

OPINION: Ever since Chick-fil-A opened at 360, the Pirate Grill workers have pretty much been standing there with their hands behind their backs, so I bought a burger to let them know all hope is not lost. **A4**

FEATURES: Atmae robotics team places 4th at annual competition. Find out more in Features. **A5**

SPORTS: ECU introduced its 20th head football coach in Ruffin McNeill on Friday. Turn to sports to learn more about the new captain of the gridiron Pirates. **A7**

BRIEFS

ALMAS reaches out



Emily Cunningham
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to assist the Latina women of the Greenville community, two ECU Brody medical students, Sarah Mian and Reema Padia, have created the ALMAS tutoring program. Supported by funding from the Schweitzer Fellowship, the program was first implemented in August 2009.

One of the goals of the ALMAS tutoring program is to teach Latina women the "English skills necessary to lead a more productive lifestyle."

Mian and Padia are seeking to accomplish this goal by tutoring and mentoring Latina women once a week at the Berstein Community Clinic in Greenville. Volunteers are paired with one Latina woman with whom they will meet on a regular basis and develop a relationship with in order to help the Latina women achieve personal and professional goals.

Padia stated that she had noticed a need for a tutoring program like ALMAS when she met with Latina women in the Greenville community. They revealed to her that there are no services currently offered to Latina women to aid them in developing their English skills.

The ALMAS program offers a variety of services to the women who participate, including a free child care service and health information sessions at least once a month.

According to Mian, the child care services offer is not only a complimentary place for the women's children to stay, but it also allows Spanish-speaking children to meet in a new environment, one outside of school.

Mian recalled some Latino children who were teased at school for having unusual last names. The ALMAS child care facilities provide the children with a non-threatening place to meet other Latino children.

The program's health information sessions have also been beneficial to the Latina women. The sessions have provided the women with information about health issues such as breast cancer, Mian and Padia explained.

A representative from the Public Health Department also spoke to the women about proper nutrition and eating healthy meals on a good budget.

The sessions have also been used to teach the women the basic English vocabulary needed for a productive visit to the doctor's office — for both them or their children.

As for the success of the program, Padia explained that they've been thriving in many aspects. The volunteers were able to help one of their participants in building a job resume, posting it online and, eventually, finding a job.

The success of the program has extended to the immediate family of the Latina women as well. One volunteer came to the tutoring session early in order to help one woman's son learn to read and write.

Mian also mentioned how working with the women has opened their eyes to issues within the Latino community.

"Even just working with the kids, it's interesting to see how different it is for them. Most of the kids are

> ALMAS page A2

WEB POLL

DID YOU TAKE THE PLUNGE?

YES

NO

Check out twitter.com/ecunews and our fan page on facebook.



The East Carolinian

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YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Chilly Pirates take the plunge



Christopher Thomas
STAFF WRITER

Mid-January evenings are usually spent in a warm, secure place, away from all the elements of nature; but for over 700 ECU students this past Thursday, the usual winter routine of warm blankets and hot coco was not on the agenda as they willingly and enthusiastically dove into the outdoor pool at the Student Recreation Center for the annual Polar Bear Plunge. Since 1997, when the Student Recreation Center first opened its doors, the Polar Bear Plunge has been one of the marquee events on ECU's social events calendar.

Excitement was abundant among both students and volunteers as eager divers began to arrive at the Student Recreation Center hours before formal registration kicked off at 6:30. The participants, mostly lowerclassmen, were ready to take the big dive for various reasons. Some did it so they can say that they participated in a beloved university custom.

"I want to do it because it feels like a school tradition, though I am a little nervous," said freshman Morgan Brown.

Some did it to spend cherished time with newly acquired college buddies.

"My friends are doing it, so why not give it a try, you know?" said Rebekah Ferguson, another freshman.

Some did it because their time at ECU is quickly coming to an end and they wanted to participate in something before they leave their alma mater and go into the real world.

"This is our last year. We want to get a little wild. I'm really stoked. It seems like a fun thing to do," said Shiloh Robinson, a senior.

Others did it because it is just in their blood to plunge into freezing cold water — and perhaps because of their love of free merchandise.

"I am a polar bear! Plus, I want a free shirt," said Winslow Lindsay, a freshman.

Whatever reason they came to dive, dive they did. All 701 of them, through the course of the cold, rainy night, enjoyed taking the plunge.

While spectators were bundled in jackets and hats, the divers paraded out to the pool area in nothing but swimming attire, which ranged from loose and modest to scant and revealing.

The spectacle of young men

and women diving into frigid cold water was seen by thousands in Eastern North Carolina on local television stations later in the evening. One of which was Meteorologist Marvin Daugherty of WITN fame, who did his weather report on-location at the Student Recreation Center.

"This is my first time out here, and it's been a fun night," said Daugherty, ECU class of 1972. "It's not something I'd do myself. There was no plunge when I was at ECU. I admire the students for doing this."

The plunge was coordinated by John Wall, a third-year employee of the university, who says that the plunge is for Pirates young and old.

"The Polar Bear Plunge is primarily for students, though faculty and staff are welcome as well," said Wall.

According to Wall, the Plunge is one of the biggest events for the Recreation and Wellness Center and serves as an important tool for promoting all the activities the department has to offer.

"We use the event to promote

our programs and it really helps our programs out, but we also want everyone to come out and have a great time," said Wall.

Meanwhile, inside the Recreation Center, the "Get a Clue" student involvement fair was running simultaneously with the plunge. Campus organizations ranging from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transsexual Student Union to the Newman Catholic Student Center to SAGA, the campus anime club, were on display to reach out to the student body — all for different reasons.

"We want the GLBT community to feel safe, equal and involved," said Katy Ross, sophomore and vice president of the GLBTSU.

Shaneka Montague of the Pirate Tutoring Center and her colleagues were there to reach out to Pirates who maybe struggling with some of their classes.

"It's important that we help people succeed in their classes. It's a great program, and it's free," said Montague.

Melody Monroe's Alpha Nu Omega sorority sought to reach out to young women looking for a sisterhood of Christian women. "We're a Christian alternative," said Monroe, president of Alpha Nu Omega. "We minister to the needs of the whole person: spirit, soul and body."

ECU Students last Thursday were treated not only to a cool, refreshing dip in the outdoor Recreation Center, but also the possibility of meeting with like-minded students and getting a sense of involvement within a student-run organization.

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



Students Jump in to Icy cold water for the Polar Bear Plunge.

Pirates for Haiti sends help

Cassie McLean
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

With the death toll at around 150,000 in the Port-au-Prince area alone, and expected to reach 200,000, the country is now increasingly concerned about bringing aid to those injured and out of hope.

In Greenville, the Student Government Association hopes to do their part in helping a country struggling to hold on to the pieces after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti Jan. 12.

Jan. 19, the fundraiser set up three donation tables across campus — at Mendenhall, Wright and Brody and graciously accepted any and all donations students were willing and able to give.

The event, as of the end of last week, had already raised over \$900 — not a bad start toward a \$5,000 goal that Melissa Hege, logistics chairperson for the campaign, says is "very reasonable."

"One thing I hope students understand is that spare change can add up. People who keep those jars at home don't realize that it adds up. Last week, \$200 of what we raised was just spare change," Hege said.

Hege asked students to put aside their humility when giving.

"Don't be ashamed to bring in your change jars. What else are you going to do with those pennies?"

SGA president Brad "Cornbread" Congleton was even more hopeful about this coming week, explaining that last week could have raised even more money, had there not been a communication breakdown in the leadership roles.

"We weren't sure who the lead man was — SGA or Brandon Hill. Next week should be even more productive."

With RHA and the Greek community also getting involved, there is hope that the third of Haiti's population in need of help will receive even more.

Congleton also hopes ECU's cause can catch up with what N.C. State and UNC have already done.

He said, "When you go to their Web sites, their Haiti cause is first and foremost. It is the first thing you see. We're working on that right now."

While the ECU home page may not be caught up, students are encouraged to check out the event's Facebook group.

While they ensure it will go on until the end of January, some, like founder and chairperson for marketing Brandon Hill, hope they can have it pushed into mid-February. Any and all contribu-



tions can help.

"Our school's motto is 'to serve,'" said Hill, "What students are doing by slipping in a dollar or even some change is fulfilling their duty to serve." He is greatly appreciative of what any and all service organizations and churches have been doing across Greenville.

As to what got Brandon, an ECU student unaffiliated with SGA, involved, he explains that it all started when he was listening to Michael Jackson's song "Feel the Love." It is, he explained, the time to step up.

Phylecia Barret, a senior at ECU and the vice president of African Students' Organization, who stepped in and gave her



Jessica Swanson was accidentally shot by her boyfriend last week

ECU athlete shot

Staff Reports

Fifth year senior Jessica Gail Swanson was accidentally shot last Monday by her boyfriend, William Hamilton.

The women's soccer player was at her boyfriend's home in Clayton when the gun accidentally fired as Hamilton was cleaning it.

The bullet, first passing through Hamilton's hand, entered Swanson's arm and broke her elbow before entering her abdomen.

After undergoing surgery at WakeMed for what was described as a "non-life threatening" injury, she was listed to be in fair condition.

Hamilton was also treated for his hand condition and released. He quickly returned to Swanson's side.

Hamilton's father was quoted in The Daily Reflector as saying, "He's doing fine physically but is very shaken emotionally by what happened. He wouldn't hurt that girl for nothing."

The interior design major and business administration minor, Swanson has played in 20 Pirates' games as a freshman and 22 contests in her junior year.

The shooting, labeled an accident, is still being investigated.

Information reported from The Daily Reflector.



Synora Cooper collects donations from a fellow student. The money goes towards the Haitian relief cause sponsored by AASO the african american student organization.

BRIEFS

Volunteer Fair in Mendenhall

Wednesday, the Volunteer and Service Learning Center will be hosting a Volunteer Fair open to all students. It will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Mendenhall Great Rooms. Community partners will be there looking for student volunteers.

ALMAS

cont. from A1

interpreters for their parents," she said.

Main explained that even seeing the women outside of the clinic allows them to see what kind of connection the Latina women have with the predominantly English-speaking community.

"You really begin to see the kind of barriers the Latina women face in the community," she said.

The ALMAS program utilizes only female volunteers for the tutoring aspect of their program. Padia explained that using female volunteers provides a more comfortable and engaging environment for the Latina women.

Padia and Mian explained that, in the future, they would really like ALMAS to be a more developed program.

"We're hoping to find tutors who are really interested in taking over the program," said Padia, since she and Mian will both be entering their third year of medical school next year.

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

CHECK IT OUT!
Check out The East Carolinian's new and improved website and **SUBMIT YOUR PIRATE RANTS!!!**

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HAVE YOU GOT TALENT?

Join us for an evening of vocal performances at Hendrix Theater in Mendenhall Student Center on Sunday, January 31, 2010 at 7:00pm. Rehearsals will be held from 1:00pm - 3:00pm at Hendrix Theater. Applications for the event will be available online at www.ecu.edu/wow and must be returned to turnerla@ecu.edu by noon on January 23. Rules for all performances are as follows:

- 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.
- Maximum length of song is 5 minutes. All performances must be solo.
- Appropriate attire is required.
- No dangerous stunts on or off the stage.
- Judges will select the top performers. The winner and runner-ups will be selected by audience applause.
- All genres of performance must include a singing vocal presentation.
- The Committee reserves the right to stop any inappropriate performance.

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CALENDER EVENTS

Tuesday, Jan. 26

•ECU Cunanan Leadership Speaker Series: Betsy Myers 3 p.m. at Wright Auditorium
Betsy Myers, a senior advisor to Barack Obama's presidential campaign, will present "Leadership and the Moments that Matter" as part of the Cunanan Leadership Speaker Series. The event is free and open to the public. Myers holds more than two decades of executive leadership positions in the public sector. Most recently, she served as chief operating officer and senior advisor to Barack Obama's presidential campaign, and she chaired the Women for Obama organization. Prior to this appointment, she was executive director of the Center for Public Leadership (CPL) at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. She also served as President Clinton's senior advisor on women's issues and was the first director of the White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach from 1995 to 1997. For more information, contact the College of Business Professional Programs at 252-328-6377 or cobprofpro@ecu.edu.
•Fraternity Rush IFC is hosting rush this week at all of the participating Greek houses. The houses will be open from 6 to 9 p.m. for all gentlemen interested in spring 2010 rush!

Wednesday, Jan. 27

•Marc Elliot Program Marc Elliot knows the importance of understanding people's differences. He

was born with a rare disease that left him with virtually no intestines, and at age nine, he developed a neurological disorder called Tourette's syndrome. He is now inspiring audiences across the country by sharing his life story to convey the value of tolerance. www.marcspeaks.com
7 to 8 p.m. in Mendenhall Student Center
•SAB Presents: "Zombieland" 9:30 p.m. in MSC Hendrix Theatre. Entrance is free for students with a OneCard. The movie is rated R. www.zombieland.com
•Fraternity Rush IFC is hosting rush this week at all of the participating Greek houses. The houses will be open from 6 to 9 p.m. for all gentlemen interested in spring 2010 rush!
•Mozart Birthday Concert 8 p.m. at A.J. Fletcher Hall. School of Music event.

Thursday, Jan. 28

•Women's Basketball vs. UAB 7 p.m. Minges Coliseum
SAB Presents: "Zombieland" 9:30 p.m. in MSC Hendrix Theatre. Entrance is free for students with a one card. The movie is rated R. www.zombieland.com
•Ralph Steele Visiting Lecture Series 3:30 p.m. at The Murphy Center
Fran Mainella will present the lecture, "Nature Deficit Disorder and its Implications on Human Well-being." Admission is free and open to the public.
•St. Lawrence String Quartet 7:30 p.m. at Wright Auditorium

CFAC event
Kemba Smith Program
Kemba Smith 7 p.m.
Science and Technology Room 207
In 1994, Kemba Smith, a college student was sentenced to 24.5 years in federal prison. Fortunately, Ms. Smith regained her freedom after President Clinton granted her clemency in December 2000. Ms. Smith's traumatic real life experience, forces today's students to listen in hopes that they will recognize that there are consequences to their life choices. Ms. Smith has received numerous awards and recognition for her courage and determination to educate the students about the devastating social, economic and political consequences of current drug policies. kembasmithfoundation.org
•Nature Deficit Disorder and its Implications on Human Wellbeing Lecture 3:30 p.m. at The Murphy Center
Fran Mainella will talk about how our lack of time spent outside, particularly among children, is resulting in a range of behavioral issues, also known as Nature Deficit Disorder. Her lecture is based upon her experiences running the National Park Service for six years, the Florida State Parks for 12 years and upon the Audubon award winning book, "Last Child in the Woods" by Richard Louv. Nature Deficit Disorder, while seeming tongue-in-check, is a serious issue, with "research confirming that direct exposure to nature is

essential for the physical and emotional health of children and adults" (www.richardlouv.com/books). If you want to know what benefits you, your family or your children will lose or gain, you are invited to come find out. Free admission.

Friday, Jan. 29

•ECU Club Sports: Ice Hockey vs. Liberty 7:30 p.m. at Bladex on Ice
•SAB Presents: "Zombieland" 9:30 p.m. in MSC Hendrix Theatre. Entrance is free for students with a one card. The movie is rated R. www.zombieland.com

Saturday, Jan. 30

•Women's Basketball vs. Memphis 4:30 p.m. Minges Coliseum
Men's Basketball vs. Rice 7 p.m. Minges Coliseum
•SAB Presents: "Zombieland" 9:30 p.m. in MSC Hendrix Theatre. Entrance is free for students with a one card. The movie is rated R. www.zombieland.com
•Great Decisions Program: US-China Security Relations 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Rivers West Auditorium
Speaker: Dr. Yang Zhong, Department of Political Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
For more info, please contact Dr. Sylvie Debevec Henning, 328-5520 or hennings@ecu.edu.

East Carolina University

Tomorrow starts here.



The College of Business
PRESENTS

Betsy Myers

Senior Advisor to Barack Obama's Presidential Campaign

"Leadership and the Moments that Matter"

PART OF THE CUNANAN LEADERSHIP SPEAKER SERIES

Wright Auditorium at East Carolina University
3:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 26

The public is invited to attend this free event.

Free campus parking will be available at the Carol Belk Park and Ride Lot, located at the intersection of Greenville and Charles boulevards. The permit requirement for the lot will be waived, and special shuttles will transport participants directly to the event at Wright Auditorium. Shuttles will pick up and drop off on the north side of the Belk Building, the side closest to the baseball stadium.

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

The Cunanan Leadership Speaker Series is made possible by a gift from ECU alumni Steve and Ellen Cunanan. Matching funds were also provided by the Johnson & Johnson Foundation.

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.



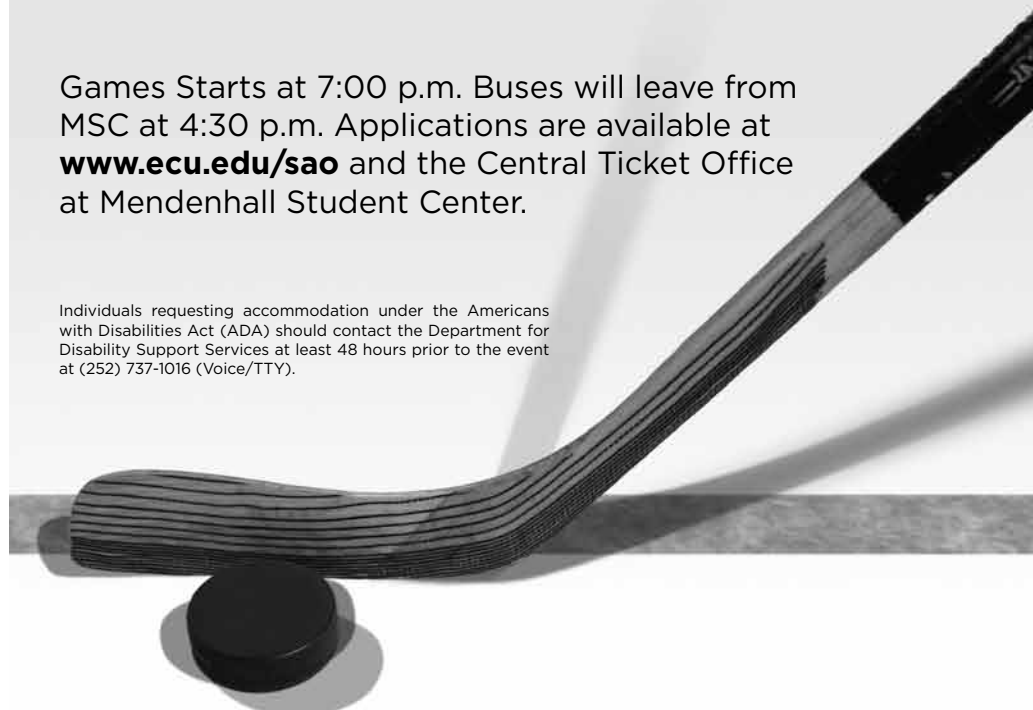
THE PERFECT 10

College Night at the Carolina Hurricanes

Thursday, January 28, 2010 4:30PM

Games Starts at 7:00 p.m. Buses will leave from MSC at 4:30 p.m. Applications are available at www.ecu.edu/sao and the Central Ticket Office at Mendenhall Student Center.

Individuals requesting accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact the Department for Disability Support Services at least 48 hours prior to the event at (252) 737-1016 (Voice/TTY).



East Carolina University

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.

When we see you out and practically run away, that is not an invitation for you to follow us to the next bar.

How you gonna jump from the Preliminaries to the Finals? What happened to the Liminaries?

45 63 57 36... when will the weather make up its mind!?!?

The next music major that tells me that their major is harder than all the rest is going to get drop kicked. Seriously, some people here are studying to SAVE LIVES, not play pretty music.

If I need to print out a paper due in 5 minutes in the bate computer lab for BUSINESS writing, I should be able to. Thanks for making me late because I had to go all the way to Austin to print one assignment.

To the guy who asked for conference rooms in the COMM building: You are cute, and I love a guy who can rock glasses like you. :)

You know the difference between a b*tch and a slut? A slut will have sex with anyone; a b*tch will have sex with anyone but me.

I'm sorry for all of you who don't like leggings as pants. I know I look good; sorry you guys have flabby skin and can't pull it off!

To the Lord of the Douches: That Jello shot and whiskey was not worth the hickey on my neck the next morning.

To all the girls at the gym that insist on wearing little shorts: Please face the wall when you do your yoga/Pilates or wear bigger shorts or pants - no one wants to stare at your cooter and that's a good way to go about getting a yeast infection.

Dear neighbor: Use head-phones next time. Dorm walls are very thin and your laptop is louder than you think.

"You will be attracted to an older, more experienced person." That was my fortune cookie on Asian food night at West end... I died laughing.

I want snow!!!!!!!

To the girl who never moves her car from the Minges parking lot, do you ever go home?

If you only knew how much I am attracted to you and how much I think about you. You wouldn't hesitate to look at me and say hi.

To the guys on my floor: Please WASH your hands when you before you leave the bathroom!!! THANK YOU AND HAVE A GREAT DAY!!

To the roommate upset about the girlfriend using utilities: We're actually using less utilities. We shower together (saving water). We don't need the lights on in the bedroom (saving electricity). And we create a lot of body heat (saving more electricity) -Love, your roommate's girlfriend... See you tonight!

To the person who fell off of the treadmill today while running: Give us all saw you and it was possibly the funniest thing I've ever seen in my life.

I can't believe I'm even wasting my time writing these Rants about you—but it's good therapy.

To the girl who was hating on people who don't wear bras right before they go to bed: Why you looking???

Ever since Chick-fil-A opened at 360, the Pirate Grill workers have pretty much been standing there with their hands behind their backs, so I bought a burger to let them know all hope is not lost.

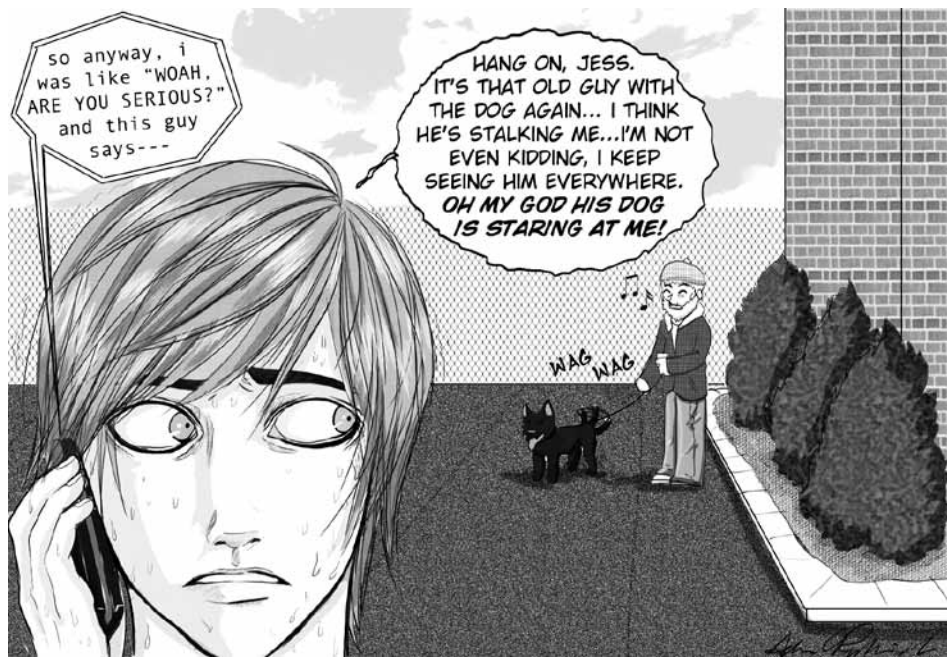
Out of all the guys on my floor about 97% of them are not athletic whatsoever but I hear the most running up and down the halls at night while trying to sleep. You want to run go to the Rec for a change. It might do you some good!!

Two the two girls in the Tuesday/Thursday English class who seem to have a comment for everything...SHUT UP! No one cares. You just make class unbearable and everyone else is annoyed.

To the girls that stomped and clapped in front of Dowdy last week: You scared me.

To my roommate: The only reason why your upset that I keep closing blinds is because your scared of the dark... Which proves my point that your just a lost, little girl.

OPINION



ILLUSTRATED BY ADRIAN PARHAMOVICH

Our View

All ideas and viewpoints expressed in "Our View" are those selected and discussed by the editorial board of The East Carolinian. Questions? Please call 252-737-2999 or E-mail: opinion@theeastcarolinian.com

We are united once again

Staff Reports

On Jan. 12, 2010, Haiti was struck with a magnitude seven earthquake and the entire world felt the devastation of loss and pain once again.

To this day, the estimated deaths from the earthquake are over 150,000, but the expected total is over 200,000 according to BBC News.

People all over the country have since come together to aid the Haitians. In a time of crisis, we have all proven that we will not turn our back to those who need our help.

Pirate Nation has shown its true colors in the aftermath of the Haiti crisis. Students and professors alike have come together to send donations, both monetary and

non-monetary, to the victims of the earthquake. Several organizations have brought together efforts on and off campus to send relief.

Some of these organizations include:

SGA: Shortly after news spread of the destruction that hit Haiti, SGA came together and organized three donation tables around campus. The tables are located at Mendenhall Student Center, Brody School of Medicine and the Student Dowdy Store and will remain there until the end of January. So far, \$900 have been raised, but the goal is set at \$5,000.

American Red Cross: The American Red Cross came to the ECU main campus Jan. 20 and 21 to take donations at the Student Dowdy Store and con-

tinues to welcome donations at their usual locations.

ROTC: On Wednesday, the ROTC program will present a check to the American Red Cross during their class at 3 p.m. in the Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

ASO: The African Students' Organization held a Hope for Haiti event Jan. 23 at Mendenhall Student Center where non-monetary items were collected, such as canned food, water, sheets, blankets, etc. The organization will hold another event on Saturday at the Walmart on Greenville Boulevard.

With such an effort to help the people of Haiti being put forth, we are truly proud to be Pirates. It is commendable in such hard times to think of someone less fortunate than you.

Where's Waldo?



Leila Falls
OPINION COLUMNIST

I feel like I'm playing a weird version of "Where's Waldo?" in Greenville. I always run into or see the same people. Sometimes it takes a while to spot them from afar but when you do, they stick out. There are so many distinct people that can be recognized by their unique characteristics, that sometimes it's hard to keep count. There is Santa, who always walks his bandana-wearing black dog throughout every mile of Greenville; the typically barefoot and short-shorts-loving guy who saunters around campus; the dowdy creeper who invites himself to your table; the homeless woman who finds it normal to knock on your car window; the guy who rides his bike without any hands and the list goes on.

Even on campus with students, there are Waldos lurking in every corner! Greenville is like a circle: somehow you run

into everyone! Running into your friends is always fun, but running into other people is awkward. It is especially strange when you run into people you consider stalkerish or people that you despise for some other equally strange reason.

Every time I am in Bate, I run into my ex-boyfriend. Sometimes it is on the way to a class or he pops out of different rooms right as I walk by! At first I got really paranoid, thinking that he was trying to be an intentional maniac. All I could think of was the movie "Obsessed." Recently, I have decided it is just a coincidence. An extremely weird coincidence, that is. What makes it even more Twilight zone-worthy is that he is always wearing a horizontally striped shirt - a different shirt, but always striped!

Maybe I am overanalyzing what is probably a coincidence, but this kind of strangeness happens all of the time. For example, whenever I mention someone, whether it is in a negative way or not, they appear out of nowhere! Don't even act like I'm being crazy; you know it happens to you, too.

Probably the most puzzling

Waldo run-ins are during class. This breed of Waldos knows of you but they don't know you. You had a class with this person or you share a mutual friend, but you have never hung out. You may feel like a horrible person for being brief when conversing with them, but in reality, they don't know you like that. Just be friendly and try to recognize them next time, even if they look like a clone of a stereotypical person. I'm not hating on all the different Waldos of Greenville - I'm probably a Waldo to some people since I do have a beak of a nose and crazy curls.

Yes, playing "Where's Waldo?" in real life can be a frightening experience, but it is secretly kind of fun. Most importantly, remember that even though sometimes the coincidental run-ins are odd and there are so many different Waldo variations around, (for the most part) no one is creeping on you. Well, of course there is the exception of those Facebook creepers, but that's another tirade.

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

Racism: The liberal game we play



Michael Pacheco
OPINION COLUMNIST

To start off, I would like to first say that this isn't racism on the same level as the Ku Klux Klan-- you know, the "black people are lazy criminals" sense of the term--but rather in an "Obama doesn't look and sound like what we liberals have come to expect black people to look and sound like" sense.

Think of the term on a level with a more familiar and recent connotation. Joe Biden is very familiar with the term. He used it pre-election in 2007.

To briefly touch back on that remarkable comment from Biden, "I mean, you got the first mainstream African-American who is articulate and bright and clean and a nice-looking guy," he said. "I mean, that's a storybook, man."

I don't even know where to begin criticizing, except to point out that this country has had some very articulate, smart, clean (whatever that means) and nice-looking black leaders: Martin Luther King, Jr. for instance, and Frederick Douglass. That's not an exhaustive list by any means, but you see my point.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) apologized the other week for referring to President Barack Obama as "light-skinned" and "with no negro dialect" in private conversations during the 2008 presidential campaign.

"I deeply regret using such a poor choice of words," said Reid in a statement. "I sincerely apologize for offending any and all Americans, especially African-Americans, for my improper comments."

Remember that Rush Limbaugh was excoriated by the left for his "Barack the Magic Negro" parody, but that parody was actually mocking an L.A. Times column which had criticized Obama for not being authentically black.

The parody was a favorite non-scandal of mine back in '08 when the phrase "Barack the Magic Negro" was used in an L.A. Times column by a black, homosexual liberal to describe the use of Obama by white liberals to assuage their liberal guilt.

For my part, I continue to

be amazed at how dishonest the media is. The lyrics to the song actually mention the L.A. Times as the originator of the term "Barack the Magic Negro":

"Barack the Magic Negro lives in D.C. The L.A. Times, they called him that 'cause he's not authentic like me. Yeah, the guy from the L.A. paper said he makes guilty whites feel good. They'll vote for him, and not for me 'cause he's not from the hood."

Any reporter or talking head that spent even a minute or two exploring the origin of this parody song, as opposed to just judging it by its title, would have gotten the joke. But as always, the media has double standards.

Democrats get the benefit of the doubt. Republicans have to explain themselves.

Going back to Reid's comment, what Reid is guilty of here is, literally, liberal racism. Liberals view blacks, all blacks, as victims because of their skin color. That's how they treat them in practice. Look at policies like affirmative action, which presume that blacks (per their inherent victimhood) cannot get ahead without a leg up from the government.

Liberals have a view of how blacks *should* look and sound. They even have a view of what blacks should believe. And if you stray from that, by maybe being self-sufficient, articulate with conservative views, then you're not authentically black.

Reid's racism is a strain of racism that's integral to liberal thought. Liberals do not see people of certain races as being equal. They seem them as perpetual victims to be exploited for political support in exchange for government assistance and entitlements.

And as such, they expect them to behave as victims, which means speaking, looking, thinking and believing a certain way. It's the liberal plantation, and people like Harry Reid don't like it when minorities wander off it.

Which is why blacks, for instance, who don't toe the line on liberal dogma (people like Michael Steele, as well as Walter Williams, Thomas Sowell, Condoleezza Rice, etc.) are routinely chastised as not being "authentically black."

Obama himself isn't even immune to it, as Reid's comments illustrate.

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



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All U.S. presidents have worn glasses, some of them just didn't like to be seen wearing them in public.

There has never been a president from the Air Force or Marine Corps, although Ronald Reagan was in the Army Air Corps.

More presidents have been born in the state of Virginia than in any other state.

No president has been an only child.

The only three U.S. presidents who ever had to deal with real or impending impeachment — Andrew Johnson, Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton — all have names that are euphemisms for "penis" — Johnson, Dick and Willie.

David Rice Atchinson was President of the United States for exactly one day.

Mel Blanc, who voiced Bugs Bunny, was allergic to carrots.

The music hall entertainer Nipsey Russell derived his stage name from a NO SMOKING sign.

Nick Mason is the only member of Pink Floyd to appear on all the band's albums.

The naked baby on the cover of Nirvana's album "Nevermind" is named Spencer Eldon.

The 1970s song "Rosanna" was written about actress Rosanna Arquette.

The B-52s were named after a 1950s hairdo.

The band Duran Duran got their name from a character in the 1968 Jane Fonda movie Barbarella.

Lucy and Linus have another little brother named Rerun. He sometimes plays left field on Charlie Brown's baseball team — when he can find it!

The term potty comes from the pint-sized chambered pot built for children.

World Tourist Day is observed on Sept. 27.

The most common name for a goldfish is Jaws.

The Eskimo language has more than 20 words to describe different kinds of snow.

Drinking water after eating reduces the acid in your mouth by 61 percent.

7 percent of Americans eat McDonalds every day.

A full 7 percent of the entire Irish barley crop goes to the production of Guinness beer.

Wine will spoil if exposed to light, hence the tinted bottles.

Coffee is the world's most popular stimulant. It is the second largest item of international commerce in the world.

There is no such thing as a blue food; even blueberries are purple.

Boxing is considered the easiest sport for gamblers to fix.

It may take longer than two days for a chick to break out of its shell.

Clouds fly higher during the day than at night.

Babe Ruth wore a cabbage leaf under his hat to keep his head cool. He changed it every two innings.

The only bone not broken so far during any ski accident is one located in the inner ear.

ECU chapter of ATMAE Robotics Team places fourth in competition

Staff Writer
MARLANA SIFTER

A team new to ECU this year, the IET students of advanced robotics competed in Louisville, Ky., at the annual Association of Technology Management and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) competition that was held at the Hyatt hotel Nov. 10-14.

The recently developed advanced robotics class, which began last semester, constructed and entered a robot into the competition for the first time and placed fourth, just missing the final round.

A good learning experience for all involved, each team is given two runs through the course along with the option to fine-tune or repair their machine in between rounds. Teams are scored on the manipulator's control of the robot, the robot's physical design as well as a team poster. The poster itself is judged prior to the robot manipulation and is based on design, technical explanation and accuracy.

The object of the competition is for the manipulator — in ECU's case, team captain Spencer Fox — to control the robot from a safe distance, and via the "remote," cause the robot to gather small balls and deposit them in a one square foot predetermined space within the set time limit. Three racquetballs are available, each with a value of one point, and one bouncy ball worth three points.

Emphasis was on building a robot that could respond to changing environmental conditions. Several revisions of the robot were created and scrapped before the final was completed.

"We only had three and a half to four months of time to work on the robot before we went to the

competition in mid-November," said Fox. The class of three had worked on the project since the beginning of the fall semester. Members of the team included junior Spencer Fox, junior Burham Siddigi, senior Seth Crow and distance education student Troy Aycock.

The nature of the competition was a double elimination; ECU won two rounds against California Polytechnic, and then Missouri State, before later being beaten twice.

While most competitors acquired parts for their robots from sponsoring companies, ECU's burgeoning team relied on scrap metal to compose their robot.

Before they begin building for next year's competition, faculty adviser and tech supervisor for the team, Jimmy Linn, hopes to "get businesses behind us," in the form of spare parts of steel and metal in exchange for the business' name or image being used in partnership with the project.

A few of the 11 colleges participating at the conference proved to be more than passive competitors, and instead designed their robots to do damage to opponents. To keep others from gaining points, these bots crashed into challengers in an attempt to put them out of action.

When this happened to ECU's robot, a tiny but essential tire was attacked and run over. In between

rounds, ECU was granted the use of a toolbox loaned to them by the eventual first place winners of the competition, Mississippi State. The wheel was successfully secured before the next round. Six victory rounds are usually required to win first place.

"Considering this is our first time, I think we did very well; performed above expectations," said supervisor Linn.

A key course for advanced credit in the IET program, Advanced Robotics currently has 15 signed up for next semester and Linn hopes there will be more in the future.

"We welcome any people who think this course may be helpful to them," he said. "The experience is a

major benefit for students and a great opportunity to work with others."

Other contributing Department of Technology Systems instructors included Robert Chin, David Batts and Merwan Mehta. Instructor Amy Frank served as team coordinator.

The event, while school-sponsored, also required a \$20 fee for three years of membership with ATMAE.

Next year's conference will be held in Panama City, Fla., with a theme of sumo-wrestler style robots.

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



Spencer Fox, Burham Siddigi, Seth Crow, and Troy Aycock were the first IET Advanced Robotics Team to enter into the ATMAE competition held in Louisville, KY

The Eastern Carolina Pageant Association searches for a new Miss Eastern Carolina

Madonna Messana
STAFF WRITER

Calling all pageant queens, and those who want to give the pageant life a go. The Eastern Carolina Pageant Association is looking for contestants to participate in their scholarship pageant program.

On Feb. 27, a Miss Eastern Carolina will be crowned, and along with the honor of holding the pageant title for all of 2010, the contestant crowned will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and a prize package. The package will also include wardrobe expenses for the Miss North Carolina Pageant, a trophy and the official Miss America local preliminary crown.

The Eastern Carolina Pageant Association came together in February of 2008 with a main goal of producing a Miss North Carolina America preliminary pageant for the young women of Eastern North Carolina.

According to The Eastern Carolina Pageant Association Facebook page, "Our mission is to allow our talented young girls here in the east the opportunity of success, achievement, community advancement, and personal growth to last throughout their lifetime. The present and future well being of each and every young girl here in the east as well as throughout our great state of North Carolina is our main priority."



ECU student Kristen Dalton won Miss North Carolina before winning Miss USA 2009

The Miss Eastern Carolina Pageant will consist of five areas of competition, which include eveningwear, interview, talent, lifestyle and fitness and on-stage questioning — this is the same as the Miss America Pageant; therefore, it will prepare girls for that competition as well. Contestants will be judged on all five areas and must participate in each of them in order to be eligible to be crowned.

Miss Eastern Carolina contestants must be between the ages of 18-24 and meet state requirements and be strong community service oriented leaders. The deadline is approaching very quickly and those interested in participating must have all

paperwork and entry forms in by Jan. 29.

For more details, call the director of the pageant, Crystal Newby, at 252-902-6040, or e-mail her at director@easterncarolinapageants.com. The Pageant will take place on Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. in Ayden at the Ayden Arts and Recreation Center, which is located at 4354 Lee St. For more information about the Miss Eastern Carolina Pageant, as well as the East Carolina Outstanding Teen Program, visit the Web site www.easterncarolinapageants.com.

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StudentCity.com offers the ultimate spring break experience

Caitlin Hale
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

For Pirates looking to go big for spring break 2010, StudentCity.com is a Web site worth visiting. The site, which is similar to other travel sites like Expedia or Travelocity, aims to help college

students find the best prices and packages for the most popular spring break destinations. StudentCity.com is extremely user-friendly and practically fool-proof. Once a user navigates to the homepage, they can choose from one of 11 preselected destinations,

including Panama City Beach, Fla.; a party cruise to the Bahamas; as well as a flight to Cancun, Mexico; or users can choose "other destination," if the desired location is not already listed. Then users simply enter the number of nights they want to stay, whether

they want to travel by land, sea or air, where they are leaving from, as well as the dates of the user's spring break. If a student does not want to go through the trouble of filling all of this information out, StudentCity.com already has pre-made "party packages"

for the hottest spring destinations that are accessed by simply clicking the party packages link. The Web site also offers a "hot deals" section, with pre-made spring break packages with the

STUDENTCITY.COM page A6

Healthy Living

Tuna salad options

Canned tuna can be enhanced with many kinds of vegetables and flavorings to make interesting, nutritious tuna salads.

Vegetable	Flavoring/dressing	Tuna
• Chopped cabbage	• Hot pepper sauce	• Water packed
• Minced celery	• Minced anchovy	• Oil packed
• Water chestnuts	• Mayonnaise	
• Crisp salad greens	• Vinaigrette	
• Chopped tomato	• Pickle relish	
	• Green olives	
	• Green or white onion	

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Source: Joy of Cooking, Weight Watchers, Craig Claiborne's Gourmet Diet, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Melina Yingling

Healthy Living

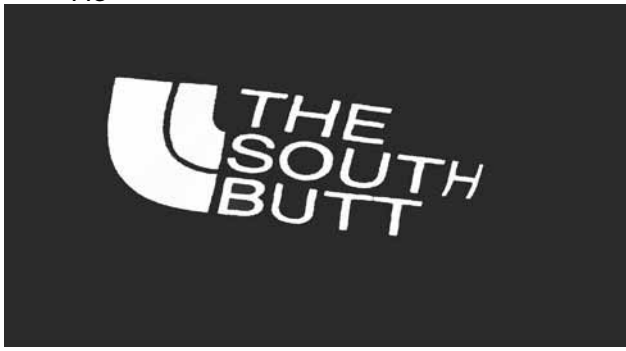
Breakfast juices compared

A comparison of some vegetable and fruit juices often served with breakfast (contents of a 1 cup/250 ml serving).

	Calories	Vitamin C	Fiber
Tomato	41	45 mg	1 g
Vegetable blend	46	67 mg	1.9 g
Orange	112	97 mg	0.5 g
Apple	117	2 mg	0.2 g
Pineapple	132	25 mg	0.5 g

Source: U.S. Agriculture Department
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Melina Yingling

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The South Butt takes a dump on The North Face

Conflict arises between rival clothing brands

Veronica Carrington
STAFF WRITER

No college would be complete without the very common North Face brand being seen around its respective campus.

The North Face began as a small mountaineering retail store in San Francisco, Calif. Soon after the opening of the retail store, it became known as The North Face, a retailer of high-performance climbing and backpacking equipment.

In 1968, The North Face moved to the other side of San Francisco Bay and began designing and manufacturing its own brand of technical mountaineering apparel and equipment.

By 1982, The North Face had taken outdoor exploration to another level by broadening their product offering and by adding extreme skiwear to their line.

By the end of the decade, The North Face became the only United States supplier to offer a comprehensive collection of high-performance outerwear, ski-wear,

sleeping bags, backpacks and tents. From the slopes to the classroom, The North Face is widely recognized as the outerwear of the affluent student; however, some feel that the company's widely recognized brand is the mark of the spoiled and rich. Those in opposition to The North Face brand believe that many students only purchase the brand in order to fit in with the "in crowd."

One such believer is Jimmy Winklemann, the creator of The South Butt brand.

Winklemann thought of The South Butt in response to a large number of people who habitually bought clothing from a brand they did not relate to, though they purchased it because "everyone else was." "After seeing the same people wearing the same brands, I decided to create a way to poke fun at the norm, while making an affordable and quality product. The South Butt doesn't expect you to climb mountains on your way to school or work. If anything, all I ask is that you make decisions and purchases based on what you like, not what you are expected to," Winklemann states on TheSouthButt.com. The South Butt was started in 2007 by Winklemann,

now 18 and attending the University of Missouri at Columbia.

Winklemann has a smaller range of products than The North Face, but all of The South Butt's products carry their controversial logo that has sparked frenzy on both sides of each respective company.

So much controversy has arisen that The North Face has taken legal action against Winklemann and The South Butt brand.

The international apparel maker filed a federal lawsuit in St. Louis alleging trademark infringement by The South Butt. The South Butt does not appear to be backing down from the fight.

"We embrace the litigation," said St. Louis attorney Al Watkins, who represents The South Butt.

The conflict between both companies started in October when an attorney for The North Face sent a letter to The South Butt demanding it stop selling its T-shirts, fleeces and shorts. The South Butt refused and then publicized the letter. Much attention was sparked by this action and as a result, sales soared. The South Butt clothing can be purchased online and at a local pharmacy, Ladue Pharmacy,

in Missouri.

The 84-page lawsuit notes that, "Unfortunately, and inevitably, The North Face's success attracts opportunists seeking to pirate its famous trademarks for their inferior knock-offs." The suit also aims to knock down any illusions that this is the story of Goliath picking on David.

The lawsuit names Winklemann, The South Butt, LLC and the Ladue Pharmacy, which handles the products' marketing and manufacturing details.

In early October, trademark attorney Annette Heller of Town and Country, who has no connection to the case, told the Post-Dispatch she suspects that The South Butt can prevail. "If they can present it as a good case of parody, they will win," said Heller.

Watkins said no consumer is confusing The South Butt with The North Face. He compared it to the Lacoste crocodile on polos and shirts with turtle logos.

"Nobody buys a turtle shirt and thinks they're getting a Lacoste," states Watkins.

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

STUDENTCITY.COM continued from A5

price already listed. Current deals include a stay in Panama City Beach, where visitors will be staying at the Cabana Cay Resort Condos. The price of \$279 per person includes a seven-night stay, 15 hours of free drinks and a spring break 2010 T-shirt, with all taxes and fees included. Other current deals include stays in Cancun, Mazatlan, and Acapulco, Mexico, as well as Freeport, Bahamas. For those who are not familiar with traveling, StudentCity.com makes the whole process a breeze. Through the Web site, students can purchase meal plans, very similar to those at ECU. According to the site, the meal plans are valid at "student-favorite" restaurants. Also, the site gives lists of clubs that have been rated by previous visitors, so there is no need to worry about visiting an unsafe location. However, what makes this site different from others are the guarantees that are offered. According to StudentCity.com, a 150 percent price buster guarantee is offered. "We guarantee you won't find a

better Spring Break vacation value. In the unlikely event that you do, you'll receive a 150% Price Bust. That means we'll discount your StudentCity Spring Break vacation by 150% of the difference, up to a total of \$30 below a competitor's price," the Web site reads. In addition, StudentCity.com partners with the popular network MTV. Since 2005, MTV has selected Student City as their partner for production when it comes to all spring break programming in Panama City Beach and Cancun. StudentCity has even assisted MTV in the taping of the popular show "Wild 'N Out" as well as the production of the MTV Spring Break concert series. With all of this considered, StudentCity.com appears to be perfect for those looking to have a spring break to remember. The deals this Web site offers will not last forever, so spring breakers should not wait too long to book the ultimate spring break experience.

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



Soldiers help Iraqi boy get a new smile

Sgt. Mary Phillips
CONTRIBUTED WRITER

From behind his father, an excited three-year-old boy named Abdullah plays peek-a-boo with soldiers of the 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

The soldiers are there to check on the child who is recovering from a recent cleft palate surgery; a surgery that happened thanks in part to the efforts of the soldiers there to see him. It all started with a trip to the

trash dump, where 2nd Lt. Charles Duggan said he visits south of Baghdad regularly while on missions with his soldiers.

"I was talking to the people there and I asked who the shaykh was," said Duggan, of Jacksonville, N.C. "I went to talk to him, and this guy brought his kid and showed me his kid."

Arhim Shakban's son, Abdullah, was born with a cleft palate, a birth defect that happens when a child's mouth does not develop properly during pregnancy. "It's one thing that I felt like I was in control of, that I could help out,"

said Duggan. "[Shakban] did not ask me specifically about his son, but his son was there and I wanted to help his son. I had to act."

Duggan got on the Internet after that first meeting with Abdullah and tried to find a way to help the boy. The first organization he contacted did not have doctors in the area that would be able to help him, but they referred him to a group who could.

"They referred me to Smile Train," said Duggan. "Smile Train told me they had an associate who worked in the area." Duggan was soon e-mail-

ing Dr. Ahmed Nawres, a plastic surgeon working in Babylon, south of Baghdad. "[Dr. Nawres] told me he'd be happy to do the surgery on any child that I found free of charge," said Duggan.

Nawres has worked with Smile Train since 2006 and has completed more than 150 cleft palate surgeries, averaging three per week. Abdullah received his surgery Dec. 14, 2009. Duggan and the other soldiers in his platoon were excited to visit the boy, and they said they were happy to be able to help Abdullah.

"I did this because it was the right thing to do," said Duggan. "It

was only a small effort on my part but I am glad to do what I can to make this wonderful event possible." "We're just glad to be able to help," said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Boyette, of Southern Pines, N.C. Abdullah's father was the happiest of all.

"Every day I would worry about it and not know what to do," said Shakban. "He would not want to go outside with the kids, he stayed inside. Now he opens the door and plays with everyone. He can feel that something is different now. It goes away and he looked in the mirror and said, 'I look cute now' after the

surgery."

The father smiled as he watched Abdullah laughing and playing with the soldiers. Boyette showed him how to turn on and off the light on his helmet and Abdullah was eventually taking it off of the soldier's head, and putting it on his own. The boy kissed the soldiers and made his way around the room, playing laughing and smiling.

"There are not enough words in any language to express how happy I am feeling right now," Shakban said.

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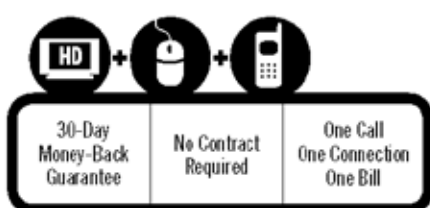
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East Carolina University
STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS



Men's tennis earns two wins in opening weekend play

The ECU men's tennis squad captured two wins in its opening weekend by outlasting Old Dominion 4-3 on Friday and defeating Norfolk State 5-1 in the Old Dominion Team Shoot-out College on Saturday. Old Dominion challenged the Pirates early on by winning its opening three singles matches at the No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 positions. Massimo Mannino captured ECU's first point by defeating Krzysztof Muzalewski in three sets 3-6, 6-1, 7-5. Freshman John Schmitt won his first spring match over Albert Ochagavia 6-4, 6-3. Bryan Oakley wrapped up singles play, defeating Alfredo Rodriguez 6-0, 6-3. ECU fared better in doubles play, winning two of three. In the No. 1 spot, Henrik Skalmrud and Hofstra transfer Stian Tvedt hold off Tobias Fanselow and Benjamin Chomette, 9-8. The Pirates were set back as Krzysztof Muzalewski and Yakov Diskin gave Jaroslav Horvath and Mannino their first doubles loss, 8-3. On Saturday, ECU took on the Norfolk State Spartans. The Pirates dropped the first singles match but quickly clinched the victory by outscoring the Spartans 48-8 in just four contests. Doubles play was not scheduled for this match.

Women's tennis starts season on high note

The ECU women's tennis team opened the 2010 season with a pair of victories at the Aggie Tennis Complex on Friday. The Pirates defeated North Carolina A&T, 5-2, and blanked N.C. Central, 6-0. Audrey LePottier paced the team at the No. 1 position by winning in straight sets 6-3, 6-0 against Jaymee Jones. Jessica Cook followed in the No. 2 spot with a three-set win over Winnie Quick. Cook struggled, dropping the first set and winning the second set by one but recovered and won the third set, 6-1. Additional ECU singles wins were turned in by Tamara Sachs at No. 3 (6-1, 7-5 over Cayla Cross) and Yilian Zhang at No. 4 (6-0, 6-0 over Nianna Henry). Kristin Gordon and Sheelah Iyengar dropped their matches in three sets to give N.C. A&T their two points. ECU opened strong, winning all three doubles matches with a 24-11 record. Leading off, freshman Petra Vogel, partnered with senior Brooke Walter, defeated Jaymee Jones and Azeib Nigatu, 8-2, while junior Tamara Sachs and freshman Yilian Zhang teamed up to post an 8-5 triumph over Winnie Quick and Cayla Cross. ECU finished the sweep when Kristin Gordon and Jessica Cook held off Nianna Henry and Nina Henry, 8-4. Against N.C. Central in the afternoon match, the Lady Pirates captured all six singles matches, four in straight sets but did not play doubles. At No. 1 and No. 2, LePottier and Natalie Collins went three sets but outlasted their opponents. ECU notched straight-set triumphs in the last four flights.

Ask the Sports Editor

Any questions on ECU, professional or other collegiate sports? Have any comment or concerns? Drop a line to sports@theeastcarolinian.com and perhaps a response to your question will appear in future editions of TEC.

McNeill named 20th ECU head football coach

Michael Perry
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

One week following the conclusion of the Skip Holtz era, the ECU football program named Pirate alumnus Ruffin McNeill as the 20th ECU head football coach.

McNeill, the former defensive coordinator for Texas Tech, returns to Greenville primed and ready for his first fulltime head coaching position.

"I'm honored, humbled and excited to become your next head football coach," McNeill said in his opening press conference. "This is a dream come true for an ECU boy."

McNeill takes the helm of the Pirate ship with a 1-0 coaching record as he led the No. 21 Red Raiders over Michigan State, 41-31, in the Valero Alamo Bowl following the untimely termination of Texas Tech head coach Mike Leach.

With the conclusion of this past season, McNeill has accrued 24 years of experience as a college-level coach, spending his last 10 years working with the Red Raiders' defense.

ECU Athletic Director Terry Holland and the Executive Committee of the ECU Board of Trustees accepted McNeill based on his sense of dedication to the Pirate football program.

"Coach McNeill's interview revealed his strong commitment to doing things the right way and his love of coaching young men to grow in every part of their lives," Holland said. "His excitement for what ECU football can become in the future was con-

tinuous and his deep and abiding appreciation for what ECU has meant to him and his family was truly moving."

During Friday's press conference, McNeill revealed that he intended to bring the pass-heavy offense that he learned at Texas Tech to ECU.

To lead the Pirates' new gunslinger type of offense, McNeill invited former Red Raider offensive coordinator Lincoln Riley, who called the plays for Texas Tech in its Alamo Bowl victory over the Spartans, to join him at ECU.

"Riley will be the offensive coordinator here and will run the offense we ran at Texas Tech," McNeill said. "I know what it (Texas Tech offense) can do and what it will take us to."

Riley becomes the first member of McNeill's coaching cabinet, while others are expected to join the program within the coming weeks.

McNeill set forth a list of immediate responsibilities, first of which is to hit the recruiting trail as National Signing Day (Feb. 3) is eight days away.

With the limited amount of recruiting time, McNeill intends to contact currently committed recruits as well as attempting to recruit what he called the "right players" before signing day.

"I'm going to assure the Pirate Nation that we're going to look for the right player to get on our bus here at ECU," McNeill said. "He's going to have to have the right 'it.' We want the right people on our bus to achieve those things ... academically and championship-wise."



New ECU head football coach Ruffin McNeill speaks during his first press conference Friday.

At the base of his team philosophy, McNeill assured that he would expect both academic and athletic excellence and that he was here to continue and improve ECU's ability to win championships.

McNeill promised to bring a hard love/hard work mentality to the program and to be a service to the university, the community and his new team.

"I promise the parents of our current players, current recruits and future recruits that I will take care of their most prized possession," McNeill said. "I

know how special that possession is to them."

On the field as a Pirate defensive back, McNeill was a four-year letter winner from 1976-80, a three-year defensive starter and a two-year team captain.

In 1976, McNeill aided the ECU squad to its Southern Conference Championship as well as a 1978 berth to the Independence Bowl, the first of the modern bowl era for the Pirates.

Following his graduation from ECU, McNeill earned his master's in counseling from

Clemson in 1987, after which he took several coaching positions.

McNeill was welcomed back to the Pirate Nation by several standing ovations during Friday's press conference and his unfaltering commitment to the program is sure to have put him in good standing with Holland, the ECU Board of Trustees and the fans who undoubtedly are still wounded by the hoodwink maneuver by the former Coach Holtz.

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



ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard (left) places a hat on new Pirate football coach Ruffin McNeill's head during the latter's first press conference.

McNeill says all the right things, wins over Pirate fans

OPINION



Jared Jackson
SPORTS EDITOR

It's often said, in the most cliché style possible, to not judge a book by its cover. But last Thursday afternoon, that's just what I did.

When I heard the news of ECU hiring Ruffin McNeill to replace the head coaching vacancy left by former head coach Skip Holtz, who bolted for South Florida, I was anything but thrilled.

In fact, within moments of hearing of the hire, I'd labeled it as a failure. With names like Mike Leach, Tommy Bowden and Jeff Jags out there, who would have thought that athletic director Terry Holland would have hired a former Pirate cornerback with basically no head coaching experience to lead the ECU program to a higher level?

Certainly not me. McNeill's head coaching experience came solely from being the interim headman in

Texas Tech's 41-31 Alamo Bowl win over Michigan State following Leech's dismissal earlier this month. To have heard Holland lay out his map or criteria to finding a new head coach, it just didn't seem to add up.

Holland had stated, almost two weeks ago now, what he was looking for, in order.

"We'll be looking hard at head coaches at the FBS (formerly 1-A) level first, then head coaches at the FCS (formerly 1-AA) level and then, of course, coordinators."

Now there are only a few people who actually know who was and wasn't contacted regarding the head coach opening, but Holland seemed to stray from his plan almost as quickly as he had announced it.

McNeill, after all, fell under the "coordinators" category. The hiring was a head-scratcher at first, with ECU seeming to have to settle instead of being able to choose.

Everything regarding the ECU football program's future seemed to be in doubt last Thursday night.

Then came Friday's 11 a.m. press conference in which McNeill was formally introduced as the 20th coach in Pirate history.

After sitting through four football seasons worth of Holtz

press conferences, I didn't know that a presser could be so engaging and downright hopeful. Where Holtz basically wrote the book on "coach speak," McNeill promised to be an off-the-script kind of guy.

The real highlight of McNeill's first public appearance came in the early minutes of the nearly 50-minute affair.

"This is my destination job," said McNeill, a defensive back for the Pirates from 1976-80 and also an assistant coach for the program in 1992. "Let's get that out front right now and make sure that's very clear. This is not a stepping-stone hop for Ruff. This is where I want to be until you all take me away from here. You'll have to drag me away."

"I plan on being here a long time," McNeill also added. "We (McNeill and his family) plan on being here a long time. I plan on being around you for a long time. I am so happy to be back into Pirate Nation and to be a part of the family."

From that point on it was clear why Holland's critical choice had been McNeill.

Whereas an up-and-coming coach would be more apt to become another Holtz and jump ship after a few seasons, and an established but recently

Lady Pirates fall to SMU, 73-59

Staff Reports

The ECU women's basketball team fell victim to SMU, falling 73-59 Saturday at Moody Coliseum.

The Lady Pirates are now 15-4 overall and 4-2 in league play, while the Mustangs improve to 14-4 overall and 4-1 in conference action.

SMU pushed out to a 10-2 lead, when Alice Severin completed a 3-point play with 15:38 left in the half. Crystal Wilson brought the Lady Pirates within 12-11, hitting a mid-range jumper from the key, but the Mustangs scored four-straight points as the game broke at the 11:07 mark.

ECU pulled within two again, but a 3-pointer by Samantha Mahnesmith gave SMU a nine-point lead with 6:24 left in the period. The Mustangs took their largest lead of the game, 33-22, when Brittany Gilliam knocked Allison Spivey over and grabbed a loose ball for a putback. With just five seconds left, Chareya Smith dropped in a layup to leave the score at 38-28

at the break.

Wilson led all Lady Pirate scorers with nine while Spivey netted seven. Additionally, Ashley Clarke and Chareya Smith pulled down three rebounds.

SMU had the shooting edge, .517-.458, as well as the advantage in rebounding, 17-13, and assists, 11-5.

The Mustangs blitzed ECU out of the locker room, pushing out to an 18-point lead. The Lady Pirates sliced the deficit to 14 with four-straight points then drew within 12 (53-41) at the 11:53 mark. SMU kept its 12-point cushion as the clock ticked under eight minutes as a Haley Day jumper made the score 58-46.

ECU pulled within six on a Spivey 3-pointer, but it was as close as it would get, as Brittany Gilliam nailed a 3-pointer of her own to push the lead back to nine and effectively seal the game.

Spivey led the offense with



Crystal Wilson, seen in action earlier this year, paced Pirate scorers with nine points in a 73-69 setback to SMU.

MCNEILL continued from A7

dismissed coach would have probably done likewise, McNeill wants to be a part of the Pirate Nation as its head football coach for the rest of his career.

For McNeill, this isn't a starting point, and if you hold his words true, this will ultimately be his stopping point.

During the course of his excellent introduction, McNeill referred to academics almost as much as he did football. Having many family members graduate from ECU, as well as himself, he knows that winning on Saturdays begins in the classroom and that is why it will play a huge role in his goals for the Pirates' program.

"The first goal is to maintain, create and keep academic excellence," McNeill said. "Again, I'm a witness to it as I graduated from here while playing football. It can be done and will be done. It will be expected here. If I can do it, I know everyone can do it."

But of course, on the field

McNeill wants to win and get up with what Holtz built during his tenure.

"The next one (goal) is to win championships," McNeill said. "That's what you get in it for. That's why I'm here. I'm not coming to a place that has not won championships. Don't misunderstand that."

"When I talked to the team last night, we said that's a major goal — to win championships," McNeill added. "Let's continue to compete and go to another level. Let's keep reaching for that."

While McNeill's tenure will of course be decided by wins and losses, it's great to have a coach in place that seemingly has a great plan to steer ECU football to greater heights.

Here's to you, Coach McNeill. You won over one critic on Friday, and hopefully you'll be around longer than a half-decade.

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

Morrow, Pirates snap after losing C-USA streak

Staff Reports

Darius Morrow scored 17 points to lead ECU to a 61-46 win over Tulane Sunday afternoon, ending a five-game losing streak and giving the Pirates their first Conference USA win of the season.

The win also snapped a 10-game C-USA losing streak dating back to last season as well as gave ECU (7-13, 1-5 C-USA) its first win at Fogelman Arena in seven visits.

Jamar Abrams was the only other Pirate to net double figures with 11 points. Erin Straughn and Chad Wynn added eight points apiece.

The Pirates opened the game by scoring the first 12 points. Wynn got things started with a bucket in the lane followed by consecutive 3s from Straughn and Abrams before the duo each made a two-point basket. Tulane didn't get its first point until Kendall Timmons scored at the 14:04 mark.

ECU continued to score at an efficient pace with Morrow, who played for the first time since the UAB game, added four points and Jontae Sherrod scored five points as part of an 11-5 run to extend its lead to 18, 25-7, with 6:39 remaining in the half.

Tulane (6-12, 1-4 C-USA) began the game by missing 17 of its first 20 attempts and finished the half 6-of-28 (21.4 percent). The Pirates shot 54.2 percent for the half and controlled the boards, garnering twice as many rebounds, 26-13, as the Green Wave.

ECU led by 11 at halftime, 32-21.

Abrams scored the first four points of the second half to push the Pirates back out to a 15-point cushion. Tulane used a 9-0 run to close the gap to six, 39-33, with 14:50 left. That's when Morrow began to assert himself. The Pirates scored 10 unanswered points, including six from Morrow, to stretch their lead back to 16, 49-33, with 10:50 to go.

Morrow's 3-point play with



Darius Morrow netted 17 points in a 61-46 ECU victory over Tulane on Sunday.

SID PHOTO

LADY continued from A7

15 points in the contest while Gay added 12. Clarke was the top rebounder, as she pulled down seven.

The Mustangs had the edge from the field .458-.438 while also enjoying a 35-30 margin on the glass, including 14 offensive rebounds. SMU also had the

advantage in assists 18-10, while the Lady Pirates turned the ball over 23 times, leading to 31 Mustangs points.

ECU returns home Thursday, Jan. 28, as UAB invades Mingos Coliseum. Tipoff is slated for 7 p.m.

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January 8, 2010 7:00 pm - 12 midnight	Late Nite	Mendenhall Student Center
January 12, 2010 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Surviving College And Living To Tell About It: An Effective Study Skills Workshop	SciTech Building - Room 207
January 19-22, 2010 8:00 am - 10:00 am	Hot Chocolate and Bubble Sheets	Mendenhall Bus Stop
January 19-22, 2010	Winter Festivities	Various Campus Locations
January 20, 2010 8:00 pm	Comedian	Hendrix Theatre
January 21, 2010 6:30 pm	Polar Bear	Student Recreation Center
January 22, 2010 7:00 pm - 12 midnight	Late Nite Pajama Jam	Mendenhall Student Center
January 24, 2010 7:00 pm	ECU Stars	Hendrix Theatre
January 28, 2010 4:30 pm	College Night at the Carolina Hurricanes Game	
January 30, 2010 4:30 pm	Men and Women's Basketball Double Header	

* Games Starts at 7:00 p.m. Buses will leave from MSC at 4:30 p.m. Applications are available at www.ecu.edu/sao and the Central Ticket Office at Mendenhall Student Center.

* Applications are available at www.ecu.edu/wow

* Women's Game at 4:30 pm - Men's Game at 7:00 pm

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FOR RENT

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5 or 6 people can live comfortably (and legally- it's a duplex) in this 2900 square foot house just 2 blocks from campus and right across the street from the new STARBUCKS coffee house. 2 full kitchens, 3 full bathrooms, 6 bedrooms (15' x 15' average size). Central heat/ air, washer, dryer, dishwasher, alarm system all provided. Fenced-in yard (some dogs ok). Aug 1. Call 916-5680.

Apartments for Rent: Cypress Gardens 1 & 2 BR Basic Cable/Water/Sewer \$440-\$515. College Park 1 & 2 BR Water/Sewer \$410-\$515. Gladiolus Gardens 1, 2, 3 BR per allowed with fee (breed restrictions) \$375-\$550. Peony Gardens 2BR, 1.5BA Water/Sewer/Washer/Dryer \$410. Contact Wainright Property Management at 252-756-6209 or www.rentingreenville.com

Townhouses for rent: Cannon Court 2BR/1.5BA Basic Cable included \$455. Cedar Court 2BR/1.5BA \$455. Contact Wainright Property Management at 252-756-6209 or www.rentingreenville.com

Duplexes for rent: 2002-B East 3rd Street 2BR/2BA \$550. 109-B Wyndham Circle 2BR/2BA \$575. 1103 E. 4th Street 2BR/1.5BA with loft \$630. Contact Wainright Prop-

erty Management at 252-756-6209 or www.rentingreenville.com

Pre-leasing, lease to start (June, July, or August). 1, 2, 3, or 4 bedrooms with central heat/AC, all appliances. We mow the yard. See at collegeuniversityrentals.com or call 252-321-4712.

ECU AREA- One Bedroom triplex 2 blocks from campus, \$375/month. Available immediately. W/D hookup, ceiling fans, A/C, water included. Individual fenced backyard, pets OK! Contact Tilley Properties at 252-830-9502 or tilley_melissa@yahoo.com

ECU AREA- 3 bedroom, 2 bath house with fenced yard, fridge w/ ice, central HVAC, off-street parking, W/D hookup, hardwood floors. Pets OK. Three blocks from campus. Available immediately. Call 252-830-9502 or email tilley_melissa@yahoo.com

Looking for an affordable apartment close to campus? Check out the Gables at Brownlea located just blocks from ECU. Cable and Internet included! Call 252-321-3281 for details.

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Duplexes 2BR/1BA near ECU. Duplex located at 400 Maple Street includes all appliances. \$625/month. Another duplex located at 112-B N. Jarvis Street: \$360/month. Available now! Call 252-902-9686.

1 bedroom apartment for sublease in Melbourne Park. Lease Feb 1-Aug. 11. \$525 a month. Contact Meredith at 252-432-6309.

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Earn cash fast!! Immediate openings for entertainers and bartenders. \$1000+ per week. Transportation provided if needed. For more information, call (919)734-0102 after 8pm or (919)920-3913 after 2pm.

Greenville Recreation & Parks Department is recruiting part-time youth soccer coaches/referees for our upcoming indoor soccer program. Applicants must possess a good knowledge of soccer skills and have the ability and patience to work with youth. Applicants must be able to coach young people ages 12-18 in soccer fundamentals. Hours are from 6:45pm to 10:00 pm, Monday - Thursday. Flexible hours according to class schedules. This program will run from March 9 to mid May. Salaries

start at \$7.25 per hour. Apply online at www.greenvillenc.gov. For more information, please contact the Elm Street Office at 329-4650, Monday through Friday, 2 pm until 7 pm.

Babysitter/Mother's Helper wanted to help with 5-year-old. Also help with household duties. No smokers. Car needed. Must be a responsible person. References required. Call 252-355-7875.

Babysitters needed. Great pay, experience preferred! Please call 252-347-4054 if interested!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Betsy Myers, a senior advisor to Barack Obama's presidential campaign, will speak at Wright Auditorium on Tuesday, January 26, at 3:00 pm. The event, part of the Cunanan Leadership Speaker Series, is free and open to the public.

Challenge Course Facilitator Workshop: 1/28/10 and 1/30/10. ECU Campus Recreation and Wellness. Workshop is the first step to receive formal training as a Challenge Course Facilitator. Contact Eric Gardner at 328-2944.

The Eastern Carolina Scholarship Pageant Association is seeking contestants for their scholarship pageant on February 27 in Ayden, NC. The winner will receive no less than a \$1,000 scholarship. The deadline to enter is January 29. For more info, call 252-902-6040 or e-mail director@easterncarolinapageants.com.

Wish Granting Volunteers are needed for the local Make-A-Wish Foundation! Volunteers will visit children with life-threatening medical conditions and their families, and will see the impact a wish can make on these children! For more info, contact Lisa at 919-821-7111 or lbrinkerhoff@eastncwish.org.

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