



Joyner library hosts graduate students' artwork

FATEN HUSNI ODEH
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Oct. 30 marked the opening reception for the first annual Joyner Library Graduate Student Art and Design Exhibition. Located on the second floor

of Joyner's gallery space, different varieties of artwork crafted by university graduate students is displayed—from sculptures to metals and from textiles to paintings—just to name a few.

"I think it was a booster for the students in regard to continue to perform, as well as produce

quality art work," said Hanna Jubran, ECU art professor.

Not only was it a means to display student artwork but there was also a competition for the students that participated. Seven cash rewards were given to the graduate art students whose artworks were judged by a juror.

Among the jurors was Carol Mabe, a member of the ECU Board of Trustees and chair-elect of the ECU Foundation Board of Directors, who served as a judge for four of the competition's awards.

"We were lucky that Carol Mabe, could serve as the juror,"

said Susan Dorsey, a library technical assistant at Joyner who serves as a member of the Library Exhibit Committee.

Dorsey says it was a group and community effort to raise funds for the awards to give to the winners of the exhibition.

"It was a collaborative effort

from all of these units on campus to really make this a success and I think that is in part due to Dr. Ballard's efforts to spread cultural awareness on campus," she said. "There a little bit of

> EXHIBITION page A3

ECU goes green

CASEY FERGUSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

ECU is going green for Mother Nature.

ECU began the campaign to go green toward the end of 2007 with the purchase of hybrid buses for the Student Transit Authority.

"We spend \$40,000 a month in diesel fuel for all the buses," said Jim DeMay, student route supervisor with the STA. "Having a hybrid bus costs a lot...but the bus runs half on gas and half on battery, which saves us by cutting down on fuel and emissions."

Although spending about \$500,000 for one bus to the "go green" cause helps ECU reduce its impact on the environment, some suggest large investments aren't necessarily the best approach.

"The biggest impact can be made not by big expensive projects but by the consistent, little things that each of us chooses to do to save and protect energy and other resources," said Tom Pohlman, environmental manager with ECU's Office of Environmental Health and Safety.

Every student and faculty member at ECU has his or her own individual carbon footprint, a measure of how one's activities affect the environment. Collectively, ECU

has more than 28,000 carbon footprints that make a large impact on the environment.

College students make decisions every day that make an impact on the environment. With the convenience of motorized vehicles, bottled water and access to convenient packaging, many college students don't realize the effect they have on their surroundings.

From how often people drive, to what kind of food is consumed, even down to how people brush their teeth affects the carbon footprint of the university.

"Our overall environmental footprint can be reduced through simple recycling at your apartment, house or residence hall," said Bill Koch, associate vice chancellor of environmental health at the university. "Simple things like taking shorter showers and not running water while brushing your teeth can also help reduce the carbon footprint by cutting back on water and energy."

Students have taken steps to help reduce their impact on the campus environment.

"I have noticed many students using the new purple recycling cans on campus as well as the recycling bins in all the buildings," said Kevin Maloney, co-president of the student environmental group, ECO-Pirates.

The group has organized many events to help support ECU and its goals to "go green," including an ink cartridge recycling program, as well as river clean-up days.



JESSI BRAXTON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The university is attempting to "go green" with this new hybrid bus.

The "go green" emphasis on little changes in daily activities can translate into a global impact.

"What you do to the environment, the environment will do to you. If people want a healthy environment in the future, they

need to change now and take care of it today," said Maloney.

As for ECU and what its goals are for staying green, Pohlman of the Office of Environmental Health and Safety is hopeful.

"We continue to look for viable

ways to reduce our footprint and protect our environment in the future," he said.

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

University bans together to help needy families

Students encouraged to donate unneeded items

BRITTANI MCNEILL
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU has kicked off two holiday donation campaigns and is looking for students to get involved. The ECU Holiday Drive, sponsored by ECU Business Services, began in November and will run through Dec. 12.

Now in its 14th year, the holiday drive is a campus-wide effort to provide assistance to families in need during the holiday season.

A new program called Pirates Treasure has also been launched on campus. In its first year, Pirates Treasure is an initiative encouraging students to drop off household items they no longer want or need to various sites on and off campus. These sites will be open on ECU reading days, Dec. 4 and 5, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Both drives are a way for students to make use of all the items they no longer want or need as the semester ends, instead of throwing them away.

For the Holiday Drive, members of the ECU community are asked to donate toys, food, clothing and household supply items to assist local charities during the holiday season. They can be dropped off at collection locations across campus.

The collected items will be donated to Pitt County Social Services Children's Protective Services Unit, The REAL Crisis Center, New Directions Family Violence Shelter, Flynn Christian Home, Pitt County Adult Services and the N.C. Food Bank.

Leslie Craige, director of marketing for ECU Business Services, said that the drive was started 14 years ago by the dean

of students, who thought if the university banded together it could have a big impact on the surrounding community. She noted the importance of the entire campus working together on the project.

"The Holiday Drive is a collaborative effort of the whole campus community involving academic departments, staff, service departments and students, and we'd love to have students get involved in this either as a group or as individuals," she said.

Collection boxes for the Holiday Drive are in place around campus through Dec. 12. Suggested items for donation include non-perishable food items, new toys and sporting goods, new or gently used clothing items, school supplies, health and hygiene products, kitchen, bath and bedroom items and small electronics. According to Craige, toys are especially needed by agencies to provide to children who don't have sponsors for the holiday season.

The Pirates Treasure collection is seeking household items such as furniture, kitchen appliances, clothing, non-perishable food items and more. There will be five drop off sites in campus area neighborhoods, with por-

table storage containers to house the items. ECU Dean of Students, Lynn Roeder, is chairing the project.

According to Roeder, it is not uncommon to see household items such as bedding, computers and appliances lining streets in the university area. She said this is not only unsightly, but it poses a safety risk to the community.

"The Pirate Treasure program serves multiple purposes, but perhaps the two most significant benefits are [that] the university neighborhoods will be cleared of discarded items and therefore eliminate safety hazards to the community, and the discarded items collected will help someone in need," she said.

God's Love, Martin Pitt Partnership for Children, and other social services groups will collect the items to distribute to the community. Items remaining after Dec. 5 will be donated to the Salvation Army and Goodwill.

The Pirates Treasure program is sponsored by ECU's Dean of Students, Off-Campus Student Services, the Volunteer and Service-Learning Center, the City of Greenville, ECU's Student Government Associa-

ECU celebrates World AIDS Day

BRITTANI MCNEILL
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Monday, Dec. 1, 2008 marked the 20th anniversary of World AIDS day, a day when individuals and organizations from around the world come together to bring attention to the global AIDS epidemic. People all over the world wore red ribbons and participated in events to commemorate the day.

However, ECU is not stopping at one day. ECU Student Health Services sponsored a week of events to bring awareness and information about the disease to the community. All the events are designed to get students and the community involved so they can educate and protect themselves against the disease.

Campus Wellness kicked off the week on Sunday with worship at St. Augustus A.M.E. Zion Church in Kinston. The focus of the sermon was HIV/AIDS.

On Monday, World AIDS day, motivational speaker DeVondia Roseborough, who is HIV positive, spoke at the Lucille Gorham Intergenerational Community Center. Roseborough is an author and the founder of Rasberrirose Inc, a nonprofit organization focused on the needs of girls ages 10-18.

Roseborough spoke candidly about her diagnosis as well as her life with HIV. She said that much of her life before contracting HIV was filled with low self-esteem and as a young girl an uncle and an aunt raped her. She said these experiences left her "looking for love in all the wrong places." As a result, she was promiscuous, which led to becoming infected with HIV.

Although Roseborough gave causes for some of the problems she faced, she made no excuses for her actions. She stressed two things throughout the evening.

"There's consequences behind choices," she said. And her personal motto: "A person will take you as far as you allow

them to."

But she also stressed that her diagnosis was not the end for her. She is now a self published author and business owner. Her book, "Put it on Paper," chronicles her life before and after her diagnosis.

More events are scheduled throughout the week. Tonight, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Campus Wellness will be distributing condoms and red ribbons in Wright Plaza.

On Wednesday from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. there will be a panel about HIV/AIDS and a candlelight vigil at Hendrix Theater.

The week will wrap up with HIV testing for students, faculty, staff and the community from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in Mendenhall 244.

According to Shawnte McMillan, Student Health Services educator, Student Health has been scheduling events to commemorate World AIDS Day and raise awareness about the disease. She said they hope to educate students about HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

"You'd be surprised how many students come to campus and have no clue about how HIV is spread and how it affects people," McMillan said.

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is the virus that causes AIDS. It can be passed when infected blood, semen or vaginal secretions come in contact with an uninfected person's broken skin or mucous membranes.

AIDS stands for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome. It is characterized by a weakening of the immune system and can include the development of certain infections and/or cancers, as well as a decrease in the number of certain cells in a person's immune system.

Tywanna Purkett, assistant director of Campus Wellness, said health educators can never get the college population information about HIV/AIDS frequently enough.

"Rates are not going down,"

said Purkett.

She said that the college age group has the fastest growing rate of HIV cases, and that students need to be careful and know how to protect themselves.

"They just need to be aware. They need to know their status."

McMillan also stressed the importance of getting tested. She said that Student Health offers free HIV tests to all full-time students. Free testing is also offered through the health department and Brody School of Medicine. Other alternatives include mobile testing and ordering tests online.

McMillan offered advice for those who are afraid or nervous.

"Go with a friend, make it a group thing," she said.

She especially stressed this advice for females, particularly African-American females who have the fastest growing rate of new HIV cases in the country.

"Some females don't feel comfortable asking their partners to use a condom or asking their partner when was the last time they had sex," she explained.

She said if you're not ready to ask the tough questions, you're not ready to have sex.

One of the goals of recent ad campaigns appearing on television as well as events such as those scheduled by Campus Wellness is to dispel stereotypes about AIDS and to get people to realize that they can be infected and affected.

"I think a lot of people say that they don't think they will get any type of STI," McMillan said. "It happens to those who least expect it."

McMillan said Student Health will continue to offer information and resources pertaining to STIs, but that ultimately it is up to students to heed their advice or take advantage of those resources.

"Some people actually know they're putting themselves at risk

> AIDS page A2



NICHOLAS THIGPEN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A student drops off a donation at one of the drop sites on campus.

> HOLIDAY page A2

Today's Carolinian

News	A2
Opinion	A4
Features	A5
Sports	B1
Classifieds	A7

Pirate Rant of the Day

If corn oil is made from corn, then what is baby oil made from?

page A4

News

Look inside for a calendar of upcoming events.

page A2

Features

On-campus and local venues are offering holiday specialties this season. Look inside for a list of these tasty treats.

page A5



Sports

Turn to the sports section to see how the ECU football team closed out its regular season.

page B1

December

2 Tues

11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Wright Plaza
Condom and Red
Ribbon Distribution

6:15 p.m.-7 p.m.
The Bellamy Apart-
ments Movie Room
Folic Acid Presentation
Presentation about folic
acid and giveaways

7 p.m.
A.J. Fletcher Music
Center
Choral Scholars in
Concert

3 Wed

Last day of classes for Fall
semester

6-8 p.m.
Hendrix Theater
Panel Discussion and
Candlelight Vigil
Wellness Passport Event

4 Thurs

Reading Day

8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Alpha Phi House
UBE Book Buyback
Sell your books back to
the Alpha Phi.

9 a.m.-9 p.m.
Wellington B. Gray
Gallery
Holiday Exhibition/Sale
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scarves, wood and metal
sculpture, photography,
paintings, ceramics,
prints, jewelry and more.
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students and guilds of the
School of Art and Design.

11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Mendenhall 244
HIV Testing for students,
faculty, staff, and com-
munity.

5 Fri

Exams begin

9 a.m.-9 p.m.
Wellington B. Gray
Gallery
Holiday Exhibition/
Sale

6 Sat

9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Wellington B. Gray
Gallery
Holiday Exhibition/Sale

12 p.m.
Tulsa, Okla.
Conference USA
Championship

2 p.m.
Charlottesville, Va.
Women's Basketball

7 p.m.
Men's Basketball vs.
Limestone

7 Sun

8 Mon

8 p.m.
Joyner Library
Fuel for Finals
Time to study,
donate to the Pitt
Co. Red Cross, meet
Chancellor Ballard
and get free snacks.

HOLIDAY continued from A1

tion, Greek Life, ECU Police, the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Women and Stallings Mini-Storage of Greenville.

There are also other ways to give on campus during the holiday season. ECU's campus radio station WZMB 91.3 is holding a canned food drive and teddy bear collection. Donations can be dropped off at the radio station, located in the basement of Mendenhall Student Center.

Campus departments and organizations can also sponsor a child, family or adult in a local rest home by contacting Pitt County Social Services.

The donations from these efforts will be a help to local charitable organizations that have been hit hard by the rough economy.

"The organizations have

told us that they have greater needs and are hoping that we'll be able to contribute at the same level as years past," Craige said. "It looks like departments are stepping up and we've even had a couple new departments step up."

For a complete list of donation ideas, collection drop off areas, or for more information about the ECU Holiday Drive visit ecu.edu/cs-admin/services/HolidayDrive.cfm or contact Leslie Craige at 737-1310 or Karen Simmons at 737-1311.

For more information about the Pirates Treasure program or a map of the drop-off sites visit ecu.edu/studentlife/offcampus/ or call 328-2847.

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

AIDS continued from A1

and think they're invincible. Students choose not to use condoms and have unprotected sex...It's really up to the students if they want to come out and find out how HIV is spread."

For more information about HIV/AIDS or this week's events, contact Shawnte McMillan at 252-328-6794.

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

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DEC 2

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EXHIBITION

continued from A1



NICHOLAS THIGPEN TEC
Students at the exhibit.

everything for everyone."

Among the winners of the exhibit are Maria Friedland's "Blue Pebble Necklace," which won the \$600 Academic Library and Learning Resources Dean's Award; "Sacrificial Rigormortis" by Isaac Talley for the School of Art and Design Director's Award at \$500; "Culture/Nature/Academia" by Adam Jacono for the Graduate School Dean's Award

at \$300 and "Untitled Pod Form II" by Jesse Morrissey for the Dowdy Student Stores Merchandise Certificate Award at \$200.

There were also three purchase awards which included "Chloe #1" by Lindsey Laing Youmans for The Friends of Joyner Library Purchase Award at \$1,000; "Thor" by Chris Wooten for the College of Fine Arts and Communication Dean's Purchase Award at \$550 and "Joyful Expression" by Cherry Neu Stevens for the Joyner Library Purchase Award for \$1,000.

"We would definitely like to see more activity happening in the university regarding the art and supporting the art. We'd like to see more of our faculty and students being a part of this," Jubran said.

The Joyner Library Graduate Student Art and Design Exhibition will be on display until Dec. 10.

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Opinion

{ Your Procrastination Destination }

Cheap gas, cheap fixes

LARA OLIVER
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

This summer, North Carolina and the rest of the country dealt with one of the biggest oil price jumps the country has seen since the 1970s. A gallon of regular unleaded gas jumped from \$2.50 to almost \$5.00, all within the span of a couple of months.

The price increases even caused Sen. John McCain and Sen. Hillary Clinton to add a plan for a temporary gas tax alleviation. The peak in prices caused people to postpone their vacations and begin looking at alternate methods of transportation.

As the prices climbed, many Americans started making changes to their daily lives in an attempt to compensate for their thinning wallets. Bikes became all the rage for the able-bodied and public transportation saw a surge in users. In Charlotte, the popularity of the new Lynx train system surpassed all expectations.

But, like most fads, convenience and selective memory took over once gas prices started to drop again. Now wavering just below \$2.00 a gallon, gas prices have allowed us to go back to our old ways of using our cars for every type of trip we need. Whether it's a road trip across the state or running down the road for milk, we turn to our cars before considering any other type of transportation.

Even with gas prices in our favor, we still need to consider changing our day-to-day lives in an effort to preserve our future.

When met with problems like pollution and climate change, so often we find it easy to shrug it off and say we're not capable of making any real change. We point to countries like China and India, whose growing populations and booming industry can be used as a scapegoat for many of our world's energy problems, but what about considering an issue as essential as oil consumption?

Let's look at the facts: America's population makes up nearly 5 percent of the world. Meanwhile, China and India combined make up about 37 percent. According to NationMaster.com, a collection of data gathered on the world's nations, America uses 20 million barrels of oil a day. In contrast, India and China combined only use about 9 million barrels a day.

So, despite the fact that India and China make up over a third of the world's population, they still only use half the amount of oil that the United States consumes daily.

It seems that blaming countries for pollution based on their populations won't work this time.

The fact also remains that oil isn't going to last forever. Predictions say we have anywhere from 50 to 100 years left of crude oil.

I know as well as many people reading this that there are areas of life we can't help but use a car for transportation.

We can't help that America was built on sprawling land with little connection between cities aside from roads. We also can't help it when we pick our houses that building developers choose cheap land twenty miles away from the closest grocery store. Despite all these set backs, we all know the small steps we can take to cut down on oil consumption.

If we were willing to make changes when our wallet depended on it, can't we continue now that the world depends on it?

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No more free drugs

Doing away with drug samples provides better care

ANDREA ROBERTSON
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

In January, the Charlotte-based Carolinas Health-Care System banned its staff of approximately 700 doctors from giving patients free samples of medications.

In September, The *Southern Medical Journal* reported that over 90 percent of U.S. doctors receive free samples from pharmaceutical companies. The free samples are usually more pricey medications—an estimated retail value of \$16 billion dollars as reported by a study in *PLoS Medicine*. Doctors receiving high-priced medications to distribute to patients for free may seem like a dream come true, but this practice is not nearly as generous as it may seem.

I couldn't agree more with critics that feel the distribution of these samples should be banned. My fear is that doctors may not be prescribing medications that are best for their patients; instead, they are prescribing medications because they have a sample on hand. It's unethical. Medications should be prescribed based on the best plan for treatment.

Price is also a factor. Companies distributing most of the free samples have some of the most expensive medications. Many patients can't afford to spend the money on their actual prescription once the sample has been used. If a patient receives a free sample and a prescription for a drug they can't afford, they'll have no choice but to go back to the doctor and have another prescription written. What's the benefit in receiving a free sample, then spending more money on a doctor visit to get a prescription for a cheaper medication?

October's issue of *Pediatrics* reported that the majority of these brand-name samples are being distributed to those who have insurance, as opposed to those in need. Ken Johnson, a top official of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, said in response to *Pediatrics* that "a patient's financial situation is a factor physicians often consider when distributing such samples." The *American Journal of Public Health* also reported that in 2003, 13 percent of insured patients received at least one free sample, whereas only 10 percent of uninsured patients received a free sample.

What we see is that those who are insured receive more samples, even though they run the risk of not being covered for the brand name. Those who aren't fortunate enough to have insurance are often overlooked for the samples, because they wouldn't be able to afford medication at all. It seems to me that it would make more sense to distribute samples to patients who may need extra assistance.

The entire practice of distributing free samples to patients seems to be completely ridiculous. If distributing free samples causes unethical practices by doctors and doesn't benefit patients in the long run, the distribution of these samples needs to come to an end.

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Bring on the vegetables

JASON M. WALLACE
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The United States is the fast food capital of the world. Burger King and McDonald's will forever be the two leaders in the fast food franchises. While these fast food chains have served billions around the world, vegetarians still have limited options. Vegetarian fast food restaurants would not only serve those marginalized by the bigger chains, but would also reach out to those who can't stomach another burger or chicken nugget.

Vegetarian options at most fast food chains range from fries to a meatless salad with a possibility of a veggie burger, a dessert or a baked potato. You can make a meal out of those, but there is still so much missing. Fruit servings and other vegetables like peas, baby carrots and cabbage are almost unheard of on drive-thru menus.

The problem is that the burger is so fast. It takes almost no time to heat up a patty, squeeze some mustard and mayonnaise, add some lettuce, onion and tomato and then presto—a meal is ready. The salads and veggie burgers are popular because they are either already prepared or go through the same process as any other burger. For a vegetarian fast food restaurant, the same kind of speed would be necessary for competition.

Portobello mushrooms can be prepared into mushroom burgers, or can be sliced to make wraps. Salads, like the Waldorf salad, aren't limited to lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers and cheese. Tofu can be used as any kind of meat substitute and also tastes wonderful when marinated. Soy products are another easy application, and for those who don't know, there are several types of veggie burgers.

Finally, servings of single vegetables could stand in for French fries. Let's not forget that anything can be fried and put into a box for easy access when driving. That would be a decent way to sell fried okra or fried green beans.

For those reading this, it may be shocking to know that I'm not a vegetarian. I still love greasy cheeseburgers and fried fish sandwiches. However, a constant diet of fast food doesn't suffice. Has anyone else ever bought a hamburger because it felt like the only option? If I could go out and buy a decent vegetarian wrap with two side orders of cooked vegetables at least twice a week, it would help to balance out my eating habits.

People want to eat healthy, but when there are no options or appeal for it, then we're all trapped in wishful thinking.

This writer can be contacted at
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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.

I'm tired of hearing about all the people that supposedly "live in the library" now that finals are coming up. I work in the library and study there! Try that for living in the library!

My math professor is an idiot! He calls us stupid, but every single problem he writes on the board, he erases it because he messes up! We are stupid?

On these cold days, I want to steal you from class, take you to my room and use our body heat to warm up!

Even though I'm not doing so hot in chemistry, I do know what a chemical reaction is and I shall do an experiment. My hypothesis is that if I light my books on fire, they will burn.

I'm not gonna lie. I'll probably cheat on you when you go study abroad next semester. Sorry in advance...

I happened to be reading the Pirate Rants the other day, and noticed my horoscope on the next page said I should go out that night, knowing I had a test the next day. I listened to my horoscope. Needless to say, I didn't do so well on my test.

I have a disease that keeps me from paying attention in class and answering e-mails in a timely manner.

I farted so loudly getting out of bed the other morning that it woke my boyfriend up out of a deep sleep. I wasn't even embarrassed because I thought it was so hilarious...but he was really angry.

I got drunk and had sex with my best friend a few times, and now I can't stop thinking about her. But she doesn't want to ruin our friendship...What the hell do I do now?

Why don't we get naked and do it in your roommate's bathroom again? Or better yet, in the living room with the blinds wide open...again.

You know you had a bad night when: Your pubic bone hurts, your thighs are bruised and you wake up and NO ONE IS THERE BESIDE YOU!

To the guy who stole my panties: Please give them back. They were my fav!

To the guy I've been seeing for the past couple of months: In the words of Cassie and Lil' Wayne, "I wanna be your official girl."

To all the guys who think it is OK to NOT text a girl back: You are seriously mistaken.

To the person who called the girls on the fifth floor of Fletcher bulimic: We aren't bulimic. We just know how to party!

To guys who don't like their relationships to have "titles": Care to explain why this is...

Baby...I'm gonna butter your bread!

What do you mean Santa doesn't exist?

One of my friends told me the reason gas was so low was because "Pirates" were holding this HUGE oil ship hostage. I'm not quite sure that this is true, but if it is...GO PIRATES!!! Arrrrgh!

I love Andypool Yes, I'm talking to you!

I don't know what I'm going to do over winter break without my friends with me 24/7. I'm going to miss you guys so much I just might come back to school early... Yup, I just might.

This morning I found a beer bottle cap in my shoe...

I wish my acne was on my butt instead of my face so no one could see it.

My roommate and I compete to see who can be the biggest jerk.

Is it bad that I make myself a mixed drink and take it with me to the library because it helps me focus?

To the person worried about freshman not graduating in 2012 because of the world ending: It's not actually supposed to end until Dec. 21, so we'll still graduate! Yay!

To the person questioning the girls who dress up at West End: I like what I see, so ladies keep doin' your thing and showin' your goods, because I appreciate them, unlike some people.

Dear Cottage Cheese Butt, A T-shirt with poop brown leggings and Uggs is not an outfit. If I see you dressed like that one more time I will tap you on the shoulder and remind you where the Rec center is.

I told you that Mexican food was fresh and you ate it. Too bad that I kept it in my friends refrigerator for almost three weeks!

I wish I could buy weed with Pirate Bucks!

Let it snow! Greenville needs to have a blizzard!

Hey girl, I bet your lips are chapped for wearing that skirt when it is so cold outside.

If corn oil is made from corn, then what is baby oil made from?

I'll be your nice guy if you do my laundry.

My girl wants to party all the time.

To the rugby girl who wears trucker hats: Beautiful.

Being skanky is so much easier than being classy.

I know you stole my peanut butter. Because of that I suggest you keep a close eye on your Wheat Thins, because I am after them.

If I were stranded on a desert

island with all the people from my microbiology class, I would just shoot myself!

I sat on the couch with my dog, tapped him on the shoulder and he looked the other way. BAH-HA-HA-HA!

Despite all the things that have been said and the figurative punches thrown, I still want you. I want to stop but I can't. I hate to love you.

You keep thinking I'm your friend, but in reality I just really wanna punch you in your jugular.

The new PeeDee should get a grill.

Love is never more passionate than after a fight. Where does that leave us?

I don't really want to admit this, but I really miss you. Or maybe I just miss the idea of you and you're really just a douche.

To anonymous cute girl: I think you should wear less and have fruit involved (though chocolate would be acceptable as well).

I go out of my way to step on the crunchy leaves on the sidewalk.

To the guy who spilled his drink Monday morning in Dowdy: I think you are really cute and I would talk to you but I'm a little shy and I don't want to scare you by randomly talking to you.

Dear roommate: I've got a wire coat hanger if you need it. Just sayin'.

Raise your hands if you love beer!

I want to stop the world and melt with you.

Since the Joyner fountain isn't on, can't we take some trash can lids and paint them pink and make a huge Plinko board?

All I want for Christmas is good grades.

To the cute boy in my biology class: It has been a lovely semester looking at you and your cute little hair and your cute little smile. I'm sad that it's almost over and I'll probably never see you again.

Stop leaving such horrible messes in the toilet, and I'll stop cleaning it with your loofah.

You're really pretty, and really cool, but sometimes I think you're too smart.

I love when the SOIS surveys come out, because then the professors start acting really nice. They know we control their fate.

You know I like you, and I'm pretty sure you like me, so why not give it a shot?

So my girlfriend looks at me lovingly and tells me that I am a wonderful fratmattress. She has no idea what the term means.

Horoscopes

Aries
Your routine works well, so keep doing what you do to bring the money in. Take more responsibility. It'll be available. And the others need you.

Taurus
Continue to manage your resources carefully. This is the theme of the month. Eventually, with all the wise choices you make, everything will work out fine. Don't worry; you're very good at this.

Gemini
A person who doesn't agree with you isn't necessarily right, but sometimes passion carries more weight than rational analysis. Stay cool, have the facts and smile.

Cancer
You have always told the truth, but you don't always have to be telling it. So keep quiet about what you're doing. Maintain the mystery.

Leo
Use experts to help you come up with ideas if you find yourself running out. You shouldn't have to think of everything and, anyway, you couldn't. Forget it. Get help.

Virgo
Duty calls, although you're not quite ready to go back to work. You can put the call on hold for a while, but you'll have to respond pretty soon. Be vague. Stall.

Libra
The confusion starts to clear, as you realign with your primary objectives. Make lists, if necessary, and then set new priorities. The fog will begin to lift.

Scorpio
Gather more information before you go on your shopping spree. You don't want to get the wrong thing and have to take it back. Keep the receipts.

Sagittarius
You have the ability to see the big picture relatively easily. You watch trends and like to get into a comfortable position. Study the game board; it's changed.

Capricorn
Find what you need in your own cupboards, garage, attic and basement. Dig through that stuff you've been saving. The time is right for some of it. And some of it you can toss.

Aquarius
You have a picture in your mind of how you want things to be. Draw up a few sketches to go with your lists, so you'll get everything you need.

Pisces
Your dreams should be very interesting. You'll be able to solve puzzles and difficult problems while sound asleep. Go to bed thinking about the issue.

Did you know?

The common abbreviation for Christmas to Xmas is derived from the Greek alphabet. X is letter Chi, which is the first letter of Christ's name in the Greek alphabet.

Oliver Cromwell in England banned Christmas Carols between 1649 and 1660. Cromwell thought that Christmas should be a very solemn day so he banned carols and parties. The only celebration was by a sermon and a prayer service.

In 1937, the first postage stamp to commemorate Christmas was issued in Austria.

In 1834, Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, brought the first Christmas tree to Windsor Castle for the Royal family.

The actual gift givers are different in various countries:

Spain and South America: The Three Kings
Italy: La Befana (a kindly old witch)
England: Father Christmas
France: Pere Noel (Father Christmas)
Russia: In some parts - Babouschka (a grandmotherly figure)
Other parts it is Grandfather Frost.
Germany: Christkind (angelic messenger from Jesus)
She is a beautiful fair haired girl with a shining crown of candles.
Scandinavia: a variety of Christmas gnomes. One is called Julenisse.
Holland: St Nicholas.

The first American Christmas carol was written in 1649 by a minister named John de Brebeur.

Alice Cooper was born on Dec. 25.

Humphrey Bogart died on Dec. 25.

Santa's reindeers are Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen.

Holiday treats on a budget



Krispy Kreme in Greenville will be offering a holiday take on their traditional doughnuts this year.

STAFF PHOTO | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

LAKEISHA GOODMAN
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Students are studying for exams and preparing to spend the holidays with loved ones. Many restaurants are doing their part to get everyone in the Christmas spirit by offering tasty and affordable holiday treats. Whether it's to take a break from studying or shopping, or just to celebrate the holidays with friends, be sure to check out the menus for special holiday delights.

For students who are in the library studying or in Mendenhall and Wright Plaza relaxing, stop by

Java City for special energy boosters. For about \$4 each, students can choose between a merriment white mocha and a gingerbread latte. The merriment white mocha is, of course, white mocha with a shot of espresso, peppermint and chocolate. The gingerbread latte has a shot of espresso and added gingerbread flavor.

Tonight, Todd and West End Dining Halls will have a special holiday dinner prepared for students. The menu will include: spicy roasted chicken, garlic and rosemary roasted potatoes, berry nice brisket, candied yams, eggnog and other holiday deserts. This will all be available for the cost of one

meal for students with a meal plan, \$7.40 for those without one.

Sonic Drive-In, which has three locations in Greenville, is now offering the sticky bun dough blast. If you like cinnamon buns, you will love this frozen treat. The sticky bun dough blast is a mixture of vanilla ice cream and bits of cinnamon bun, topped with whipped cream and an added sprinkle of cinnamon bun bits. The price for a regular is \$2.59 and a large is \$2.99.

Chick-Fil-A also has a frozen treat available for this holiday season. The peppermint chocolate chip shake has that delicious hand-spun homemade style taste with

the added flavor of chocolate and peppermint. Each cup costs \$2.89 and comes with whipped cream and a cherry on top.

For the holiday variation of a dessert many love, Krispy Kreme has a holiday assortment of doughnuts this year. From regular glazed with red and green sprinkles to snow man shaped cream-filled doughnuts, everyone is sure to find something tasty, at only about 90 cents each.

The Tippy Teapot, located in downtown Greenville on Evans Street, will turn their usual Wednesday brunches into a Christmas spread the week before Christmas. The menu and decorations will all

have a Christmas theme.

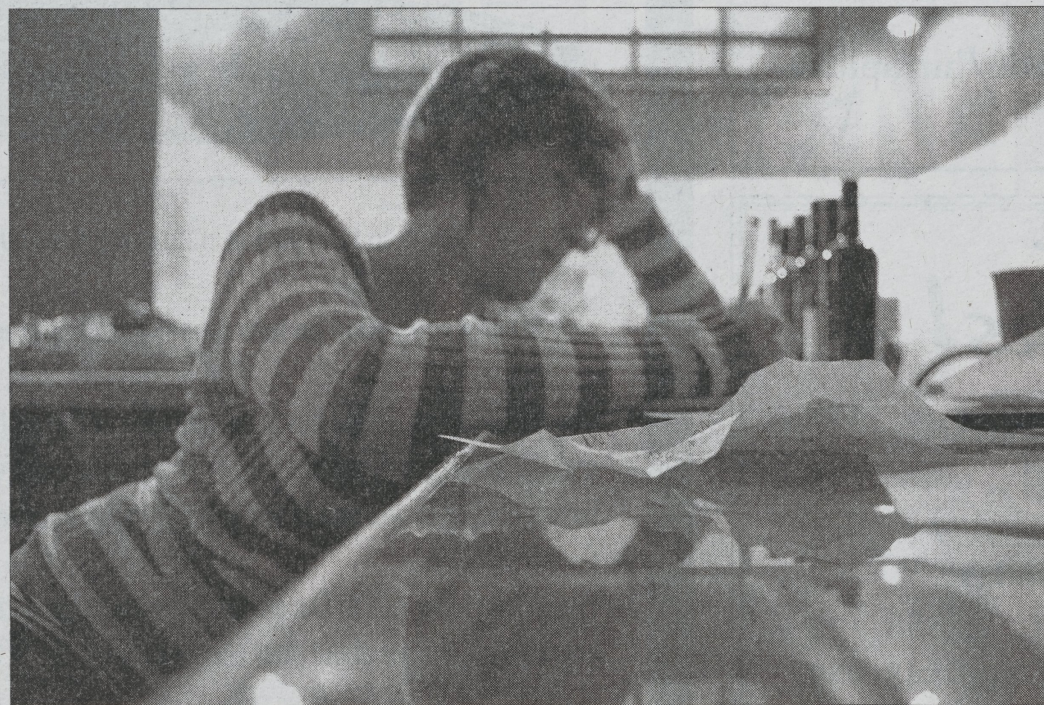
For students who want to satisfy those holiday cravings at the wee hours of the morning, even IHOP has added some items to their menu. Throughout the season there will be an extra availability and variety of turkey and ham on the menu.

There are many other restaurants that offer special dishes throughout the holiday season, so grab some Christmas cheer. Better yet, spread the holiday cheer and treat someone else.

Happy Holidays!

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

A slacker's guide to exam prep Bundle up in style



AILEEN DEVLIN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Student Sherri Allen prepares for an upcoming exam.

RJ WEBB
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Relieving stress around exam can be a tough thing to accomplish—with eight page paper due Wednesday and two exams on Friday, it's hard to find time to sleep or even eat. But there is hope.

Here are a few things that can help you stay sane during exams:

The No. 1 thing is to prepare for your test days before the actual exam. Doing so will give you more confidence and make it easier to study the night before.

If No. 1 isn't your style and you like to cram the night before, then No. 2 might be a better choice. Spend the week before the exam hanging out with friends and completely ignoring the test coming up. Play video games, eat cheese puffs etc. Then the night before the exam, pop in a few Red Bulls and peanut chews and set sail for an hour or two of straight studying—that is, before you crash. Maybe you should have tried one of those power energy shots, but it's too late now for you to run to the store and you don't have the energy. What is a slacking student to do? Well, if you wait until the night before the exam, this is likely to

> SLACKERS page A6



STAFF PHOTO | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Scarves and big bags are in this season.

AKELA YARN
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

While winter doesn't officially start until Dec. 21, Black Friday (the Friday after Thanksgiving) officially kicked off the holiday shopping season this year. Holiday sales are the perfect time to stock up on the necessities. Here are some fashion trends and ideas for the season.

Accessorize

This year, accessorize, accessorize, accessorize. Designers and clothing stores are leaning toward warm and colorful accessories, like scarves and gloves for both men and women.

Women can't go wrong with bold and big. For jewelry: big earrings, big bracelets, layering of necklaces and big purses are trendy. For men simple is better—watches, stylish hats and scarves are always popular.

By far the biggest trend this season is scarves. This affordable and versatile trend can be found just about anywhere and come in a variety of textures, colors styles and prints.

Economize

TJ Maxx's new motto is fitting for this year's holiday shopping experience: "Economize. Don't compromise." When it comes to trend shopping, shop smart but do not settle for poor quality. When

shopping, consider thrift stores such as Goodwill or the Salvation Army as an alternative to higher end stores. Other stores to consider for great buys at low prices are Wal-Mart, Target, TJ Maxx and Ross.

Layer-ize

For a casual look layer up with layers. Scoop neck T-shirts and turtlenecks are stylish for men. Women can go with a V-necks and scoop necks. Pair with jeans for a comfortable and warm way to stay in style. When looking at jeans, women should go darker and skinny while men should go rugged and dingy this year.

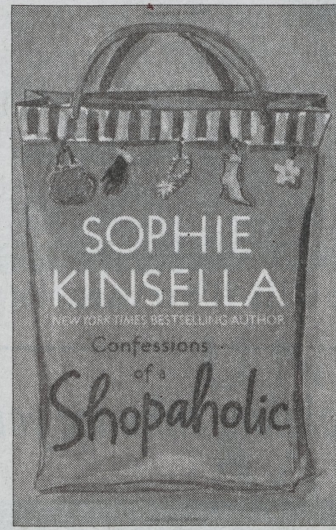
For men, leather jackets, puffy vests and blazers are fashionable. For women, plaid and houndstooth pea coats, boyfriend cardigans and chunky sweaters are a necessity for staying warm. These trendy must-haves can be found anywhere from Wal-Mart to New York & Company. This year, fur lined jackets are in for men and women.

"For men the destroyed jean look is in and for women skinny jeans," said Ally Braxton, an American Eagle employee in Greenville.

Leggings with chunky sweaters are also a huge trend this season.

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

Comic relief in time of economic turmoil



AMAZON.COM

Sophie Kinsella brings obsession and comedy together

KATIE TAYLOR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Rebecca Bloomwood loves to shop. She does not buy things out of necessity but as a means of feeding her shopping addiction. Purchasing designer clothing and expensive accessories on a middle class income causes Rebecca's credit cards to max out and her bank account to flounder. Written by former finance expert, Sophie Kinsella, *Confessions of a Shopaholic* is a comic novel about a

young Englishwoman whose love for shopping puts her in debt and close to financial ruin.

The irony of the tale is that, like the author, Rebecca is an employee for a finance company. Rebecca's inner conflict between facing her debts—and hiding from them—reflects a very real fear faced by people today. However, Kinsella manages to spin Rebecca's hilarious story with lovable characters and amusing situations. The author's ability to weave light, entertaining passages with the drama of the personal finance world will have readers breezing through the book's pages

> COMIC page A6

SLACKERS continued from A5

happen. So plan ahead get the right supplements and snacks. No. 2 is the most stressful option, but it limits the stress to one all-night cram session.

So you have been studying for three hours now and you feel that if you read one more article or complete another round of note cards your face will melt like the Nazi from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. It's probably time for a break. Make it at least 30 minutes, because if you go beyond that you are likely to give up for the night. Stop, breathe, get some caffeine and glue your eyeballs to those dreaded note cards.

Music is another thing that can relieve the stress. While on your break, pop those buds in your ear and listen to that playlist titled, "I waited until the last

minute to study yet I still had time to make a playlist." Listen to a few tracks and relax and try to let the information sink in without thinking too heavily about the material. Now you are ready to spend another two hours before repeating your break. If you are pulling an all-nighter, the best thing to do is to bring a pillow and blanket to the library and during your breaks take a snooze in a study room or couch in Joyner. Happy testing.

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

COMIC continued from A5

and wanting more upon reaching the end. The good news is there is much more of Rebecca's story for fans to enjoy. Just in time for Valentine's Day, *Confessions of a Shopaholic* will appear on the silver screen on Feb. 13, 2009. Although the setting has been altered by turning Rebecca into a New Yorker, the film promises to be a spectacular comedy. Starring Isla Fisher (*Wedding Crashers*, *Definitely/Maybe*) and Hugh Dancy (*The Jane Austen Book Club*, *Ella Enchanted*), The Internet Movie Database synopsis describes, "a college grad [who] lands a job as a financial journalist in New York City where she nurtures her shopping addiction and falls for a wealthy entre-

preneur." The movie is directed by P. J. Hogan and also features actors Joan Cusack and John Goodman who play the roles of Rebecca's parents.

In addition to the film and debut novel, fans of Rebecca Bloomwood can also read the rest of the Shopaholic series by Sophie Kinsella. These titles include: *Shopaholic Takes Manhattan*, *Shopaholic Ties the Knot*, *Shopaholic and Sister* and *Shopaholic and Baby*.

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

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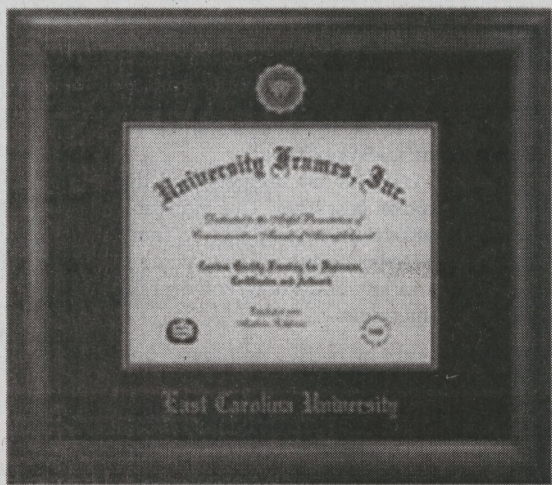
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Student Opinion of Instruction Survey (SOIS)
East Carolina University, Fall 2008

Ready to take part in improving your education?

Have a suggestion on how to make your courses even better?

The SOIS survey period has been extended to **December 3rd**! You can make a difference by completing your course evaluations in the SOIS and have a chance to win one of ten **\$50 gift cards** good at Best Buy!!!

From November 17th to December 3rd you will have the opportunity to voice your opinions about your classes through the SOIS under OneStop.



◆ Your constructive feedback is confidential and will be used to help improve courses here at ECU.

◆ If you complete a survey, you will be entered in a contest to win one of ten Best Buy **\$50 gift cards**!

◆ The more courses you evaluate, the better your chances at winning! Watch your email starting November 17th to take advantage of this great opportunity!

The subject line of the email will be "Please do the ECU Student Opinion of Instruction Survey (SOIS), Fall 2008, Reminder - (date sent)".

For more information, or questions and concerns regarding the survey, contact Chuck Rich at 328-9486 or via email at richc@ecu.edu.

Express your opinion, enhance your education!

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Available 1/1/09. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath end unit townhome located in Dudley's Grant subdivision on Fire Tower Road. This nice, quiet community is convenient to shopping, restaurants, movie theaters, ECU, PCC, and PCMH. Approximately 1460 square feet. Included appliances are refrigerator with ice maker, smooth top electric range with built-in microwave, garbage disposal, dishwasher, and a washer/dryer. Basic cable, water, and garbage pickup is also included in the monthly rent. The townhome also features mini blinds, hardwoods in foyer, crown moldings, and chair rail in living area, ceiling fan in each bedroom and living room, electric fireplace, spacious privacy fenced patio, designated parking, thermal windows and doors, and neutral paint and carpet throughout. No pets. Monthly rent is \$870. Call (252) 341-0223 or email pnblizzard@gmail.com for more information.

PLEASE CALL (252) 916-5680 FOR THE FOLLOWING 2 ADS: AD #1: WALK TO CLASS! 1 BLOCK FROM CAMPUS (NEXT TO ECU POLICE). 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT WITH HARDWOOD FLOORS AND CENTRAL HEAT/AC, WASHER/DRYER, DISHWASHER, HIGH-SPEED INTERNET, BASIC CABLE, WATER AND SEWER ALL INCLUDED. AVAILABLE JANUARY 1, 2009. ALSO ROOMMATE NEEDED FOR ONE UNIT (MALE OR FEMALE). CALL (252) 916-5680. AD #2: 5 OR 6 PEOPLE CAN LIVE COMFORTABLY (AND LEGALLY - IT'S A DUPLEX) IN THIS 2900 SQUARE FOOT HOUSE JUST BLOCKS FROM CAMPUS AND RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET FROM STARBUCKS COFFEE HOUSE. 2 FULL KITCHENS, 3 FULL BATHROOMS, 6 BEDROOMS (15' X 15' AVERAGE SIZE). CENTRAL HEAT/AC, WASHER/DRYER, AND DISHWASHER ALL PROVIDED. BASIC CABLE, HIGH-SPEED INTERNET, MONITORED ALARM SYSTEM, AND LAWN CARE ALL INCLUDED IN RENT. FENCED-IN YARD (SOME DOGS OK). CALL (252) 916-5680.

Short-term lease from January to July at "The Landing". \$440 a month. All inclusive. Call Katherine at 252-903-3933 for more details.

One bedroom plus bath available for sublease in a three bedroom, three bath house at 204 Eastern Street. Close to campus, back yard with deck, washer/dryer in home. Available for six month sublease by mid-December. \$300.00 per month plus utilities. Call Heidi at (252) 241-7549 or email HMD0827@ecu.edu.

Subleasing a one bedroom separate contract lease at The Bellamy! First two months rent FREE! All utilities included. If interested, please call 336-998-1846.

Spring Special! 1 bedroom apartments, 1 block from ECU. Newly renovated, walk-in closets, pet friendly. 1 month off rent. Short-term leases available. Reserve yours today. Available December. Call (252) 902-9278.

1089 Pine Drive. Winterville, Firetower to Corey Road. 3BR/2BA house, fenced yard, fireplace, \$1295, 252-341-4700.

One block from ECU. One and two bedroom very affordable apartments, private patios/balconies, on-site management, FREE cable, water and sewer, laundry facilities on site, pool, plenty of parking, Wi-Fi available. Green Mill Run Apartments. 252-758-2628.

110 West 11th: Near Starbucks on 10th. 2 Bedroom/1 bath with all utilities included from \$650. Washer, Dryer, and Central Heat/Air. Call 252-341-8331.

1606 S. Elm Street. Walking distance to ECU. 3BR/2BA house for rent, fenced yard, fireplace, 2 car garage, \$995, 252-341-4700.

Two bedrooms in an apartment

for short-term lease until the end of July 2009 at North Campus Crossing. Ready for move in ASAP. It's a two bedroom apartment but each bedroom is on individual lease. It has a private bath, walk-in closet, and washer/dryer. ALL utilities (water, cable, electricity, high-speed internet, etc.) are included in the monthly rent which is \$535. I will pay the subleasing fee, which is \$150, for you. Contact McKenzie Allen at 919-222-9044, or email her at rmallen3654@yahoo.com.

3BR house (909 Forbes Street) located directly across the street from campus and the Rec Center. Available 1/1/09 for \$775. Excellent condition with a large covered front porch, newly installed full privacy fenced-in backyard, built in custom cabinets and book shelves, hardwood floors, new vinyl windows and new insulation recently added. All appliances with washer/dryer are included. View at www.carolinahomesecu.com or contact us for a showing at 252-327-4433. Announcement: Carolina Homes will begin showing and pre-leasing houses available for rent in the summer and fall of 2009 in February. Our quality houses are all within walking distance to campus and offer privacy, convenience, and value for ECU students and faculty residing near campus. If you are interested in receiving a priority reservation for one of our homes in advance, you can view our homes at www.carolinahomesecu.com and make a selection of your choice in advance. You may contact us with questions at 252-327-4433 or email jtant@suddenlink.net.

Stratford Villas. 3 BR, 3 BA house available next semester. Short-term lease available. Located across from baseball stadium on ECU bus route. Call Jennifer at 252-561-6292.

For Rent: Newly renovated house walking distance to stores and college. Washer and dryer. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Fenced-in backyard. \$690. Call 252-327-9667.

For Rent: Large house walking distance to stores and college. Washer and dryer, 2 baths, 3 bedrooms. \$900. Call 252-327-9667.

For Rent: 2 bedroom duplex, 1 bath, 2 bedrooms. Walking distance to stores and college. \$425. Call 252-327-9667.

Large house fenced in back yard. Walking distance to stores and college. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath. \$750. Call 252-327-9667.

102 N. Jarvis: Four blocks from campus/downtown. 3 Bedroom/1 bath for \$650. Great student location. Call 252-341-8331.

3 Bedroom for 2 Bedroom price (\$650/month - 1028 S. Meade Street). 3 blocks from campus with fenced backyard, washer/dryer, dishwasher, and lawn service included. Call 252-327-4433.

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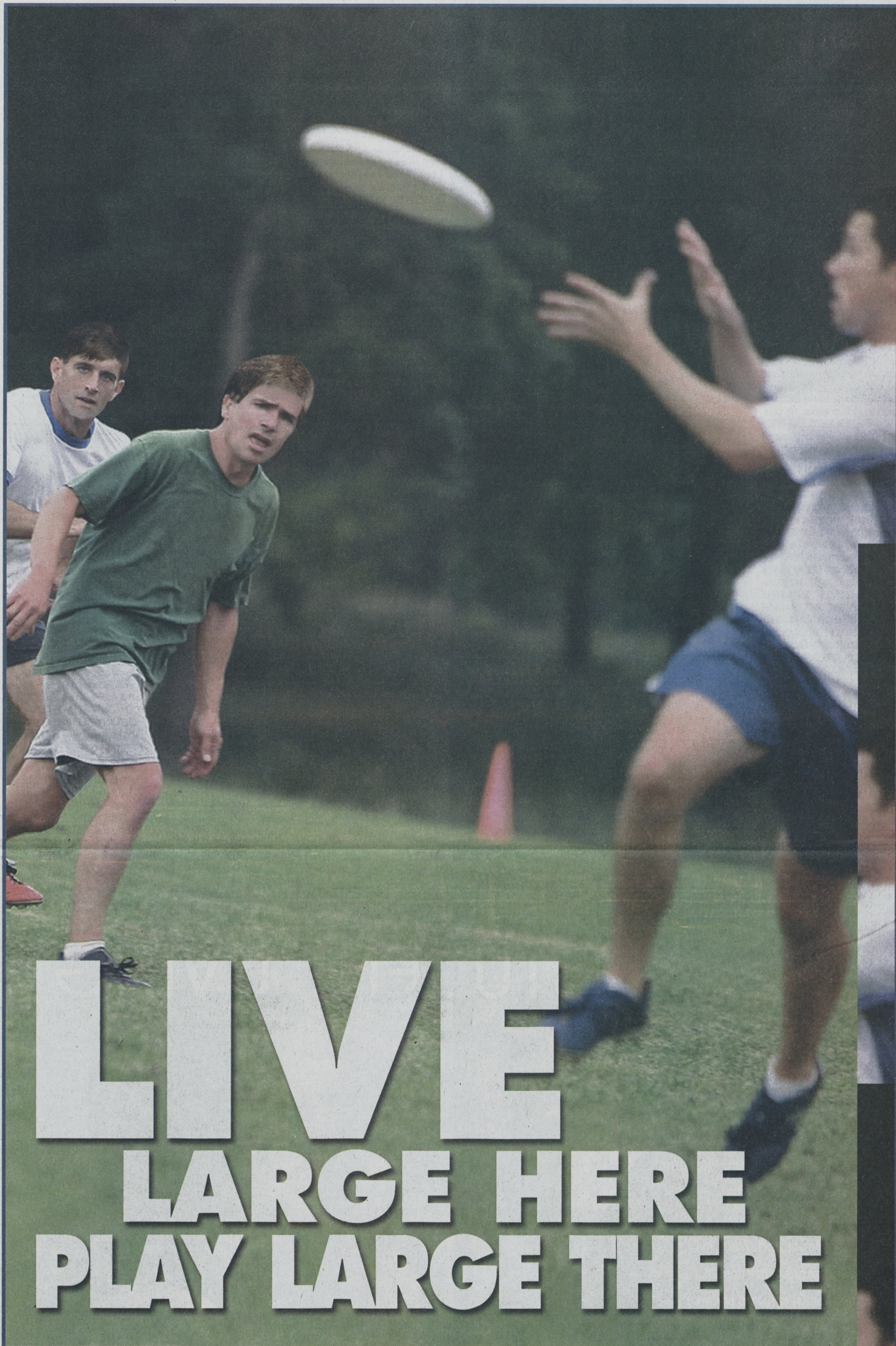


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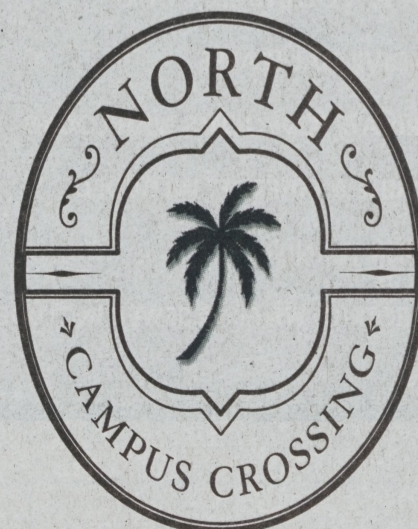
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Sports

{ ECU's Inside Source }



Most Valuable Pirate



Brandon Simmons

ECU senior running back Brandon Simmons had his best game as a Pirate in a 53-21 win over UTEP on Senior Day in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium this past Saturday. The Newton Grove, N.C. native rushed for three touchdowns and 111 yards on 27 carries—all career-highs. Simmons also had one reception for a seven-yard touchdown with 22 seconds remaining in the first half. In the opening half alone, he scored three of his four touchdowns to help ECU hold a 30-7 advantage at the half.

"For Brandon to go out there and have the game of his career, I'm really proud of him and all that he accomplished. We wanted to run down hill and really utilize him in this game and I thought he did an excellent job."
—Skip Holtz

The Turning Point

Already leading 17-0, ECU junior linebacker Nick Johnson picked off a Trevor Vittatoe pass on the Pirates' 14-yard line as UTEP was preparing to score. Johnson returned the interception to the ECU 20-yard line. The Pirates then used an eight-play, 80-yard drive capped off by a Brandon Simmons 6-yard touchdown run to take a 24-0 lead. Johnson's interception and the resulting drive turned a possible 17-7 lead in the 24-point one—a 14-point swing.

The Key Stat

0

Number of times ECU had to punt against UTEP. The game marked the first time that ECU had not registered a punt in a game since a 1983 contest against Florida State. The Pirates played their most complete game of the season and perhaps the Skip Holtz era, in dominating UTEP. ECU piled up a season-high 475 yards of total offense against the Miners and led the time of possession battle—possessing the ball almost 39 minutes. ECU scored on 9-of-10 drives on the afternoon, with five touchdowns and four field goals.

Final C-USA Standings

East

ECU 6-2
Memphis 4-4
Southern Miss 4-4
UAB 3-5
UCF 3-5
Marshall 3-5

West

*Tulsa 7-1
Rice 7-1
Houston 6-2
UTEP 4-4
Tulane 1-7
SMU 0-8

*Owns tiebreaker over Rice



Pirate offense explodes on Senior Day

TRAVIS BARTLETT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Brandon Simmons (25) powers past a UTEP defender for one of his four touchdowns scored at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

ECU wins regular season finale

KELLEN HOLTZMAN
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU continued to overcome a growing list of inactive players with an impressive regular season finale. With the Conference USA East Division title already in its possession, the Pirates jumped out to a 24-0 lead and never looked back in a dominant 53-21 win over UTEP on Friday.

Getting his team to the conference championship game has been a much more difficult process than ECU coach Skip Holtz thought it would be. Holtz will lead the Pirates into Oklahoma this Saturday for a title date with Tulsa.

"I think I am more proud

of this football team for what they have accomplished and the adversity they have gone through had I been had we stayed healthy and gone undefeated," said Holtz.

The Miners (5-7, 4-4) finally got on the board late in the second quarter when running back Terrell Jackson broke loose for a 28-yard touchdown to cut the lead to 24-7. ECU (8-4, 6-2) answered with its longest kickoff return of the season, a 61-yard runback from unheralded freshman Michael Bowman.

Bowman's big run resulted in a short pass play to tailback Brandon Simmons, raising the Pirates' lead to 30-7 at the half. A Ben Hartman miss broke a streak of 77 consecutive made extra points.

Simmons led ECU with four total touchdowns in his final

game at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. The senior rushed for 115 yards and three touchdowns in addition to his 7-yard touchdown reception.

"I couldn't be more proud of Brandon Simmons and the attitude that he's had as a senior," Holtz said. "He played a little bit early and now Norman [Whitley] has kind of taken the thunder. He got his opportunity today on Senior Day and he ran the ball 27 times. He ran physical. He ran hard. I thought he really did a nice job."

Whitley had a noteworthy performance as well, rushing for 79 yards on just 12 carries.

The scoring explosion was a pleasant surprise for an offense that has only scored 30 points one time this season and hadn't scored 40 points, let alone 50 points this season.

Quarterback Patrick Pinkney went 17-for-23 and threw for 228 yards and two touchdowns on the afternoon.

"It feels great," Pinkney said of the Senior Day performance. "At the same time, we could have been doing that all year. It's all about execution and we did that today. The offensive line played great today. I don't think I hit the ground one time today."

Not only was Pinkney not sacked, but the offense did not punt or give away any turnovers.

Simmons' big day began when he opened the scoring for the Pirates in the first quarter with a 12-yard touchdown run. He scored from close range once in the second quarter and again in the third.

Simmons acknowledged the defense for picking up the slack

for the sputtering offense this season.

"We really thank the defense for being patient with us because they have been playing their tails off for the past few weeks," he said. "We really owe them because without them we wouldn't have won the games that we have won."

Holtz used the game as an opportunity to build depth on both sides of the ball, as the Pirates continue to cope with injuries and suspensions.

The receiving corps had a breakout game as Dwayne Harris, T.J. Lee and Jamar Bryant all remained absent. Freshman Darryl Freney led the way with five catches for 106 yards and one touchdown. Pinkney found Freney in the first quarter for a

> SENIOR DAY page B3

ECU records important last-minute wins

KELLEN HOLTZMAN
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

When coach Mack McCarthy took the reigns of the ECU men's basketball program, wins over VCU and Winthrop were anything but a given. Just one season into his regime, McCarthy's team continues to prove things aren't what they used to be.

After losing a closely contested battle last Saturday with George Mason, 77-71, the Pirates bounced back with victories over the Rams and the Eagles. ECU held off VCU's Eric Maynor in

a 93-90 overtime thriller before knocking off Winthrop, 63-60, in Rock Hill, S.C.

Sam Hinnant clinched the big win over the Eagles with 1:07 remaining when he scored two of his 19 points to give the Pirates a 61-60 lead.

After Winthrop failed to regain the lead, a layup from point guard Brock Young gave ECU a three-point advantage with 25 seconds left. Jontae Sherrod grabbed the game-securing rebound on the ensuing possession.

The Pirates continued to get solid play in the post from Dar-

rius Morrow and Chad Wynn. Morrow put up 13 points and seven rebounds while Wynn came up just short of a double-double with nine points and 10 boards.

The Eagles built a 27-16 lead in the first half before ECU put together a 15-5 run to close the margin to 32-31 at halftime.

The Pirates never led by more than six in a second half that featured five ties and seven lead changes.

Last Tuesday's tilt with VCU was even more nail-biting.

After a three-pointer from Maynor tied the game with 1:43

left in overtime, Morrow went 1-for-2 at the charity stripe to give ECU a 91-90 lead.

The Rams turned to their stud, Maynor, a product of Westover High School in Raeford, N.C. Despite a 35-point performance, Maynor's heroics came to a conclusion when he was called for a charge in the lane on Hinnant.

"That was a heck of a basketball game," said McCarthy. "I knew VCU would play a heck of a basketball game, but I wasn't sure if we were ready to play that caliber of game or not. You don't know how a young team is going to respond to their first loss. The

guys appeared to take it pretty hard and then focus on what we had to do."

ECU led by eight with less than three minutes to play in regulation, but the Rams put themselves in position to tie the game with less than a minute to play. Maynor drove into the lane and found Larry Sanders for an emphatic alley-oop dunk to knot the score at 82.

ECU had five players reach double-figures, led by James Legan with 20 points. Legan also led the team with four three-

> RECORDS page B2

RECORDS continued from B1

pointers. Legan's backcourt partner Hinnant finished with 18 in addition to drawing the crucial charge. Hinnant also converted a crucial four-point play in overtime when he was fouled, shooting from long range.

VCU coach Anthony Grant had high praise for Legan and Hinnant.

"VCU has two of the best shooters in college basketball in how they can rise up and make tough shots," said Grant. "It's not like they're not being guarded and are wide open. They are making tough, contested shots. Hinnant's four-point play was huge. That was a big shot and a great individual play by him."

Young frequently found himself one-on-one with Maynor and made the most of his opportunities, putting forth perhaps his best effort as a Pirate. The sophomore notched a double-double in true point guard fashion, with 17 points and 11 assists.

Steady play from Young made it much easier for Morrow and sophomore Daquan Joyner to contribute. Morrow pulled down a double-double with 16 points and 12 rebounds while Joyner showed flashes of his future in a 12-point performance.

But it was the duo's physical presence that pleased their coach the most.

"In the second half they were hurting us on the backboard, and Daquan Joyner and Darrius Morrow went in and just changed

the game completely by allowing them only one shot on four, five or six possessions in a row," McCarthy said.

ECU got off to a sluggish start as the Rams built an early 27-15 lead, but Joyner kept the Pirates in the game in the first half, leading all scorers with 12 points. Joyner scored the last five points of the half to cut VCU's lead to 37-33.

The Pirates weren't as fortunate when 2006 national semifinalist George Mason took the Minges Coliseum floor to hand ECU its first loss of the season.

A Morrow layup got the Pirates within two points at 73-71 with 19 seconds remaining before the Patriots finished off the game with clutch free throw shooting.

Hinnant led all scorers with 27 points. Wynn chipped in with 11 points in 19 minutes played.

"I knew they were going to come in and play hard," said Hinnant. "They made a lot of shots and came out with a win. Every time it felt like we were getting a little bit of a lead, they came down and made a three-pointer. It seems like they just had it tonight, and hopefully, we'll have nights like that too."

Louis Birdsong and Andre Cornelius led George Mason with 19 points apiece.

The two teams went back and forth for the duration of the game, combining for a lofty 21 made three point shots.



NICHOLAS THIGPEN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
Jamar Abrams tries to dunk over a VCU defender.

ECU looks to improve its record against the CAA to 2-1 as it makes the short trip east to face rival UNCW tomorrow.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com

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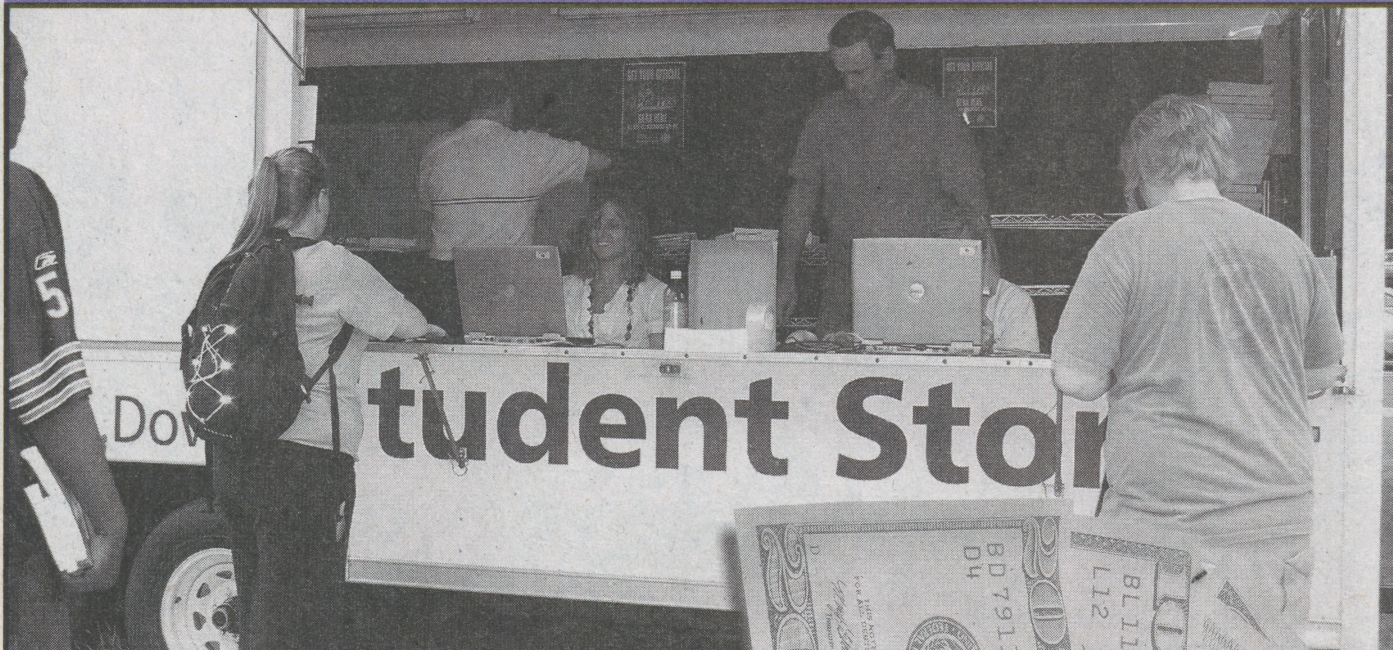
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Big 12 creates more BCS controversy

AP

A week before the final standings are released, and the Bowl Championship Series is already ticking people off.

Oklahoma — not Texas — is headed to the Big 12 championship game with an inside track to the national title game by moving ahead of the Longhorns in the BCS standings Sunday.

Texas' victory against the Sooners in October wasn't enough to give the Longhorns the advantage in a three-way tie between the Red River rivals and Texas Tech atop the Big 12 South. And that's sure to leave many in Austin dismayed.

The Big 12 had to use its fifth tiebreaker, best BCS rating, to determine which team will play North winner Missouri on Saturday in Kansas City, Mo.

The Sooners (11-1), who lost to Texas 45-35 in October, barely edged the Longhorns. Oklahoma has a .9351 BCS average. Texas' BCS average

is .9223.

Oklahoma was a point ahead of Texas in the *USA Today* coaches' poll and six points behind the Longhorns in the Harris Interactive. The computer ratings preferred the Sooners, and that made the difference.

"They don't have agendas, they don't have loyalties, they don't have opinions. They don't have all the bias that everyone else does," said Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops. "And if you say no one else does, then I don't think you're really being truthful."

So the Longhorns will be watching two teams they beat play for the conference title, rooting for Missouri. Oklahoma is second in the BCS standings behind unbeaten Alabama. Texas is third and Florida is fourth.

The winner of the Southeastern Conference championship game between the Crimson Tide and Gators is virtually guaranteed a spot in the BCS national title game on Jan. 8 in Miami.

Oklahoma would earn the other spot by beating Missouri.

If the Sooners lose, it could open the door for Texas to go to the national title game, despite not playing for its conference championship.

The Sooners were behind Texas last week in the BCS standings by a tiny margin. The Sooners actually led the Longhorns in the polls, but a week ago the computers had Texas ahead of Oklahoma.

After the Sooners' 61-41 victory Saturday night against Oklahoma State — 14th in the latest standings — and the Longhorns' 49-9 win over lowly Texas A&M on Thanksgiving night, the polls tightened but the computers flipped.

The strength of the Big 12 South led to this new BCS controversy, with the top three teams in the conference each finishing 11-1.

After beating Oklahoma and jumping to No. 1 in the polls, Texas (11-1) lost at Texas Tech 39-33 on Nov. 1. The Red Raiders (11-1), No. 2 at the time, then lost at

Oklahoma 65-21 on Nov. 22.

Texas coach Mack Brown has stopped short of supporting a playoff, saying only that the BCS is flawed. Brown also lamented the Big 12's tiebreaker system, which removed the head-to-head element.

In the SEC, a similar three-way division tie would be settled by eliminating the lowest rated team in the BCS standings, then reverting back to head-to-head results between the remaining teams.

But ultimately, the Longhorns' victory against Oklahoma couldn't trump the Sooners' surge over the past two months. Oklahoma has scored at least 60 points in its past four games, and has won its past five games by at least 20 points each.

Though it's not as if Texas has been struggling down the stretch. The Longhorns' only loss of the season came on a Graham Harrell-to-Michael Crabtree touchdown pass with one second left in the game.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oklahoma will play in Saturday's Big 12 Championship game.

SENIOR DAY continued from B1

32-yard touchdown strike over the middle to give ECU a 14-0 lead.

Fellow freshman Joe Womack also continued to impress with four catches for 39 yards.

Defensively, ECU continued to plug holes as linebacker Pierre Bell sat out due to lingering effects from a concussion suffered the week before.

Senior safety J.J. Millbrook praised the underclassmen for filling in for injured players like Bell, Quentin Cotton and Jerek Hewett.

"Next year when we're gone, they will be in our shoes," Millbrook said. "I'm very proud of our young boys who stepped in and made plays and I hope they keep it up."

The Pirate defense kept highly regarded UTEP quarterback Trevor Vittatoe under pres-

sure all day long, forcing four sacks and three interceptions.

"I thought our seniors really stepped up and did a great job for their last time in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium," Holtz said. "This is a special class and these guys have accomplished an awful lot."

ECU continued to pour it on the Miners coming out of halftime when a Simmons run made it 37-7. Hartman nailed a long-range, 48-yard field goal with three minutes left in the third quarter to extend the lead. Hartman finished a perfect 4-for-4 on the day.

UTEP scored a late touchdown to make it 46-21 before Alex Taylor returned a botched Miner squib kick for a 40-yard touchdown return.

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

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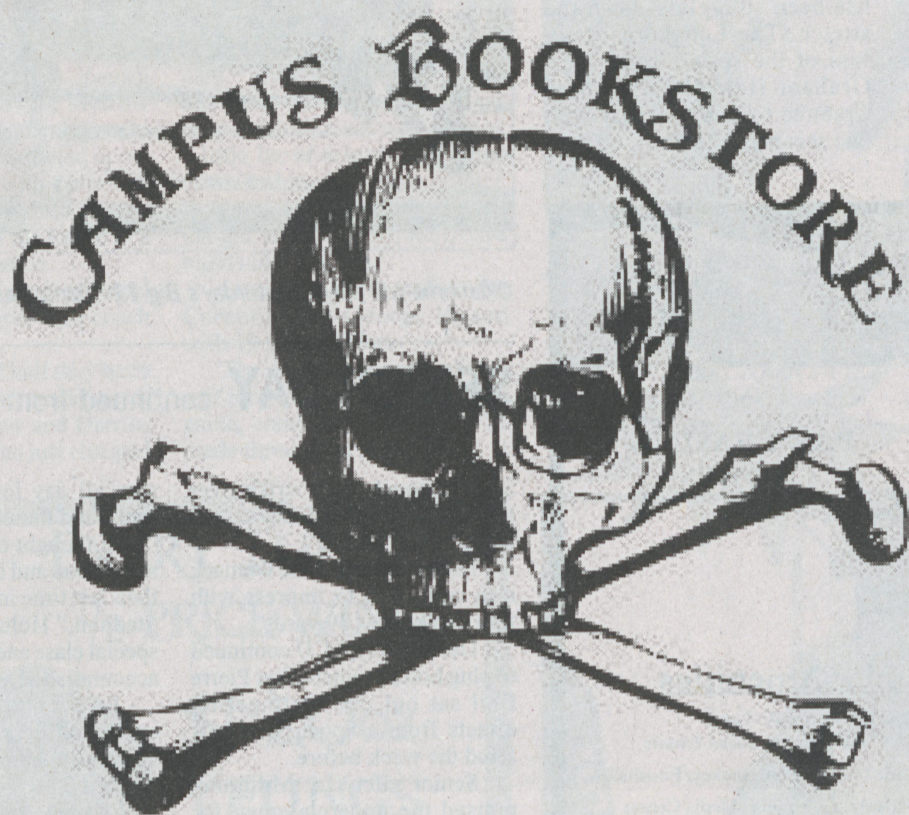
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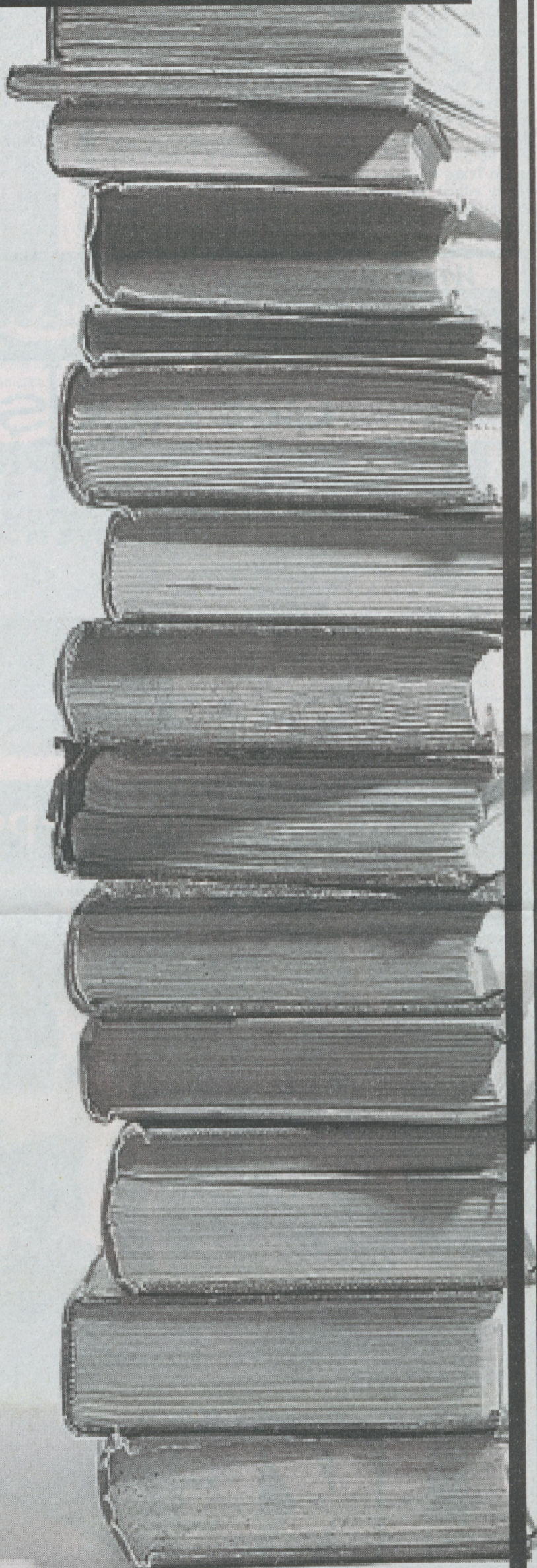
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