

INSIDE

OPINION: Dear ECU basketball fans: I would like to remind you that you're not in Joyner Library. It is okay to get loud and even scream to support your team. GO PIRATES! ARRGGGH! **A4**

PULSE: Do you have the Valentine's Day blues? Turn to Pulse for a remedy. **A6**

SPORTS: Was new ECU football coach Ruffin McNeill's able to salvage the Pirates recruiting class? Turn to sports to find out. **B1**

BRIEFS

Bestselling author visits ECU

Staff Reports

New York Times bestselling writer Eloisa James is coming to ECU's campus through the English Club.

Mary Bly, Eloisa James' real name, is a romance novelist and a Shakespearean professor at Fordham University in New York. She will be hosting three events from Feb. 17-18.

Mary Bly is the author of "Queer Virgins and Virgin Queens on the Early Modern Stage." She is currently working on "The Geography of Puns: London's Bawdy Whores," a project addressing the geographical and linguistic economies of early modern London. Some of her work has been published in the PMLA and the collection "City of Vice." She is an associate editor for Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England. She is also a New York Times bestselling author of popular fiction. She writes a monthly feature on romance fiction for the Barnes & Noble Review site.

Bly's visit is sponsored by the English Club, the Student Activities Board, Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of English and Joyner Library.

The three events are as follows:

Feb. 17

5 p.m.

Bate 1031

Playing the Tourist in Early Modern London: Mapping Plays and Culture

Feb. 18

5 p.m.

Bate 1015

Genre Writing and Publishing
Professor Bly will lead an informal conversation with students interested in genre fiction and the publishing industry. All are welcome!

Feb. 18

7:30 p.m.

Joyner Library Teaching Resource Center

Shakespeare in Love: From the Renaissance to the Romance

Bly talks about what it's like to have a double life: writing for love, writing for money and writing about Shakespeare. This talk will be followed by a book signing.

Heart and Sole Walk at noon

Staff Reports

ECU News Services has announced the start of their "Wear Red for Women" campaign. The first event to begin the campaign will be an annual "Heart and Sole Walk" sponsored by the Campus Recreation and Wellness Center at noon on Thursday. The goal is to raise awareness for heart health. The walk is only one mile and starts at the Student Recreation Center, continues down Fifth Street, turning onto Founders Drive. From there, walkers will pass the fountain in the middle of campus and make their way back to the Student Recreation Center.

Participants and those who cannot take part in the walk are encouraged to donate a new pair of athletic shoes for children ages five to 14, which will go to students at local schools. The donation is not a requirement for the walk, though.

Officials are hoping to receive more than the 60 pairs donated last year.

"At Campus Recreation and Wellness, we encourage kids to be physically active," said Heart and Sole Walk coordinator Tara Smith. "Keeping active goes a long way to preventing heart disease later in life. This event is a chance for our own ECU family to get some physical activity as well as a great outreach endeavor for people to donate new shoes to children in need."

> **WALK page A2**

WEB POLL

HAVE YOU USED THE TUTORING CENTER?

YES

NO

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The East Carolinian

Thursday, 2.4.10

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YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Lambda Chi Alpha loses fraternity charter

Cassie McLean
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Last week, Lambda Chi Alpha, one of ECU's four original fraternities, locally established in 1958, lost its charter.

While the cause of the loss, a decision made by the fraternity's national chair members, has remained vague to the general public, the decision was made after a series of smaller events within the fraternity. Most significant, though, was the fraternity's failure to pay their national dues,

resulting in their removal from campus and the Interfraternity Council.

In addition, according to the fall 2009 Interfraternity Council's grade report, the fraternity placed at the bottom of the list amongst ECU's 17 fraternities with a chapter average semester GPA of 2.16.

The fraternity, with over 1,000 initiates in the last 50 years, has made a large impact on ECU's community and the decision to remove them will tremendously impact the university.

Within the Board of Trustees, two members are alumni of ECU's Lambda Chi chapter and four of the buildings around campus were named and dedicated to the charities provided by previous members, including the Murphy Center after brother Pete Murphy. The decision to remove the chapter was taken very seriously.

While the International Lambda Chi headquarters chose not to comment on the situation, they did release a media report to the school. According to the

media report, the fraternity will be inactive "until conditions improve sufficiently to allow for a successful chapter to operate on the campus."

John Holloway, direct of chapter services for Lambda Chi Alpha, said, "Unfortunately, we are unable to offer the proper undergraduate experience at this time. We greatly value the Iota-Upsilon



LESLIE BAKER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha will be forced to vacate their house.

> **LAMBDA page A2**



LESLIE BAKER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Chancellor Ballard presented "The State of the University" in Hendrix Theater Wednesday.

Chancellor commends progress at State of the University Address

Marie Burrell
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Hendrix Auditorium was home for what will become an annual State of the University Address Wednesday morning.

Next month marks the 103rd anniversary of ECU.

The last 97 years of the university's existence have contributed to the many attributions that embody the motto of "to serve," and making a difference in the community and state is something that Chancellor Steve Ballard said he passionately believes in.

The commitment to diversity inside and outside of the classroom provides graduates with the ability to be culturally competent and able to make a difference in society.

Budget

The budget for the state remains a foggy subject due to the national fiscal crisis.

Across the nation, there are \$250 billion in budget shortfalls, contributing to decreased higher education spending.

Brad "Cornbread" Congleton, Student Body President commented on the Chancellor's address



MARIE BURRELL

Students gathered for University Address.

on the economic problems.

"The chancellor and his executive council are going to take a proactive approach to address guidelines," he said. "It is a tomorrow approach that is going to take a lot of critical thinking and teamwork."

Efficiency efforts and cost minimization make ECU one of the best universities in planning for worst-case conditions.

The biggest priorities are financial aid, the dentistry school, Outreach Scholars Academy and the students' first-year experience.

The revenue resources through private investments, research and corporate support have grown, aiding ECU in making programs better.

Where ECU Stands

As of 2010, ECU is doing well.

> **STATE page A2**

Students plan good deeds for spring break

Emily Cunningham
STAFF WRITER

This spring break, 36 ECU students will forgo the cruises, beaches and parties in order to participate in the Volunteer and Service Learning Center's 2010 TRIPS Program.

TRIPS, which stands for Turning Responsibility into Powerful Service, involves ECU students traveling to out-of-town locations to aid with disaster relief efforts. This year, students will be heading to Carteret County and Atlanta.

In Carteret County, students will be staying at Camp Albemarle and will be engaged in efforts to help with environmental damage resulting from natural disasters. The service projects for the Carteret site will include bagging oyster shells, aquarium work and general cleanup.

Students who travel to Atlanta will be involved in a large group effort, which includes several other schools from across the country, to remedy the long-term effects of flood waters. Stu-

dents will also help with donation sorting and food services in the Atlanta community.

Mike Loeffelman, volunteer coordinator for the VSLC, stressed the importance of disaster relief efforts such as ECU's service trips because, "Disaster relief does not happen overnight. It takes months, it takes years to recover from a disaster." Loeffelman stated, "ECU students have privileges that other people don't have. We take these privileges for granted; for example, food, shelter, education and a support system."

So far, the VSLC has received 18 applications for the 36 available spots. The trips do cost money, but only \$120, which includes food, lodging and transportation. Loeffelman stated that he hopes to have the cost down to \$100 soon because of the financial struggles many college students are facing. Volunteers will also complete approximately 30-40 hours of volunteer service during the week.

Loeffelman stated the VSLC has been working with other organizations on campus, such as the

Center for Student Leadership and Civic Engagement and Student Affairs to help train the site leaders, who are also ECU students, and educating the volunteers.

According to Loeffelman, TRIPS began in 2005 and has usually generated positive feedback from students who have participated in the past. "Students love the experience and it really reaffirms their commitment to service," he said. "The service sites also appreciate the mass amount of work in a short period of time."

The VSLC has also implemented five main learning objectives to be accomplished by the end of the trip. Among them are that students will become more aware of the needs of their community and that students will feel more comfortable working with people who have different life experiences.

Loeffelman emphasizes that the purpose of TRIPS is to show students that they have a responsibility to their communities. "There are so many things students can do over spring break. They can go to



CONTRIBUTED

Students gather after volunteering.

the beach, visit family, take adventure trips and they can serve."

For those who are interested in participating in the VSLC's TRIPS program, the application is located on the center's Web site, www.ecu.edu/VSLC. The deadline for applications is this Friday, Feb. 5. Students will be

notified if they've been accepted to participate by Feb. 7. Students who have additional questions about the TRIPS program can contact Mike Loeffelman at LoeffelmanM@ecu.edu.

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

Joyner hosts Pitt County celebration

Chris Thomas
STAFF WRITER

The celebration of Pitt County's anniversary began at Joyner Library with an art exhibit displaying photos and artifacts from Pitt County's history.

The exhibition started on the second floor with a display of photographs depicting various moments in Pitt County's history, including freedom marchers in Bear Grass, the very first Hardee's (which opened in Greenville in September 1960) and President John F. Kennedy while on the campaign trail, speaking in front of students and staff at what was then East Carolina College.

The display even included copies from a 19th century issue of The Daily Reflector and the quarter used to buy the first subscription. The third and fourth floors included government documents, postcards and photos from Pitt County's past that gave the viewer a look into the distant past of a city and county that looked dramatically different from present day.

The evening was highlighted by refreshments and short speeches from a few of the people that made the evening's festivities possible, including assistant professor Christopher Oakley, who said in his speech that he was proud to partake in the project as "a lifelong North Carolinian and an adopted Greenvillean."

Through the evening's guest speakers, the attendees learned of Pitt County's roots, development and the work put into the 250th anniversary project, which got its start a year and a half ago. The county was founded as an extension of Beaufort County in 1760, though it didn't take full effect until the beginning of the following year.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Roger Kammerer, a Pitt County historian. Kammerer was born in Nebraska but moved to North Carolina as a boy. He attended



REBECCA HARTMAN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Viewers enjoy looking at one of the three featured exhibits in Joyner Library.

Swansboro High School, and upon graduation continued his studies at ECU.

In 1984, Kammerer became one of the charter members of Pitt County Family Researchers, a Pitt County genealogical group and has also been a columnist for the Greenville Times on Greenville History.

Kammerer's lecture was on what he called the consciousness of Pitt County — The Daily Reflector.

"It started out as a small four-page paper ... but it was the consciousness of the community ... the moral center [for Greenville]," said Kammerer.

According to Kammerer, the paper's roots can be traced back to the 1880s when paper founders David Jordan and Julian Whichard started the paper in their mother's school house. In those days, the county had fewer than 1,000 people in it and circulation was less than 700. Despite its humble start, Kammerer said the paper was the eyes, ears and mouth for the county.

"You'd read about people who would come to and from the community: Mrs. so and so came in from Atlanta and stayed for three weeks ... The paper would push for things like new street lamps and railroads through the towns ... If you had a railroad come through, it was like opening up the world," said Kammerer.

> **PITT page A2**

BRIEFS

WALK

continued from A1

In addition to the walk, the Healthy Pirates, the national award winning student organization at ECU, will share information explaining the impact that extra stress puts on a person's heart.

For more information about the Heart and Sole Walk, contact the Campus Wellness Center at 252-328-5171.

Homecoming chair position available

Staff Reports

ECU's Homecoming Committee is currently looking for a person to fill the position of 2010 Student Homecoming Chairperson. The paid position requires the applicant to oversee eight subcommittees, manage a \$30,000 budget and sit in on all student meetings.

To apply for the position, all applicants must be a full-time student in good standing with the school, have a minimum cumulative GPA of at least a 2.5 and be a sophomore or upperclassman.

Applications can be picked up in the office of Student Activities and Organizations (in Mendenhall Student Center 114) or by e-mailing Emily Agler, homecoming adviser, at aglere@ecu.edu.

All applications must be submitted no later than Feb. 5, 2010.

STATE continued from A1

The university is growing faster than any other in the state for over the past five years. With the increase in the student body comes an increase in faculty members.

Approximately 500 faculty members have been added to ECU since 2004, and 50 more faculty members are expected to be hired this year.

A large building boom is underway with the addition of the new dental school, which set to break ground in 2011.

East Carolina is the future home of one out of three new dental schools built within the past 10 years.

Alongside the increases in students, faculty and building, is the success of the university athletics program, including baseball, which is a particular favorite of the chancellor. These markers of success enable the university in reaching goals and contributing to the community, even through the economic turmoil of the past two years.

Areas of Excellence

The chancellor highlighted twelve of the university's strongest achievements.

The Volunteer and Service

Learning Center has provided the community with over 161,000 hours of service.

The first ever doctoral program in Medical Family Trauma began in 2005, and in 2008 it hosted its first graduating class, providing over 100,000 client contact hours for vital disabilities and trauma on the state level.

Supporting Transition and Education through Planning and Partnerships, known as Project STEPP, has integrated its program into high schools and elementary schools for students who wish to succeed in college, but who also have specific learning disabilities. Project STEPP has provided a 97 percent retention rate with students having GPAs comparable to their peers.

In 2009, the university was the only one in North Carolina to be given the "Teacher Quality Partnership Grant" from the US Department of Education, which provides \$9 million over the next five years to improve teacher preparation.

The athletic team has had many successes in recent years both on and off the field. Students involved in athletics have maintained a higher average GPA and general

graduation rank than the rest of the general student body.

ECU provides services to more than 100,000 members of the armed forces in the state with programs like the Wounded Warriors Battalion at Camp LeJeune and the distance education program at Fort Bragg, allowing soldiers to finish degrees regardless of location.

The Brody School of Medicine is ranked second in the Nation by the American Academy of Family Physicians for graduates entering Family Medicine.

More nurses graduate from ECU than any other university in the state, and the College of Nursing is home to the state's only Nurse Midwifery training program along with the National Association of Bariatric Nurses and the East Carolina Center for Nursing Leadership.

The future dental school is developing a "break the mold" approach for its 4th year students by placing them into service-learning centers across the state for their final year of learning—a program that only ECU is committed to.

ECU is home to the only College of Allied Health Sciences, the largest provider of allied health

professionals in North Carolina, with 85 percent of the graduates staying in the state for employment.

Chancellor Ballard quoted professor Charles Calhoun in saying, "What impresses me most about ECU is the sense of optimism that pervades the place. This is a university on the rise, striving to make its mark rather than marking time."

The Future of East Carolina

As economic problems remain, the university prepares to face the problems ahead.

Student retention is a top priority, which requires every part of the campus to be involved in keeping and making sure each student at ECU succeeds.

"The best answer about the future is that it is up to you," said Ballard.

In Ballard's closing remarks, he said, "nothing is more important for North Carolina than to have a strong East Carolina University leading this region."

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

PITT

continued from A1

The exhibit not only had a personal meaning to Pitt County natives and historians, but to ECU students who worked to make it all possible.

One of these students was senior Naomi Gerakios.

"I worked on [the event] for about six hours a week for two or three months. It took a while and I volunteered countless hours," said Gerakios.

Despite the hard work, Gerakios said it was well worth her time and will be valuable to her future pursuits.

"It's awesome seeing all this. I'm doing museum studies and it was great to see what goes into research ... I want to be a curator and all this will definitely help out," said Gerakios.

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

LAMBDA continued from A1

alumni and our collaborative relationship with the school."

Keith Tingley, faculty adviser in the Interfraternity Council said, "It was not a university decision, but a national decision."

It seems most students cannot decipher between what is fact and what is fiction among the many rumors circulating around campus.

Ben Howard, a brother of Sigma Phi Epsilon at ECU, said, "I had heard the rumors but I wasn't sure what was true. It was my understanding that they lost their charter, were kicked off campus and couldn't participate in the intramurals and stuff."

Howard spoke on behalf of many fraternity members when he

said, "I think the overall feeling was just general surprise. It's shocking to think they're gone ... the house and everything. It's just disbelief."

With the fraternity being removed, the issue of their house, located at 500 Elizabeth St., will become a city issue.

Chris Viverette, corporal at the Greenville Police Department, said, "Sororities and fraternities and required to obtain a Special Use permit in order to house more than three unrelated persons. It is a city ordinance. Being as the charter has been removed, the fraternity was ordered to remove persons of their choosing, down to the number that complies with the ordinance."

Junior Aaron Gentzler, a

brother of Tau Kappa Epsilon, said of the situation, "It's a disappointment because Greek life is trying to get a better standing at ECU and this doesn't really help with that image."

Gentzler did feel for the approximately 30 brothers of Lambda Chi as he said, "I sympathize for the brothers of Lambda Chi because this is a serious punishment, but it all comes down to the consequences of their actions. There has been a lot of recent turmoil in Greek life and this needs to be a turning point in creating a better image for the university. Hopefully it can serve as some sort of example."

As to when and if the fraternity will return, Tingley said, "The university, the IFC and the Alumni

Department are working together with the chapter on a return date."

Typically, fraternities are required to wait at least four years before being brought back to campus in order to ensure that all previous brothers have graduated and are ineligible for return.

Secretary for the Board of Trustees and alumnus of Lambda Chi Alpha, David Redwine, explained that he was disheartened to hear the news of his former fraternity.

He said, "I'm not sure I know all the details, but it's always unfortunate when the university loses a fraternity. I think it affects all of Greek life in a university system. As a past member, it's distressing to me that that sort of thing has happened.

When I was in school, it was one of the best fraternities on campus. We took care of our business, tried to do right thing in terms of brotherhood and the university itself. It is certainly distressing to all alumni."

With a bit of hope, Redwine added, "It is my understanding that the fraternity is working on it and that there is some understanding between the national department and the local chapter to remedy deficiencies and get them back on campus and get standing. Hopefully they'll be able to work it out."

Bruce Whitten, chapter adviser, declined to comment.


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

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Ethnic Studies film series

Staff Reports

The Ethnic Studies department has set up film viewings for interested students. All students are invited to see award-winning movies by producers and directors from different countries. Admission is free. All students, faculty, staff and friends are welcome to come to these events.

The following three movies will be shown in the upcoming weeks:

"Tupac: Resurrection"
Tuesday, Feb. 9
6 to 9 p.m.
Bate 1032
Guest Intro: Joyce Irene Middleton
Home movies, photographs and recited poetry illustrate the life of Tupac Shakur, one of the most beloved, revolutionary and profound hip-hop MCs of all time.

"Persepolis"
Tuesday, March 2
6 to 9 p.m.
Bate 1032
Guest Intro: Jim Holte and Anna Froula
Poignant coming-of-age story of a precocious and outspoken young Iranian girl that begins during the Islamic Revolution.

"Waltz with Bashir"
Tuesday, April 6
6 to 9 p.m.
Bate 1032
Guest Intro: Slobodanka Dimova and Su-ching Huang
An Israeli film director interviews fellow veterans of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon to reconstruct his own memories of his term of service.

Extra credit is offered in ETHN 3501 for these events.

CHECK YOUR PULSE starts on pg. A6


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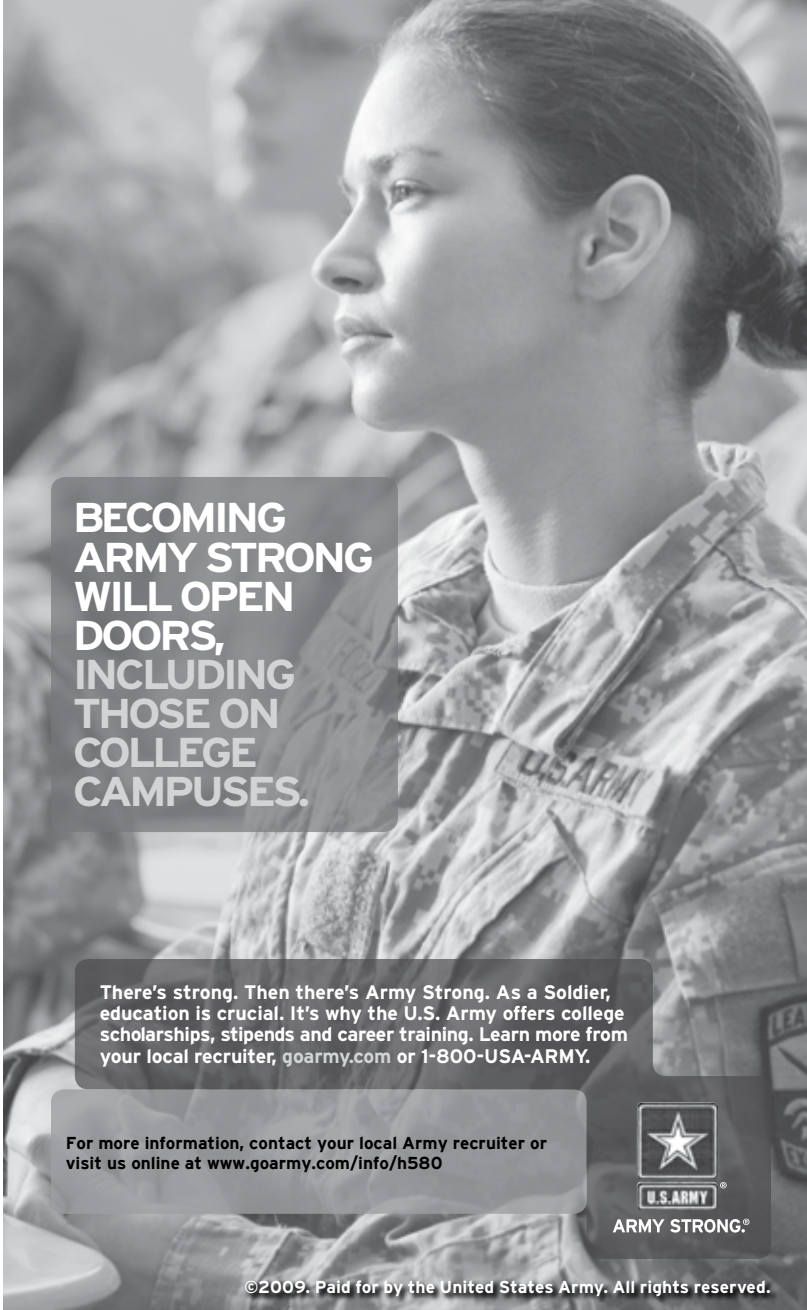
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To the sexy stenographer in my psych class: There is no shorthand for the things I would do to you.

Dear ECU: If you have to block off the entrances to an entire building (AKA Rivers) because huge sheets of ice are falling off the roof, then you might have wanted to close school on Monday... Just a thought.

My Stat teacher made a box and whisker plot confusing.... seriously? I learned how to draw those in 5th grade! Quit reversing my education!

I swear the next time I ride my bike through the brick yard and the people walking towards me don't get out of my way I am going to ram my front tire in between their legs. BE WARNED!

Why is it that guys and girls can't just sleep together anymore without some kind of attachment developing... That's all I wanted, and now I'm stuck loving some a**hole that's in Afghanistan.

I can't believe you got mad at your boy-toy for him telling you not to smoke a black-and-mild that you found on a railing. EW!

You keep coming to my parties...are you trying to secretly say you're still interested??

Ten minutes between classes is not long enough to walk from the Rec Center to Brewster, ECU

Dear Music Majors: I would like my own theme song. Thank you.

I am an English major and by the looks of the English department, I am destined to be a hippie or a crazy cat lady.

ALE stands for "A Large Expense," North Carolina please get rid of them in your next budget cut.

I have my own room now ladies, no roommate. C'mon in!

I am surprised that despite your obvious cold you continue to wear leggings as pants.

I'm tired of paying fines because the Rec center staff is incompetent to check a basketball in correctly!

There's nothing like "borrowing" some Bojangles' food trays and skating down the icy Minges parking lot hills on a Sunday morning.

Is it terrible that I would totally do the Eiffel Tower with my Chem and Calc professors?

I LOVE MAC-IN' OFF!

Screw you groundhog.

Hey ECU Maintenance- there's this new invention called SALT. Try spreading a few bags around so I can actually go into my building!!

Your teeth called...your breath stinks.

Dear ECU basketball fans: I would like to remind you that you're not in Joyner Library. It is okay to get loud and even scream to support your team. GO PIRATES! ARRGGGH!

I found a necklace at the Allied Health building on the sidewalk. E-mail me at bx0705 a description of your lost necklace. If it matches the one I found, I'll return it.

Fellow Pirates, don't let the weather get you down. There's always something green somewhere :)

I'm totally feeling a "Jim and Pam" relationship blossoming...

Sometimes I like to create conversations with myself in the pirate rants.

I've come to realize that "nice guys" are really just jerks in disguise.

Don't worry students, I plan to "take one for the team" and "accidentally" slip on campus - hello lawsuit good bye classes!

Just because I'm skinny does not give you the liberty to squash me while riding the bus. I think you broke a few bones when you sat directly on top of me.

What's wrong preacher man a little snow never hurt anyone; you give fair weather fan a new meaning.

Did you know that the sun is a star... because my roommate did not!

If you decide to use an umbrella instead of a raincoat, please keep in mind that you take up more space than usual. I'm tired of getting whacked by in the face or run off the sidewalk because of them!

I know I told you I couldn't handle being FWB, but I've been getting really lonely on the weekends. :)

Dear Guy who's girl went from a "10 to a 4" when she took off her pants...you're a jerk! Real girls have legs and an a**. I hope someone poops in your pillow case.

I wonder if anyone in my Criminal Justice classes can tell that I'm totally blazed.

Best part of the weather Saturday, getting stuck indoors with you :)

Carlos, NO! Not at the table!

All these girls who keep talking trash about how bad leggings as pants look should shut up. As a guy, I think they look hot.

Can someone please invest in a Biscuitville for Greenville? And if you don't know what a Biscuitville is then I truly feel sorry for you.

To Mac or not to Mac – That is the question



Mary Dixon
OPINION COLUMNIST

When you think of cutting edge technology and trend explosive devices, which company do you think of?

If you said Apple, then I'd have to agree with you.

Case in point; in 2000, mp3 players were either huge and inconvenient, or small and useless. But then the world changed Oct. 23, 2001. Steve Jobs announced on that day the release of the iPod; it was a trendy little device that could hold up to 1,000 of your favorite songs, and you could access them with the spin of a click wheel. That day, the music industry was forever changed, and the world never looked back.

Suddenly CDs became optional and a bit dated. Who wanted to burn a CD to listen to on your Discman when you could hold 1,000 songs that would never be damaged due to outside elements?

Apple continuously changes the face of technology. They were always praised for their high quality of computers. Some of the public has feared the illusive 'Mac' in the past because

of its inability to work with a Windows operating system, but for those who knew the Apple system, they knew it was a gem. Programs like Final Cut allow anyone to change and shape your film, creating your own professional quality movies. These programs are top of the line; while they are expensive, the old saying 'you get what you pay for' rings soundly in my mind.

Apple has made leaps and bounds for their reputation with their mass appeal for those who love anything media. Their most recent revelation has been the highly anticipated "iPad," the latest in tablet devices. Amazon and Barnes & Noble have released eReaders that allow you to store books and periodicals on it, available for you to read whenever you desire. However, the iPad is the love child of the iPhone and the iMac. With the iPad, you can do anything from watch movies to catch up on the latest issue of Rolling Stone.

The question has to now be asked: If Apple wasn't setting the bar up higher and higher, would any company strive for the greatness that they have achieved? Of course brands would produce trendsetting devices and items that would cause public appeal and mass use, but would they really be on the same level that Apple creates? Windows always seems to have a response to

Apple products; take for example the Zune. It's an mp3 player, but it's Windows-geared rather than Apple. But how popular did the Zune get? Are mp3 players called Zunes? No, usually you refer to it as an iPod.

Another Apple 'pro' than you should be aware of, something that effects the difference between a normal day and a day that you want to rip your eyeballs right out of the sockets, are viruses. Windows has thousands, nay, millions of viruses. They are as safe as a three-year-old riding a bike during rush hour. However, the Apple computers are vulnerable to a whopping one virus. That's right, one. I'd say it's pretty simple to avoid one virus. Protecting the files on your computer is a top priority to any college student. Computers contain pictures, schoolwork and even personal work, and nobody wants to feel the emptiness of having lost all of your documents.

So while Apple isn't the only option out there, it's safe to say it's the top of the line one. If you are truly a media enthusiast and you don't have a Mac, treat yourself. Apple products are there to give you the best possible media experience. So now the only question left to ask is: To Mac or to not Mac?

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ILLUSTRATED BY ADRIAN PARHAMOVICH

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"It's better to be a fake somebody than a real nobody."

MATT DAMON

Dual exhaust: What awful racket



Ben Cochran
OPINION COLUMNIST

No, it's not a mnemonic for a delicious Scotch. It's a pervasive thought that accompanies me as I play "Frogger," dodging massive trucks that seem intent on running over pedestrians trying to cross the street. It makes me think of all the other distinguishing factors that constitute redneckdom: a drawl in one's dialect that almost qualifies as another language, a certain pride in being small-minded and a complete and total fear and loathing of change (read: progress).

Don't even think about characterizing the redneck as racist; you will get blasted with such overly ample rhetoric on heritage, not hate, which methinks the redneck doth protest too much. But the telltale insignia of a true redneck is the insufferable rumble of his truck, complete with dual exhaust.

A redneck by any other name would sound as loud; they also happen to be highly vociferous and egotistical. Don't have the misfortune of questioning the reasoning as to why anyone would want to do such a thing to their truck; any inquiry into the matter is taken as an affront to their way of life and you will again hear repeated out-of-context slogans such as "don't tread on me" or "taxation

without representation!"

When American trucks are manufactured (with government bailouts from your tax dollars), they come with an exhaust system that takes fumes from burnt gasoline from the engine, sends it through the exhaust manifold, then pipes it through a catalytic converter to reduce emissions, then through the muffler to reduce sound and finally into the open air. This adequately functioning system is not satisfactory according to the redneck. He must rip everything out from the manifold to the muffler, install an aftermarket product, drink a Budweiser and, in no uncertain terms, jaw to his mechanic about how he never thought he'd see the day when our president would be black.

While true, such systems can increase gas mileage by up to 10 percent (for these American trucks, that's a meager 1.8 mpg on the highway, so don't get overly excited about that figure), the real reason for installing such an application is readily apparent: to make lots of noise when revving the engine to around 5,000 revolutions per minute (consequently, all fuel savings are lost in this process).

For some, it is not enough to simply make the truck louder. Their applications have to be triple chrome plated. And this makes complete sense. If wanting to make your truck unnecessarily louder sounds desirable to you, then surely you understand the longing to chrome plate the series of hidden pipes that run underneath the hood and chas-

sis, completely out of sight from everyone else. It makes as much sense as wasting money on anything from Victoria's Secret — others will usually only have a chance to see it in the dark, and even then only briefly, before it ends up in a crumpled pile on the floor (and that's IF it survives the disrobing session, which can sometimes be a drunken and hasty affair).

But then there are those who do want to be more visible. For them, unseen chrome plated pipes is not enough. They must install a smokestack application on their F-250, proclaiming to the world that they are large and in charge. This sort of additional crowing is usually indicative of something else altogether: a rather small penis.

Frankly, I'm sick of it. I live at an intersection near a stoplight, so I have to hear these pilgrims dangerously over accelerate on a continual basis. It's so loud that it shakes my windows. I'm pretty sure that some of these trucks would violate noise ordinances, but the only citations the Greenville Police Department seemingly wants to issue are those related to underage drinking and parking tickets. So please, if you have a truck, don't get dual exhaust. If you have dual exhaust, don't rev your engine. If you must rev your engine, don't complain about not having a girlfriend; the world is now aware of your diminutive anatomy.

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Text, please



Emily Winterhalter
OPINION COLUMNIST

Now they've done it; our fingers are now saying what we want to say instead of our voices.

Text messaging in American phone users has officially outnumbered calling in popularity.

In December, CBS News published a story with the statistics of text message use among cell users; not only did numbers of texts per month grow, but the amount of call time decreased as well.

Why is it that texting has become a more common way of contact rather than speaking? It's my method of choice for a number of reasons.

Mainly, it's a way to communicate while you're in class or another setting where talking out loud would be rude. Plus, if it's one of those awkward or crucial conversations, you have the opportunity to plan your responses by consulting with people around you if needed — if you take a while to answer a text, you just seem busy, while delayed responses on the phone can make you seem strange. I also like the opportunity to ask questions without engaging in unwanted conversation, if that's the case.

Yes, I admit it; I tend to engage in phone-screener behaviors. Depending on who I see calling, I either pick it up or let it go to voicemail. If you're not a screener, I know you hate trying to contact people like myself and other screeners. Honestly, though, it's hard to control. I like to know what I'm getting into before I call the person back.

You've all had that experience where you call someone and they don't answer but then they text you back asking, "What's up?" Those people are screeners too, but worse; they won't call back. It's almost as if they hate human interaction. Anyone with tendencies like that should always be texted first.

I'm not trying to say that the world should only have communication by texting. A world of silence with only the sound of

clicking buttons and zombie-like people staring into their phones should definitely be avoided. Like the saying goes, there's a time and a place for everything.

One time where texting is an absolute no-no is when you're driving. It can get you into a lot of trouble, on top of being pretty deadly. According to the Governor's Highway Safety Association, 19 states already have a ban on texting while driving, including here in North Carolina. In fact, North Carolina is one of 15 of those states that has a primary ban on texting, meaning no other traffic offenses have to be committed for you to be pulled over and ticketed. If a police officer sees you texting behind the wheel, that's reason enough.

While talking on the phone isn't exactly a safe thing to do, at least your eyes are on the road. So if you absolutely have to contact someone while driving, don't text. Only six states have a ban on talking and driving, which doesn't include North Carolina.

Another place to put your texting skills to rest is at the movie theater, the latest in the nationwide crackdown on texting. If you go to any of the local Carmike Cinemas and you pull out your phone, you might get asked to leave.

At first, that was hard for me to grasp because texting is silent. How does that disrupt your fellow moviegoers? Then, when recently going to see "The Book of Eli," the girl next to me was texting throughout the movie. The vibration and the screen glare was not only distracting me, but I'm sure the people sitting behind her as well. After that annoyance in my peripheral vision, I get it.

Texting has exploded within the past couple years, and it's unusual now to see a cell phone without a keyboard. As the latest phenomenon and a big part of our present society, it's still a practice to be used wisely. As with anything, moderation is key.

Try not to become a robotic figure by avoiding personal interaction. Humans still outweigh technology any day.

With that in mind: Text on, fellow texters.

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Aries - Use your imagination to help group members. Because you're more flexible, you get your own work done and still have time. A dream may provide the clue you were looking for. Be thankful for the energy to handle your many projects. Your partner has urgent business matters. Offer help in the form of communication, written or otherwise.

Taurus - You get exactly what you want (and you deserve it all). Imagination is the only restriction on your accomplishments, so dream on! Your commitment to a social or charitable effort reflects your philosophical platform. Create a powerful message of love.

Gemini - Eat breakfast with your soul mate or partner. Then take on the day using your imagination to create solutions, even where none seem possible. You conduct a lot of business and grow your income now. Leave doors open so that you can adapt to changing customer needs. Get rest before supper.

Cancer - Create a loving and vibrant atmosphere around you. Draw love into your life by sending it out to brighten all your relationships. You get a surprise. You face adjustments to your schedule and your thinking, especially in the work arena. Talk is cheap. Actions are far more convincing.

Leo - Your partner or close associate supports your main thesis. Work out details as the two of you move forward. Take the project home with you. Finances loosen up a bit when an associate kicks in some cash. Then you can throw yourself into the work. Design your message as you would a painting.

Virgo - Daily activities flow more smoothly. You work backstage on a transformation that will rock your world. Choose dramatic colors. Every step you take brings you closer to a desired goal. Baby steps are fine. You gain momentum as you stretch your imagination.

Libra - Attend a social event in style, with costume and accessories planned well in advance. Turn up the elegance. Get down to business. Shoulder your responsibilities and get creative in finding ways to outpace co-workers. Mind and heart are on track together.

Scorpio - You wake up with creative ideas for household projects. Make a list of what you need and pick it up on the way home. Test a new recipe today. Remove all restraint. Today you get to try anything and everything. It's not about work. It's about play. Enjoy the game!

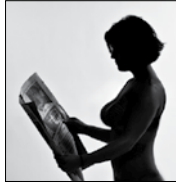
Sagittarius - Most of your energy goes into independent thinking, writing and vision. An associate listens and critiques in a most helpful way. Speculate wildly. A household matter keeps you from focusing on studies or work. Handle the problem early, or get help from a professional.

Capricorn - Imagine yourself stronger than Hercules, wiser than Athena. No need to dwell on the negative. Instead, use your imagination to envision a perfect outcome. If you haven't already done so, expand your vision to include humanitarian efforts. Do this even if it doesn't make sense. You could simply pledge to your favorite nonprofit.

Aquarius - Choose your vehicle for practical style and durability. You have a long trip ahead, and you'll need more than one means of locomotion. You may do a lot of talking, but the work resists completion. Save your energy. Sometimes business has to wait until the time is right.

Pisces - A coworker feels isolated today. If work demands, this person can close the door and plow through the piles. Bring a cup of tea and a smile. You really want to be on the road now. However, there are a few things to finish first. Handle your own responsibilities and leave the rest to someone else.

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

Baby, it's cold outside

Vivian Stockton
SEX AND RELATIONSHIP
COLUMNIST

February is here and true to its nature, it's frigid outside! The low temperatures, snow and freezing rain make many people want to do one thing - stay inside. More specifically, stay in bed. So instead of dreading this weather, why not try to enjoy it as much as possible?

For those of you with a racy side, let me set the scene. You're done with class for the day, so you figure you might as well go see your man. You're all bundled up like an Eskimo, equipped with a knit hat, scarf, long pea coat and boots. Once you get safely inside his warm apartment, you slowly begin to unbutton your pea coat, revealing that you have nothing on except a knit hat, scarf and boots. Instantly, he will be fixated upon you and that Xbox game he was playing before you arrived will be forgotten. Now, you may be asking yourself, "Why do I need to have on the hat, etc.?" This is because it gives more of an illusion that it's just a normal day - you aren't trying to alert him that you are doing anything special for him. Plus, a little bit of clothing, even if it is just a scarf and boots, will add to his visual stimulation when he sees you standing there in little to

nothing other than that - he may even want you to wear your boots during the deed. And although you may find the trip from your car to his door is quite cold, I can almost guarantee you won't be that way for long!

Now that the two of you have gotten all hot and bothered, it's time to experiment a little with temperatures. When you're ready for foreplay, don't just dive into it. Grab two cups and fill one with ice and one with a hot liquid - in lieu of keeping it seasonal, I suggest hot cocoa. The alternating temperatures will make oral sex more stimulating and exciting. He's used to the 98.6 degrees of your mouth, but bringing it down to 32 degrees will be very different, and then quickly changing the temperature to hot again will have him in frenzy - but make sure it's not too hot, you don't want to scald your mouth or his member!

As for you romantics, why not invite him over and open the door in a sexy piece of lingerie, maybe something long and white but still revealing, and a pair of heels. Have your fireplace lit, if you have one, and candles. Have a spot set up on the floor for him to lie down and grab some massage oil - if you're feeling fancy, you can purchase a candle that's wax burns to become

massage oil. I definitely think that you should have the oil heated, since he did just come in out of the cold! Maybe tantalize your taste buds by licking warm chocolate syrup off of each other!

Hot tubs can also be rather exciting when you're feeling a little naughty in the winter months. Grab a bottle of wine, slip into your bathing suit, turn off the interior lights and nonchalantly remove your bottom - I bet things won't be nonchalant for long!

And sex isn't the only way to keep warm together during the winter. Take the time that you're cooped up inside together as a chance to get to know each other on a more emotional level. Jump into your sweats, grab a blanket, make him watch your favorite chick flick and play him in a round of "Call of Duty" - perhaps this is a chance to find out if you can handle his company in large doses! Not to mention, cuddling and snuggling can be quite nice!

So let's all cross our fingers that Saturday's forecast is right, so hopefully you and your honey can get snowed-in together in order to take advantage of this winter weather!

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

Sudoku

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

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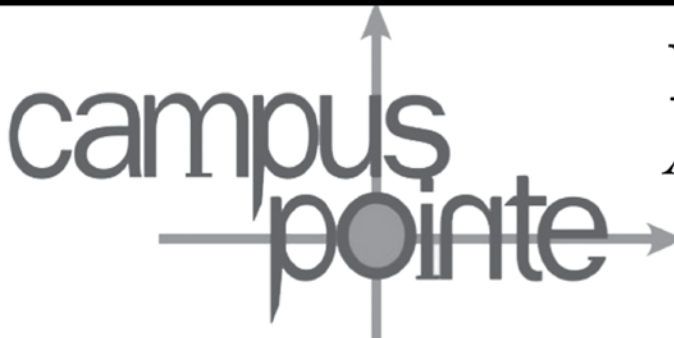


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All the single ladies



MCT

5 Things we are *obsessed* with this month:

1. Chivalry

Even if you don't have a special Valentine, it is still nice to remember that you are a lady and boys do have manners. In these cold and wintry months, nothing takes the edge off like a guy who will hold the door for you!

2. Live music

Live music: Eventually the downtown scene gets old. When that happens, it is fun to spend weekend nights relaxing and listening to live music!

3. Spring break plans

Spring break plans: With all of this snow and ice, we cannot help but daydream about days spent on the warm beaches down south!

4. The gym

The gym: Spring is coming up quickly and that means one thing for most of us: bathing suits. Whether you are still holding onto that extra weight from the holidays or just "forgetting" about your New Year's resolution, the time has come to hit the gym!

5. The weather

The weather: We hate it. One day it is 70 degrees and the next thing you know, your car is completely covered in ice!

Cassie McLean

So you're single. And Valentine's Day has become a dreaded holiday to you. Whether you've been single every V-Day for as long as you can remember, or your long-term boyfriend broke up with you this very week, you're expecting the 14th to be full of self-pity and disappointment. But who says your nightmare holiday has to be filled with the clichés: a tissue box, a Lifetime movie and a carton of Ben & Jerry's?

Not to stand on a feminist soapbox, but isn't it about time women celebrate the fun behind being single — not curse the mere thought? The list of perks belonging to single women is a long and numerous one.

For one, on a very practical level, there's no one you must spend your money on. All the hours you put in at your minimum-wage job won't be blown on all the numerous occasions you're required to buy him a gift (i.e.

Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries... and did we mention Valentine's Day?). It frees a lot of your money for yours truly. You know those new boots you really wanted? Who's to say you'd have the money if instead, you were spending it on your "significant other."

Secondly, very strong evidence exists that suggests women in relationships are more prone to gain weight. Think about it — when dates revolve around an evening meal and a movie, one is bound to pack on a few extra pounds. Perhaps not as obvious, experts say women tend to compare their consumption proportions to their boyfriends — who can require over 1,000 more calories daily. Being slim not only makes it easier to stay fit, but it also gives you the extra encouragement (and incentive) to do it.

Yet another perk? Your time is your own — and that's a liberating feeling. You know that trip to Cancun you wanted to go on with your girlfriends for spring break? Who's holding you back? Or what about the internship you

wouldn't have taken had there been a boy to occupy your time? Let's be honest, would you really devote as much time to school?

What about the fun in flirting? Being in a relationship can cause angst and guilt when partaking in any coy behavior. And we know how fun it is to chat with that boy in your philosophy class.

So here's to being single. Here's to the not-so-radical idea that independence, freedom and flirtatious fun can be a positive thing!

So instead of spending the night cooped up and wondering when Mr. Right will come along, try enjoying it differently this year. Have dinner with another girlfriend (or guy friend) who's in the same boat as you this year. Feeling extra enthused? Throw a singles party the Friday beforehand. Maybe you'll even score yourself a date for Sunday night.

All the single ladies out there should simply keep in mind one very timeless rule of thumb: The grass truly isn't always greener on the other side.



MCT

Fans wait in anticipation for the release of 'Dear John'

Caitlin Hale

For fans of Nicholas Sparks, or just a heartbreaking romantic drama, "Dear John" is surely one of the don't-miss movies of the year. While the film, which will air in theaters on Friday, is highly anticipated by fans of Sparks, critics are reporting that this film is a disappointment.

"Dear John" is the story of a young soldier, John Tyree (Channing Tatum), who falls deeply in love with a college girl. While John is on leave from the Army, he meets Savannah Curtis (Amanda Seyfried). Savannah is a conservative college student who attends UNC Chapel Hill but is spending her vacation in Wilmington to work for Habitat for Humanity.

By coincidence, or maybe fate, John meets Savannah on the beach when he heroically saves her purse that she dropped into the ocean. To thank him for his bravery, Savannah invites John to attend a bonfire on the beach with many other college friends. At the bonfire, John realizes just how mature and welcoming Savannah is compared to her peers. The two meet again after this for John to teach Savannah how to surf. It is at this moment that John and Savannah realize that they have a very strong and intimate connection. After their day of surfing, Savannah and John begin to fall

quickly and hopelessly in love. "Two weeks together. That's all it took. Two weeks for me to fall in love with you," Savannah says of their relationship. While Savannah and John spend every day together after this point, the nagging thought of John returning overseas hangs over the couple. When the time finally comes for John to leave, he promises he will marry Savannah after he completes his deployment.

Throughout the next year, Savannah and John correspond through love letters. "Dear John, tell me everything. Write it all down. That way, we'll be with each other all the time, even if we're not with each other at all," Savannah writes to John. John and Savannah agree to keep their love strong by writing each other. "Dear Savannah, I promise I'll write you all the time. I promise I'll tell you everything," John writes.

After a year, John comes home to Savannah. They share an intimate night together in one of the empty project houses for Habitat for Humanity. "A lot can happen in 12 months, John, but tonight you're here with me," Savannah tells him. While their time together is wonderful, John decides he needs to reenlist in the Army due to 9/11.

After this point, things between the pair become less intense and the two start to drift

apart. However, John and Savannah continue to struggle over the next few years to keep their love alive.

Because "Dear John" was originally a novel, hopefully Oscar-nominated Swedish director Lasse Hallström will be up for the challenge of creating a movie just as great as the novel.

However, movie critics are saying otherwise. In fact, Roger Moore of the Orlando Sentinel went so far as to say that "Lasse Hallstrom's film of it ['Dear John'] is as bland as unseasoned grits." He goes on to add, "It's as pretty as a Carolina Coast postcard, as warm as a New England beach in February and as romantic as a Valentine's Day TV dinner for one."

And it seems as if Moore is not alone in his opinion. Top Hollywood critic Kirk Honeycutt described the film as a "lame romance coupled with more handicaps and hardships than any film can survive without the charge of audience manipulation." He concluded by saying, "The film disappoints on most levels but most of all as a romance."

Regardless, fans of Nicholas Sparks and romance stories alike are still eagerly awaiting the release of "Dear John" this weekend. "Dear John" will air this Friday at both Carmike 12 Cinema and the Regal Greenville Grande Theater.

Our favorite couples in history

Veronica Carrington

Do you believe in true love? Do you believe in love at first sight? Do you believe in love lasting forever? Whether you are attached or single, these immortal love matches will breathe new life into the season of love, and even if you haven't found that special someone, these four love stories will renew or reinforce your own faith in love this Feb. 14. Although many of these stories ended in tragedy, here's hoping that your quest for true love is significantly less morbid.

Romeo and Juliet

This couple has become a synonym for love itself. Romeo and Juliet was a tragedy written by William Shakespeare about the tale of two teenagers from feuding families who fall in love at first sight, marry and then risk it all for their love. Taking your own life for your husband or wife is definitely a sign of true love, and with their deaths, they ultimately united their feuding households.

Cleopatra and Mark Antony

The true love story of Antony and Cleopatra is one of the most memorable, intriguing and moving of all times. They fell in love at first sight and the relationship between these two powerful people put the country of Egypt in an even more powerful position. However, their relationship enraged the Romans, who were wary of the growing powers of the Egyptians. Even in the face of adversity, Antony and Cleopatra were married. Consequently, while fighting a battle against Romans, Antony received false news of Cleopatra's death and, shattered, he fell upon his own sword. When Cleopatra learned about Antony's death, she took her own life. It just goes to show that great love demands great sacrifices.

Lancelot and Guinevere

The tragic love story of Sir

COUPLES page A8

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WTF?! of the month

Samantha Hughes

The Church of All Worlds

Founder: Oberon Zell-Ravenheart

WHAT?!

The Church of All Worlds is a neopagan religious group whose mission is to provide a context for reawakening the goddess Gaia and reuniting her children as a community.

The Church is not a belief-based religion. Members experience "Divinity" while staying respectful of the views of others. They recognize the Greek goddess Gaia who personifies the Earth as well as the realm of Faeries and other deities.

Many of their rituals are centered on the gods and goddesses of ancient Greece.

HISTORY?

The Church was founded in 1962 by Oberon Zell-Ravenheart and his wife, Morning Glory Zell-Ravenheart. Originally founded as a group of friends and lovers who were inspired by a fictional religion of the same name from the science fiction novel "Stranger in a Strange Land" by Robert A. Heinlein. The religion has evolved and grown but its mythology still includes science fiction.

Zell-Ravenheart recently founded "The Grey School of Wizardry," which was partly inspired by "Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry."

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

To become a member, one must go through an application process, which can be submitted via the Church's Web site, www.caw.org.

The Church of All Worlds stresses being one with the greater deities they worship and being a part of an intimate and friendly community. However, maintaining individuality is also very important to balance the "sacred bond with all humanity."

Tucker Middleton

The past week's snowfall brought about a welcome vacation for many ECU students. The weekend of snowfall and delayed classes on Monday allowed students to bundle up in their homes and relax. But being cooped up in an apartment for a snowy long weekend may have some unexpected consequences down the road. When students get their utility bills, they may be met by an unwelcome surprise.

Keeping the apartment at near-freezing temperatures may be a lot to ask in exchange for lowering the utility bill, though. For students looking for another route to save money, here are some tips to keeping your utility bill down while also helping out the environment:

Switch your bulbs -- Compact fluorescent light bulbs have been growing in popularity in recent years. This should be no surprise to consumers; these bulbs have eight to 15 times the lifespan of a typical incandescent bulb. Though the intense white glow from a compact fluorescent bulb may be a turnoff for buyers, the benefits greatly outweigh the costs. The long lifespan of these bulbs can save you big money down the road. Unless you plan on keeping the lights on 24/7 all four years of your college career (or five for the less industrious) it's likely that you'll never even need to replace one of these environmentally-friendly blubs.

Use the microwave more -- Using the microwave should

be a no-brainer for on-the-run college students. Many students may not realize that they are actually saving money when they choose to use the microwave. Microwaves use only about half of the energy that the average conventional oven does. So next time you have the choice to microwave or bake, you know which one to choose.

Keep the fridge stocked -- It's always good to have an excuse to keep your refrigerator full of delicious food. What you may not know is keeping the fridge full actually saves energy. Having the refrigerator packed with food helps it retain its temperature naturally without having to waste energy on cooling itself down. An empty fridge will have to work harder to stay cool if there is little or no food in it. So go to the grocery store, stock up and watch your utility bill shrink.

Cut down on toilet bowl water waste -- Toilets are gross; that's a fact. But do you know what's even more disgusting? The idea of your hard-earned money going down the drain every time you flush. Some people choose not to flush every time they go to the bathroom. For those who prefer to keep the bowl full of clean water, though, there is another option for cutting down on toilet bowl water waste. If you put a brick or a soda bottle filled with water in your toilet's tank, you will reduce the water capacity in the tank and cut down on the amount of water used every time you flush.



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COUPLES continued from A6

Lancelot and Queen Guinevere is probably one of the best-known stories of Arthurian legend. Lancelot falls in love with Queen Guinevere, King Arthur's wife, and even though Guinevere kept Lancelot away from her, their love grew slowly. Ultimately, however, her love and passion overpowered her and the pair became lovers. One night, a group of 12 knights burst into Guinevere's chamber where they lay as lovers. Exposed, Lancelot made a fighting escape, but Guinevere could not. She was seized and condemned to burn to death for her adultery. However, Lancelot returned later to rescue Guinevere from burning.

Pyramus and Thisbe

Theirs was a selfless love and they made sure that even in death, they were together forever. Pyramus was the childhood friend of Thisbe, the fairest maiden in Babylonia. They both lived in neighboring homes and fell in love

with each other as they grew up together. However, their parents were set against them marrying each other, and so one night just before the crack of dawn, they decided to slip out of their homes and meet in the nearby fields near a mulberry tree. Thisbe arrived first and as she waited under the tree, she saw a lion with bloody jaws coming toward her. When Thisbe saw the lion, she panicked, dropped her headscarf and hid behind some nearby rocks. The curious lion picked up the scarf in his bloody jaws and at that exact moment, Pyramus reached the clearing. Upon seeing Thisbe's scarf in the jaws of the lion, he was devastated and stabbed himself in the chest with his own sword. Unbeknownst to what had just happened, Thisbe came out and saw what her lover had done to himself. She too was devastated when she saw the sword piercing right through her lover's chest, so she took the sword and killed herself.



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2010 ECU football recruiting class

Detric Allen, DB
6-0, 180, Fr.
Norwood, N.C. (South Stanly)

Desi Brown, QB/ATH
6-2, 190, Fr.
Webster Groves, Mo. (Webster Groves)

Shane Carden, QB
6-3, 205, Fr.
Bellaire, Texas (Episcopal)

Maurice Falls, DE
6-2, 210, Fr.
Belmont, N.C. (South Point)

Anthony Garrett, OL
6-5, 305, Jr.
Prairie Village, Kan. (Fort Scott CC)

Jacob Geary, LB
6-3, 220, Fr.
Hillsborough, N.C. (Cedar Ridge)

Drew Gentry, OL
6-6, 285, Fr.
Tallahassee, Fla. (North Florida Christian)

Jeremy Grove, LB
6-1, 231, Fr.
Ijamsville, Md. (Gov. Thomas Johnson)

Mack Helms, DE
6-3, 275, Fr.
Tallahassee, Fla. (Leon)

Taylor Hudson, OL
6-5, 290, Fr.
Greenville, S.C. (Mauldin)

Lamar Ivey, ATH
6-1, 182, Fr.
Mebane, N.C. (Eastern Alliance)

Derrell Johnson, DE/LB
6-1, 218, Fr.
Baltimore, Md. (Wyoming Seminary)

Damon Magazu, WR/DB
5-11, 175, Fr.
Charlotte, N.C. (Providence)

Alex Owah, RB
5-11, 190, Fr.
Harrisonburg, Va. (Hargrave Military)

Lee Pegues, DE
6-2, 255, Fr.
Bennettsville, S.C. (Marlboro County)

Torian Richardson, WR
5-10, 169, Fr.
Duncan, S.C. (Byrnes)

Chrishon Rose, DE
6-4, 275, Fr.
Forestville, Md. (Bishop McNamara)

Terry Williams, LB/DE
6-1, 255, Fr.
Loganville, Ga. (Grayson)

For more information on the new Pirates, head to theeastcarolinian.com for an in-depth look at each player.

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.

SPORTS

B1

Thursday, 2.4.10

sports@theeastcarolinian.com

McNeill inks recruiting class of 18 on National Signing Day

New head coach stresses character in 'balanced' class

Jared Jackson
SPORTS EDITOR

Since Ruffin McNeill was named the new head coach at ECU, he has given new meaning to "hitting the ground running."

Since his tenure began a couple of weeks ago, McNeill has been relentless on the recruiting trail trying to salvage the class that former Pirate coach Skip Holtz had crafted, while also trying to land a couple of his own handpicked players to replace 28 departing seniors.

On Wednesday, McNeill reaped the reward of his hard work as 18 recruits signed their national letters of intent to attend and play football for ECU.

While offering a school's "pitch" to a potential recruit is often the difference in whether the prospective athlete attends a given school, McNeill said of his 29 years associated with football, ECU was the easiest sale.

"This last week was the most comfortable delivery, the easiest pitch or sale job I've ever had," McNeill, an ECU alum, said. "It was easy to sell this university because it's my school, too. Going into the home, I was selling something I knew about because I've been on both sides ... It was an easy pitch; it was from the heart."

Breaking down the recruiting class, nine are expected to line up on the defensive side of the ball while seven will play offense. The two remaining



ECU head football coach Ruffin McNeill (left) announces the Pirates 2010 recruiting class to a legion of fans Wednesday night.

recruits will be utilized as multi-purpose athletes.

While being considered a balanced class, McNeill and his staff recruited eight athletes to rebuild the defensive unit's front seven.

Among those committed to help on that side of the ball are defensive ends Maurice Falls, Mack Helms, Lee Pegues and Chrishon Rose. Listed as playing either linebacker or defensive end is Terry Williams and Derrell Johnson. Jacob Geary and Jeremy Grove are being touted as linebackers.

Rounding out the defensive recruiting class is defensive back Detric Allen.

Offensively, ECU added three linemen, two quarterbacks, one running back and two wide receivers.

Anchoring the line will be Anthony Garrett, Drew Gentry and Taylor Hudson. Shane Carden and Desi Brown will both compete for the starting quarterback nod while Alex Owah will round out the tailback and Torian Richardson and Damon Magazu round out the receiver positions, respectively.

Listed as "athlete," meaning they could be utilized on both sides of the ball, are Lamar Ivey and the aforementioned Brown. Falls, Grove, Johnson, Owah and Garrett all enrolled in school

for the spring semester and will look to get a head start on other incomers when practice starts up.

"While this particular class is balanced in terms of offense and defense, the need to address certain positions is evident on the defensive side of the ball," McNeill said. "I am also pleased we were able to add a quarterback and a multi-purpose athlete to this initial group to enhance our depth, especially with new systems we'll put in place."

Discussed in detail in Wednesday afternoon's press conference were the offensive and defensive philosophies that

the Pirates will display on the field next year.

McNeill spoke once again of a pass-heavy Texas Tech-style offense that "even had offensive linemen excited," and said that the Pirates will use multiple looks on defense, including at times running five and six defensive back packages.

At the end of the day, McNeill was left pleased by the class that he and his staff were able to put together on such short notice.

"Our first priority was to make sure we had an opportunity to meet with all of the players and parents who had committed to ECU and assure them that we shared the qualities and character to succeed on and off the field," said McNeill, who was formally named the Pirates' head coach on Jan. 21. "Although we had a short turnaround, I felt that we took advantage of that time and the resources available to us to keep this group together."

Wednesday marked the beginning of one of the most hectic times in McNeill's life, but the Pirate head coach is still coming to grasp that he is at the helm.

"Every day, it's cool," McNeill said about being the Pirates' head coach. "It's not work ... I love it here. I love being a part of it (ECU program). I love the kids; the kids here are awesome. We're not coming to a program where we have to rebuild. We're coming to a program that knows how to win."

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

Offensive firepower, pitching depth highlight 2010 ECU baseball team

Michael Perry
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The last game played in Clark-LeClair Stadium is one that could be described as no less than a midsummer classic.

Backed by 5,000 screaming fans, ECU battled back with two clutch hits by Devin Harris to beat South Carolina 10-9 in the bottom of the 10th inning. Kyle Roller sealed the deal as he rumbled across home plate to give the Pirates the title of Greenville Regional Champs.

As great as last season was, the No. 18 ranked ECU baseball team (Baseball America) has raised the bar this year and, according to Roller, that bar now sits in Omaha, Neb.

"We (ECU) realized how close we were last year," Roller said. "That makes us want to fight even harder to get to our goal: Omaha."

Both Harris and Roller return to the Pirates' program, despite being drafted in the 2009 Major League Draft, in hopes of aiding the team to a College World Series appearance.

"This (ECU) is a good place to come back to," Harris said. "It's important for me to be on the team that helps this school get to its first Omaha appearance."

Roller, named as one of the four team captains, is joined by fellow senior catcher Jared Avchen, junior outfielder Austin Homan and junior right-hander Mike Anderson.

Several team members expressed how restless the team is to embark on the 2010 season, including ECU skipper Billy Godwin.

"We are very anxious, this is what we work for all year," Godwin said. "We're all ready to roll."

Godwin enters his 24th season as a baseball coach and fifth as the Pirates' head coach.

In his last four seasons, Godwin has preserved ECU's reputation as a competitive collegiate baseball program with a 161-90 record, including three consecutive 40-plus win seasons.

Looking at the Pirates, at first glance the team appears

to have the same level of talent as last season in regards to offensive power, but ECU will enter the season with a more experienced pitching staff that Godwin referred to as possibly the deepest staff of his tenure.

"This year by far exceeds in pitching," junior right-handed pitcher Seth Maness said. "We can fill any position, it's just a good depth in pitching."

Starting on mound, ECU returns a healthy crew of hurlers that will look to carry the Pirates on the defensive side of the ball.

Godwin commented that his squad is preparing eight pitchers for the starting rotation but the likely frontrunners appear to be Maness, Kevin Brandt and Brad Mincey, though several others will definitely be seen this season.

"If I had a gun to my head today it would probably be Maness, Brandt, Mincey, but its going to be the best guy," Godwin said.

Godwin named freshmen Tyler Joyner and Joseph Hughes, as well as junior Zach Wood, as starting possibilities.

Right-handed junior Seth Simmons, who tallied nine saves in 39 innings pitched last season, will continue his role as the team's closer.

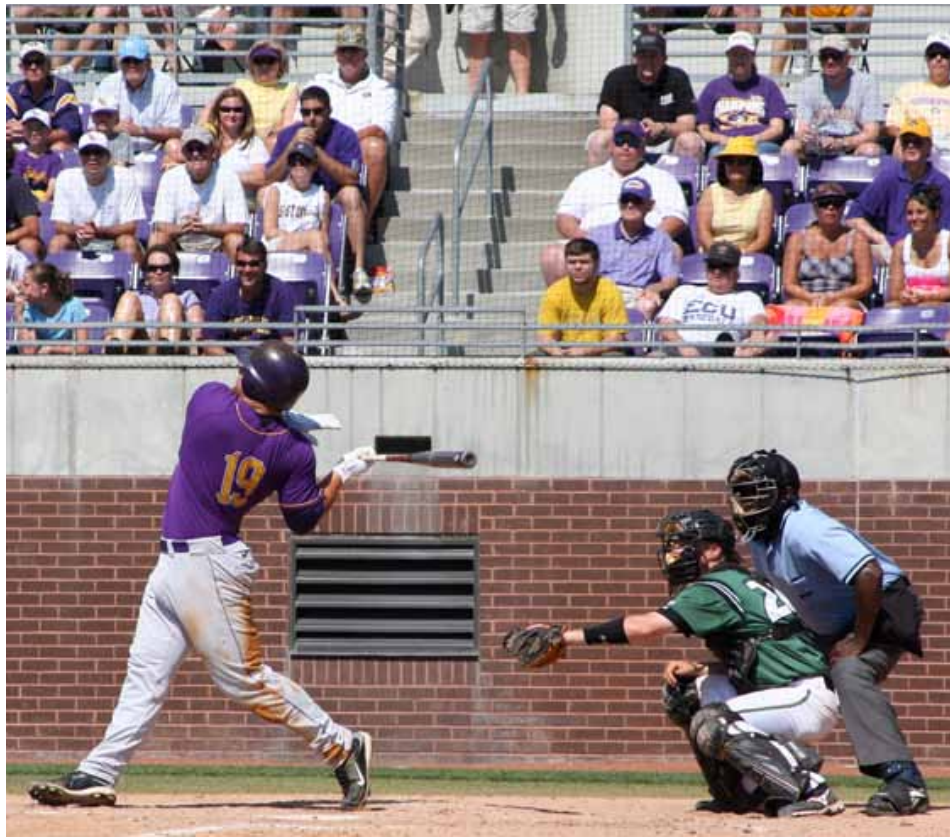
Behind the plate, ECU returns senior Avchen as the number one, followed by backup backstop, sophomore Zach Wright.

Godwin spoke of Avchen as a complete catcher, with strong blocking skills on defense, as well as being a solid nine-hole hitter with a .330 average.

"He's one of the best defensive catchers that I've coached," Godwin said. "This year he really looks poised. It's comforting for me to know that I have a senior catcher with that type of senior leadership."

ECU will be equipped with a deep outfield that features Harris in right, junior standout Trent Whitehead in center and either juniors Cameron Freeman or Austin Homan in left.

Backing up these potential starting outfielders will be a



ECU first baseman/DH Kyle Roller blasts a homerun in last season's Greenville Regional.

stable of three freshmen outfielders.

Through the middle of the infield is where the team expects to have its worst trouble, as they have to fill the place of former Pirates Ryan Wood, Brandon Henderson and Drew Schieber.

Harrington is a definite staple at shortstop, but ECU will platoon the first, second and third base positions.

Roller is expected to make a shift from designated hitter to first, splitting time with freshman John Wooten, while sophomore Corey Thompson will look to fill Schieber's place on the hot corner at third.

Second base is still the biggest question on the lineup card, as it could be Freeman or freshman Bryan Bass.

As far as the batting lineup, Godwin is still contemplating his strategy, and it can be expected early on that the lineup

will take various forms until the right players emerge.

"I would say you can take this to the bank: Whitehead will lead off and Roller and Harris will hit in the middle," Godwin said jokingly.

No matter what lineup Godwin develops, the Pirates will be equipped with aggressive leadoff talent, centerfielder junior Trent Whitehead.

The heart of the order will offer a three-punch combo of Roller, Harris and junior shortstop Dustin Harrington.

Last year's roster produced a team average of .339 with 108 home runs.

Aside from specifics, ECU will look to better its mark set last year of 46-20 overall and 17-7 in Conference USA.

Thus far this preseason, the Pirates have been named to six preseason top 20 polls.

Despite the national buzz,

ECU is focused on staying grounded and dealing with the task ahead of them.

The Pirates will be challenged early, as they welcome No. 2 Virginia (Baseball America) to a season-opening three game series starting Feb. 19.

With the ranked status of both ball clubs, the three-stanza tilt is sure to garner national attention.

Godwin stressed the importance of playing other teams of high caliber, as ECU is set to play No. 2 Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Pepperdine, as well as C-USA perennial power Rice this season.

The first pitch against the Cavaliers is set for 3 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 19 at the confines of Clark-LeClair Stadium.

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

What to watch for: Super Bowl 44

OPINION



Addison Harvey
STAFF WRITER

As Super Bowl XLIV approaches, there is no shortage of things to be discussed.

This year's game features two great quarterbacks, a team that has never been to the Super Bowl in New Orleans and many other storylines.

Super Bowl XLIV is definitely going to be entertaining to watch.

three sons, Peyton, Eli and Cooper, were all highly recruited high school football players at Isidore Newman High School in New Orleans.

Cooper had accepted a football scholarship to play at Ole Miss before a back injury caused him to stop playing football. Eli and Peyton have gone on to have phenomenal careers in the NFL.

Now Peyton is squaring off against his childhood team in Super Bowl XLIV, and the only thing that stands between the Saints and their first Super Bowl victory is one of their own fans — Peyton Manning.

Drew Brees has led the resurgence of the New Orleans Saints after a stint with the San Diego Chargers. Brees has continued on his spectacular regular season into the playoffs. He has completed 40-63 pass attempts while throwing six touchdowns and zero interceptions.

Peyton Manning was named the AP Offensive Player of the Year this season and he has also continued his success into the postseason. Manning has thrown five touchdowns to only one interception in two playoff games.

Both teams' defenses are going to try and find as many ways to force the opposing quarterback into making crucial mistakes, but that task is going to be harder than one may think.

3. Saints' first time:

One advantage the Indianapolis Colts have in Super Bowl XLIV is they have been to — and won — a Super Bowl.

The Colts won Super Bowl XLI just three short years ago in the 2006-2007 season. The Saints coming into the 2009 season were one of five teams to have never played in one of the 44 Super Bowls.

The Colts and all their players know how to handle the pressure and temptations leading up to the game, which the Saints have never experienced.

Every year, it seems one player screws up and misses curfew or gets into trouble. It is going to be interesting to see if it happens this year and which team the player comes from — the team that has been to the Super Bowl before or the team that has never been.

2. Which QB outplays the other:

Super Bowl XLIV features two of the best quarterbacks in the NFL.

1. Dwight Freeney:

The Colts 6-foot-1, 268-pound defensive end is nursing an ankle injury, and his availability for Sunday's Super Bowl is questionable.

Freeney tore ligaments in his right ankle in the AFC Championship game on a sack by New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez.

The talented defensive end leads the NFL since 2002 in sacks, tackles for loss and forced fumbles, and if he can't play, it is a huge loss for the Colts' defense.

Behind Drew Brees and Peyton Manning, Freeney is arguably the third best player on the Saints' and Colts' rosters combined.

If Freeney is limited or out on Sunday, Brees will have more time to sit back in the pocket and attempt to pick apart the Colts' defense, giving the Saints a big unexpected advantage.

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

Head-to-Head
How the two players and their teams match up:

Quarterbacks
Peyton Manning and Drew Brees meet in Super Bowl XLIV.

Super Bowl XLIV
Sunday, Feb. 7, at 6 p.m. ET, on CBS, Sun Life Stadium, Miami, Florida

Peyton Manning						Drew Brees					
Passer rating		Rank				Passer rating		Rank			
99.9		6				109.6		1			
Yds	Att	Cmp	TDs	Ints		Yds	Att	Cmp	TDs	Ints	
4,500	571	393	33	16		4,388	514	363	34	11	

The Quarterbacks
Comparison of the starting quarterbacks' regular season stats

Indianapolis Colts				New Orleans Saints			
Head coach Jim Caldwell				Head coach Sean Payton			
2009 Record				2009 Record			
W	L	Pct.	Finish	W	L	Pct.	Finish
14	2	.875	1st-AFC South	13	3	.813	1st-NFC South

The Teams
Comparison of the Colts' and Saints' regular season stats

2009 Rankings			2009 Rankings		
Offense	Rank	Yards/game	Offense	Rank	Yards/game
Total offense	9	363.1	Total offense	1	403.8
Rushing	32	80.9	Rushing	5	131.6
Passing	2	282.2	Passing	4	272.2
Defense			Defense		
Rank	Yards/game		Rank	Yards/game	
Total defense	18	339.2	Total defense	25	357.8
Rushing	24	126.5	Rushing	21	122.2
Passing	14	212.7	Passing	26	235.6

Edge

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Source: NFL
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Barefoot on the Mall T-Shirt Design Contest

Create a design for the back of the Barefoot on the Mall T-shirt

All Designs & Concepts must:

1. Incorporate the theme "Recycle your shoes, Go Barefoot!"
2. Have no more than two colors per design, to go on a white t-shirt

SUBMIT: All designs and concepts to SABSPECIAL@ECU.EDU by February 22, 2010

****All designs and concepts submitted become the sole property of the Student Activities Board. We reserve the right to use any design, concept, or portion thereof at our discretion.**

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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.

Want to live at Riverwalk? Who doesn't?! Reserve your spot for Fall before it's too late. For more information, call 252-321-3281.

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Jasmine Garden 1 and 2 BR apartments. Walk to ECU. \$375-\$435. Call 252-702-2185 or email jasminegarden1303@gmail.com for SPECIAL!

WALK TO CLASS: 1101 FORBES ST., at the corner of 11th and Forbes St, right next door to Sheets, close to Starbucks, 5 people can live comfortably (and legally- it's a duplex) in this 2 story house just 1 block from campus. 2 kitchens, 2 bathrooms, 5 large bedrooms, spacious back yard, some dogs OK. Central heat/ air, washer, dryer, dishwasher. Basic cable, high-speed internet, monitored alarm system, and lawn care all included in rent. Some dogs ok. Aug 1. 252-916-5680, leave message with e-mail.

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.

Newly decorated 2BD 2 Full Bath Wyndham Circle Duplex, Available 6/1/2010 and 8/1/2010. \$620/month. Cathedral ceilings, great landlord! Great price! Big backyard! Great parking, walk to class, on ECU bus route, some pets O.K. Call fast! 252-321-4802.

HELP WANTED

Greenville Recreation & Parks Department is recruiting youth soccer referees for the spring soccer program for ages 3-15. Applicants must possess a good knowledge of soccer rules and have the ability and patience to work with youth. Duties include but are not limited to: officiating games, ensuring safety of field, and ensuring proper care of program / facility. Hours are from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturdays and 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm for some weekday games. Flexible hours according to class schedules. This program will run from March 20 – mid May. Referees will be paid \$12.00/\$14.00 a game. For more information, please contact the Athletic Office at 329-4550, Monday through Friday, 10 am until 7 pm. To apply, please visit www.greenvillenc.gov. Closing date for this position is February 15.

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