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WEDNESDAY JULY 23, 2008



President and CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield Bob Greczyn has been re-elected as the chair of the ECU Board of Trustees... **Page 2**



Think plastic surgery is only used by celebrities? Now, more than ever, average Americans are going under the knife to achieve their dream look... **Page 6**



Before becoming a Pirate, ECU kicker/punter Matt Dodge played on one of Appalachian State's national championship teams. Find out what else makes Dodge unique... **Page 10**

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Obama shifts his attention abroad

Afghanistan should be the country's new focus

DAVID ESPO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama said Tuesday that security in Iraq has improved and that the United States urgently needs to turn its attention to Afghanistan.

"There is security progress, but now we need a political solution in Iraq," Obama said in the first news conference of his highly publicized trip abroad. Afghanistan is now the "central front in the war against terrorism," he added.

"The situation in Afghanistan is perilous and urgent," he said. "We must act now to reverse a deteriorating situation."

He reiterated his goal of withdrawing combat troops from Iraq within 16 months of becoming president. But he said he would consult with military commanders to determine how many troops to keep in the country to pro-



Barack Obama explains his visions and goals on his trip to Afghanistan.

tect diplomatic and humanitarian operations, to train Iraqis and to conduct counter-terrorism operations against al-Qaida in Iraq.

"My goal is to no longer have U.S. troops engaged in combat operations in Iraq," he said.

Obama and his two traveling Senate companions, Democrat Jack Reed of Rhode Island and Republi-

can Chuck Hagel of Nebraska, all emphasized at the news conference the need to turn U.S. attention to Afghanistan and to help Pakistan confront a growing terrorist presence within its borders.

Obama acknowledged that the U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, does not want a timetable for withdrawal of U.S. combat forces.

"He wants to retain as much flexibility as possible," Obama said. "What I emphasized to him was ... if I were in his shoes, I'd probably feel the same way. But my job as a candidate for president and a potential commander in chief extends beyond Iraq." Obama said he also needs to take into account the security needs in Afghanistan, the views of the Iraqi government and the potential domestic uses for the money now being spent in Iraq.

Obama arrived in Jordan after a tour of war zones in Afghanistan and Iraq. He stepped off his military aircraft carrying body armor, orange earplugs sticking out of his ears.

His joint news conference with Reed and Hagel was at the Amman Citadel, an ancient hilltop ruin that bears evidence of settlements dating to 2000 B.C.

Later, he was scheduled to have talks with Jordan's King Abdullah.

Before he left Iraq, Obama traveled to a former hotbed of the Sunni insurgency for talks Tuesday with

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ECU hosts academically intellectually gifted camp

Students earn AIG license

NATALIE JURGEN
NEWS EDITOR

The week of July 14th-18th marked the 4th year of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education and Pitt County School's partnership of the Academically or Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Certification program.

The program was hosted at Wahl-Coates Elementary School from 8 a.m. until noon.

The camp is designed for teachers wanting to add-on AIG licensure and is designed to be accessible, affordable and applicable to all classroom teachers.

All of the classes required to obtain the license are taught online aside from two face-to-face weeks with AIG students in a camp setting.

This year, the camp hosted 64 children from Pitt County schools, a dramatic increase from the first year's 20 students. 50 of these children were in the upper-elementary school level and 14 were middle

schoolers; 35 students were placed on a waiting list.

The first week of camp, following two weeks of online instruction, offers an introduction to the education of gifted students.

The second face-to-face week is held the following summer. During this week the students spend time in the classroom with gifted children and are expected to plan and implement instructional programs.

Under the guidance of ECU faculty, 73 ECU AIG licensure students learn how to teach and advise gifted students during their practicum.

"These students are learning teaching strategies in gifted education and instructional strategies to use in regular classrooms as well," said Dr. Katherine O'Connor, AIG coordinator.

The students begin each day with camp master teachers, Pitt County teachers of talented and gifted students, who model teaching in a large group session.

Students are taught in academically rigorous small group learning stations that focus strongly on the use of technology. Four children are in a station at a time and campers move through two stations each day.



Photos by Runnan Sun

Students were educated on the use of technology during the camp.

"Each of the stations reflect this year's theme, change," O'Connor said. "Stations range from changes in fashion to archaeology to forensics."

On Friday, guest speakers presented on the theme of change to elementary campers and on Thursday middle school campers visited

the ECU Chemistry Lab.

Parents were invited to attend two presentations, a workshop entitled Parent's Guide to the Social and Emotional Needs of Gifted Students and an exhibition of their child's

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Chair of the Board of Trustees recently re-elected

Greczyn to serve second term

NATALIE JURGEN
NEWS EDITOR

The President and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, Bob Greczyn, has recently been re-elected chair of the ECU Board of Trustees.

Greczyn was the only nominee and will be serving his second term on the board; board members can only serve two, one-year terms in the same position.

Also elected to each serve one-year terms were David Brody, vice chair, and Robbie O. Hill, secretary.

Greczyn, who has been a member of the board for five years and a 1973 ECU graduate, said he appreciates the opportunity to lead the board for a second term and will continue to work with board members, the chancellor and the campus community to help ECU continue to achieve its goals.

Greczyn was delighted with the General Assembly's approval this



Greczyn is an ECU graduate and a member of the board for five years.

month of \$70.5 million to complete construction for ECU's new dental school and another \$36.8 million to upgrade the family medicine center.

"It was a very good legislative session for us," Greczyn said. "We did get full funding for the dental school and most importantly we got full funding for our family medicine center. I don't think any of us would underestimate the impact of that."

Brody, a Kinston developer and philanthropist, joined the ECU board

in 2003. Hill, a Kinston health care executive, has been a board member since 2001 and is chair of the Health Sciences Committee.

ECU's newest trustee, Andrew H. Griffin, a senior finance major, was elected by the student body to serve as president of the Student Government Association.

"The Board of Trustees is the governing body for the university

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OBAMA continued from page 1

tribal leaders who joined the fight against al-Qaida in Iraq and now seek a deeper role in Iraq's political future.

Obama met leaders of the so-called Awakening Council movement in Ramadi, one of the main cities of the western Anbar Province where al-Qaida once had the upper hand against embattled U.S. and Iraqi troops.

Tribal sheiks last year began an uprising against insurgents that is credited with uprooting extremist strongholds and helping bring violence around Iraq to its lowest levels in four years.

The meetings came near the end of Obama's two-day stop in Iraq, where he held discussions with Iraqi leaders on possible troops withdrawal initiatives and was briefed by top U.S. military commanders.

Iraq was the third leg of a tour that's included Kuwait and Afghanistan. From Jordan, his trip moves on to Israel and Europe.

He leaves Iraq with a possible political boost: Iraqi backing for his hope of withdrawing U.S. combat troops by 2010.

Iraqi leaders on Monday stopped short of giving specific timetables or endorsing Obama's proposal to withdraw combat troops within 16 months if he wins the presidency.

But their comments fit roughly into Obama's campaign pledge.

The Iraqi government appears increasingly confident to press for timeframes as violence drops and Iraqi security forces expand their roles alongside the 147,000 U.S. soldiers in the country.

"We are hoping that in 2010 that combat troops will withdraw from Iraq," the government spokesman, Ali al-Dabbagh, said Monday after Obama met with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Obama released a statement late Monday noting that Iraqis want an "aspirational timeline, with a clear date," for the departure of U.S. combat forces.

"They do not want an open-ended presence of U.S. combat forces. The prime minister said that now is an appropriate time to start to plan for the reorganization of our troops in Iraq — including their numbers and missions. He stated his hope that U.S. combat forces could be out of Iraq in 2010," Obama said in a joint statement with Hagel and Reed.

The senators said that while there has been some "forward movement" on political progress, reconciliation and economic development, there has not been "nearly enough" bringing lasting stability to Iraq.

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*All first semester freshmen under the age of 21 are required to complete this course.



ECU continued from page 2

Photos by Rynn Sun

Qualified students learn how to educate the intellectually gifted.

work at the end of the week.

The AIG Licensure Program is a partnership between the Department of C&I and Pitt County Schools.

Students of Pitt County Schools that have been identified as gifted were given applications to apply for the summer program. Students of Pitt County School system are identified as Talented and Gifted (TAG) at the end of their third grade year.

TAG is a local plan developed by the school community and school board. Students who are identified as TAG must meet a variety of criteria, including an IQ and achievement test, the student's performance (grades) and a teacher rating about the student's gifted nature.

Numerous counties throughout North Carolina provide the add-on AIG licensure through the Department of Public Instruction but licenses can only be obtained through universities.

AIG Coordinator, Dr. Katherine O'Connor, would like to recognize this year's AIG camp's faculty and staff; Mr. Brian Davis,

Computer Technician (ECU) Dr. Patricia Anderson, Chair, Department of Curriculum & Instruction (ECU) Ms. Kure Banks, Graduate Assistant (ECU) Mr. Al Barnhill, Technology Support Analyst (ECU) Mr. Tim DeCresie, TAG Coordinator (PCS) Mrs. Suzanne Dixon, AIG Master Teacher-Middle (PCS) Ms. Ellen Dobson, Technology Coordinator (ECU) Dr. Lori Flint, Faculty (ECU) Dr. Liz Fogarty, Faculty (ECU) Mrs. Suzanne Hachmeister, AIG Master Teacher-Elementary (PCS) Ms. Ruth Kilburn, AIGC Director (ECU) Ms. Amanda Liles, Graduate Assistant (ECU) Dr. Melissa Matusevich, Faculty (ECU) Mr. Bill McGrory, Computing Support Technician (ECU) Dr. Katie O'Connor, Faculty (ECU) Ms. Brooke Sanders, Project Support (ECU) Mrs. Carmen Webb, AIG Master Teacher-Elementary (PCS).

This writer may be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com

TRUSTEES continued from page 2

and works in a close relationship with the NC Board of Governors," said John Durham, executive director of university communications. "ECU is one of 16 universities in the UNC system. A large board governs the entire system and each campus has their own responsibilities."

Responsibilities of the board include the building program; which approves what buildings are designed, who designs them and where they are put, the final approval of contracts for high profile athletic coaches in athletics such as football, baseball and both men's and women's basketball, the final step

in tenure for faculty, consulting with the chancellor on the appointment of Senior Administrator, Vice Chancellor and Athletic Director and making recommendations to the President of the UNC system for empty spots in the Chancellor's position.

"The board is always interested in the overall advancement of the institution," Durham said.

Goals for the upcoming year include work on the Enrollment Management Task Force, which examines the size and makeup of the student body such as how big each class is, graduate versus undergraduate pro-

grams and academic qualifications for admittance. A final report is expected in the late fall or early spring.

Other goals include actively supporting the 2nd Century Fundraising Campaign and developing a new master plan for future facilities.

The Board of Trustees typically meets twice a semester and once during the summer. The next meeting will be held on Sept. 25 and 26.

For more information visit ecu.edu/bot.

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In your face!

Knowing our food could lead to a slimmer America

ANDREA ROBERTSON
OPINION WRITER

Restaurant chains in New York City are now required to post their foods' caloric information on their menus so that customers can clearly see what they are taking in.

This new rule, which is unique to the Big Apple, is part of an anti-obesity campaign that was launched in 2006. However, due to court battles, the rules of the campaign were redrafted multiple times preventing them from coming into full affect until now.

Chains in New York City, such as McDonalds and Burger King, who have had their nutritional information displayed on Web sites and tray liners, have now replaced their old menus with new menus containing the food items' calories.

After previous lawsuits against fast food chains, in which plaintiffs blamed their weight gain on the lack of information about fat content and calories, posting the calories next to the desired item is a positive change. No longer will people be able to rely on the excuse of ignorance while they enjoy their 1,130-calorie meal.

With caloric-ignorance demolished, New York customers will also be able to take a more active approach against obesity. People will have the opportunity to make an informed decision regarding a 293-calorie ham sub from Subway or a 540-calorie Big Mac.

If New York City has passed legislation requiring their city's fast food chains to post caloric information on their menus, perhaps it is time for North Carolina and other jurisdictions to follow suit.

North Carolina has also adopted its own anti-obesity campaign with programs like "Get Kids Into Action." This program was created in partnership by the University of North Carolina and Gatorade with the goal of ending childhood obesity.

According to research gathered by Eat Smart, Move More North Carolina, and the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, in 2006, 60.8 percent of North Carolina citizens were either overweight or obese. North Carolina was also found to have the fifth highest national rate of overweight children.

Assuming that the obesity trend continues, obesity will eventually replace tobacco as North Carolina's number one cause of unnecessary deaths.

Other campaigns have been created on a national level. Healthy People 2010 was launched in Jan. 2000 by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Healthy People 2010 aims to have the number of adults at a healthy weight to 60 percent by the year 2010. However, in 2006, North Carolina's rate of healthy-weighting adults was at 35 percent. The United States, as a whole, had a rate of 38 percent.

These results show that American citizens are not progressing to a healthy weight as was hoped. It is not likely that North Carolina, let alone the entire nation, will reach the goal set by Healthy People 2010.

If legislation similar to that which took affect in New York City, was passed at a national level, perhaps people would start making better decisions with food.

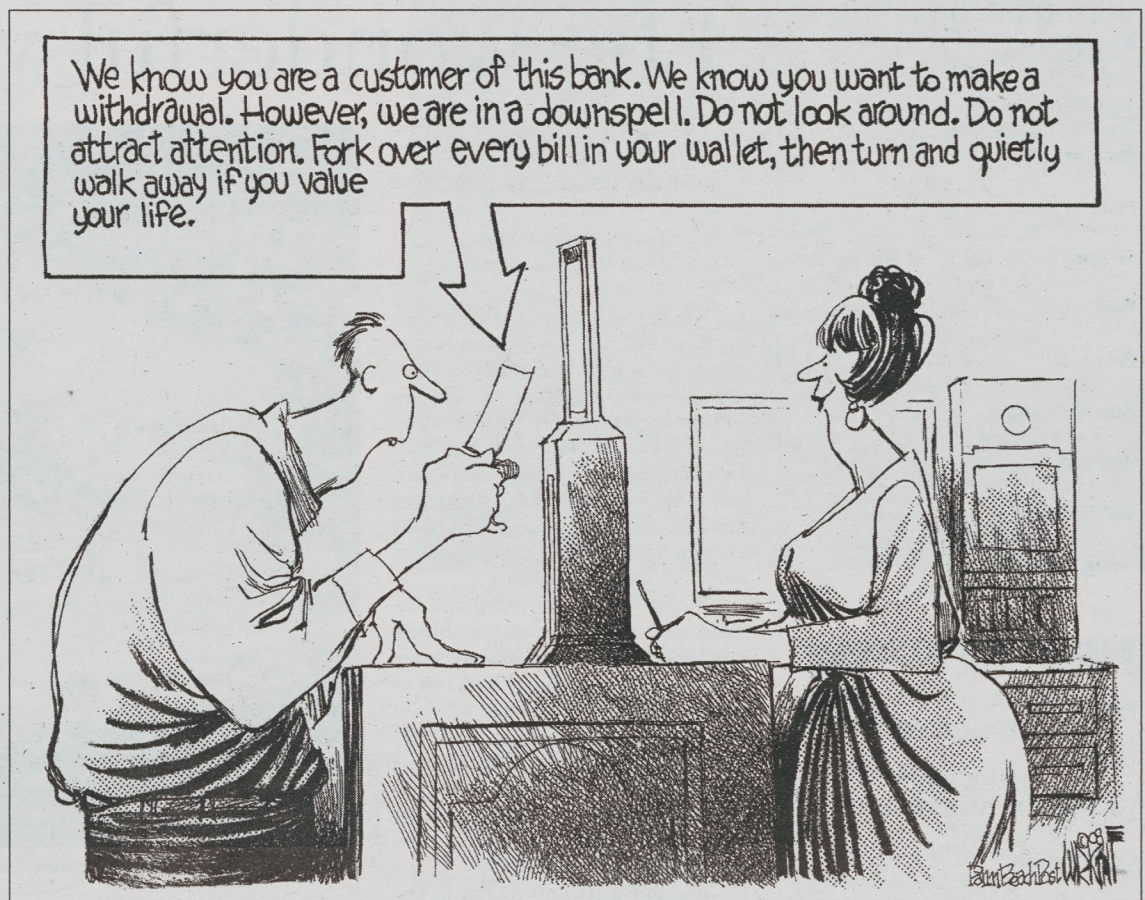
Although many of us feel guilty about making poor choices while eating fatty foods, it is easy to rationalize our actions when we don't know the extent of how bad the double cheeseburger and large fries are for us. If we require food chains to openly share their nutritional facts on a national level, it could cause us to think twice, and ultimately lead to a healthier America.

This writer can be contacted at
opinion@theeastcarolinian.com

RANT OF THE DAY

Its 6:30a.m., the project is due at 9:45, and I'm still just sitting here checking ESPN.com and Pirate Rants... Tragic.

{ www.theeastcarolinian.com }



PIRATE RANTS

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

This is the second time; next time I wake up and find you and your boyfriend going at it while I'm asleep, I'm videotaping it and selling it on eBay for \$20 a pop.

Is it bad if I and someone who works in the Old Cafeteria Complex discuss in great detail the private "campaign" party we'd love to throw for Obama?

To the sweet lady in the back of the cashier's office that fixes everything the financial aid office seems to screw up: Thank you!

Is it possible to stay true to your heart and not break someone else's?

To the jerk who keeps hitting my friend: The next time you hit her, I swear I am going to throw my '96 Nissan Sentra in reverse and floor the gas pedal when you walk out of the house.

I know this is nasty, but I haven't taken a shower in a month. The funny thing is that people keep telling me how good I smell.

To Scully: I'll see you in August. Have a good summer!

Okay, we are females, therefore we

don't have to aim; so my only question is why do you clearly miss so often? In case you weren't told, peeing on the toilet seat is not lady-like.

Maybe if someone had cut Jesse Jackson's off, he wouldn't have fathered an illegitimate child and taken offense at Barack Obama's charge to absentee fathers.

When your feet smell like hot bologna and corn chips, you should keep your shoes on as a courtesy to others in the classroom.

If McCain becomes president, his bodyguards will be more concerned with him dislocating a hip from a fall on banana peel rather than snipers outside the White House window.

Does anyone else think "siblings" is a weird word?

Its 6:30 a.m., the project is due at 9:45, and I'm still just sitting here checking ESPN.com and Pirate Rants... Tragic.

I pay tuition to go to classes, which I skip; yet I can't wait to go in everyday to my internship which doesn't pay. Something isn't adding up.

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Weekend Box Office Numbers

The Dark Knight	\$158,411,483
Mamma Mia	\$27,751,240
Hancock	\$14,040,178
Journey to the Center of the Earth	\$12,430,435
Hellboy II: The Golden Army	\$10,117,815
WALL-E	\$10,070,396
Space Chimps	\$7,181,374
Wanted	\$5,072,805
Get Smart	\$4,125,021
Kung Fu Panda	\$1,860,854

Billboard Top 10 Singles

Katy Perry	"I Kissed a Girl"
Rihanna	"Take A Bow"
Lil' Wayne ft. Static Major	"Lollipop"
Chris Brown	"Forever"
Leona Lewis	"Bleeding Love"
Natasha Bedingfield	"Pocketful of Sunshine"
Coldplay	"Viva La Vida"
Lil' Wayne	"A Milli"
Miley Cyrus	"7 Things"
Plies ft. Ne-Yo	"Bust It Baby Part-2"

Billboard Top 10 Albums

Lil' Wayne	Tha Carter III
Coldplay	Viva La Vida or Death And All His Friends
Soundtrack	Camp Rock
Beck	Modern Guilt
Kid Rock	Rock N Roll Jesus
Various Artists	NOW 28
Soundtrack	Mamma Mia!
Rihanna	Good Girl Gone Bad
G-Unit	T*O*S (Terminate on Sight)
John Mayer	Where The Light Is: Live in Los Angeles

The wonderful world of blogging

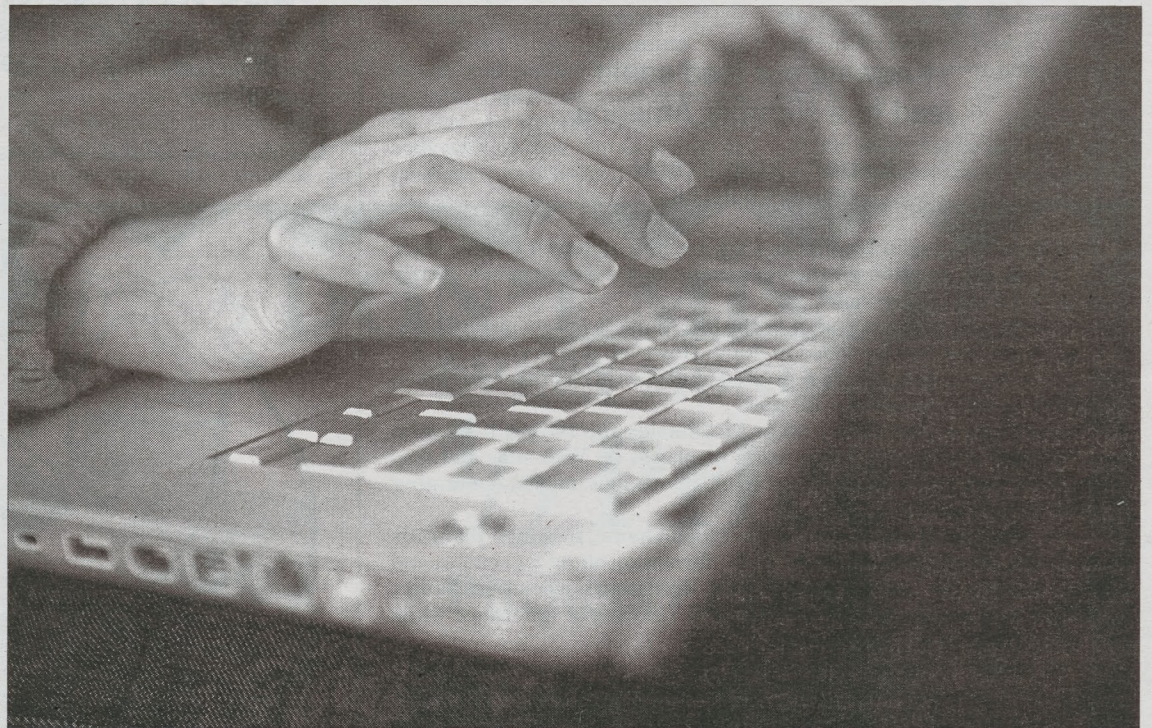
Not just for people who are bored

ERIN EDWARDS
FEATURES EDITOR

Blogging. You know you do it. Whether it is about entertainment, sports or random happenings in your life, there is always something to write about when you feel the creativity flowing. From LiveJournal to Blogger, Myspace and even Facebook, every thought imaginable can be transferred to cyberspace for you and the entire world's viewing pleasure.

Blogging has exploded and for many who maintain their own blogs, it is an important aspect of everyday life. According to BlogView, out of the 147 million Americans who use the Internet, 12 million currently maintain a blog and over 57 million regularly read blogs. Over 120 thousand blogs are created daily, along with over 1.4 million new entries and posts everyday.

For those still not adept to the ever-evolving nature of Internet lingo, blogging refers to a personal web page, in which an individual writes entries or commentary about anything conceivable. An abbreviation of "web log," a blog is similar to a journal or diary and can include pictures and/or video links to other



Over 12 million Americans have a blog, posting over 1.4 million new entries and posts a day.

sites or any media related to the topic discussed.

However, mere individuals with something to say aren't the only ones taking to the wonders of Internet HTML. Fortune 500 companies and newspapers have joined the ranks of blogging, uploading

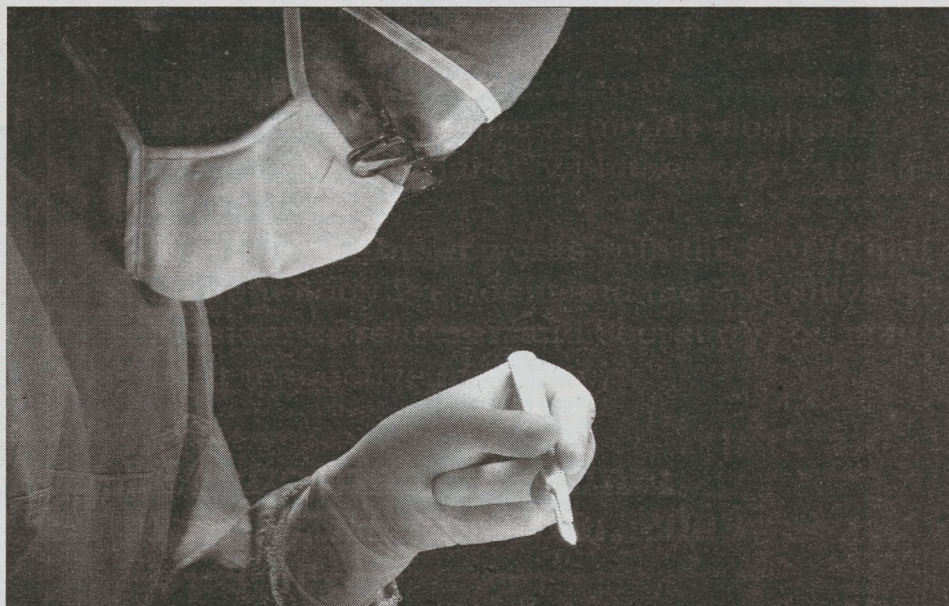
breaking news stories, stock market quotes, and plenty more for interested readers to view. Nearly 89 percent of companies believe that blogging will be the next big thing in the coming years.

Celebrities have begun blogging and for some, blogging has made

the "average Joe" an instant star. Perez Hilton, the self proclaimed "Queen of All Media," has garnered fame by writing about other celebrities, along with drawing crude accessories and body parts on pic-

see **BLOGS** page 8

Cosmetic procedures become common for young adults



The plastic surgery industry made over \$13 billion in 2007, performing over 11.7 procedures.

Number of Plastic Surgeries up 400 percent since 1997

LAKEISHA GOODMAN
STAFF WRITER

When asked what comes to mind upon hearing the words plastic surgery, many students think of celebrities that are famous for enhancing their features. Although many celebrities have opted for plastic surgery in the past, today it has become a common choice for the rest of America.

According to The American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, about 11.7 million cosmetic procedures were performed in the United States in 2007, bringing in over \$13 billion in costs. The number of overall procedures done is over 400 percent from 1997.

While many find these statistics shocking, ECU junior, special education major, Laurel Poe, felt differently.

"Everyone is getting it," said Poe, "Heck even I've

see **SURGERY** page 9

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The music you are
probably not listening to



Photos.com

Despite your genre of taste, any music out there deserves a listen.

...But you probably
should be

ERIN EDWARDS
FEATURES EDITOR

You may have heard of them, or you may not have. Perhaps you hate the genre or maybe you just listen to top 40 bands. Either way, here are a few (of many) music suggestions that you should definitely sample and grow to love.

Mew

The self-proclaimed “world’s only indie stadium band,” Mew embraces a huge following across Europe, but not so much in the States. Think of dark, atmospheric, almost dream-like music blended with indie rock, along with the buoyant vocals of lead singer Jonas Bjerre, who playfully calls Mew’s music “pretentious art rock.” With four albums and a fifth in the

works, the Danish band has toured with R.E.M. and also won numerous Danish Music Awards (similar to the Grammys) since 2003.

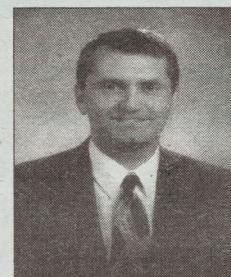
Operator Please

After meeting and forming in order to compete in a high school battle of the bands, Operator Please has gained massive attention in their native Queensland, Australia, along with a following in Europe. Notable hits include “Two for My Seconds,” and “Just a Song about Ping Pong,” with the latter featured on an episode of CSI: NY. Boasting a mixture of pop, punk, indie and perhaps a little of what you might find on the next *Kidz Bop*, Operator Please recently opened for Arctic Monkey and Kaiser Chiefs during Australian tours. Their new album *Yes Yes Vindictive* was recently released in the UK in March and the band is

see **MUSIC** page 8

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MUSIC continued from page 7.

currently touring around UK, Europe and Asia.

Parker House and Theory

Boston natives Parker House and Theory (PHT for short) have taken their hometown by storm, but are still working on the rest of the U.S. After winning a Boston Music Award for best live band in 2006, Parker House and Theory were to embark on a tour with legendary singer James Brown, until his untimely death only months before. Think of a cross between Dave Matthews Band, Jason Mraz, mixed in with bluesy rock and poignant jamming, and you have Parker House and Theory. Their full-length debut album was released in April, along with an opening stint with O.A.R. this past summer.

Eisley

If girl power were to cross over to the indie rock scene, then Eisley would be the outcome. Comprised of three sisters, one brother and a closely related cousin, the Texas natives have toured with such bands as Mute Math, Coldplay, Snow Patrol and The Fray along with numerous headlining tours. Blending rock and pop, their music will put a smile on your face, with clean-cut harmonies over smooth guitar riffs. Although they have only released two full-length albums, Eisley has achieved steady growth and a cult following through constant touring and heavy online publicity.

The Secret Handshake

This one-man band fuses pop rock and electronica together to form a type of music rarely heard in the mainstream today. Almost like the soundtrack to a video game, The Secret Handshake's hip hop beats and electric pop storm sound has been deemed suitable to perform with artists such as Jonezetta and Family

Force 5. A refreshing genre for some, singer Luis Dubuc uses piano, drums, synthesizers and an array of computer-generated technology to sing about life, love, and the summer is '98, a year that most of us were 12 or younger. The electro-emo project of The Secret Handshake is currently touring around the U.S. with the Vans Warped Tour.

Gogol Bordello

With instruments ranging from guitars to accordions and fiddles, Gogol Bordello combines a hippie style with Gypsy funk that spans across any culture, along with a name that tends to puzzle most fans. Comprised of Eastern Europe immigrants, Gogol Bordello formed in the Lower East Side of New York City in 1999 and has since enjoyed appearances on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and "The Late Show with David Letterman." Gogol Bordello has performed with Madonna, as well as back-to-back stints at Bonnaroo in 2007 and 2008.

MGMT

They have already been named by *Rolling Stone* as one of the top 10 "Artists to Watch" in 2008 and *Spin Magazine* calls their music "the current brand of shape-shifting psychedelic pop." MGMT, previously known as The Management, recently released their first full-length album titled *Oracular Spectacular*, with what they call "an enigmatic and prophetic collection of hallucinatory sounds and hook-riddled pop tones for the new millennium." Along with a brief gig as the opening act for Radiohead in the UK, MGMT has also played Bonnaroo and will be featured at this year's Lollapalooza.

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

BLOGS continued from page 6

tures using Microsoft Paint. Music artists use blogs to retell stories from the road or the studio, posting tour dates and updates about album releases. Celebrities even use blogs to address their fans, informing them of important news and/or counter any bad reports given by the media.

For ECU students like Jason Webb, blogging is a way to retell everyday events and happenings while creating an outlet to combat boredom.

"I started blogging about a year ago and started out just writing random short stories and the randomness of my life and managed to gather a following," said Webb. "It's nice to know that there are some weird people out there who

find me entertaining."

For those who possess the pre-conceived notion that blogging is only for those who can't express their feelings in person, you may want to reconsider your decision. Blogging could very well be the next step in reading up on important information, learning more about a company or business and how they work, or just read about the random happenings in a friend's life. However, just as technology is rapidly changing along with the pace of the surrounding world, blogging could soon be outsmarted by an even more advanced version of Internet diary- the vlog.

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com

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SURGERY continued from page 6

thought about it."

Poe has a positive look on plastic surgery. She feels that it's a great solution for people that are not satisfied with their bodies. However Poe did have concerns about the risks.

"Younger people get procedures done on impulse without really being aware," Poe said.

Young adults ages 19 to 34 account for 21 percent of the total cosmetic procedures done in 2007, according to The American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. That's 2.4 million procedures.

Karen Warren, the Director of ECU's Campus Wellness, feels that plastic surgery has become a cultural norm.

"It's not uncommon for students to get nose jobs or boob jobs as graduation gifts," said Warren.

As director of Campus Wellness, Warren encounters many students who have poor body image and feel that they are pressured into looking a certain way or being a certain weight.

With the exception of extreme circumstances, Warren feels that plastic surgery is a bad idea. With every cosmetic procedure, surgical and non-surgical, there are many

risks ranging from infection to heart problems. There have even been a few cases of deaths.

"Who wants to risk the loss of life just to have what you think is a better body?" Warren said, mentioning that even after turning 18, most young adults are not done growing, physically and emotionally. Later on in life they may physically develop in the department they want to or even decide that they really are satisfied with the way that they look.

Shenida Adams, a senior Business major, feels that in the future, plastic surgery will become more common and available.

"There will probably be clinics on every corner where you can go and get wrinkles removed, and bigger breasts," said Adams.

When enlightened about the current statistics of plastic surgery, Adams said that it only confirmed her position on the fact that plastic surgery is becoming a more common thing to do "It's not slowing down," Adams said. "The numbers will only get higher."

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com

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UCF edges out ECU in C-USA preseason poll



Voters have picked Skip Holtz and the Pirates to finish second in their division this season.

Trio of Pirates tabbed for honors

(ECU SID)

On the heels of a 41-38 victory over No. 22 Boise State in the 2007 Sheraton Hawai'i Bowl, East

Carolina was once again tabbed to finish second in the East Division in 2008 by the league's 12 head coaches. The Pirates are coming off back-to-back bowl appearances for the first time since 1999-2000 and finished 8-5 last season.

ECU, who picked up 60 of a

possible 72 points, closed the 2007 campaign by scoring 30 or more points in six of its last seven Conference USA games and returns both signal callers on offense. Patrick Pinkney and Rob Kass both saw action under center and will vie for the starting spot again. Pinkney played in all 13 games and made five starts, while Kass made seven starts and played in 10 contests.

Senior defensive lineman Zack Slate leads a trio of Pirates on the Preseason All C-USA squad, which also includes fellow defensive lineman junior C.J. Wilson and junior offensive lineman Doug Palmer.

The 2007 C-USA Football Championship game featured Tulsa and UCF battling for the league title and the two squads are favored once again for a title shot in 2008. The defending champion Knights were picked to win the East Division crown, garnering 67 points, while the Golden Hurricane were a unanimous choice to represent the West Division, grabbing all 72

available points.

UCF was picked to finish third in the East Division in last year's poll, but behind record-setting running back Kevin Smith, the Knights finished the year 7-1 in the league and advanced to host the third annual C-USA Football Championship game. UCF rolled to the league championship with a 44-25 win over TU and went on to play in the AutoZone Liberty Bowl; the second bowl appearance in program history. The team returns nine starters in 2008 to a defensive unit that picked off a school record 24 passes in 2007.

Despite falling in the C-USA Championship game, Tulsa represented the league in the GMAC Bowl and routed Bowling Green, 63-7, to finish the season at 10-4. The 10 wins were the most for the program since 1991 and along the way TU became the first team in NCAA history to have a five thousand-yard passer; three, one thousand-yard receivers and a one

thousand-yard rusher. More importantly, nine starters return in 2008 to an offensive unit that led the nation in total offense a season ago. Senior DL Philip Hunt highlights the returning Cougars in 2008.

Houston was voted to finish second in the West and is coming off its third consecutive appearance in a bowl game. First-year Head Coach Kevin Sumlin will lead the Cougars in 2008. Sumlin became the first African-American to head an NCAA FBS program in the state of Texas when he was picked for the job and is the 11th head coach in UH history. He spent the past five seasons at Oklahoma, where he served most recently as both the co-offensive coordinator and wide receivers coach.

UTEP was tabbed to take third in the West in 2008 after finishing in fifth place in 2007. Quarterback Trevor Vittatoe returns for his sophomore campaign after having

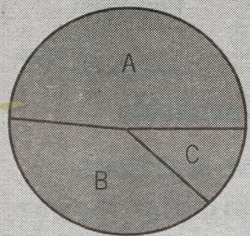
see POLL page 13

Poll of the Week:
How will the ECU football team fare in non-conference play (Virginia Tech, West Virginia, N.C. State)?

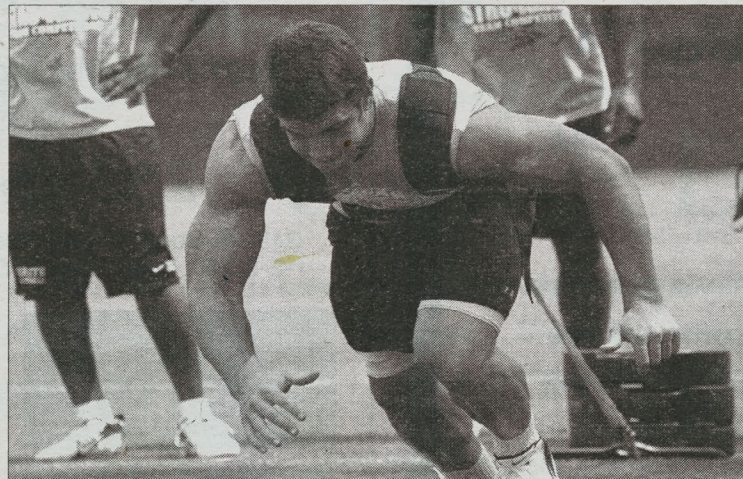
- A. 4-0
- B. 3-1
- C. 2-2
- D. 1-3
- E. 0-4

Poll Results:
Do you plan on attending the ECU-Virginia Tech game in Charlotte?

- A. Yes - 49%
- B. No - 39%
- C. What's a Hokie? - 12%



Dodge packs an added punch to ECU special teams



Dodge recently showcased his strength during the team's Strongman competition.

Punter earns respect in the weight room

KELLEN HOLTZMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

What is the perception of most kickers in college football?

Most probably imagine a short and scrawny walk-on, one who spends most of his Saturdays on the sideline and his time in the weight room cowering in the corner.

Others see a timid special-teamed individual being toppled over by or easily shaken off by breakaway return men.

ECU Head Coach Skip Holtz can breathe a little more easily than most coaches; his last line of defense, junior place-kicker and punter Matt Dodge, doesn't fit the mold of a typical kicker.

A passion for strength and conditioning has added a bevy of muscle to Dodge's 6-foot-2, 220-pound stature.

Mike Golden, ECU's director of strength and conditioning, doesn't recall working with a kicker that has paralleled Dodge's ability and intensity in the weight room.

"In the weight room--it's not even close," said Golden, comparing Dodge to other kickers. "He's unbelievable. He's an animal. He's big and ripped, but he keeps his flexibility. As long he keeps that kicking stuff good--he can get as big as he wants."

Dodge's athletic ability was recently on display in the team's annual Strongman Competition, an event aimed at rewarding the team for its hard work in strength and conditioning. The showcase also serves as a barometer for just how far the team has come in the Holtz-Golden era.

Dodge may be a kicker and a punter on the fielder, but in the Strongman Competition, he is just another athlete—and an impressive one at that.

Dodge finished third out of nine competitors in his event, which involved being strapped into a harness and pulling a 300-pound sled.

Not bad for a punter, right? "You're never going to get the full respect of everybody just because of your position," said

Dodge. "I work really hard in the weight room and that's just a passion I've always had—and I work hard out here [the field]...if you perform in the game, you will get all the respect you need."

Dodge doesn't have any trouble earning respect from deep snapper Wilson Raynor, who hikes the ball to Dodge on fourth downs.

"Look at the guy," said Raynor, pointing to his teammate. "What is there to say? He looks like a linebacker. Everybody knows he works as hard as he can. He goes in there and works just as hard as everybody else, if not harder."

Aside from his athletic prowess, Dodge also has an FCS national championship victory under his belt, care of Appalachian State in 2005.

His time spent on a then-budging FCS powerhouse gives the strapping player all the confidence needed to master environments like the ones he will face in the Virginia Tech game in Charlotte and N.C. State in Raleigh.

"I got more experience than freshman year than I could ever imagine," Dodge said of his one season at ASU. "Being able to have the opportunity to play on ESPN

see DODGE page 12

ACC holds preseason meetings in Georgia

Virginia Tech picked to take the Coastal Division

(AP)

For the 17th straight year, a Bowden-coached team is the preseason favorite in the Atlantic Coast Conference. For the first time in that span, it isn't Florida State.

Clemson — coached by Tommy Bowden, the son of Bobby Bowden, major college football's wins leader at Florida State — was announced Monday as the favorite to win the ACC title. It's the first time Clemson has been the league's preseason choice since 1991, the year before the Seminoles entered the league.

"I'd like to see him win every game but one — not us," said Bobby Bowden, whose team was picked third behind Clemson and Wake Forest in the ACC's Atlantic Division. "But it's good. If I can't be there, I'd just rather him be next."

Clemson picked up 59 of 65 first-place votes in the league's Atlantic Division balloting, and was an overwhelming choice —

named on 51 ballots — to win the overall ACC title and claim an automatic berth in the Bowl Championship Series. Defending league champion Virginia Tech easily picked up top honors to prevail in the Coastal Division, over North Carolina and Miami.

"I'm not used to being in this position," Tommy Bowden said. "My father's more accustomed to handling this question than I am. But I think it'll definitely elevate competition."

The Tigers have tons of offensive talent coming back, including quarterback Cullen Harper, two stellar tailbacks in James Davis and C.J. Spiller, and a breakout receiver in Aaron Kelly. And there's a clear sense that last year's 9-4 record won't be good enough in 2008 to Clemson.

"We've got all the guys coming back," Harper said. "Typically, people don't get worse."

The last time Florida State wasn't a preseason favorite in the ACC, George Bush was president of the United States, the New

see ACC page 13

Toronto hosts 2008 MLS All-Star game

MLS will face West Ham United

HART HOLLOMAN
STAFF WRITER

The 2008 MLS All-Star game will be held this Thursday at BMO Field in Toronto (ESPN, 7:30 pm).

The affair will pit the MLS All-Stars against West Ham United of the English Premier League. It is the fifth time the All-Stars have faced a foreign opponent and they will look to remain perfect against such opposition.

MLS beat Chivas Guadalajara in 2003, dropped Fulham in 2005, surprised Chelsea a year later, and drove Celtic out of Denver last year.

The games have a tendency to polarize opinions on the progress of MLS and soccer in the U.S. in general. Supporters will point to the victories as a sign that soccer in the US is catching up to the European leagues in quality, even if not in popularity.

Detractors will claim that these games are a farce and point to the fact that because the European teams are still in preseason, they are not match fit, so it's not a fair test. The truth is somewhere in the middle of these two opinions.

MLS has come a long way since its inception. The league has done well to stay within its bounds as well as avoiding growing too fast too soon.

Its development has been steady if not spectacular and the league has taken steps to ensure that homegrown talent is the major representation of the league. That's not to say it has rejected foreign talent. In fact, many teams have looked outside the borders of the U.S. to add creativity and experi-



American midfielder Robbie Rogers has taken MLS by storm since transferring from Europe last season.

ence to their squads, but the core of the league still rests at the feet of U.S. born players.

On the other side of the coin, elite U.S. prospects are still using MLS as a springboard for careers in Europe. MLS still doesn't provide the week in-week out competition level that European leagues do.

However, MLS does boast some great players who would fit into any league in the world. That is what this showcase game is mainly about, proving that MLS has talent that can compete with the best.

see MLS page 12

SGA Cabinet and Elections Committee 2008-2009

The East Carolina University Student Government Association is now taking applications for SGA Cabinet and Elections Committee positions for the 2008-2009 academic year.

The Elections Committee has the sole responsibility of publicizing, conducting and supervising all elections for SGA Offices and SGA referenda in accordance with the SGA Constitution and Elections Rules.

The SGA Cabinet works with the SGA Chief of Staff in advising the Student Body President and the Executive Council (Student Body Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary) on matters relating to the duties of their respective offices.

Application Deadline:
Friday, August 15th, 2008
By 5:00pm

Application Available:
SGA Suite (MSC 101) or online at
<http://www.ecu.edu/sga/>



DODGE continued from page 10

as a little 18-year-old kicking in the national championship game--there's no substitute for that."

Dodge's fond memories of glory don't have an effect on his desire, or lack thereof, to schedule a visit from his former team anytime soon though.

"When I played, we went down to Baton Rouge and played LSU and we played them real tough," Dodge said of the Mountaineers' talent level. "I would say the biggest difference is the size across the front."

Dodge's disdain of cold weather and pursuit of a construction management degree contributed to his return to eastern North Carolina. The former all-state kicker and class president at West Carteret High School plans to go into business with his father in his hometown of Morehead City.

As for his work on the field, Dodge punted 80 times for 3,307 yards in his first season as a Pirate in 2007.

Dodge's season highlights included a booming 67-yard punt in the first quarter at UTEP and the second-longest punt in Hawaii Bowl history, a 61-yarder in the second quarter.

Powerful punts are impressive but placement is equally important

in a punter's world. Dodge's best outing in this regard came against Houston when he guided five punts inside the 20-yard line.

His duties may not always be limited to kicking however; Dodge brought Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium to life last season against in N.C. State with a nine-yard first down run on a gutsy fake-punt call.

If he can improve his consistency, expect Dodge to have a big year in 2008--and don't be surprised if Holtz and offensive coordinator Todd Fitch have something sneaky drawn up for Dodge this season.

Dodge is especially looking forward to ECU's first game in Charlotte, the former home of Todd Sauerbrun, a feisty ex-Carolina Panthers punter, who many have likened Dodge to.

"It's been a dream of mine to play in Charlotte," said Dodge. "I'm going to have a lot of family coming down there [Charlotte] and that's probably the game I'm most looking forward to."

August 30, the Pirates will face off against Virginia Tech in a noon kickoff at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte.

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

MLS continued from page 11

Maybe it doesn't have the level of talent top to bottom of the best leagues in the world, but an All-Star team of MLS players can compete with any team in the world.

This Thursday's game against West Ham will provide an interesting test though. As a middling and often under-achieving team in the EPL in recent years, West Ham is looking to return their status as one of the top teams outside the "top four" that dominate the EPL landscape.

The Hammers have not taken advantage of their large fan-base in recent times and that fan-base is growing weary of their underachieving. This has led to the assumption that manager Alan Curbishley will start this season on the hot-seat, so he will want his troops looking sharp any time they take field.

For the All-Stars the controversy has centered around some questionable selections and snubs for the team.

Matt Reis has been the best goalie in the league and the backline of Frankie Hejduk, Jimmy Conrad, and Michael Parkhurst can hardly be argued with. But,

with Parkhurst due to miss the game as an overage selection for the Olympics, manager Steve Nichol chose Jonathan Bornstein as his replacement.

It remains to be seen who will start in Parkhurst's place, but both Bornstein and the other defender on the roster, Jim Brennan, lack his quality--and both are questionable selections above Chicago's Barkary Soumare.

The five-man midfield looks a bit thin on defensive-minded players, given the three-man backline to be employed by Nichol. Sharlie Joseph is having another MVP type season for New England in his holding role, while being able to get forward enough to score a number of timely goals this season.

Sacha Kljestan and Robbie Rogers were selected to hold down the American place in midfield but both will be on Olympic duty. Nichol will want to start another defensive midfielder in place of one of them to fill out his preferred 3-5-2 formation since neither David Beckham or Cuauhtemoc Blanco can fill that role. The most glaring snub from the team however is Guillermo Barros Schelotto's absence

from the team. He deserved at least a reserve spot.

The MLS forwards practically chose themselves. No one is arguing against Landon Donovan and Kenny Cooper getting the nod.

However, many thought Luciano Emilio had done enough recently to make up for his terrible start to the season and earn a place in the reserves, though it's hard to argue with Edson Buddle's inclusion as one of the commissioner's picks.

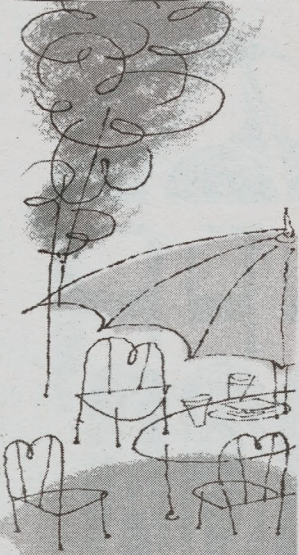
These games are normally competitive affairs given their exhibition status. Look for this one to be no different.

BMO Field boasts the most raucous crowd in the league and look for them to get involved early.

Though the All-Stars have to be weary of the threat posed by West Ham's striking duo of Dean Ashton and Craig Bellamy, the MLS side will use the five-man midfield to starve them of service and create chances out of the back.

Look for another shutout and a 2-0 victory, as MLS remains perfect against foreign competition.

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



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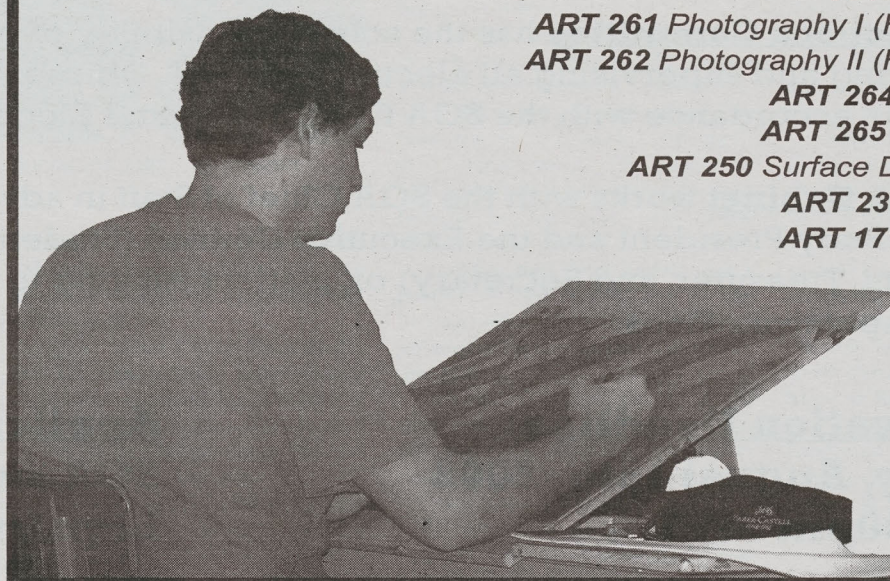
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ACC continued from page 11

York Giants were the reigning Super Bowl champions and the Los Angeles Lakers had just lost in the NBA finals.

No, really, a lot has changed since 1991.

The Seminoles were the ACC's preseason choice for each of their first 13 years as a league member and won at least a share of the title in 11 of those seasons. The league expanded and split to a two-division format in 2005, but the Seminoles' run of first-place predictions continued in the Atlantic Division — where they

finished fifth in 2006 and fourth last season.

Boston College, Maryland and North Carolina State rounded out the Atlantic Division preseason list; Georgia Tech, Virginia and Duke had the last three spots in the Coastal Division.

Over the last seven years, the preseason favorite has gone on to win the ACC title only four times."

There's even hope for the teams picked to finish last in the ACC: Two years ago, Wake Forest was tabbed to finish sixth

in the Atlantic Division and ended up winning the conference's overall title.

But the veterans on coach Jim Grobe's team downplayed all the preseason hype, remembering that it was worthless two years ago and seeing no reason to change their thinking now.

"It's preseason," Wake Forest cornerback Alphonso Smith said. "It's scary in the sense that the young guys on the team might buy into it. ... Us old guys, we understand how this thing goes. It really doesn't matter."

POLL continued from page 10

the second-most passing yards among NCAA FBS freshman last season. His favorite target at wide out will also be back in 2008, as Jeff Moturi returns for his senior campaign. Moturi tied the school record by making a touchdown reception in 10 consecutive games and also notched four, 100-yard games in 2007.

Southern Miss was chosen to take third in the East after finishing 2007 7-6 overall for the team's 14th straight winning season. The Golden Eagles made their 18th appearance in a bowl game and have appeared in a bowl game for six consecutive years and 10 out of the last 11. Larry Fedora will lead the Golden Eagles in 2008 after being named the program's 18th head coach last December. Fedora spent the last three seasons as offensive coordinator at Oklahoma State where his teams were in the top 10 in rushing yards per game and in the top 20 in total offense.

Golden Eagle junior running back Damion Fletcher was chosen as the league's preseason Offensive Player of the Year. Fletcher carried the ball 29 times for 155 yards in the Papajohns.com Bowl to finish last season with a single-season best one 1586 yards and 15 touchdowns. He has recorded a total of

16 100-yard rushing games in his first two seasons, along with seven multi-touchdown games and 26 career scores.

Another Golden Eagle, reigning C-USA Defensive Player of the Year Gerald McRath, was picked as the preseason favorite to repeat as the conference's top defensive player. He led C-USA in tackles with 139 (71 solo, 68 assists) in 2007 and averaged 10.7 per game.

UCF cornerback Joe Burnett was tabbed as preseason Special Teams Player of the Year for the second straight season. Burnett has 926 career punt return yards, which ranks first among active players in the NCAA FBS and his three career touchdowns are tied for the most among active players. His average of 13.23 yards per punt return is also tops among all active players.

The 2008 C-USA Football season kicks off on Thursday, August 28 when UTEP travels to Buffalo. C-USA's first televised game follows on Friday, August 29 when Rice will host SMU in a league contest on ESPN. Seven more games will take place on Saturday, August 30, highlighted by East Carolina's contest in Charlotte, N.C. against Virginia Tech that will be televised by ESPN.

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Need a new place? Come check out Eastern Property Management's great selection of floorplans and properties. We're still reserving spots at Riverwalk, Dockside, Bradford Creek, Eastgate Village, and The Gables! Call us at 252-321-3281 today!

WALK TO CLASS! HOUSES AVAILABLE: How about your own house with a yard (some dogs OK), a large bedroom, and be able to walk to campus, downtown, the rec. center, etc. (1 or 2 blocks!). Central heat/AC, basic cable, high speed internet, washer/dryer, dishwasher, monitored alarm system, lawn care are all included. 6, 5, 4, 3 bedroom units available August 1st. There units look like houses but are duplexes so there is no problem as far as the "3 person" rule is concerned. 252-916-5680.

Room For Rent: Kitchen privileges, utilities included. Parking near university. No smoking or alcohol. Call 252-758-7592.

Need a roommate? No problem! We can match you today! Huge townhomes with over 1500 square feet, great for privacy! Free transportation to ECU! Prices start at \$295. Call now 252-551-3800.

House for rent/to share. 302 Sedgefield Dr. Prefer traveling nurses or mature students, To share a 4 bedroom spacious brick house, very nice situation, located in a very quiet community off Greenville Blvd. and St. Andrews. One mile from hospital and two miles from ECU. It has 2 1/2 baths, den/study area with a natural fireplace. The house has a spacious front and back yard,

and a private driveway. Available on 1st come basis. If interested please call (cell) 301-367-3690. \$500 per month.

WOW, no parking hassles, no parking fees, walk, bike, or bus to class, to the Rec. Center, to downtown - 3 bedroom / 3 bath condo at University Terrace, 320 Brownlea Drive, central heat / air, kitchen appliances. Two pricing options, you choose, either ALL INCLUSIVE for only \$395 per person \$1185 per unit or just \$850 per unit w/o extras. Only 5 left! Call Pinnacle Property Management @ 561-RENT, 531-9011, or 526-1915.

GREAT DEAL!! 2 bedroom apartment, with washer/dryer, cable, energy efficient, only \$500. Close to campus. Please call Pinnacle Property Management @ 561-RENT 7368

Perfect Place. Excellent 4 bed 2 bath home in university area. Newly remodeled. Nice backyard. Quiet neighborhood. On ECU bus route. Hardwoods. Tile. \$1000/month. Call 830-0772 or visit www.villagehaven.net for more info.

Looking for someone to take over my lease at the Exchange starting August 1st. One month FREE rent. If signed by July 11th, I will pay another months rent! Rent includes furnished apartment, cable, utilities, water, and internet. \$419/month. Male or female needed. Great community. Contact Melissa at 252-908-2992 or mar0419@ecu.edu

Walk to ECU. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Home. All

appliances, we mow the yard, central heat/AC, call 321-4712 or visit collegeuniversityrentals.com

ROOMMATE WANTED

Female roommate wanted: 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment located in Forbes Woods which is off Arlington Blvd. Nice big apartment in great neighborhood. Water, cable, internet, and utilities are included in rent. Contact Julia at 919-738-5014 or jel0706@ecu.edu.

Female roommate wanted. 2BR/2BA. \$325 + 1/2 utilities. Cable and internet included. Call Amanda at (252) 561-6883 or anb0227@ecu.edu

301 Maple Street. 3 BR / 2 BA. \$400 rent and utilities split 3 ways. No male or female preference. Already furnished. Walking distance from campus. Call Shana (252) 474-4594 or email SLLO427@ECU.EDU

SERVICES

ECU OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING WEBSITE! GO TO WWW.ECU.EDU/OFFCAMPUSHOUSING, ECU'S OFFICIAL SITE FOR OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING, ROOMMATES, AND FURNITURE. GREAT FOR ADVERTISING SUBLETS.

HELP WANTED

!BARTENDING! \$250 a Day Potential. No Experience Necessary. Training Available. 1-800-965-6520 XT 202

Do you need a good job? The ECU Telefund is hiring students to contact alumni and parents for the ECU Annual Fund. \$7/hour plus cash bonuses. Make your own schedule. If interested, visit our website at www.ecu.edu/telefund and click on JOBS.

Someone to call on local businesses. Flexible hours. Salary plus commission. Contact Maurice at (252) 347-8689.

Part-time Audiovisual Person needed. Must have knowledge of digital editing programs. Call 252-752-1600 and ask for Caryn.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our department (Student Legal Services) will host a used cell phone drive to benefit the Family Violence Center of Pitt County. The main collection site will be 1704-B Arlington Blvd. (Call for directions). To assist the campus community we have planned on-campus collections one time per month. The collection dates at the Wright Plaza are from 11-2 on 6-25-2008, 7-30-2008, 8-27-2008, 9-24-2008, and 10-29-2008. For further information, contact Dawn Gibbs @ 737-1067 or gibbsmi@ecu.edu



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- Free Water & Sewer (\$26 Value)
- \$300 Security Deposit (with Qualifying credit score)

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\$5

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Mon - BBQ Sandwich, Fries & Drink
Tues - 10 Wings - Traditional or Boneless
Wed - 1/2lb Burger, Fries & Drink
Thurs - Any Chicken Sand, Fries & Drink
Fri - Fish Sandwich, Fries & Drink
Sat - 1/2 Price Arrr-petizers
Sun - Buy One, Get One 1/2 Off

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Hours of Operation: 11:30am - 2:00am

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- 24 Hour Computer Center
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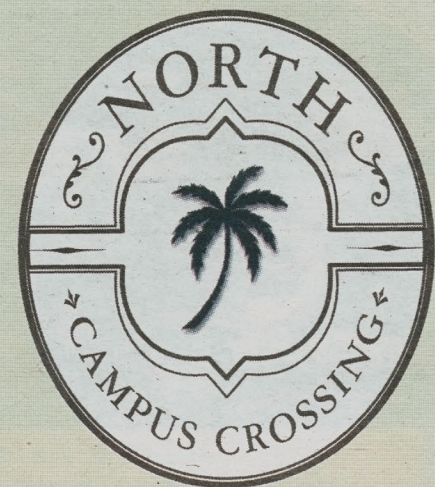


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* New lease signers have access to the free May rent and the half price promotion effective May 1, 2008 – July 31, 2008. Beginning August 1, 2008 rent resumes at full price. Not valid with any other offer. Individual lease price for 4-bedroom 1375sf floor plan. ** \$40 utility allowance that excludes phone service. North Campus Crossing does not discriminate against race, sex, religion, national origin, disability or familial status. North Campus Crossing is managed by Wellington Advisors, LLC. North Campus Crossing © 2008. All rights reserved.



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