spiders put the game away with another goal in the final five minutes.

The Pirates rebounded the following day with an impressive victory over VCU.

"We lit VCU up pretty good," said Cox. "We outplayed them significantly... (Sean Burns, Langer (Jeremy Lang) and Joe (Colatuno) played great all weekend."

The win was especially important for maintaining momentum heading into the spring.

"Beating VCU was great just because it was ending the

see **HOCKEY** page B5

2008 ECU club ice hockey schedule

Date:	Opponent:	Location:	Time:
1/11/08	at GT	Atlanta, Ga.	TBA
1/12/08	at UGA	Atlanta, Ga.	TBA
1/18/08	Carolina Jr. B (Ex.)	Greenville, N.C.	9:30 pm
1/19/08	Carolina Jr. B (Ex.)	Greenville, N.C.	3:30 pm
1/25/08	Liberty (DII)	Greenville, N.C.	9:30 pm
1/26/08	Liberty (DII)	Greenville, N.C.	3:30 pm
2/8/08	South Carolina	Greenville, N.C.	9:30 pm
2/09/08	South Carolina	Greenville, N.C.	3:30 pm
2/15/08	ACHA South Reg.	Marietta, Ga.	TBA
2/16/08	ACHA South Reg.	Marietta, Ga.	TBA
2/17/08	ACHA South Reg.	Marietta, Ga.	TBA

East Carolina University Police Department Community Involvement Reflections of 2007

As we head into the holiday season and the end of year 2007 approaches, we here at the East Carolina University Police Department would like to share with you some of the highlights of our involvement with the campus community from the past year. As the year 2007 began, we set out to accomplish several objectives that involved increasing and improving our positive involvement with the campus community. In January of 2007 we added the position of Off Campus Community Liaison Sgt. to work directly with our off campus community to help establish closer relationships between our off campus students and local community members. This individual serves as a liaison between the off campus students, local neighborhood residents, Greenville Police Department and the ECU Police Department and regularly attends the local neighborhood coalition meetings to address residential concerns. Several members of the department participated in the local Neighborhood Safety Walk which involved going out into the local community and handing out welcome bags to residents. We also participated in the Campus Safety Walk which involved collaborating with various university officials and addressing lighting and safety issues on campus. We participated in National Night Out and handed out literature and spoke to community members about the services that we provide. One of our greatest objectives was to increase the safety awareness of students, staff and faculty on campus. We hoped to do this by continuing to increase our safety programming in the residence halls and in and around campus by our RHLOP program and our SAFE program. In addition, we hoped to increase the number of RAD (women's self defense classes) that we were able to offer. Another objective was to continue to build upon our collaboration with Greenville Police Department to combat crimes affecting our campus community. One objective we are really excited about is the development and implementation of a Citizen's Police Academy. This Citizens' Academy will allow the community to have a better understanding of the inner workings of a police department and will foster police-citizen relations.

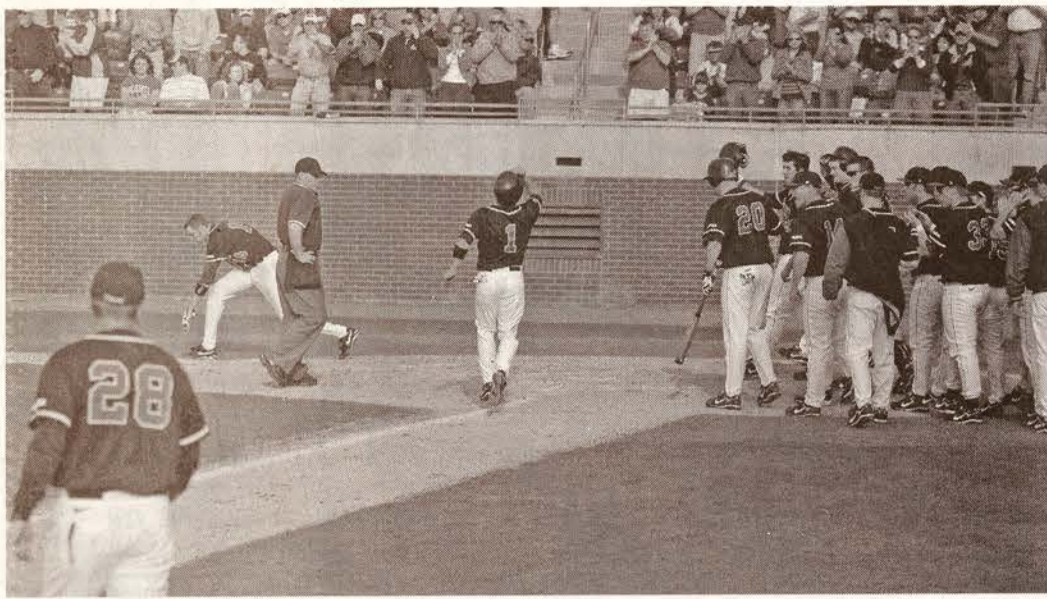
The biggest problem our campus community faced this year involved safety issues. There was an increase in robberies and assaults in the areas adjacent to campus. Several University departments and local government agencies came together to strategize to reduce the crimes occurring both on and adjacent to campus. Also, larcenies from buildings, including residence halls, was the number one crime on campus. Crime prevention strategies were implemented to reduce the number of larcenies occurring on campus.

Some highlights and successes from the year include the capturing of two murder suspects that was initiated by an anonymous student who just felt that "something was not right". This type of police/community collaboration is the key to making our campus community a safer place to be. We increased the frequency of our RAD classes to one every month due to the overwhelming demand from the community and it has been a great success. After completion of the RAD classes, many of the women on our campus state they feel safer and are more empowered to be able to protect themselves in an emergency situation. We plan to keep increasing the number of these classes.

Halloween this year was a great success both on and off campus due to the strong collaboration between the Greenville Police Department, local agencies and our police department. There were no major incidents reported on Halloween this year. Another success was the recent Safety Forum that was conducted on behalf of the TRUNA Neighborhood Association. The forum provides a platform for the local community to voice their concerns and ask any questions. The forum consisted of ECU Interim Police Chief Janice Harris, Greenville Police Chief William Anderson and several other campus and local officials. A large number of the local and campus community turned out and the event was a huge success.

As the year 2007 comes to a close, we here at the East Carolina University Police Department wish to extend best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season and we promise to continue to serve the campus and local community to the best of our ability. If we all continue to work together and maintain our strong collaborations we will all be doing our part to ensure the safety of ourselves and our campus community.

Graduation success of student athletes depends on many factors



The graduation success rate for baseball players at ECU is currently 61 percent, while other sports vary.

Coaches and administrators share responsibilities

GREG KATSKI
SPORTS EDITOR

The success of student-athletes at the collegiate level depends on the cooperation of many people, including athletic administrators, coaches and, of course, students.

At the UNC-Wilmington, which has a graduation success rate of 88 percent for student athletes during the 2007 academic year, academics always come before athletics.

"We emphasize academics first," said Sandy Morrison, assistant athletic director for academics at UNCW. "Our administration, coaches, and staff believe this, and this is instilled into our student athletes."

Western Carolina (88 percent) and the UNC-Chapel Hill (83 percent) join UNCW as Division I universities in North Carolina with the highest graduation success rates for student athletes.

Morrison explained that graduation success rates are often used over federal graduation rates because they are a more precise way to gauge the competence of a school's athletic program.

"The GSR is fairly new compared to federal graduation rates. The GSR allows an institution to include transfers and subtract student-athletes who leave the institution as long as they would have been eligible had they stayed," said Morrison.

North Carolina A&T (60 percent) has the lowest graduation success rate for student athletes among Division I schools in 2007, while N.C. State (70 percent) and the UNC-Asheville (73 percent) have low success rates as well.

Morrison believes that a low graduation success rate not only reflects poorly on the university, but affects recruiting as well and vice versa.

"I believe that having great academics really helps our recruiting efforts [at UNCW]. We recruit top academic student-athletes, and being able to boast about our accolades to the parents and the student-athlete really helps us sell UNCW."

ECU Athletic Director Terry Holland believes that at ECU, which boasts a graduation success rate of 78 percent for student athletes, coaches should be given lead-way with their players.

"Coach has some lead-way to declare as far as absences and excuses," said Holland. "We are not really trying to punish kids as much as we are to say, 'You know this is an important aspect of what we do, we're paying your way to go to classes and the other thing is your parents are paying for you to go to classes.'"

NCAA Division I coaches deal with the pressure of success for their teams on and off the field, including the responsibility of making sure their student-athletes attend class and study hall.

"It's trying to say to our coaches that our expectations have to be at minimum the same for attending class as the same for attending practice. That's not to say that you can't excuse an athlete for missing practice and/or missing a class, but those should be exceptions," Holland said.

The Division I men's sports with the lowest graduation success rates among universities in North Carolina include football, baseball and wrestling. The baseball programs at N.C. A&T (36 percent) and N.C. State (39 percent), two universities with the lowest overall gradu-

ation success rates among NC schools, are alarmingly low.

The graduation success rate for baseball players at ECU is 61 percent, a figure that is on the rise under third-year Head Coach Billy Godwin.

In general, women student athletes competing in Division I sports have a higher graduation success rate than men. At ECU, the women's basketball team had a graduation success rate of 100 percent, while the women's soccer team posted 94 percent.

Women's soccer had one of the highest graduation success rates among all the Division I public universities, while student athletes competing in women's tennis and field hockey had high success rates as well.

Tayleigh Davis, a senior communication major and member of ECU's cross-country team, is not surprised by the disparities between the graduation success rate for the ECU men's and women's cross-country members. While the men's cross-country members have a graduation success rate of 74 percent, the women's members post a rate of 84 percent.

"It doesn't surprise me much because the four years I've been here, the girls have always been concerned with their grades. It's a consistent thing. It's very important for them to excel in the classroom, which spills over in cross-country too. It's important that we have success in both aspects," Davis said.

Holland believes that achieving academic success is as simple as going to class and working hard.

"Woody Allen said it best, 'A big part of my life is just showing up.' And that's true, but again we're just trying to emphasize that."

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

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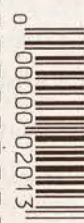
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HOCKEY continued from B3



Senior defender Jon Huck (23) of the ECU hockey team tries to stop a shot from an N.C. State player.

semester on a high note," said senior defenseman Mark Linzer. "It was definitely nice to redeem ourselves after the Richmond game."

The Richmond loss denied ECU entrance into the coveted top-4 of the South Region. The Spiders, however, dropped out of the top-4 as well after losing to Christopher Newport, which jumped to No. 3. ECU remains ranked in the top-10 at No. 9. Central Florida overtook Georgia for the No.1 spot in the final rankings of the semester.

"It hurt us significantly," said Cox. "If we had beat Richmond, that would have stacked us up in the top three or four. We got hit and right now we're ranked ninth."

After losing to George Washington in the season opener in Charlotte, ECU reeled off seven straight wins before the Richmond loss. The Pirates now sit at 8-2 overall, heading into the spring.

ECU has been strengthened by an influx of new talent to

the roster this fall. Sophomore transfer Burns has been the standout of the newcomers. Burns not only earned a starting job but now leads the team in goals scored. Freshman Sam Duehring has been a steady contributor as a defenseman all season and fellow freshman Dalgetty has been a pleasant surprise at goaltender.

The fall semester saw ECU avenge past heartbreaks to Appalachian State and Loyola (Md.), but the highlight came on a Friday night in October against archrival N.C. State. The Pirates outlasted the Wolfpack 6-4 in front of an electric Blaze on Ice crowd.

ECU now has the dirty work behind it and the Pirates expect to win every game from here on out.

"I mean 8-2 sounds pretty darn good but I still think we're only firing on a few cylinders," said Cox. "We haven't hit our full stride yet."

"The biggest concern we have right now is that the two

big games in the second semester come up right after our break. We need to get the kids back early and get them in shape."

The two big games Cox alluded to are against No. 2 ranked Georgia and a solid Georgia Tech team. The Pirates defeated the Yellow jackets earlier this season in Charlotte, 4-0, and knocked off the Bulldogs, 6-4, last season.

ECU then returns home to face Liberty and South Carolina before making its run at nationals. Cox is counting on the South Regionals in February to play a key role in that run.

"If we can knock off Georgia Tech and Georgia, I think we can play ourselves into the top four or five," said Cox. "But I still think it's going to come down to regionals with respect to nationals."

The Pirates take on Georgia Tech in Atlanta on Jan. 11 before facing UGA the following day.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com

Photo by Samantha Johnson

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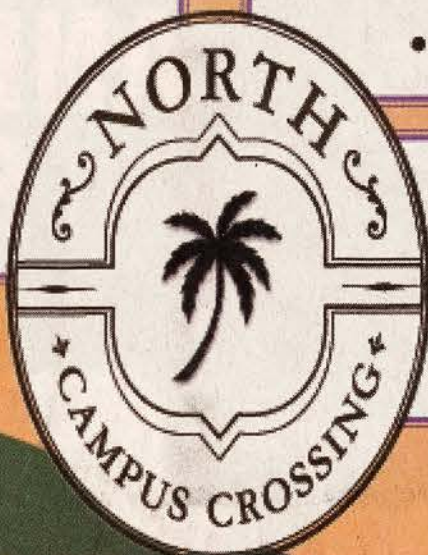
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