

## INSIDE

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HELLO 2010!** **A5**

**SPORTS:** Who's going to win this weekend's NFL game? Turn to sports to find out. **A7**

## BRIEFS

**Volunteers sacrifice vacation for good cause**

### Staff Reports

While many ECU students will be enjoying their day off on Jan. 18 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, over 100 ECU students will be volunteering their time for the MLK Challenge. Hosted by the Volunteer and Service Learning Center, the MLK Challenge seeks to bring students together to volunteer for service projects at local organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, where volunteers will be assisting the children with MLK-themed art projects.

According to Jessica Gagne Cloutier, the service learning coordinator for the VSLC, ECU has been participating in the MLK Challenge since 2003. Gagne Cloutier stated that since the project's inception on ECU's campus, the number of volunteers has greatly increased.

"The first year, we had about 30 to 40 volunteers," she said, "but now we average over 100."

Gagne Cloutier explained that the VSLC has never had any issues with trying to recruit volunteers and that they usually have students e-mailing at the last minute looking for open spots. According to Gagne Cloutier, the students also seem to really enjoy the experience of volunteering for the MLK Challenge, even if it is during their day off from school. "We do evaluations and reflections at the end of the project and we have really positive feedback," she said. "Students really enjoy the message of MLK Day. We use the tag line, 'A day on, not a day off.'"

She also stated that the project sites really appreciate that students are willing to help and that most of the organizations, such as the Humane Society, have participated in the MLK Challenge in the past. Shawn Moore, the community partner coordinator for VSLC, stated that ECU first implemented the MLK Challenge on its campus as the VSLC became aware of this event on other campuses and that "the Center staff thought this activity would be a great, meaningful addition to the existing MLK Day events happening on campus."

### ECUSTA Service Announcements

Based on ridership data and feedback from passengers, ECU Transit Authority has made the following changes to service routes for spring 2010:

--401 Purple will return to departing on the hour and half-hour from Christenbury Gym to ease parking logistics and conflicts with class schedules. All stop times have been adjusted to 10 minutes earlier to reflect the change.

--507 Copper Beech will be relocated to the Speight bus hub on the 5th Street side of campus. No other service changes are expected.

--610 Minges Express will no longer operate.

--All 900-series Pirate Express shuttles will end one round earlier; individual schedule will vary, but most last rounds will begin at 2:30 a.m.

### 2010 Pirate Football Signing Day Party

#### Staff Reports

Join fellow Pirate Club Members for the announcement of the 2010 Pirate Football Recruiting Class. The event will be February 3, 2010 at the Harvey Hall in the Murphy Center. The price is \$15 per person and is only available to 2009 Pirate Club Members or 2010 Pirate Club Member. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m. Uncle Yammy's Rib Shack will cater the event. Coach Holtz will present the 2010 Pirate Football Recruiting Class with a highlight video. To purchase your tickets, please call the ECU Pirate Club at (252) 737-4540 or visit [www.ecupirateclub.com](http://www.ecupirateclub.com)

## WEB POLL

**DO YOU FAVOR THE NEW CHICK-FIL-A LOCATION?**

**YES**

**NO**

Check out [twitter.com/ecunews](http://twitter.com/ecunews) and our fan page on [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

**twitter**

# The East Carolinian

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YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925



Joe Almquist and Michelle Valley stepping out into the cold weather to walk their three dogs.

## Students fight the cold, wait for spring

**Cassie McLean**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

With the cold weather comes an influx of runny noses, dry skin and lack of motivation. Some students seem to fall into a rut, relying on television and comfort foods to pull them through the winter.

On campus, this feeling seems to be consistent. Following a string of cold temperatures, with an average low of 31 degrees the past month, it seems students are simply waiting out the freezing temperatures in hopes of warmer weather.

The effects of the cold weather seem to run far and wide. Many students complain they miss the enjoyment of outdoor sports. Running, golf and pick-up football games are all suffering. Other students complain it is hard to find the motivation to workout.

"When it's cold, I just don't even want to leave my apartment," said ECU freshman Josie Chatman. "I feel tired all the time." She also noted it was harder to get to class these days.

Patrick Mickey, also a freshman, noted his pet peeve in this weather.

"It's so hard to get dressed. You

wear 50 layers and then you get to class and you're hot," he said.

Additionally, there is a normal and expected increase in sickness this time of year. While Student Health reports cases of the H1N1 flu have substantially subsided, there is still the usual increase in the common cold.

Nurse Manager Ellen Goldberg at Student Health Services didn't attribute the sickness to the cold necessarily, but rather to the indoor, sedentary lifestyle of students this time of year.

"When you're indoors and cooped up, germs spread

easier. Everyone's huddled in a Starbucks studying instead of laying out in the sun, getting away from others," she said.

As a reminder to sick students, Shawnte McMillan, Health Educator at Student Health Services wanted to remind students of both the convenience and affordability of the center. Students can make appointments online starting at 5 a.m., in person or on the phone.

On the contrary, McMillan forewarned against students who always expect a prescription

> **WEATHER** page A2



ECU student Cynda Brown waits for her ride inside the warmth of Jenkins Fine Arts Center.



**Rose-Marie Philogene, a native of Haiti, holds an undated photograph of her family and friends at their home in Haiti, Wednesday, January 13, 2010, at her home in Norristown, Pennsylvania. Philogene is among many local Haitians waiting word from relatives in Haiti since the earthquake on Tuesday.**

## Haiti earthquake

### Associated Press

Dazed survivors wandered past dead bodies in rubble-strewn streets Wednesday, crying for loved ones, and rescuers searched collapsed buildings as officials feared the death toll from Haiti's devastating earthquake could reach into the tens of thousands.

The first cargo planes with food, water, medical supplies, shelter and sniffer dogs headed to the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation a day after the magnitude-7 quake flattened much of the capital of 2 million people.

Tuesday's earthquake brought down buildings great and small — from shacks in shantytowns to President Rene Preval's gleaming white National Palace, where a dome tilted ominously above the manicured grounds.

Hospitals, schools and the main prison collapsed. The capital's Roman Catholic archbishop was killed when his office and the main cathedral fell. The head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission was

missing in the ruins of the organization's multistory headquarters.

At a triage center improvised in a hotel parking lot, people with cuts, broken bones and crushed ribs moaned under tent-like covers fashioned from bloody sheets.

"I can't take it any more. My back hurts too much," said Alex Georges, 28, who was still waiting for treatment a day after the school he was in collapsed and killed 11 classmates. A body lay a few feet away.

"This is much worse than a hurricane," said doctors' assistant Jimire Coquillon. "There's no water. There's nothing. Thirsty people are going to die."

Bodies were everywhere in Port-au-Prince: those of tiny children adjacent to schools, women in the rubble-strewn streets with stunned expressions frozen on their faces, men hidden beneath plastic tarps and cotton sheets.

> **HAITI** page A2

## Explosives spill into NC port

### Associated Press

Officials delayed reopening a North Carolina port Wednesday while crews continued to clean up a spill of the same type of explosive used in a Christmas Day airline bombing attempt.

No one was hurt when a forklift operator on Tuesday accidentally punctured containers of pentaerythritol tetranitrate, or PETN. Officials said nine containers were damaged and a small

amount of PETN leaked out. Officials said in a statement Wednesday that crews were observing the "utmost safety" in cleaning the spill. The port had been expected to open at 8 a.m. but officials did not set a new time after that target passed.

The Morehead City port is one of the deepest on the East Coast. Its Web site says its top import last year was sulfur products and the top export was phosphate. The port is one of two in North Carolina and handled 1.8 million tons of cargo in 2009. The Morehead City port employs 58 people who handled 118 ships and 415 barges in fiscal year 2009.

where in the U.S. it was headed. According to business directories, Maxam is an explosives manufacturer based in the town of Galdakao, near Bilbao, in Spain's northern Basque country. The company's Web site is down, though the small portion that does come up also identifies it as an explosives manufacturer.



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Officials said in a statement Wednesday that crews were observing the "utmost safety" in cleaning the spill. The port had been expected to open at 8 a.m. but officials did not set a new time after that target passed.

"The Ports Authority's goal is to reopen the Port of Morehead City as safely and as quickly as possible," said Thomas J. Eagar, North Carolina State Ports Authority CEO.

The cleanup is being performed under the direction of the U.S. Coast Guard.

PETN was part of a device authorities say a Nigerian man used to try to bring down a Detroit-bound Northwest flight on Christmas Day. It is often used

## Holtz watch: South Florida bound?

**Jared Jackson**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The football season for ECU might be over, but the pursuit of head coach Skip Holtz is still ongoing.

As early as Tuesday, reports began to circulate that Holtz was the lead candidate for the coaching vacancy at the University of South Florida.

"Obviously there is interest from the standpoint of the league that they play in, the Big East. My parents live here in Orlando and my wife is from Port Charlotte," Holtz was reported as saying in The Tampa Tribune. "We would have four grandparents right there."

"There are a lot of positives to it. I think it's definitely an up-and-coming program, so yeah, there would be interest," added Holtz, who owns a 38-27 record at ECU.

Holtz turned around ECU football from a three win program between 2003-04 to a non-Bowl Championship Series powerhouse that has been to four-straight bowl games and captured back-to-back Conference USA Championships.

"I've said this before. I have a great situation in Greenville," Holtz also told The Tampa Tribune. "I work for a great man in (athletic director) Terry Holland, and I have a great situation. We've spent five years building that program where it is right now, but I would have interest in talking to South Florida."

It is not known what influence the vacancy left by Lane Kiffin (bolting Tennessee to Southern California) will have on Holtz's



ultimate decision.

Tennessee is viewed by the collegiate football world as a contingent to be among one of the best programs in the nation, and Holtz's name has also appeared in early reports as being a candidate for the opening.

But for whoever takes over at USF, Holtz believes the job would be very beneficial to the new coach.

"I think that could be a great

job," Holtz told The Tampa Tribune. "Why? You're in a BCS conference, you're in the state of Florida where you have so many great athletes and you're at a beautiful school in South Florida. You live in Tampa and you play in Raymond James Stadium. I mean, what more do you want?"

This writer can be contacted at [sports@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:sports@theeastcarolinian.com).

## ECU cuts energy, saves money

### Staff Reports

ECU has recently made energy-related changes across the campus in order to meet state budget constraints, comply with energy use laws and to take part in the UNC system's climate neutrality by 2050 plan.

The plans included the installation of low-flow equipment in

faucets and toilets across campus and the replacement of traditional light bulbs with compact fluorescents and LEDs. The staff is also working to keep lights off during off-hours. Additionally, heating and cooling systems are being adjusted to 78 degrees in the summer and 66 degrees in the winter.

Most recently, and to the upset of many, the hot water was shut

off in administrative and classroom buildings. This change alone could save the university \$120,000-150,000 a year.

Consideration will be taken when dealing with buildings that have special demands.

Bill Bagnell, Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Operations, said these changes were permanent.

## Pirates strip down for 14th Annual Polar Bear Plunge

### Staff Reports

The 2010 Polar Bear Plunge will be held at 7 p.m. Jan. 21 at the Student Recreation Center. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. on SRC court number one and student participants should bring their OneCard to sign up.

All jumpers are encouraged to bring canned food items to "Feed the Bear." All donations will be going to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. Students donating food items will receive two raffle tickets.

The raffle will begin at approximately 8:15 p.m. and prizes will

include a \$150 Dowdy Student Stores gift certificate. The first 500 jumpers will receive a T-shirt.

The event is sponsored by Campus Recreation & Wellness, Campus Living & Dining and University Unions.

All ECU students, faculty and staff are invited to participate.

## WEATHER continued from A1

saying, "When students have the common cold, they often expect antibiotics. These things have to run their natural course. They can come in, though, and get their Mucinex or VapoRub for much cheaper than the drug stores. We sell over-the-counter as well as prescription medications."

As a way to save money, gas and time, students are encouraged to stop by Student Health if the cold weather leaves them feeling ill.

On a positive note, Director of Parent and Student Services Stephen Gray highlights the positive in the cold weather.

"Temperatures do keep students indoors — which builds stronger campus communities. Students may hangout longer, study longer, get the semester started off right. It is also an opportunity to wrap up in

that new Snuggie they got as a gift, with a good book," he said.

Encouraging students to take advantage of some of the unique activities only offered this time of year, Gray said, "We had 587 students jump in the outdoor pool last year for the Polar Bear Plunge. Next Thursday evening at 7 p.m. we will be celebrating our 14th year. Be a part of this growing festive event. Don't waste the warmth of friends when it is cold. Seek them out and start off the Perfect 10 [2010]."

In the meantime, students seem to continue pushing through these last few months of bitter cold and look forward to long-awaited spring break.

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## HAITI

continued from A1

Haiti's leaders struggled to comprehend the extent of the catastrophe — the worst earthquake to hit the country in 200 years — even as aftershocks still reverberated.

"It's incredible," Preval told CNN. "A lot of houses destroyed, hospitals, schools, personal homes. A lot of people in the street dead. ... I'm still looking to understand the magnitude of the event and how to manage."

Preval said thousands of people were probably killed. Leading Sen. Youri Latortue told The Associated Press that 500,000 could be dead, but conceded that nobody really knows.

"Let's say that it's too early to give a number," Preval said.



## THE PERFECT 10

Join us for the perfect 10 events of fun and excitement as we kick off another semester at East Carolina University. There will be plenty of food, fun and prizes throughout so make sure you schedule in some time to attend any and all events possible.

<b>January 8, 2010</b> 7:00 pm - 12 midnight	Late Nite	Mendenhall Student Center
<b>January 12, 2010</b> 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Surviving College And Living To Tell About It: An Effective Study Skills Workshop	SciTech Building - Room 207
<b>January 19-22, 2010</b> 8:00 am - 10:00 am	Hot Chocolate and Bubble Sheets	Mendenhall Bus Stop
<b>January 19-22, 2010</b>	Winter Festivities	Various Campus Locations
<b>January 20, 2010</b> 8:00 pm	Comedian	Hendrix Theatre
<b>January 21, 2010</b> 6:30 pm	Polar Bear	Student Recreation Center
<b>January 22, 2010</b> 7:00 pm - 12 midnight	Late Nite Pajama Jam	Mendenhall Student Center
<b>January 24, 2010</b> 7:00 pm	ECU Stars * Applications are available at <a href="http://www.ecu.edu/wow">www.ecu.edu/wow</a>	Hendrix Theatre
<b>January 28, 2010</b> 4:30 pm	College Night at the Carolina Hurricanes Game * Games Starts at 7:00 p.m. Buses will leave from MSC at 4:30 p.m. Applications are available at <a href="http://www.ecu.edu/sao">www.ecu.edu/sao</a> and the Central Ticket Office at Mendenhall Student Center.	
<b>January 30, 2010</b> 4:30 pm	Men and Women's Basketball Double Header * Women's Game at 4:30 pm - Men's Game at 7:00 pm	

East Carolina University

# Copper Beech Open House



**When: January 20th 1pm to 5pm**  
**Where: Copper Beech Clubhouse**

Come join us for some refreshments and fun!



**Free Application Fees**  
**All Day!**



**BRING HOME A FRIEND**

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

So I just realized the walls at u-suites are really thin... I can hear my neighbors banging... I wonder if they hear me too...

Can I please have some lukewarm water to wash my hands?

To the guy who walked behind us going to Belk and noted the cold weather: YOU'RE CUTE! We hope to see more of you this semester! =>

I hate parking on campus!! How are you expected to get to a night class when you can't use Minges because the bus stops running and you can't park on campus until after 7?? Not everyone lives in an apartment complex with a bus route!!

To the Guido who was fist pumping while talking about southerners: I would be embarrassed to be a Guido. If you don't like southerners move back up to your state. This is the south and we do what we want. You moved down here so deal with it.

Is it me or have anyone else notice that the fast food establishments near campus do not wear gloves when preparing food!?

Don't ask for my opinion or any kind of advice and then get mad. Sorry honey, but if you can't handle the TRUTH that is your OWN FAULT!

To the bus driver who refused to let me on the Landing bus before it left Christenbury: You suck at life. Find something else to do with your time besides making other peoples' lives miserable.

To the girl who doesn't like the girl who doesn't wear shoes: I don't even know her but she can't be half the bitch that you seem to be.

Dear Roommate: Since the start of the year we have hardly spoke, I don't really care if we do or don't but when my friends are nice enough to say hi to you and you don't respond in anyway it shows how much of a b\*\*tch you really are.

To my new roommate: Just because you brought the TV does not give to the right to take it away whenever you please. This isn't kindergarten anymore sweetie.

Yes roommate, I am killing you with kindness. Judging from your expressions and attitude, my plan is working perfectly.

OMG if I hear the girl in my Anthropology class talk one more time, I just think I will scream! I just hate her bossy attitude.

New Years Resolution: Change Facebook profile picture more often.

I remember when financial aid took more than a week to refund me... cool financial aid

British kids=coolest people ever

It's the official first week of class and I've only skipped three classes. I think this could be my best semester yet.

Living is easy with eyes closed.

I feel like my banner ID should be tattooed across my forearm at this point in the game.

This cold weather has got to go. I can't keep basing my ability to go to class on if I'll get a frostbitten nose as soon as i step outside or not.

My math teacher is totally hot. Now i have to pass.

To the girl who threw up on the NCC mid-day bus: I hope you feel better and don't have any sort of illness that I could contract.

Dear Ex-Roomie: I went out and celebrated last night because you were moving out. Stop being so disgusting and STOP being such a coward and using your "friend" to do your dirty work. THANK YOU for moving!!

I was at Joyner clock tower last night at 12 a.m. and the joker NEVER CAME OUT! COME ON!

## Make it work



**Leila Falls**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

Over Christmas break, you may have tried to forget about all the problems of last semester. Last semester was fabulous, but full of cramming, heartache and betrayal. You had no idea what was going on in that class, and the final was cumulative! Your roommate slept with your sister's boyfriend! Your supposedly awesome professor made it seem like he believed in the power of sunshine points to reward hard work and effort but decided to be a grouch last minute! You have no more drops left and just failed another class! You got fired right before Christmas bonus time! All of these random people have your phone number! You have to live with creepzilla again! As intense as some 2009 problems were, do not contact the Maury show just yet.

Now is the time to deal with it all. All those dramas that did not go away need to be dealt with using a sound strategy. Game plan: amp it up for a new semester! Thank you, overly optimistic opinion writer, for reminding me why I'm so emotionally distraught and why I should start listening to The Smiths. In reality, "My life is over" moments may be horrible, but they can be overcome.

In the words of Project Runway's Tim Gunn: "Make it work." Set new goals and change your mindset. It is, after all, a new semester! According to Helpguide.org, "The ultimate goal is a balanced life, with time for work, relationships, relax-

ation, and fun – plus the resilience to hold up under pressure and meet challenges head on." Don't freak out; be optimistic.

To quote a cheesy Hallmark-worthy cliché, "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade."

What a great piece of advice. If that cumulative final kicked your butt, try a different method and better luck next time. Find your sister a stud to distract her from that jerk. Take vengeance and give that professor a sad face on ratemyprofessor.com, which is surprisingly satisfying. If you keep failing classes, try a different major. To find a new passion, there are so many check-this-out pamphlets around. If you lost your job, it's just not the place for you. That weird co-worker was going to make you snap one day anyway. Limit giving out your real phone number; maybe use the free Rejection Hotline at 773-509-5027 as a decoy. If creepzilla strikes, retaliate passive-aggressively when necessary.

Most importantly, you have got to have the right attitude. Why do you think all these designers make clothing and useless merchandise that depict phrases about the power of attitude? I'm not saying you need to be too extremely optimistic — enough to be a cast member of "Barney," that is. But avoid having a negative, curmudgeon attitude.

Even the Black Eyed Peas have the right attitude that, "Tonight is going to be a good night." Well, this semester is going to be a good one. Be empowered; tackle that problem. If problems persist even though you amped it up, possibly contact the Maury show. Just remember to work it; it's your life, and you've got the power.

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## Tuition rates rise for all UNC system schools



**Emily Winterhalter**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

Some \$199 -- That is an estimate of how much more an 8 percent tuition hike will cost for students at ECU over the next year.

Americans are on the upswing from an economic crisis, finally rebounding from the Great Recession, but it's safe to say that many of us are still saving our pennies, student and university alike. My question to the Assembly is this: Is this price hike really in the best interest of students footing the bill? My answer would be no.

According to the Daily Reflector, this will be a decision made by both the General Assembly and ECU, due to the laws changing. In November, the ECU Board of Trustees recommended a 3.6 percent increase in tuition for the 2010-2011 school year; however, the decision is still being made about what our exact rate will be. The Assembly has the power to authorize all tuition hikes, and current state law mandates that the stated school year tuition must cost 8 percent more, or \$200 -- whichever option is cheaper. Because of this, they can easily make the ECU-recommended 3.6 percent disappear.

In addition to this approximate \$200 price jump, many other school-related necessities will also increase. Dining plans are projected to increase between \$70-100, and on-campus room rates will increase by \$100 as well. Technology, transit and athletics fees are also going up and being tacked onto our tuition rate.

Oh, and that's not all. Out-of-state graduate students can expect to pay \$429 more next year, and out-of-state undergrads \$880 more

per year. Is it really necessary to charge a resident of a neighboring state nearly \$900 extra per year for wanting to be an ECU student? Never mind necessary, can anyone really say that's fair?

Everyone's college experience is being paid for by someone. Whether your parents pay your tuition, whether you work one or two jobs outside of class time to pay it, whether you have financial aid so the state is paying for your school or whether you took out student loans to pay your tuition off later, someone is working hard to pay for college. College has never been cheap or easy to pay for (for most people, that is). In addition to tuition, meals and living on-campus, this doesn't include what we pay for parking, gas, school materials and books -- don't get me started on books. College is becoming one of those catch-22's where you need a degree to get the educated jobs many strive for, but who will be able to pay for this in the future where price increases like this will continue to be allowed?

Right now, there are recommendations to Erskine Bowles, president of the UNC system, to allow each of the 16 public universities in our state to set their own price increases, with the hope that each school knows what its students can afford compared to what the university is hoping to attain. If ECU is allowed to set its own rate, we will see what decision is made. Until then, we (in-state undergrads) can count on our \$200 price jump for tuition, along with all the other previously stated costs.

No ECU student will be unaffected by this decision. Undergrads and graduates, in-state and out-of-state students; all of us can anticipate tightening our budgets in some way to prepare for this mandate.

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



...AND THEY WONDER WHY WE GET SICK...

ILLUSTRATED BY ADRIAN PARHAMOVICH

## End of a decade; beginning of a new year



**Michael Pacheco**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

Happy 2010, everyone! Time to welcome in a new year and all the challenges and opportunities that come with it.

Politically speaking, there will be no shortage of challenges in 2010, particularly if you reside in the GOP camp, as a new Gallup poll found 52 percent of the population classified Republicans as "losers" in 2009. Ouch! Are you going to take that lying down?

The new Gallup poll called it for what it is (or "was," hopefully): Republicans are losers. That was one of the lessons we learned in 2009. But now that the dust has settled and the people are growing weary of more "change" to come in 2010, what can Republicans do this year to modify their image? It's obvious, isn't it? Win.

2010 must be the year when we decide to come together and start winning elections. We've gotten a tough reality check from 2009. Now we need to look in the mirror and decide if we're worthy of leading this country again or if we're too petty and insular not to compromise, a time-tested recipe for political failure.

Let's acknowledge there is a "dime's worth of difference" between the two parties. With profoundly destructive legisla-

tion being proposed by one party, and opposed — often unilaterally — by another party, the difference between the two is abundantly clear.

Look at the alternative -- more than 15 percent of Minnesotans decided to throw their vote away in the hotly-contested 2009 Senate bout by casting their ballot for a third-party candidate. If only a third of them would have voted for Coleman instead, we wouldn't have Stuart Smalley in the Senate and Obama's health care take-over could have been stopped for good.

Think about that! The reality is this: If Republicans fail to secure a place for all brands of conservative-minded voters at their table — including moderates and independents — 2010 will have a butterfly effect and the country simply cannot afford that.

I think more people should use their personal situation as the measure, rather than the perception of national or international events as filtered through the media. Then again, from a Pirate standpoint, after driving 12 hours to Memphis, Tenn., to see my Pirates rock the SEC (statistically) but lose the Liberty Bowl because a kicker couldn't step up his game. Let's just say, it was a depressing long ride back to Raleigh. Sorry Ben, I digress.

Anyway, too often, I think, we end up thinking that everything is awful not because things really are awful but rather because that's what various factions want us to think. Because that's what

best serves their purpose.

Yeah, we're in the middle of a nasty recession. But unlike times past, when Americans contended with rationing and lined up at supermarkets to buy the last apples, we're in a situation where most Americans have to postpone vacations. And maybe forgo the purchase of that new gadget.

Historically speaking, even with the economic downturn, these are some very prosperous times in America for a lot of reasons. Communication and travel have never been easier and more accessible for even the poorest of Americans, and that has profoundly changed our society for the better, especially over the last decade.

That doesn't mean things can't get really bad in a short amount of time. If our government doesn't rein in its profligate spending, for instance, we could be facing disaster, but in the here and now? We've never had it so good.

Also, take notice, my fellow republican Pirates -- Republican Senator Richard Burr, elected in 2004 over Erskine Bowles, is expected to seek a second term. No incumbent has won reelection for this seat since Sam Ervin's last reelection in 1968. The filing deadline for the primaries is Feb. 26 and the primary date is May 4.

Mark those dates in your planners; we need the turnout for this election!

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"Dude, that was not good for me."

RANDY JACKSON



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**Aries** — Focus your thoughts on personal issues. You benefit from expanding your database of possibilities. Avoid arguments. They hold you back. The solar eclipse tomorrow focuses your thinking on career and social matters. An important person enters the picture. Hopefully, his or her words are not engraved in stone.

**Taurus** — You have multiple opportunities to handle basic decisions. Progress provides great relief. A co-worker becomes a devoted ally. You and a partner seek practical means to achieve lofty goals. Some ideas come with their own difficulties. After today, you know which road to take.

**Gemini** — You feel a big change coming, but you're unclear about its nature. Prepare yourself by imagining a wide-open field to play in. A long-lost friend calls or appears. You could revive the relationship, because you share unusual history. State your feelings loud and clear.

**Cancer** — Everything seems to slow down today and take twice as long as you'd planned. No amount of pushing matters. Go with the flow. A partner or associate brings up a new topic. The issues aren't clear at first. By day's end, you begin to see how the pieces fit together.

**Leo** — Consider your personal agenda and follow it. What you need is focused energy. There will be plenty of time to enjoy yourself this evening. Define your goal today using short-term tactical factors. In the long run, new information will change the picture significantly. Today, stick to your plan and enlist help from a female.

**Virgo** — People in your work environment confuse important issues with weak data. It's up to you to sort out the facts and list them clearly. A female resists. You communicate your ideas far more clearly now. Others grasp the concept and willingly run with it. Creative success is yours.

**Libra** — Take time to analyze your decisions and assess the wisdom of the direction you've chosen. It's easier to make a change now than to face the music later. Many issues that were unclear yesterday suddenly are illuminated. Practical words from older people carry you in an independent direction.

**Scorpio** — Stay in bed today and read the paper. Then drag yourself out, face the world of adjustments, and make the most of what you find. You communicate much better as the day goes along. What starts out filled with doubt and illusion shifts when you ask practical questions and demand answers.

**Sagittarius** — If you open your mouth, plan on chewing shoe leather. It won't be possible to please everyone. You'd do better by offering a variety of resources. You feel like you're in the dark when the day begins. Someone close to you sheds light on your situation. Leave home on a full stomach. You'll hear the news this afternoon.

**Capricorn** — Deciding for yourself doesn't happen today. You need a sidekick. Whether for errands, work or household chores, keep someone close at hand. Pay attention to friends and family all day. Take their phone calls and tell them you love them. You can't overstate that. Try a new restaurant.

**Aquarius** — Stick to the basics as much as possible. Adapt yesterday's plan to today's needs. Four or five people gather closely together in a leaderless group. You and a close group of associates have your fingers on the pulse of practical change. All around there's panic, but not you. Wait for the right moment.

**Pisces** — Although you're ready to move ahead, others have reservations. Be sure they tell you what's on their minds. Otherwise, you're shooting in the dark. Someone wants to rain on your parade. In fact, expect a deluge. Change the weather by extending an invitation to a movie or sports event.

## Sudoku

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

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



## Pirates & Salty Wenches

"Pirates and Salty Wenches" is for entertainment purposes only. Vivian Stockton is not a certified sex columnist. She can only offer advice of an experienced college student. Please direct all comments, questions or concerns to the Editor in Chief, at editor@theeastcarolinian.com

## Moving forward in the New Year

**Vivian Stockton**  
SEX AND RELATIONSHIP  
COLUMNIST

I am so excited that we are finally in the New Year! This is my last semester as an undergraduate student at ECU! I can't believe I'm going to have a degree soon. It seems like it has taken forever and no time for me to get here!

And for those of us who are graduating or involved with someone who is graduating, we have to start planning what the future holds for our current relationships.

Do we go our separate ways? Do we decide that this is the person to marry? Or do we just continue as if nothing is changing? You really have to look at your relationship realistically and gauge whether or not it is something that stands a chance of lasting.

In order to decide if your relationship can last, you need to compare your life plan and goals to that of your lover's.

Where do you see yourself in the next year?

If you're staying locally, I say continue on the same path that your relationship is going. There is no need to change things. If your plan was to propose the night of your graduation dinner because

the two of you have been together for the past three years, then that's great! If your relationship is new and you just want to see where it goes, then proceed! There is no need for any drastic changes if not much is going to change in your life.

This part gets hard when you're planning to relocate. If you're going to grad school in Boone and your lover is staying here, I'd say don't ditch the relationship yet. Take advantage of Skype and see where things go. If your relationship is a few years old, more than likely you and your partner have made plans to be reunited in a semester or two, so suck it up and stick it out. However, if your relationship is new, a move that is only a few hours away may be too much for your fledgling love.

If you're planning to move 12 or more hours away, you might as well be moving across the world. Once again, I would say to use technology to your advantage if you have been involved with this person for multiple years and plan to reunite in the near future. I honestly find it hard to see any relationship endure an extreme distance for an extended period of time, if the two of you aren't planning to eventually be back together in a year or two's time.

Once you figure out the location you plan to be in, you need to ask yourself what you want from life. Do you want children? Are you a dog or a cat person? Do you want to live in the city or in the country?

What you want for your life has to reflect the wants of your partner. If you want children and she doesn't, then you're going to run into major problems. I have a few female friends who are downright appalled by the thought of having babies, just like I know many who want to have children. The decision of whether or not to have babies is a deal-breaker in many relationships, just as the choice of pet, type of area to live in, etc. can make it or break it.

Trust me; I know that these types of questions may seem too real to some people. At 21, I know I don't feel like I'm qualified to make life-altering decisions regarding my romantic status, but time isn't slowing down. Graduation will be here before we know it, and if you're ending your ECU career and currently involved in a romantic relationship, you really ought to start planning and preparing for both your career's future and relationship's future.

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

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For more information, please contact the College of Business by e-mailing cobprofpro@ecu.edu, or visit online at www.business.ecu.edu.

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Individuals requesting accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should call 252-737-1016 (voice/TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the event.

# GOODBYE 2009, HELLO 2010

## 5 Things

we are *obsessed* with  
this month:

### 1. Chick-fil-A

On Jan. 11, ECU was given back one of its favorite treats on campus: Chick-fil-A. Due to construction and renovation of the Croatan, the fall semester left students without their beloved waffle fries. Chick-fil-A has reopened in Destination 360 in Mendenhall Student Center and we are in LOVE!

### 2. Sweats

After a long, relaxing winter break, it is hard to get back into school mode. It doesn't help that it's cold outside either, so we have decided sweatpants are the way to go! They are warm and you can pretend you have just left the gym working on that resolution you made, instead of just having crawled out of bed!

### 3. Twitter.com

This highly addicting micro-blogging site makes everyday occurrences all the more engaging. With a wide array of trending topics to discuss, this social networking site will continue to please any networking-loving individual.

### 4. Chegg.com

The never-ending problem of textbooks cost is not lost on us! This semester, we have become obsessed with Chegg.com, which allows users to rent textbooks at almost half the cost of bookstores. The Web site also plants a tree for every book that is sold, rented or bought and prides itself on being very environmentally friendly. What's not to love?

### 5. Skip Holtz

Rumors are flying everywhere about our beloved Holtz! Will he stay or will he go? Please give us something official!



## 2010 is shaping up to be a giant year for entertainment

Caitlin Hale  
STAFF WRITER

With the release of major blockbusters like "Terminator Salvation," "Transformers 2" and "Avatar," 2009 ended up being a big year for entertainment. However, it's now time to look ahead to 2010 and the upcoming major entertainment releases for this year. With the already released titles of "Leap Year," "Daybreakers," "Army of Two: The 40th Day" and the release of "The Book of Eli" this weekend, 2010 is shaping up to be a great year in the entertainment industry. The following films, movies, videogames and CDs are already highly anticipated for this year.

"Alice In Wonderland" - Directed by Tim Burton and starring Johnny Depp as the Mad Hatter, this remake of Lewis Carroll's classic book is sure to delight fans. This definite blockbuster is set to be released on March 5.

"Iron Man 2" - In the second installment of the Iron Man series, Tony Stark (Robert Downey, Jr.) battles against enemies Whiplash and the Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson). Based on the success of the first "Iron Man," the sequel is sure to be a success. This one is set to be released on May 7.

"The Twilight Saga: Eclipse" - Following the hype of the Twilight book series as well as the previous two movies of the Twilight series, "Eclipse" will undoubtedly earn millions. In this installment, Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) must choose between her vampire boyfriend, Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson), and her werewolf best friend, Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner). Meanwhile, the vengeful Victoria thirsts for Bella's blood. This highly anticipated film is set to be released on June 30.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part I" - In the first part of the seventh installment of the Harry Potter series, Harry, Ron and Hermione flee the Death Eaters while attempting to find the remaining Horcruxes. With the sixth Harry Potter movie bringing in about \$79.5 million on opening weekend, the seventh film is sure to be a success. "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part I" is set to be released on Nov. 19.

"God of War III" - In the third chapter of this action/adventure hit PlayStation 3 game, players

will travel back in time to discover ancient Greek mythology. This final installment of "God of War III" picks up right where the previous game left off, sending players directly into an action-packed adventure. This highly anticipated game is set to be released on March 16.

"Halo: Reach" - "Halo: Reach" acts as a prequel to the original "Halo." In this first-person shooter game, players will go back in time to learn about the events that led up to the original Halo trilogy. "Halo: Reach" also features online multiplayer gameplay. The anticipated release date of this Xbox 360 game is Aug. 1.

"Mass Effect 2" - "Mass Effect 2," available for Xbox 360 and PC, is the second installment of the Mass Effect trilogy. Players can play in familiar locations, as well as travel to new and exciting worlds. Players of the game must work to repel alien abductors in this action-packed hit roleplaying game. Fans of "Mass Effect" will not have to wait much longer, as this game is set to be released on Jan. 26.

"BioShock 2" - In this first-person shooter game, available for PlayStation 3, Xbox 360 and PC, players will return to the familiar underwater city. However, this time, players will see the city before the ocean reclaimed it. In "BioShock 2," players will be able to experience the fall of the city through the eyes of its citizens. "BioShock 2" is expected to hit stores on Feb. 9.

Blink-182 - While the actual release date is unknown, punk rock band Blink-182 is expected to release an album this year. The band recently reunited after parting ways a few years ago, even though they had a massive fan base. Since it has been seven years since their last record, fans of the popular band are eager for them to release new material.

Lil Wayne's "Rebirth" - Fans of Lil Wayne are eagerly awaiting this new heavily rock-influenced album. While Amazon.com did have a slight slip-up (accidentally releasing 500 copies of the album), this album is still highly anticipated. Since this record drops right before Lil Wayne is set to go to prison for a year due to gun charges, this will be the last fans hear of this popular rap artist for a while. "Rebirth" is set to hit stores on Feb. 1.

## Top nine events of 2009

A year in review

Veronica Carrington

As the world gears up for a new year, let's take a look back at what made 2009 the year of possibilities, opportunities and changes. This list encompasses the top nine events of 2009 from world news to pop culture. 2009 was beyond a doubt a year to remember.

1 In a ceremony attended by hundreds of thousands of people, Barack Obama was sworn into office on Jan. 20, 2009, becoming the first African-American president. He immediately set out to resurrect the struggling economy and out-

line his plans for investing in energy, health care and education. In February, President Obama announced his intention to withdraw most American troops from Iraq by Aug. 31, 2010. As many as 50,000 troops will remain there for smaller missions and to train Iraqi soldiers. The war in Afghanistan, however, is far from over. In December, Obama revealed his plan for a troop surge to the country. The U.S. military will send an additional 30,000 troops to Afghanistan in January to stymie a resurgent Taliban, help train Afghan troops and bring security to high population centers. This new surge will bring the total number of American soldiers in Afghanistan to 100,000.

2 After 19 years on the Supreme Court, Justice David Souter, appointed by President George H.W. Bush, retired at the end of the 2008-2009 court terms. In May, President Obama announced his nomination of Sonia Sotomayor. Though many Republicans objected to her nomination, she won Senate approval with a vote of 68 to 31. Sotomayor is the first Hispanic ever to serve as a Supreme Court justice.

3 In November, a shooting rampage at a U.S. Army post in Fort Hood, Texas, left 13 dead and 30 injured, including the shooter, Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, an army psychiatrist employed at the base. Hasan was described as a devout Muslim and was despondent about his upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. Hasan was shot four times by police officers at the scene of the crime; he was perilously injured but survived. While intelligence authorities had flagged Hasan's behavior in the past, the investigation against him was dropped after they concluded Hasan posed no physical threat. Currently, the FBI does not believe Hasan was part of a terrorist plot or was acting with any co-conspirators; he alone is charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder.

4 A superstar who spanned pop, disco and MTV, Michael Jackson was one of the great music heroes of the late 20th century. By the time of his sudden death at age 50 in 2009, he was known less for his music than for his erratic behavior, wild spending and many plastic surgeries. After his smash 1982 album "Thriller" yielded seven top-10 hits, Jackson was dubbed "The King of Pop." He was an early star of MTV and an international hit maker and his distinctive wardrobe featured glittery suits and pseudo-military uniforms matched with a single white glove that became his signature.

## WTF?! of the month

Samantha Hughes

**Pastafarianism**  
**AKA: The Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster**  
**Founder: Bobby Henderson**

What?!

The Flying Spaghetti Monster is the symbol of this parody religion. The Flying Spaghetti Monster is represented by a pile of noodles, eyeballs and meatballs. Pastafarians believe that the invisible Flying Spaghetti Monster created the universe. In this church, pirates are believed to be the original Pastafarians and are the holiest of peoples, only declining in

number because of global warming. Holidays celebrated by Pastafarians include Ramendan and Pastaover and the obscurely named holiday, "Holiday."

History?

Henderson, the prophet of the Flying Spaghetti Monster, first publicly exposed the deity in an open letter to the Kansas State Board of Education in January 2005. The letter was sent during a time when the Kansas State Board of Education was considering the teaching of intelligent design in biology classes. Henderson claimed that any deity could be the vaguely referenced creator and made his case

that the Flying Spaghetti Monster could be the deity.

The Board of Education didn't answer Henderson, but when he posted the letter to his Web site, it became an Internet phenomenon.

How do I become a member?

One simply must believe in the Flying Spaghetti Monster and ideals of Pastafarianism to become a member! On Henderson's Web site, www.venganza.org, one can buy T-shirts and other aptly named "propaganda materials," including Henderson's book "The Gospel of the Flying Spaghetti Monster."

## Reinventing the way we read

Tucker Middleton  
STAFF WRITER

With television, Internet, cell phones, iPods and bundles of other gadgets fighting for our attention, it's easy to let book reading fall by the wayside. In this digital day and age, books may seem far from the most practical way to get information and entertainment.

Amazon has attempted to bring reading into the digital age with the release of its product, the "Kindle." Kindle is a digital reading device designed to eliminate



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Ronald E. Dowdy

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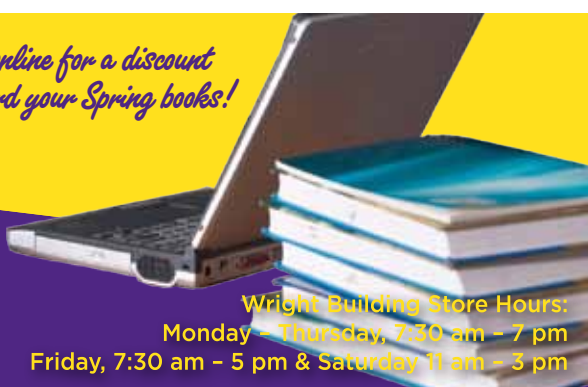
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Bernard Madoff is the investment manager who defrauded investors of up to \$50 billion in what might be the largest swindle in Wall Street history. Madoff was a Wall Street legend who had been in business for nearly 50 years. According to the story Madoff told others, in 1960, at age 22, he took \$5,000 earned from his summer job as a Long Island lifeguard and started his own investment firm. His brother Peter joined him in 1970 in what had become a booming business with an impressive list of clients. Madoff's firm grew famous for its reliable annual returns of 10 percent or more. He served as president of the board of directors of the NASDAQ stock exchange.

On Dec. 11, 2008, FBI agents arrested Madoff at his Manhattan apartment, and he was charged with "massive fraud" and running a "multi-billion dollar Ponzi scheme." Madoff pled guilty to 11 felony counts on March 12, 2009, and was sentenced to 150 years in prison on June 29, 2009.

Michele and Tareq Salahi, wife and husband, gained notoriety in 2009 for crashing an official state dinner at the White House without an invitation. The event was dubbed a publicity stunt for The Real Housewives of Washington, D.C., television show. The couple slipped past security and attended a reception with Presi-

dent Barack Obama and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Nov. 24, 2009. Salahi then posted photographs on Facebook featuring the Salahis alongside prominent Washingtonians, including Vice President Joe Biden and White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel. The White House denied inviting them and the Salahis were immediately dubbed "the D.C. gate crashers."

Nadya Suleman, known as "Octo-Mom" to the tabloids, is the woman who gave birth to octuplets in California on Jan. 26, 2009. The births caused a commotion: eight children, two girls and six boys, born nine and a half weeks prematurely by Caesarian section. However, the story took a twist when newspapers revealed that Suleman already had six children, was unemployed and on food stamps and had used in vitro fertilization to get pregnant with the eight children. The revelations led to a public chorus of disapproval and even more fame for Suleman and her kids. All of the octuplets survived and spent weeks in intensive care.

In December 2009, more than a year after the world's most costly and complicated science experiment was shut down for repairs, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), a 17-mile-long looped track located an average of 300 feet beneath the Swiss-French border,

accelerated two beams of particles and then smashed them together. The collision earned the LHC the distinction of being the world's highest energy particle accelerator. Built over the span of 14 years by Geneva's CERN Laboratories at a cost of more than \$8 billion, the LHC was activated for the first time in September 2008. The length of the track aids in pushing trillions of protons to speeds reaching the speed of light. This means protons can travel 11,000 times around the track in a single second, producing more than a billion head-on collisions.

Same-sex marriage proved to be a controversial issue again in 2009. In April, Iowa's Supreme Court overturned a law banning same-sex marriage, making the state the third after Massachusetts and Connecticut to legalize the practice. Vermont followed suit just days later when its legislature voted to override the governor's veto of a bill allowing same-sex couples to marry. While voters in California overturned the state's Supreme Court decision to allow same-sex marriages in November 2008, the backlash of the Proposition 8 ballot measure continued to reverberate this year. In May, the California Supreme Court upheld the ban but allowed those married while the law was in effect to remain married.

**READ** continued from A5

many of the obstacles book-lovers encounter when trying to buy, store and read books.

The Kindle's screen is designed to mimic the look of a typical book page. Kindle uses patented E Ink technology, boasting 16 shades of gray to recreate the aesthetics of print on paper. The screen's book-like appearance allows customers to feel as though they are reading a traditional book and reduces eyestrain that may be caused by reading off of a digital, backlit screen for a long period of time.

The sleek, lightweight design of the Kindle also makes it extremely portable and convenient for those on the go. The Kindle weighs in at just 10.2 ounces — lighter than a typical paperback. It's as thin as the average magazine, making it easy to carry in a backpack or purse.

Don't judge this book by its cover, though; the small design packs in a heavy punch when it comes to battery life and storage. The standard Kindle with a 6-inch screen holds up to 1,500 books, and the larger, 9.7-inch DX model can store up to 3,500 titles. Being able to store thousands of books on this portable device will enable traveling bookworms to carry along their favorite book titles with ease and lighten their load by allowing them to leave the heavy hardbacks at home.

Buyers beware, though: the Kindle does not come cheap. The basic model will set customers back \$259, and the DX model comes with a \$489 price tag. Depending on how many books you read and whether or not you typically purchase hardbacks or paperbacks, the Kindle may or may not be a good


investment.

Customers who frequently buy hardback books are most likely to see the financial benefits of Kindle. Kindle books can be downloaded wirelessly in only 60 seconds, and most titles cost only \$9.99. This may seem like a lot of money for something that is simply an e-book, but the price cut can save shoppers big bucks down the road when factoring in the average hardback book costs \$20-30.

The interesting concept of the Amazon Kindle has already caught on with other companies. Sony has released its own version of an e-book reading device, and Apple is expected to announce a product sometime this year that will include an e-reader, while expanding functioning to rival that of a typical computer processor.

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## Roller, Whitehead collect accolades

ECU senior DH Kyle Roller (second-team) and junior OF Trent Whitehead (third-team) have been named to the 2010 Ping!Baseball preseason All-America team, the publication announced Monday.

Roller, a 2009 first-team All-America selection by the America Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) and Ping!Baseball, batted .366 (86-for-256) with 16 home runs and 75 RBI as the Pirates' designated hitter. The Rockingham, N.C., native ranked among the national leaders hit by pitches (fourth), RBI (23rd), total bases (79th), home runs (80th) and hits (98th) after earning first-team All-Conference USA and NCAA Greenville Regional All-Tournament honors. During a five-game stretch from Mar. 17-22, Roller batted .591 (13-for-22) with four homers, 15 RBI, two walks and plunked five times on his way to NCBWA Pro-Line Athletic National Player-of-the-Week honors. Roller also added C-USA Hitter-of-the-Week, College Baseball Foundation Diamond Sports National All-Star Lineup and CollegebaseballInsider.com Central Regional Player-of-the-Week honors after his offensive display during the Pirates' 5-0 week.

A second-team All C-USA and C-USA All-Tournament Team selection, Whitehead set the school's single-season hit record with 105 base knocks, which ranked fourth nationally. The left-handed leadoff hitter started 63 games in the outfield where he batted .376 (105-for-279) with seven home runs, 47 RBI, 24 doubles and scored 78 runs. Whitehead took home NCAA Greenville Regional Most Outstanding Player honors after batting .381 (8-for-21) with a home run, five RBI and five runs on his way to helping the Pirates to their first Super Regional appearance since 2004. He led the squad with 31 multi-hit games, while recording 10 multi-RBI contests and against in-state rival N.C. State drove in a career-best five RBI after going 3-for-6 from the plate with a pair of home runs.

The Pirates will begin spring practice on Friday, Jan. 29 in preparation for the season opener against Virginia on Feb. 19, 2010.

## Lind earns European tour card

Former ECU women's golfer Emelie Lind posted a four-round score of 290 (71-76-72-71) and took 15th place at the 2009 Ladies European Tour's (LET) Final Qualifying School at La Manga Club in Murcia, Spain, back in December. With her top 15 placement, Lind is the first ECU women's golfer since the program began in 2000 to earn her LET or LPGA Card.

Lind, who was two-under for the event, went into final round action at even par and posted a two-under 71 on the final day of qualifying to earn her card. The top 30 finishers in the LET Qualifying School earned their cards for the 2010 season.

In all, Lind helped the Pirates to three NCAA Regional appearances as a player (2005, 2006 and 2008) and was a graduate assistant coach on the 2008-09 team that recorded its highest finish at the NCAA East Regional (ninth place), three shots away from advancing to its first NCAA Championship.

Lind joins Kathleen "Kathy" Postlewait as the only Lady Pirates to earn their tour cards. Postlewait, a 1999 ECU Hall of Fame Inductee, competed as an individual while at ECU due to the absence of a women's golf program and earned her first LPGA tour victory in 1983 at the San Jose Classic.

# NFL playoff divisional round: notes and predictions

## OPINION

### Addison Harvey STAFF WRITER

As the NFL playoffs continue into the divisional round, here is what to expect this weekend and whom should be representing the NFC and AFC conferences in each of their respective conference games a week from now.

#### Arizona vs. New Orleans

TV: 4:30 p.m. FOX

The NFC first divisional game of the weekend features two prolific quarterbacks. The Cardinals are led by quarterback journeyman Kurt Warner, who threw for 26 touchdowns this season and then five more in their wild card win over the Packers last weekend.

On the other sideline is Drew Brees and the number one ranked scoring offense this season.

The Saints led the NFL with almost 32 points per game. This game will be an old fashioned shootout and the x-factor may be which defense can create the most turnovers.

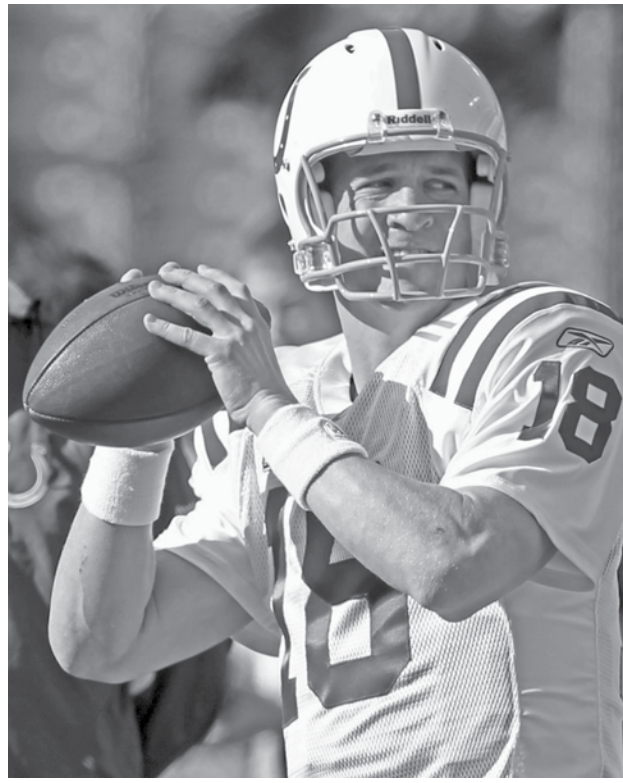
New Orleans intercepted opposing quarterbacks 26 times while recovering 13 fumbles. This will give Drew Brees and the Saints the edge on Saturday.

**WINNER: SAINTS, 34-20**

#### Baltimore vs. Indianapolis

TV: 8:15 p.m. CBS

After the biggest upset of wild card weekend, the Baltimore Ravens now have the pleasure of squaring off with the NFL's Most Valuable Player, Peyton Manning, and the Indianapolis Colts.



Peyton Manning (left) hopes his team comes out fresh off a first-round bye while Tony Romo (right) and the Cowboys hope to continue its post-season success.

#### Minnesota vs. Dallas

TV: 1 p.m. FOX

No team seems to be hotter than the once cursed Dallas Cowboys.

The Cowboys are coming off their first playoff win since 1996 and recent great performances by often erratic quarterback Tony Romo has Cowboy fans across the nation calling for a Super Bowl run.

The only thing that stands in the way of their first NFC Championship game since 1995 is the dangerous combination of Brett Favre, Adrian Peterson and a stout defense.

The Vikings have one of the most potent offenses in the NFL, led by Peterson, who has 1,383 rushing yards this season, and Favre, who has thrown 33 touchdowns.

If the Cowboys can withstand the early home field advantage the Vikings have in the MetroDome, they may have a chance to upset the Vikings.

**WINNER: COLTS 17-10**



ECU captain Sean Burns tries to put home a rebound in a game earlier this season.

## Club ice hockey ready to get back into the swing of things

### Michael Perry ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

After a brief holiday hiatus, the ECU club ice hockey team will be back in action this weekend against Appalachian State in Raleigh this Friday.

The Pirates (8-5-1, 6-3 BRHC) will compete against the Mountaineers in the Stephen Russell Memorial Tournament, formerly known as the Canes Cup.

This weekend's tournament, hosted by N.C. State in association with the Carolina Hurricanes, will be held in memory of Russell, the late Wolfpack goaltender.

"It kind of sits deep with me," Sean Burns, ECU captain and N.C. State transfer, said. "I played at (N.C.) State and I played with Stephen. It's a good event, hopefully it will be a success and I'm sure it will be."

ECU makes its second appearance in the tournament and being paired up with ASU in the first round makes the team excited about getting back on the ice.

"Their program (ASU) is on the move upward," ECU head coach Mike Markham said. "They're playing pretty good

hockey right about now, so we don't know what to expect."

The Pirates hold a commanding lead (5-0) in the cross-state contest, as they have never recorded a loss to the Mountaineers.

Four other North Carolina teams are involved with the Russell Memorial Tournament, including host N.C. State, Duke, UNC-Charlotte and UNC-Wilmington.

Rowan University from Glassboro, N.J., (ACHA Div. II) and the University of Maryland (ACHA Div. I) make up the two out-of-state contestants.

ECU's squad expresses a hopeful confidence that they would make an appearance in the tournament's championship final on Sunday, especially with the opportunity to face the Wolfpack.

"We got [to get] a little payback with those boys," Burns said, referring to a 10-5 home ice defeat dealt to the Pirates by N.C. State earlier this season in October. "We have a little unfinished business."

Following this weekend's competition, ECU will embark on a new adventure as they make a northern road swing into Pennsylvania.

The Pirates will compete against Robert Morris, California University of Pennsylvania and St. Vincent.

All three programs are known for good hockey, but Cal University of PA is among the best.

"We are playing three of the top five ranked teams in the Northeast," Markham said. "We will be playing the best team in the country when we play Cal U of PA."

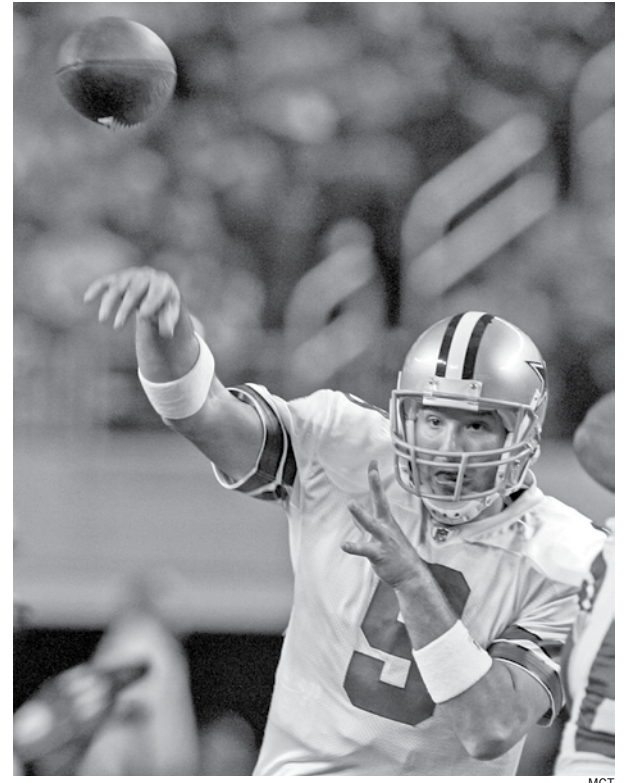
Markham expressed the importance and the challenge of the first six games of the second half of the season.

By making the northern road trip, ECU embarks into new waters, as they have never faced any of the three teams.

Aside from the ranking standpoint, taking a southern hockey team into true hockey territory speaks volumes for the growth of the program.

"The Pennsylvania teams we play will definitely be strong," ECU winger Dave Orlando said. "At this point in the season, we know what we have to do and we feel as a team we can play with anybody."

**HOCKEY page A8**



Tony Romo (right) and the Cowboys hope to continue its post-season success.

Favre, Peterson and highest-ranked NFC defense will propel the Vikings to their first home playoff win since 2000.

**WINNER: VIKINGS, 24-20**

#### New York vs. San Diego

TV: 4:40 p.m. CBS

The last game of divisional weekend may be the most intriguing.

The Chargers have not lost since falling to the Steelers in week four and they take on the up-and-coming New York Jets, led by rookie head coach Rex Ryan and quarterback Mark Sanchez.

Sanchez's performance this season has varied from week to week.

One week he was called out for stuffing his mouth with a hot dog on the sideline during a game, and the next week he was compared to Joe Namath.

The good Sanchez shined

last week against the Bengals, only throwing three incomplete passes; a NFL rookie record.

The key matchup in this battle is the Jets' defense versus Phillip Rivers and the Chargers' deadly offense. The Chargers are averaging 28 points per game, while the Jets' defense leads the NFL in points allowed with almost 15 yards per game, 252 and passing yards per game in almost 154.

One of the most intriguing player matchups this weekend will be watching Jets' defensive back Darrelle Revis and San Diego wide receiver Vincent Jackson.

This could be the closest game out of the four this weekend.

**WINNER: CHARGERS, 20-13**

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

## Johnson a unique star in the pass-happy NFL

## OPINION

### Alex Serkes STAFF WRITER

As NFL football fanatics, we sit down on the couch every Sunday afternoon and Monday night (sometimes Thursdays and Saturdays) and we witness these athletes spill their sweat, blood, tears and soul into every play.

We watch because we anticipate witnessing greatness.

While we are bedazzled by the pace, intensity and emotion of professional football, we ourselves sometimes don't realize how much the game is changing.

With the adaptation of spread offenses, wildcat formations and trick plays, game play drastically differs today to that of the days of Jim Brown, Johnny Unitas and other legends of the gridiron.

The NFL is slowly becoming a pass first, pound the rock type of league.

Think about it. Could you honestly name the top five prolific rushers in league right now, compared to being able to quickly list Drew Brees, Peyton Manning, Tom Brady, Brett Favre, Kurt Warner, etc. as the most prolific passers?

We cannot deny that the game is changing.

However, despite these facts,

**JOHNSON page A8**



Chris Johnson became the sixth player in NFL history to rush for 2,000 yards this past season.

**HOCKEY** continued from A7

northern brand of hockey is sure to usher in some physical matches, but commented that he was confident that the Pirates would "set the tone" in the physical aspect of the games.

In the first half of the season, the Pirates went 8-5-1 but only dropped two home contests.

Beginning the New Year and the second half of the season, the ECU squad returns some former members to its defense.

Returning for the Pirates is sophomore Brandon Lipke and senior Dan Duda; both players were described as a welcomed

addition to the young Pirate defense.

"They are both excellent defensemen," Burns said. "Their (Lipke and Duda) hockey smarts are second to none; its an incredible addition to our team."

Following their two week tour on the road, ECU will return to action at Bladez on Ice for a weekend double feature against Liberty (Div. II) and division foe Christopher Newport starting Jan. 29.

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

**JOHNSON** continued from A7

lower their shoulder at the end of every run for that extra yard and sometimes go up and over defenders, sacrificing their body for a possible chance at crossing the pylon.

In the 2009 regular season, football fans were blessed with the opportunity to witness a back go up and over expectations and enter a holy realm, if you will, of running backs in the history of the NFL.

This running back's name is now mentioned with the likes of O.J. Simpson and Barry Sanders.

Chris Johnson's rushing eclipse of 2,000 rushing yards on the season not only gave us an image of pure talent and drive, but also something that hasn't been done since 2003 and accomplished only five times before in the NFL's 90-year tenure.

The best part of this -- ECU was once again put on the map.

As any ECU football faithful knows, Johnson had one of the greatest careers of any running back in school history. The pinnacle being that in the 2007 Sheraton Hawaii Bowl, where he put Boise State defenders to shame, going off for 223 yards on 28 carries, as well as a 68-yard run as Johnson whipped like a breeze into the wind for his lone touchdown.

Thus began the ballad of Chris Johnson.

The following year, Johnson

was drafted No. 24 overall by the Tennessee Titans, tied for the highest-picked player from ECU since Robert Jones in the 1992 NFL draft.

Fresh out the gate, Johnson's career skyrocketed by finishing his rookie season with 733 yards and 15 touchdowns.

Denying to succumb to a sophomore slump, Johnson showed critics he was the real deal, able to boast not only his electrifying 4.25 speed, but his ability to block and power into defenders, dubbed by ESPN's Trey Wingo as "Smash and Dash."

The numbers continued; the unfortunate Texans dealt with Johnson's record-setting year in week two, where he broke off rushes of 50, 60 and 90 all in the same game.

To sum it all up, Johnson finished with the fourth-most rushing yards in a single season, broke Marshall Faulk's record of yards from scrimmage in a season and broke Tennessee's franchise record of rushing yards in a season previously owned by Earl Campbell.

Johnson's magical season will make fans of the NFL remember the name Chris Johnson, but we as ECU fans will see him as a legend and an icon.

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



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The Eastern Carolina Scholarship Pageant Association is seeking contestants for their scholarship pageant program. A Miss Eastern Carolina will be crowned on February 27 and will receive no less than a \$1,000 scholarship. The deadline to enter is January 29. The pageant will be held at the Ayden Arts and Recreation Center in Ayden, NC. This is an official local Miss America preliminary. The winners will compete at Miss NC, and then the winner of Miss NC goes on to Miss America. For more details, please call 252-902-6040 or e-mail director@easterncarolinapageants.com.

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- Please make sure that your recorded music is instrumental and that you will not be singing over another vocal performance.
- Please bring your musical track on a labeled CD or a reliable, fully charged iPod.
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- Appropriate attire is required.
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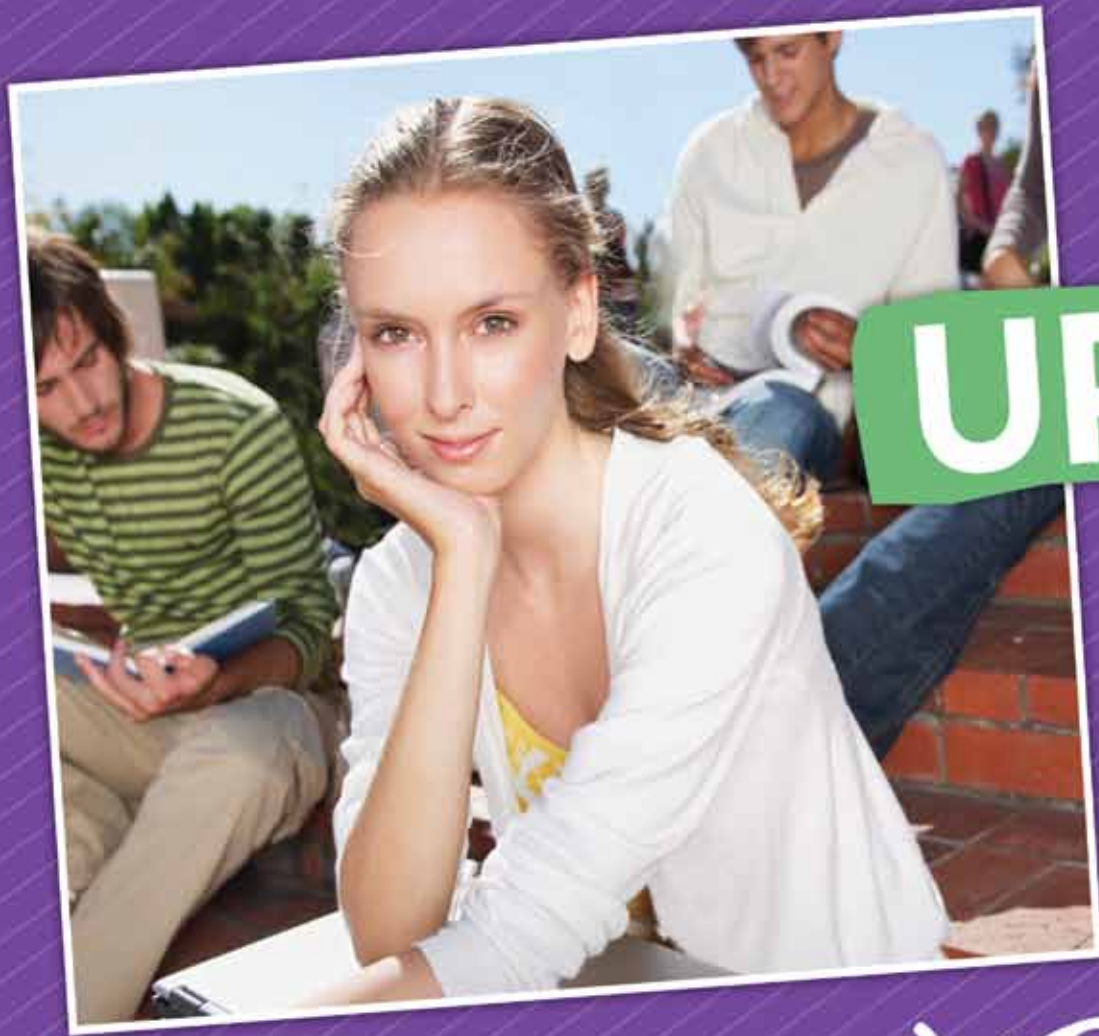


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