

OPINION: Laundry Rule #2 for Tyler Hall: All's fair in love, war, and the laundry room. So stop whining that someone didn't put your clothes in the dryer for you. At least they didn't throw them on the floor. **A3**

FEATURES: Pirates continue to help support the haiti relief efforts. Find out where to help in features. **A4**

SPORTS: The ECU women's basketball team came into the weekend winning 12 straight home games. Find out if the Pirates could keep it going against Tulane. **A6**

BRIEFS

ECU professor found dead on campus



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Staff reports

Rod Compton, 62, was found dead yesterday morning in the Carol Belk building on campus.

Assistant ECU Police Chief Dawn Tevepaugh said Compton was found on the third floor of the building, where a cleaning crew discovered his body Monday morning. Tevepaugh said it appeared that he had entered the building, which housed his office, Friday night.

Compton had been an ECU teacher for 40 years. This semester, he was teaching "Safety Education and First Aid" and "Basic Athletic Training." Compton was the former director of sports medicine for the Athletics Department.

An autopsy will either confirm or deny the coroner's initial declaration that Compton died of natural causes.

Former TEC news editor wins SEJC's highest award

Carlton Purvis awarded College Journalist of the Year

Staff Reports

Carlton Purvis, former news editor for The East Carolinian, won the College Journalist of the Year award at this weekend's Southeast Journalism Conference.

Purvis placed in the competition against 15 other journalists from college newspapers in the south.

"I think more than anything it was surprising. I didn't expect it," Purvis said of the award.

Purvis was recently hired at the Morning News in Florence, S.C.

"I think [this award] will help me there. It will give me something to take there to show that I'm a serious journalist," Purvis said.

In addition, TEC cartoonist Adrian Parhamovich placed fourth in the category of Best College Cartoonist.

Current News Editor Samantha Hughes won second place in an on-site news competition.

ECU magazine Expressions placed fifth in the category of Best College Magazine.

Career fair quickly approaching

Staff Reports

The ECU Career Fair is quickly approaching — only a week from today.

The Education Career Fair will take place on Feb. 23 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and the All Majors Career Fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Career Center suggests the following helpful tips to interested students: have multiple copies of your resume on hand to distribute, make sure you have researched the companies you would like to talk with, dress professionally, develop a "power greeting" to introduce yourself to employers, ask questions of the people you speak to, collect business cards of the people you speak to and follow up afterwards with a thank-you letter.

For a listing of employers scheduled to attend this year's fair, check out the "Career Fairs" section of The Career Center's Web site, www.ecu.edu/career.

For those in need of transportation, shuttles will begin pickup at 8 a.m. at Mendenhall and Wright Circle.

WEB POLL

DO YOU PLAN ON GOING TO THE CAREER FAIR?

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

Student Health Center responds to H1N1 surge

Emily Cunningham
STAFF WRITER

In response to the surge of H1N1 cases expected to hit during the spring season, ECU's Student Health Center will be offering free H1N1 vaccination clinics for students and faculty. The clinics will be offered on Monday and Tuesday inside Dowdy Student Stores from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. The SHC will also offer free vaccinations at the ECU men's basketball games on Feb. 24 and 27 at Minges Coliseum, where students will also

be able to register to win a free iPod Touch.

According to Ellen Goldberg, a nurse manager at the SHC, the Student Health Center is offering vaccination clinics in order to prepare for the CDC's prediction that H1N1 will return during the spring and summer seasons.

"We're afraid that since it's disappeared out of the main news, people will think it's gone," said Goldberg.

The SHC wants to make sure that students realize that H1N1 is still active and that they need

to take precautions. Goldberg explained that the CDC monitors flu activity across the world. When they see an increase in reported flu symptoms, they assume an increase in H1N1 cases will soon occur.

According to Goldberg, there haven't been many cases of H1N1 reported this semester. "We're not seeing a lot right now, but we're trying to be prepared," said Goldberg.

Last semester, the SHC offered 25 vaccination clinics to students and faculty. According to Gold-

berg, approximately 2,900 people, including faculty and students, received the vaccinations, which is a small amount for a campus of over 27,000 students.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services released a statement saying that only 5 percent of 19 to 24 year olds had received vaccines distributed to colleges. Statistics from the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services also show that student health centers have seen more outbreaks of influenza-like illness than any other health care

facilities.

"I'm always skeptical of vaccinations and half the time you end up getting the flu," said Carolyn Edson, a senior biology major.

"It's actually not possible to get the flu from the vaccine. Neither the shot nor nasal vaccine has the capability to give you the flu. It does have the possibility to make you feel tired or have a headache, but that's normal with any vaccine," said Goldberg. "We know that it takes about two weeks for

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ECU monitors Pirate Express



RILEY HUGGINS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Passengers on the "drunk bus," which is rumored to be shutting down due to misbehavior.

Cassie McLean
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

For students interested in enjoying Greenville's nightlife, a ride may soon be hard to come by. According to ECU's Transit Authority Web site, the Pirate Express route, which brings students to downtown and back from the eight largest apartment complexes within the community, is at risk of termination.

According to the posted notice, the fare-free service first began in 2005 with three buses and a small route and has grown to 11 shuttles and accommodates thousands of students. At first, the route dramatically reduced student assaults, robbery and drunk driving rates.

The Transit Authority faces a much different situation now and reminds students via their Web site that the service is "a privilege, not a right."

The service reports major, recurring problems on the buses including fighting, illegal transportation or possession of alcohol, threatening ECUSTA employees, damage to ECUSTA vehicles or other properties and even exces-

sive intoxication to the point of vomiting or urinating.

Wood Davidson, Director of ECU Student Transit Authority, said, "If we don't see an improvement in the specific behavior, or in behavior in general, the ECU Transit Authority, as well as ECU administration, will be forced to take a look at terminating the service."

Davidson explained that bus drivers keep service reports each weekend to log the incidents on the buses. The problems continue every weekend.

Davidson said the situation comes down to whether or not, despite the cost that goes into the service, it is worth keeping the service running.

"We have to step back and think about, 'Where is the good?'" Davidson said.

Graduate student professor Matthew Griffin said, "I believe it may cause more problems because students will have to find other means of getting downtown. We already have problems with robbery and assault around campus, so imagine a bunch of disoriented students trying to go to and from downtown in the middle of the

night"

Defending the Transit Authority's decision, though, he said, "However, even with that being said, I feel that it is the university's decision whether or not they provide this service. The students have to follow university policies even when they are on one of our buses. If students on the bus become rowdy or even violent, that could put everyone at risk."

Griffin suggested an alternative that may satisfy both parties: police officers stationed on each bus.

Faculty member Angela Mellor, an English professor, does not agree with the decision to shut down the buses. "It doesn't seem to be about stopping students from going downtown, because they'll find ways to go with or without a bus," she said. "But without such an option, students might drive downtown, thus increasing the temptation and chances to drive drunk. If students choose to walk, this can also be dangerous because friends can be separated. If students end up walking home alone, this can increase the chances of being mugged, and potentially assaulted physically or sexually."

Like Griffin, Mellor suggested alternatives, like giving designated drivers incentives to stay sober and give their friends rides home — incentives, she suggested, like gift certificates to local eateries or downtown shops. Local organizations, she said, may readily back this decision.

Secondly, Mellor suggests options that need to be readily available, such as cheaper cab rides or safe escorts, which perhaps organizations on campus could volunteer to do.

She, like Griffin, suggested a member of A.L.E. or the police force man the buses.

"Punishing the students for being 'rowdy' or 'obnoxious' on the bus by taking the service away is definitely not the answer to this problem," she said.

Sophomore Kelsey Williams, a resident of University Manor who often rides the Express Bus route, agrees.

"I think students are definitely more likely to drive and cause accidents if they don't have a bus," she said, adding, "It could also really hurt the businesses downtown."

While Williams does agree students should be held account-

able for their actions, she believes a permanent removal of this route could cause serious problems.

Marsha Kettler, property manager at The Landing, a popular student living complex served by the route, said her biggest complaint with the notice was that the Transit Authority noted closing down merely "some" of the lines. She believes that no one property should be penalized because of certain individuals. For Kettler, the situation should be all or none.

"A few bad eggs can ruin it for a lot of people and that is bothersome ... But situations should be dealt with on an individual basis," she said. For those who act up or misbehave on the bus, Kettler explained, authorities should handle that matter with strictly the person or people at fault.

"A lot of people utilize that route," she added. "Taking it away puts a lot of stress on people trying to get downtown. They're still going to go."

Brad Congleton, president of the Student Government Association, who received an e-mail from the Transit Authority encouraging his organization to spread the awareness to students, sends a powerful message to students.

"From one student to another student, if you want to go downtown and experience Greenville's nightlife, have fun but know the responsibilities that come with that."

He too reminded students that this route is a service. ECU has one of the best student-run transit systems, he explained.

"No student needs to be doing backflips on the bus or provoking the driver or causing controversy with others on the bus. A true Pirate has fun, but a true Pirate understands the responsibilities of consequences of their actions," he said.

Josh Martinkovic, student body chief of staff, worked with a team of executives within SGA to devise a few ideas for the situation. Because ECU does not have the funds to afford to pay officers on the buses, the board suggested student patrol. Their purpose would not be to handle the situation, but to contact dispatch, who could send officers to the next bus stop to remove and deal with the people who are causing problems.

Secondly, the group plans to send an e-mail to the student body.

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ECU celebrates the Year of the Tiger

Matt McLaughlin
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

From 5 to 8:30 p.m. this past Saturday in the Brody School of Medicine Auditorium, the Chinese community of Greenville came out to celebrate the Chinese New Year and welcome in the Year of the Tiger.

To kick off the festivities, there was a stage show in which participants of all ages showcased their talents, performing a mixture of traditional and contemporary Chinese songs, dances, playing musical instruments and demonstrating original Tai Chi sword play. From small children to elderly adults, everyone was welcome to take part in the celebration. Many Chinese guests dressed in vibrant shades of red. In the Chinese culture, this color symbolizes good luck, prosperity and happiness for the upcoming year.

A number of exciting and colorful acts took place on the intricate stage, decorated with red paper lanterns and Chinese characters. Some of the high-

lights included an instrumental ensemble of students from The Greenville Chinese School, the ECU street dancing group Style of Motion, and a traditional Tai Chi sword-paying exhibition, among many other excellent acts.

Mary Lee, a first time guest, explained, "In China, New Year's Day is a very important holiday. It's like Christmas here in America."

The New Year celebration is one of the most significant historic holiday traditions, dating back to the lunar calendars of ancient China.

This is the 10th year that Greenville has celebrated the Chinese New Year as a community. The festival was originally brought here and organized by ECU professor and renowned Chinese singer Jian-Ming Chen and has been progressively growing since. Along with her efforts, the program was put on with collaboration from the Greenville Chinese School, ECU's Cultural Center and the Chinese Embassy.

Dr. Xiaoming Zeng, an assistant professor in ECU's Health



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chinese customs come alive to celebrate the Year of the Tiger.

Services Department, was one of the MCs for this year's celebration.

"We are very open. We welcome our Chinese friends and other people who want to learn

about the Chinese culture, too."

He hopes to give more exposure of Chinese customs and traditions to the Greenville community, through events such as this one

that allow others to observe and learn. Zeng also encourages others to take classes at Greenville's Chinese School for anyone who is interested in gaining more

BRIEFS

BUSES

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It is their belief that if the students are aware of the situation and possible consequences, they may begin policing themselves.

Lastly, the committee suggested swiping OneCards in order to be sure the system is serving solely ECU's student population.

SGA, while working as an advocate for students, says they cannot support this kind of behavior that is not considered acceptable elsewhere.

It is the hope of most students that the Transit Authority will see enough improvement in the situation to avoid terminating any routes.

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

H1N1

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Some people could have gotten exposed before the vaccine kicked it."

Goldberg advises students to get the vaccine despite the common belief that it might give you the flu. "The vaccine doesn't protect you 100 percent," she said, "but your case of the flu will be milder."

H1N1 vaccinations are also offered daily at the Student Health Center. Students can call the center at 252-328-6841 to schedule an appointment. Students can also contact any personnel at the SHC at H1N1questions@ecu.edu.

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

CALENDAR EVENTS

Tuesday, Feb. 16

Leadership Reading Circle: Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens
12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
For Freshmen & Sophomores. Online Registration required. www.ecu.edu/studentleadership

Vagina Monologues
7 p.m. at Hendrix Theatre
Tickets: \$11 ECU Central Ticket Office at 242-328-4278 or by visiting www.ecuarts.com

Cast Iron Art Exhibit
6 to 9 p.m. Mendenhall Student Center 2nd Floor
Art exhibition of cast iron art made at ECU.

Final Senior Portrait Session
To schedule appointment, log onto ouryear.com and enter school code 453, or call 1-800-OUR-YEAR (687-9327).
Business attire. Cap & Gown - black or purple gown and purple & gold tassel (provided by the photographer). Graduate students must provide their own departmental hoods.

Spring Graduation Expo
11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Dowdy Student Store
Runs Wed and Thurs as well.

Wednesday, Feb. 17

SAB Presents: 'New Moon'
9:30 p.m. at Hendrix Theater
Runs Thurs, Fri and Sat too

Leadership Files (60 minutes)
6 to 7 p.m.
Breaking the Ice the Pirate Way. During this interactive session you will learn more about each other.

Voyages of Discovery: Sallie Southall Cotten Lecture
7 p.m. at Wright Auditorium
Trudier Harris lectures. Complementary tickets are available to students, faculty and staff. \$10 for general public. Tickets obtained through the Central Ticket Office at 252-328-4788, 1-800-ECU-ARTS.

Men's Tennis
Match vs. Liberty 1:30 p.m.
Match vs. Barton 5:30 p.m.

Women's Tennis
Match vs. Liberty 1:30 p.m.
Match vs. Barton 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 18

ASO Haiti Fundraiser
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Flanagan Building
A meal will be available for a few dollars. Proceeds will be donated to a reputable charity of our organization's choosing.

Friday, Feb. 19

Last day to drop/withdraw
5 p.m. deadline

Faculty International Interest Group
12 to 1 p.m.
ECU International House
"Learning to Sell Fish: Reflections on Field Research in India."
Dr. Holly Hapke will discuss her field experiences in India.

Red Carpet Gala
6:30 p.m. at The Hilton
Honoring ECU's African Americans. \$35 per person. Black tie event.

Baseball vs. Virginia

3 p.m.

Kappa Delta's Pump Up Pasta Dinner
6 to 8 p.m. at the Kappa Delta house

Saturday, Feb. 20

Men's rugby vs. ASU
1 p.m.

Baseball vs. Virginia Tech Rose HS
12 p.m. & 3 p.m.

7th Annual TALGS Conference
Graduate students and educators from around the world will discuss language use. www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/engl/talgs/index.cfm

13th Annual Flatlander's Fling Climbing Competition
ECU's Campus Recreation. Registration at 11 a.m. climbing at 12 p.m. ECU members: \$15 with valid ID. For general public, registration is \$20

7th Annual TALGS Conference
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Bate Building
Dr. Elaine E. Tarone

Motown Review
School of Music
Music of "Motown"
8 p.m. at Wright Auditorium
Tickets: \$10. Call 328-4788.

Baseball vs. Virginia
2 p.m.


Kappa Delta 5K Run/Walk
Registration at 8:30 a.m.
Race begins at 10 a.m. at the Town Commons.

Monday, Feb. 22

Baseball vs. Virginia
1 p.m.

The East Carolinian is accepting submissions for the calendar. Email your submission to editor@theeastcarolinian.com Please include the date, time, cost and a contact for your event.

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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 on to theeastcarolinian.com to submit a Rant of your own.

Dear computer girl in Social Psych: Please stop burping in class. And stop talking to your internet boyfriend in class. We can hear you typing all the way up front. It's annoying.

How come higher administration doesn't eat with random students in the dining halls regularly? Other schools are used to this. I guess either they don't care or they don't know we're here.

I am ready for some baseball!!! Go Pirates!!!!

To my roommate: I would just like you to know why I sprayed you with Lysol at 2:35 a.m...It's because you farted and it was SO loud and smelled SO BAD that I woke up CHOKING from my SLEEP!!!

To my roommate: You Crusty Old Fossil, I'm SO sick of hearing about how you used to be a Lab Assistant in High School. We're in College now... IT'S OVER!!!

I think it's funny that you thought your celebrity lookalike on Facebook was Alicia Keys. Don't disrespect her like that.

So my roommate talks about how he is going to be a doctor one day but tells me how he cheats in all of his classes. Really?

Your date with your girlfriend consisted of eating your roommate's food and playing Xbox. Congratulations, you're a freeloader and extremely lame.

Don't you love it when you know you failed a test and get a 92!?

Tigers love pepper, they hate cinnamon.

Laundry Rule #2 for Tyler Hall: All's fair in love, war, and the laundry room. So stop whining that someone didn't put your clothes in the dryer for you. At least they didn't throw them on the floor

If mom or dad can't cut the apron strings, then cut them yourself.

Every time you go out drinking you come home with a black eye, is this a new trend I'm not aware of?

If the only noise in the computer lab is you two flirting perhaps you should get a clue and take your conversation outside and leave the rest of us to work.

It says a lot about your fraternity that the beer cans and other garbage from your Friday night party is still on your lawn the following Wednesday.

They say guys think about sex every 6 seconds... I wonder how often girls do?

To the kid complaining about his roommate in the fraternity: You're just mad you can't frat hard like that.

To the girl who clearly doesn't know what no means: He's in love and not interested in you, you bleach blond Barbie. Take your STDs elsewhere.

To the guy who told me to take what I can get because a relationship is hard to come across: Well I'm not some cheap whore. That tactic doesn't work with all girls!!

I know it's mostly bad luck but if you are stupid enough to leave a GPS sitting out in your car you deserve for it to get stolen!

Who knew that camels were native to Greenville?!? With all these girls wearing leggings as pants, I sure have seen a lot of toes!

If I wanted your opinion on my boyfriend, I would ask. Yes, we fight. Who doesn't? So please keep your opinion to yourself and continue sleeping with everyone you see.

Wearing your sunglasses inside doesn't make you look cool, it makes you look like a rapist.

I have never seen so many backstabbing two-faced girls in one town before.

To whoever stole my red backpack out of Joyner on Thursday: You are forgiven.

So, I just learned that condoms catch on fire in the microwave. Oh, the things I learn in college!

Dear Girls: If you break up with a guy, and then go lesbian... sending him a video of you making out with her isn't going to hurt his feelings one bit. In fact, he'll share it with other guys.

Yes I'm studying in the library, yes I'm eating mac and cheese, and yes you can be jealous.

To the band geek that was leaving Minges on Thursday night after the Women's basketball: I heard you say stupid cheerleaders. Not cool.

The smartest blonde I ever met was my Golden Retriever.

A two-way petting zoo: Where you pet the animals and they pet you back.

Getting out of class in the middle of rush hour = the reason I can't quit smoking....

I'm sick of hearing my roommate complain about how tired she is when she doesn't get up before 10 a.m. and doesn't have a job.

Girl in blue dress and cowgirl boots walking down 5th at 9 a.m. on Friday = WALK OF SHAME.

Don't exercise anxiety



Leila Falls
OPINION COLUMNIST

Whenever you go to the recreational center to exercise, it's always crowded with herds of people. Sometimes you are able to arrive at a time slot when it is less crowded. However, it's never in a state similar to a tumbleweed-covered desert. Let's just say you get in without being trampled. Good, you made it to the gym. Step one: check. So what are you going to do?

Racquetball? It's exciting and a definite stress-relieving competition. What if you can't handle being locked in a box with your friend who morphs into an aggressive opponent who fudges the rules? How about basketball, badminton or volleyball? They are all full-body workouts done on the court space, so you kind of feel like a pro. What if the court time is a mess full of "we were here first" dramas? Swimming? It is a way to get your inner water baby out while getting some exercise. What about the fact that you have to swim in a fishbowl and deal with awkward locker room shower experiences? How about exercise equipment? There is a wide variety, and after using one, you feel like a champion worthy of your own theme music. What if you can't deal with people waiting impatiently behind you to get off of a machine? Take a class? There are many different classes available. The classes always have snazzy names like ... zumba! What if you don't like the classroom setting — especially if there are mirrors everywhere?

The point of my tirade full of questions is that there's always an excuse when it comes to exercising. Reality check: You can't stay in a healthy shape if your only workout is walking to classes, even when some days it feels like you're walking miles. Maybe you think since your thighs are burning from walking up three flights of

stairs in Bate or you're exhausted from walking around the labyrinth known as Rivers, that you did your "workout for the day." Sadly, that is not enough exercise. According to Teens Health, "The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends that people get at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity most days of the week."

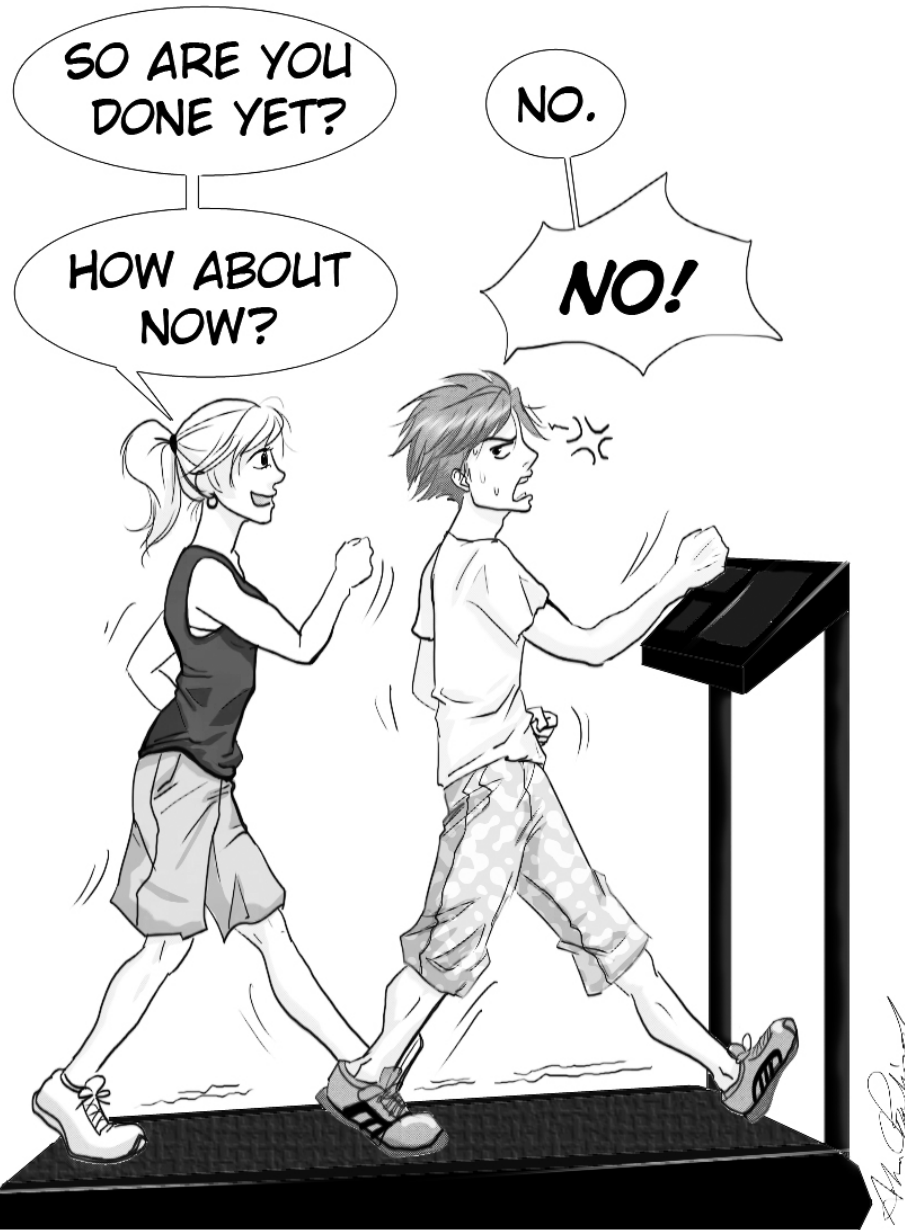
The recreational center is available to you as a student, so you don't have to get another gym membership. Some people are anti-gyms because dealing with people who show up wearing outfits that are traumatizing to witness is kind of uncomfortable, and sometimes people are rude. Being rude to an overweight person is dumb, because at least they're motivated to be there to exercise.

I'm an elliptical fan. There's something exhilarating about being on one. Maybe it's Tony Little's passion for his Gazelle machine or that I'm scared for life from being that girl that was stuck because her shoelaces got eaten by the treadmill at the YMCA.

There are other options outside of the gym setting. You could ride your bike or go for a jog. If you hate nature, try an exercise DVD. Walmart is full of them, even \$5 bin ones! There are so many, which include yoga, Pilates, belly dancing and martial arts. Although some of them are cheesy, they are effective. I'll admit it; Richard Simmons delivers an entertaining workout routine, especially when he says, "Energy is that amazing feeling that comes to life inside of you when you're happy and believe in yourself!"

Believe me, it is so disheartening when your fat pants are now your tight ones, and your tight pants sit in a drawer. The worst thing is returning home and getting looks from your family as they bluntly say, "You used to be so thin! What happened?" You cannot let yourself go and become harpoon-worthy. Find your style of exercise and stick to it!

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



ILLUSTRATED BY ADRIAN PARHAMOVICH

An opportunity for an adventure



Michael Pacheco
OPINION COLUMNIST

A wise professor recently said, "The world is your oyster," when talking to me about taking any opportunity I could to travel the world. The idiom, "The world is your oyster," so indirectly states that when the world is your oyster, you are getting everything you want from life. It means to take every opportunity and chance you get, to do what it is that you want to do and to do what makes you happy.

From the book, "Random House Dictionary of Popular Proverbs and Sayings," by Gregory Y. Titelman, "THE WORLD IS AN (ONE'S) OYSTER - If you have a lot of money, you can have anything you want. The proverb first appears in Shakespeare's play 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' (1600). 'Falstaff: I will not lend thee a penny. Pistol: Why, then, the world's mine oyster, Which I with sword will open.' Act II, Scene II."

Although the quote seems to insinuate that someone who would think the world is their oyster is rich and has enough power and authority, whether it is through wealth or class, and that they are the only ones to access these opportunities, I think the saying can apply to anyone. The world is anybody's for the taking; it is whatever you make of it.

I am here to tell my readers that the world is truly your oyster.

I am by no means qualified to be giving advice, but as a fellow colleague to my readers, I am in the position to inspire those of you interested in taking my advice. There are opportunities out there for an adventure. A lot of your professors have taken up those opportunities and are willing to share their experiences. It is up to you as students to talk to your professors about their experience overseas. I did, and I was inspired to join the Peace Corps as my backup if I decide not to get my M.P.H. after receiving my bachelor's degree.

The Peace Corps has a lot of misconceptions. One that I notice is common is that it is for hippies who are all about saving the world, one maladjusted child at a time. Although that might be an overarching goal of the Peace Corps, you don't have to see it that way.

The Peace Corps will essentially pay for you to fly to almost any country of your choice and live there as one of the indigenous of that country for two years. You can pick what kind of program you would like to be affiliated with, such as education, health, environment, business development, youth development and agriculture. You aren't guaranteed placement in any of those categories, as you do have to apply for them, but if you have an undergraduate degree in any of those areas, it is more than likely that you will be placed in the one you desire

the most.

As we have seen in today's economy, the bachelor's degree is the new high school diploma, and these days we need to do whatever it takes to market ourselves to employers. What better way to do this than to join the Peace Corps (hopefully in the two years you are overseas the economy picks back up) and go on to get your master's, which I might add, the Peace Corps will help pay for you. Grad schools also love Peace Corps volunteers. In fact, they love them so much they are willing to take hours from your trip and credit it toward your master's.

Some schools, such as Tulane, Boston University and Johns Hopkins, even have programs that help you transition from the Peace Corps directly into their master's program.

Two years is a long time, but that is two years of experience, knowledge and rewards you will reap for the rest of your life and memories you will never forget. It is a big decision, but I implore you to at least look into the idea and speak with someone from the Peace Corps.

The regional recruiter for the Peace Corps, Michael Buff, will be here in Greenville at the ECU Spring Career Fair 2010 located at the Greenville Convention Center on Feb. 23 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Think of volunteering overseas as an adventure. There are many to be had.

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

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

Rumors may turn into fact if Pirates don't shape up

Staff Reports

It has been rumored that the Pirate Express, which is fondly referred to as the "Drunk Bus," is being shut down.

Presently, this is not the case; however, if student conduct does not improve, ECUSTA may have no other choice than to end this service.

As it seems, many students who ride the Pirate Express are of the opinion that this service is their right, but contrary to popular opinion, the Pirate Express is a privilege for students that was created in fall 2005.

Students are continually boarding the Pirate Express overly intoxicated, which is leading to unacceptable behaviors, such as fighting, damage to ECUSTA property, threatening of ECUSTA employees, vomiting and urinating on the bus.

Too many students appear to have no regard for the service provided by ECUSTA and the Pirate Express, and if this does not change, then ECUSTA may have no other choice than to cease the Pirate Express.

If we lose this service, many students will be upset because this is the primary mode of transportation downtown for students. It's safe to assume that DWIs will increase, students will be put in unsafe situations and inevitably people will be hurt.

Pirate Express is not a critical service. It doesn't provide students or faculty rides to campus for academic affairs, and it is very costly to the university. Because of these key factors, it can easily be dropped, despite the consequences it may have for students.

If you like the luxury of having

a bus safely transport you to downtown and back home, you may want to amend your behavior and follow the rules that have been put in place to ensure the safety of you and others during your downtown excursions.

The following are strictly prohibited on Pirate Express:

- * Open or closed containers of alcohol
- * Weapons of any nature
- * Fighting
- * Smoking
- * Passengers in the driver area
- * Backpacks or large carry-on items
- * Horseplay
- * Distracting the driver
- * Feet in passenger seating
- * Hanging or flipping from grab straps

Fellow Pirates, if you want to keep the "drunk bus" you are going to have to shape up. It would be unfortunate to lose something a lot of people depend on just because a few people cannot handle their alcohol. The apartment complexes that get Pirate Express service pay for having the bus system, so they are losing money when things get broken. Nobody wants to lose this bus system, but there comes a point where a problem can no longer be ignored.

SGA is working with the university to come up with ideas to save the Pirate Express. A few of the ideas include student patrolling on the buses or possibly using your OneCard to allow entrance onto the bus. SGA is still accepting ideas so if you are interested in getting involved email sgachiefstaff@ecu.edu for more information.

As Pirates we all enjoy a little mischief but please don't let this go

STAFF INFORMATION

Katelyn Crouse, Editor in Chief

Samantha Hughes	News Editor
Andrea Robertson	Opinion Editor
Jared Jackson	Sports Editor
Katie Stoneback	Features Editor
Matt Shapiro	Photo Editor
Samantha Eads	Head Copy Editor
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Sarah Russell	Production Manager
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PENELOPE CRUZ



The Did You Know's came from the book "The Book Of Useless Information by Noel Botham & The Useless Information Society

The ruins of Troy are located in Turkey.

In 290 B.C., Aristarchus was the first Greek astronomer to suggest that the sun was the center of the solar system.

At the height of its power, in 400 B.C., the Greek city of Sparta had 25,000 citizens and 500,000 slaves.

In ancient Greece, women counted their age from the date they were married.

Tomb robbers believed that knocking off Egyptian sarcophagi's noses would stall curses.

On some mummies that have been unwrapped, the total length of the bandages has been about 1.5 miles.

Preparing an Egyptian mummy sometimes took up to 70 days. Dead Egyptian noblewomen were given the special treatment of being allowed a few days to ripen so the embalmers wouldn't find them too attractive.

Cleopatra married two of her brothers.

The first known contraceptive was crocodile dung, used by the Egyptians in 2000 B.C.

The Egyptian hieroglyph for 100,000 is a tadpole.

The Egyptian city of Alexandria was founded by Alexander the Great in 331 B.C.

Pharaoh Ramses II died in 1225 B.C. At the time of his death, he had fathered 111 sons and 67 daughters.

If a surgeon in ancient Egypt lost a patient while performing an operation, his hands were cut off.

A golden razor removed from King Tut's tomb was still sharp enough to be used.

Ra was the sun god of ancient Egypt.

In ancient Egypt, the apricot was called the egg of the sun, killing a cat was a crime punishable by death and Egyptians paid their taxes in honey.

Ancient Egyptians shaved off their eyebrows to mourn the death of their cats.

Ancients Egyptians slept on pillows made of stone.

About 300 years ago, most Egyptians died by the time they were 30.

According to the Greek historian Herodotus, Egyptian men never became bald. The reason for this, Herodotus claimed, was that as children, Egyptian males had their heads shaved, and their scalps were continually exposed to the health-giving rays of the sun.

In Egypt around 1500 B.C., a shaved head was considered the ultimate in feminine beauty. Egyptian women removed every hair from their heads with special gold tweezers and polished their scalps to a high sheen with buffing cloths.

During the Cambrian period, about 500 million years ago, a day was only 20.6 hours long.

The name of the asteroid that was believed to have killed the dinosaurs was Chixalub (pronounced sheesh-uh-loob).

In ancient Japan, public contests were held to see who in a town could break wind loudest and longest. Winners were awarded many prizes and received great acclaim.

MTV, dropping 'Music Television' from its logo, joins a trend of broadened brands



Scott Collins
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — Twenty-five years ago, MTV was best known for music videos starring Michael Jackson and Madonna. These days, its reigning queen is not a recording star at all but rather Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi, the rowdy party girl from the reality series "Jersey Shore."

So maybe it's not surprising that last week the 29-year-old network bowed to the inevitable and finally scraped the legend "Music Television" off its corporate logo.

The change was a belated acknowledgment of what has been obvious for years: MTV has evolved into a reality channel that occasionally runs programs that have to do with music.

But the shift is significant because, in an era of rapid technological change and microscopic attention spans, how networks identify themselves matters more than ever, experts say.

MTV "realized being 'music television' was too limiting," said Dave Howe, president of Syfy, home of such series as "Stargate

Universe" and the now-defunct "Battlestar Galactica." Howe says the right brand is essential "to cut through the noise and clutter of the media explosion" bedeviling the TV industry.

And he should know. Last summer, his network underwent a controversial name change, from the Sci-Fi Channel to Syfy, a made-up word that Twitter users said looked more like the name of a mop or a gossip magazine than that of a cable network. One newspaper called it the "dumbest rebranding ever."

But Howe says the name change has reenergized the network and sharpened its identity. Because it referred to a well-established genre, "sci-fi" could not be trademark-protected, an important consideration for a network looking to establish a distinctive identity. Also, he said, sci-fi evoked images of "space, aliens and the future," turning off some viewers and advertisers.

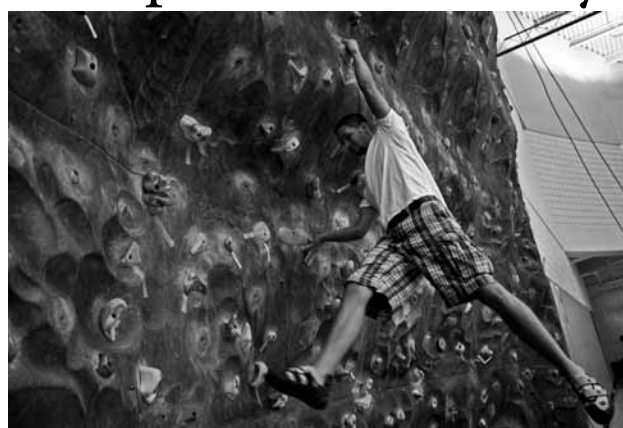
"We totally expected there to be a backlash from core sci-fi fans," Howe said. But the shift has "far exceeded our expectations. ... It's opened up the network to a broader range of viewers" and helped boost ratings.

For its part, MTV says viewers had moved beyond what the old logo said. "The people who watch it today, they don't refer to MTV as music television," MTV's head of marketing, Tina Exarhos, said last week.

Other networks have gone much further. In 2003, Viacom rebranded the New TNN, which

MTV page A5

13th Annual Flatlander's Fling climbing competition, Saturday



Nick Bringolf, Senior climbs on the rock wall inside the Rec center.

Contributed Article

ECU's Campus Recreation & Wellness Adventure Program is gearing up to host the 13th Annual Flatlander's Fling climbing competition on Saturday. The event will be held at the ECU Student Recreation Center with registration beginning at 11 a.m. and climbing kicking off at noon.

The Flatlander's Fling will form the first leg of the Eastern Edge Climbing Series, a two-day climbing series showcasing some of the finest climbers in Eastern North Carolina. The second event will be held at UNC-Wilmington's Seaside Scramble on Sunday.

"ECU and UNCW serve as the host sites, but our goal is to promote a supportive climbing community, as well as to educate climbers on climbing access privileges," said Pam Andrae, a CRW student staff member.

The Flatlander's Fling is open to all climbers, regardless

of ability level, and will feature bouldering and top rope climbing, along with a point system that will determine the winners. Prizes and giveaways will be awarded to participants in all categories. Each year, the goal is to raise awareness about the benefits of climbing.

"The series allows climbers to challenge themselves and challenge each other in a lively, exciting but friendly atmosphere," said CRW student staff member Kyle Slosek.

Organizers say the excitement is not just restricted to those climbing in the competition. "It is such an entertaining competition so we expect to see many returning climbers," said student staff member Jamie Maniscalco. "Even if you're not competing, the event is a lot of fun to watch, plus there is free food and great people taking

FLATLANDER page A5



The Brazilian Battalion and the U.S. Army joined forces for a food distribution in Cite Soleil, Haiti. Here, Army Spc. Otis Richardson, left, hands out crackers to waiting children.

Pirates continue Haiti aid at downtown venue

ECU All-Stars dance team hosts 'Hope for Haiti'

Veronica Carrington
CONTRIBUTED WRITER

In the wake of the most devastating earthquake in Haiti's history, the world continues to come together and help a struggling nation rebuild and renew.

On Jan. 12, Haiti was struck by a magnitude 7.0 earthquake, the country's most destructive earthquake in over 200 years, with the center of the quake being just outside the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince.

It has been estimated that the death toll in Haiti could reach 200,000 residents, with a great deal of damage from the quake leaving the capital city demolished. Reconstruction and relief efforts for the weak nation began almost instantaneously after the news of the earthquake hit.

"Hope for Haiti Now: A Global Benefit for Earthquake Relief" was a charity telethon held on Jan. 22. The original plans for the telethon were announced by MTV Networks on Jan. 15, three days after the earthquake struck. The telethon drew an estimated

audience of over 82 million viewers in the United States between the initial broadcast and Web and mobile streams throughout the weekend, and it was reported that the telethon had raised over \$58 million to be dispersed among different philanthropic organizations such as The Clinton-Bush Haiti Fund, United Nations World Food Program, Oxfam America, Partners In Health, The Red Cross, UNICEF and the Yéle Haiti Foundation.

However, Haiti relief efforts are now taking place closer to home for many Pirates wishing to also take part and make a difference in the lives of so many who need it.

The ECU All-Stars Dance Team, in conjunction with University Manor, an American Campus managed property, will be hosting "Hope for Haiti," a date auction to raise funds and awareness for the crippled nation.

The date auction will feature prominent Pirates on ECU's campus, such as SGA President Brad Congleton, SGA Treasurer Tremayne Smith and Alpha Phi Alpha representative Eric Anthony.

Each participant will be "auc-

tioned" to the highest bidder in order to raise proceeds to be donated to Haiti Relief efforts.

The event is being held at The Tippy Teapot on Friday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m., and tickets are available at the door for purchase at \$8 for students with picture ID and \$10 for adults.

University Manor will be matching the door proceeds collected in order to give as much as possible to rebuild the Haitian nation.

Each participant will be "auctioned" based on appearance and intellectual prowess demonstrated in the question and answer portion of the show. The gentleman who brings in the highest bid will have their date paid for by generous donations from local business within the community.

For many Pirates, this is an opportunity to take part in an event much bigger than just a date auction; it is the opportunity to lend a hand and heart to a country suffering unimaginable devastation. Students are encouraged to contact ecualstars@gmail.com with any questions.

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

Kappa Delta holds annual philanthropy event for child abuse awareness

Madonna Messana
STAFF WRITER

To raise money for one of the group's philanthropies, Kappa Delta Sorority will be holding its annual Shamrock event this weekend. This will be the sorority's second year hosting the 5K for kids and Pump Up Pasta dinner, with proceeds going to the group's national philanthropy, Prevent Child Abuse America. Prevent Child Abuse America was founded in 1972 "to build a nationwide commitment to preventing all forms of child abuse," according to the organization's Web site. Prevent Child Abuse America has been the leading advocate for preventing child abuse and neglect among children. The program advocates abuse-prevention legislation and programming to educate and raise awareness.

Last year, Kappa Delta was able to raise \$11,300. Because of this, the sorority decided to make their goal to raise \$12,000 this year. 20 percent of the proceeds made will go toward the sorority's national philanthropy, while the remaining 80 percent will be given locally to the TEDI BEAR Advocacy Center, located in Greenville. The TEDI BEAR Advocacy Center serves children from birth to 18 years old that have been abused or neglected.

The Pump Up Pasta dinner will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, at the Kappa Delta Sorority house, located at 1100 East 10th St. There will be all-



THE EAST CAROLINIAN | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

you-can-eat spaghetti, Alfredo and lasagna, along with salad, bread, drinks and desserts. To purchase a ticket, speak with a Kappa Delta sister or contact Dana Johnson at 252-904-3131 or dsj1014@ecu.edu. Tickets are \$6 in advance and \$8 at the door, and takeout plates are available. On Saturday, Kappa Delta's 5K run/walk for kids will be held at the Town Commons. It costs \$12 to run, or \$25 for the package deal, which includes a ticket for the pasta dinner, the run and a T-shirt. Registration for the run begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Toyota Amphitheater and the race will begin at 10 a.m. For questions concerning the race, contact Adrienne Fierro at 434-492-5573 or at aef0915D1@ecu.edu.

The course for the 5K race, which is USATF certified, will start on First Street and will end on Reade Street, the same loop used for the Flat Out 5K. The race pavement will be smooth enough to accommodate baby strollers and race chairs, which are more than welcome. The organization, timing and scor-

ing will be conducted by East Carolina Road Racing. Course maps, entry forms, results and additional information can be found at www.ecrun.org. There will be awards for the top three male and female overall contestants, the top three males and females in each age group and the oldest male and female finisher. Age groups are as follows: 15 and under, 16-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70 and older. Participants and race viewers will then have the chance to enjoy food and drinks, which will be followed by the awards ceremony starting shortly after the last contestants finish, which should be around 11 a.m.

To register for the race, print off the registration form at www.ecrun.org and bring the form to the race registrations on Saturday. Kappa Delta Sorority thanks all those who participate and donations made to support Prevent Child Abuse America.

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

HEALTHY EATS

Healthy Living

Choosing fruits for a salad

Fruit salad is excellent with light meals, but also goes well with hearty, high-protein meals; a calorie guide for choosing what to put in it:

• Calories in 1/2 cup of each fruit (about 50 g)*

Sliced banana 100

Orange sections 42

Sliced peach 30

Cantaloupe 30

Sliced apple 28

Seedless grapes 52

*One serving of fruit salad is about 1 cup
Source: U.S. Agriculture Department

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Melina Yingling

Healthy Living

A better slice

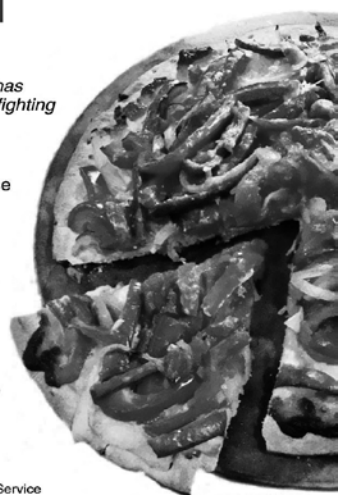
A group of pizza-loving chemists has discovered how to boost disease-fighting antioxidants in a slice.

The recipe

• Instead of all-purpose flour, use whole wheat flour, which is higher in antioxidants — substances that counteract the damaging effects of oxidation in our bodies

• Let the dough rise for about 18 hours in the refrigerator, in a pan loosely covered with plastic wrap; the longer rising time can double the dough's antioxidants

• Bake the pizza at 500 F (260 C) for 6-8 minutes; antioxidants increased by 82 percent when baked at a higher temperature



© 2010 MCT

Source: University of Maryland; MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Pat Carr

MTV continued from A4

FLATLANDER continued from A4

itself rose from the ashes of the Nashville Network, as Spike TV, a network targeted aggressively at males. (It's now simply called Spike.) The Learning Channel was originally an outpost for little-watched educational fare; as TLC, it booted the explicit reference to self-improvement and achieved household recognition as the purveyor of the pop-culture smash "Jon & Kate Plus 8."

Often, outlets extensively overhaul programming – and chase higher ratings – without changing their names at all.

Over the years, Bravo has moved away from foreign and art movies and reinvented itself as an outpost of such hip reality shows as "Queer Eye" and "Top Chef." A&E's now-defunct fine-arts shows, such as "Breakfast With the Arts," are a far cry from "Gene Simmons Family Jewels" and the other decidedly un-artsy reality shows that now rule the channel.

Howe says the generic names – Music Television, Sci-Fi, Arts & Entertainment – date from the dawn of multi-channel television, when it was enough to tell viewers you were offering a certain type of programming. That approach poses problems in today's teeming media market.

"It's too old-fashioned," he said. "You might as well be called Milk or Gas."

Ira Kalb, a veteran marketing expert who teaches at USC, compared MTV's logo change to Apple Computer's decision in 2007 to call itself Apple Inc. That shift signified that the company's focus now encompassed a broad range of tech products, such as the iPhone and the iPod. While the name change might seem minor, consumers do absorb such branding shifts over time.

Kalb said he often tests students to see whether they recognize the NBC chimes; most still do. "And they also know the five notes for Intel," he added.

But other analysts, while conceding the importance of brands, wonder whether such marketing concepts will matter in what might be shaping up as a post-network age.

Kathy Sharpe, chief executive of New York-based marketing firm Sharpe Partners, noted that whatever its name or logo, MTV might not have the centrality in young people's lives that it once did. "MTV isn't really competing with VH1 or Fuse. It's competing with Facebook and YouTube."

part." Sponsors of this year's event are Beat the Bookstore, Cape Fear Piercings, Chaco Footwear, Cloudveil, Crystal Connection, East Coast Video & Music, ECU Adventure Program, ECU Campus Recreation & Wellness, First Ascent/Eddie Bauer, Fusion Surf & Skate, Great Outdoor Provision Company, Kroger, Lowe's Food, Mad Rock Climbing, Marathon Restaurant, Mike's Deli, Mo's Southwest Grill, Moose Jaw, Mountain Hardware, Osprey Packs, Panera Bread, Pita Pit, prAna, Rock and Ice, Salsarita's, Triangle Rock Club and Winslow's Tavern.

The Flatlander's Fling registration fee for all college students, as well as ECU faculty and staff with a valid university ID, is \$15. For the general public, registration is \$20 for adults and \$15 for students under the age of 18. Spectators are welcome. Transportation is offered to those who wish to venture to UNCW for the Seaside Scramble competition. The cost of travel to UNCW is \$10 and must be paid in advance to ECU Campus Recreation & Wellness.

For more information, contact the ECU Adventure Program at 252-328-1560, adventure@ecu.edu or go online at www.flatlandersfling.org.

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

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Applications for the Student Activities Board

Applications for the 2010- 2011 Student Activities Board President and 2010- 2011 Committee Chairs are now available.

Applications can be picked up in the Student Activities and Organizations Center located in Mendenhall Student Center Room 114.

The deadline for SAB President Applications is Friday, February 12th, 2010.

The deadline for SAB Committee Chair Applications is Friday, February 19th, 2010.

Special Events Films Marketing Initiatives Entertainment Visual Arts



Track and field complete regular season at UNC

The ECU track and field teams participated in their final meet before the 2010 Conference USA Indoor Championships, traveling to Chapel Hill Friday for the Gene Anderson Invitational.

The highlight of the meet was junior Dennis Aliotta's performance in the shot put as he broke his own school record set last week and finished second with a mark of 17.42.

Freshman Tiffany Harris turned in her first strong finish of the day in the 200-meter dash, placing second with a time of 24.97. She then followed that showing with a 57.65 in the 400-meter dash, good for third.

Another freshman, Brooke Kott, matched that result in the 800-meter run, finishing third and clocking in at 2:18.28. In the 60-meter hurdles, Nicole Saunders and JaQuanda Wright earned sixth and eighth-place with times of 9.17 and 9.20, respectively.

Harris completed her solid performance with a third-place nod in the long jump, recording a mark of 5.77. Continuing in the field events, Cameila Morman reached 12.10 meters in the triple jump to post a second-place result while Stephanie McDougal was fourth in the pole vault at 3.60 meters and Donisha Brown grabbed fifth in the weight throw with a mark of 15.37 meters.

For the men, Torrance Hunt produced a 6.88 for the second-straight week to advance to the finals along with Antonial Marshall, who took eighth and ran a 6.94. Marshall also finished 10th in the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.60.

In the field, Miles Coats was fifth in the high jump at 1.93 meters before he won his first event of the season, registering a career-best 14.21 meter mark in the triple jump. Kenneth Rowland placed just behind Aliotta in the shot put, taking fourth with a heave of 16.38 meters.

Aliotta and Montrell Morrow added to the top five finishes in the weight throw, finishing third and fifth respectively with marks of 16.19 and 16.00. Additionally, Austin Lewis captured fifth in the long jump at 6.98 meters.

Basketball woes continue in loss to UTEP

UTEP junior Randy Culpepper scored 31 first half points on his way to a career-high 45 points as Conference USA leader UTEP pounced all over ECU, 100-74, on Saturday at the Don Haskins Center.

Culpepper was 10-of-11 from the floor in the first half, including 6-of-7 from behind the arc.

UTEP won its ninth straight game and improved to 19-5 overall and 10-1 in league play while dropping the Pirates to 8-17, 2-9 in C-USA play.

Brock Young scored 13 points and handed out seven assists in the loss for the Pirates.

Lady Pirates' come up short in clash for C-USA lead

Stephen McNulty
STAFF WRITER

Every streak must come to an end, and unfortunately the ECU women's basketball team's 12-game win streak at Minges Coliseum was halted Saturday afternoon against Tulane.

After getting back on the winning side of things by beating UTEP, 64-54, Thursday evening, ECU (18-7, 7-5 Conference USA) fell short, losing 56-51 to the Green Wave.

Tulane (19-5, 8-3) jumped out to a quick 9-1 lead with the help of six ECU turnovers.

The Green Wave kept full-court pressure on and pushed the lead to 23-10. The Lady Pirates were lucky to go into the break only down 29-18, with Tulane shooting just 15 percent from beyond the arc.

Three things are guaranteed in life: death, taxes and a second-half run by ECU head coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener's Lady Pirates.

This time it was a 16-3 sprint out of the gates by ECU to take the lead 34-32. This would be the largest lead ECU would take.

Tulane put together a 10-2 run of its own, grabbing a 44-37 lead. The Green Wave would not relinquish the lead from that point

on, finishing with a 56-51 win.

Starting point guard Ashley Clarke commented on the first home loss following the game. "It's very disappointing ... we went the whole season protecting our home court and it hurt to have a team come in and beat us."

Clarke finished with 16 points and Allison Spivey contributed 14 of her own. However, there was one stat that stood alone: a season-high 31 turnovers by ECU.

The loss came in front of 6,157 fans, the sixth-largest crowd in program history, and it was heartbreaking -- the Pirates could have knotted up the C-USA race with the Green Wave with a victory.

"Tulane is very good defensively and I think that had a lot to do with (turnovers), but we were careless with the ball," Baldwin-Tener said. "When you play a team that is that good defensively, you have to take care of the ball."

All was not lost over the weekend, however. ECU defeated the UTEP Miners 65-54 on Thursday with another big second half.

ECU came out extremely sluggish to start the contest, forcing head coach Baldwin-Tener to go to her bench early.

"I thought we were playing flat, I thought we were playing timid, I didn't think defensively we were getting after people... we were letting them do whatever they wanted to do," Baldwin-Tener said after the game. "I think it maybe jarred them a little bit and thankfully they responded in the second half."

A quick 5-0 run by ECU allowed them to go into the half only trailing 27-19, despite no scoring from their top three contributors.

Coach Baldwin-Tener must have had one of her famous inspiring halftime speeches as the Lady Pirates came out on a 17-6 run to start the half and take the lead 36-33 on an Allison Spivey 3.

One of the players Baldwin-Tener targeted at the break was sophomore center Jean Best.

"It was horrible ... I just had to prove to everybody, even coach, that I didn't come to ECU for nothing; I came here to be a ball player," Best said.

The Lady Pirates and the UTEP Miners traded blows before ECU finally pulled away in the final minutes.

An Ashley Clarke free throw with less than 40 seconds remaining in the game gave ECU its largest lead of the game, 64-54. UTEP failed to score and



ERIN DUNCAN THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU guard Ashley Clarke scored a team-high 16 points in a loss to Tulane on Saturday.

The Lady Pirates let the clock tick down for a much-needed win.

Chareya Smith led all scorers with 14 points and Kim Gay grabbed a game-high nine rebounds. Also, Best reached double-digits in scoring for only the third time this season.

ECU out-rebounded UTEP 48-22 in the match, but did turn the ball over 20 times to the Miners' nine.

The Lady Pirates' final home game is Sunday, Feb. 21, against Tulsa.

Tip-off is set for 2 p.m. at Minges Coliseum. Following the Tulsa game, the Lady Pirates hit the road for their final three games of the regular season.

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

ECU softball team picks up lone victory over USF in season opening tournament



Senior left fielder Marina Gusman-Brown tallied two hits and three stolen bases in ECU's 5-1 victory over USF Saturday.

Staff Reports

On its final day of action at the USF DeMarini Tournament, the ECU softball team dropped a

pair of games, losing 3-0 to No. 13 Georgia Tech (3-0) and 2-1 to Long Island (2-1). The defeats moved the Pirates' record to 1-3.

In the opener, Georgia Tech freshman pitcher Hope Rush

(2-0) surrendered just a first-inning walk and back-to-back seventh-inning singles with two outs.

ECU's Toni Paisley (1-1) gave up three runs on five hits, two of which were home runs. She also struck out 10 during the game.

The Yellow Jackets jumped on the Pirates for a run in the first inning as Jen Yee hit a one-out solo home run to right field. Yee gave Georgia Tech a 2-0 lead in the top of the third when she doubled to left center with two outs to drive in Kate Kuzma, who had singled earlier in the inning. Yee finished the game going 2-2 with two runs batted in, a run scored and a walk.

In the top of the fourth, the Yellow Jackets put their final run on the board as Kristen Adkins homered to center field.

Georgia Tech had a chance to add to its run total in the top of the sixth, but solid defense helped the Pirates escape without any damage.

A walk to Jessica Sinclair loaded the bases with only one out. Adkins swung at the first pitch she saw and popped out to senior Charina Sumner, who stepped on second base to double off pinch runner Kelly Eppinger.

With two outs in the bottom of the seventh, Pirate senior Marina Gusman-Brown broke up Rush's no-hit bid with a single to right field. Junior Sissy Jimenez followed with another single to right, but Gusman-Brown ended the game when she was thrown out at third base trying to advance on the hit.

In the second game, sophomore Faith Sutton (1-1) took the

loss as she gave up two runs, both unearned, on six hits. Long Island starter Blaire Porter (2-0) recorded the victory, limiting the Pirates to five hits and one run while striking out six.

The Blackbirds took advantage of an ECU error and a pair of singles to take a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the second.

Neither team mounted another threat until the bottom of the fifth when two singles and another Pirate error put LIU runners on second and third with one out.

Paisley came on in relief of Sutton and recorded a strikeout before walking Martinson to load the bases with two down. Paisley escaped without any damage when Cervantes popped out to Tom.

> SOFTBALL page A7

Normal stars, off the courts issues dominate first half of NBA season

OPINION



Alex Serkes
STAFF WRITER

My, oh my, what a turbulent first half it has been for NBA fans.

Surprising rookies, the rise to stardom of some young players, Wizards strapped with handguns rather than magic wands, "revealing" Greg Oden photos, a buzzing trade and free agent market. Throw in a few game winners by Kobe Bryant and tracked down smack blocks off the glass by LeBron James, Shaquille O'Neal moving to Cleveland, then add a pinch of a potential record-breaking losing season and you have the 2010 NBA first half.

Whew, let's gather ourselves. The NBA hasn't been this exciting since Ron Artest and Ben Wallace went John Rambo on some unfortunate fans at The Palace of Auburn Hills back in 2005. Nonetheless, the excitement that has swirled around the first half of the 2010 NBA season certainly gives us much to talk about.

Where do we start? Well, with the newcomers, of course.

It seems as if 2010 would bring the emergence of Oklahoma Sooners powerhouse Blake Griffin and a revival of one of

the NBA's worst franchises, the Los Angeles Clippers. A tweaked knee and a season-ending injury was the end all to that equation.

Fear not, as other rookies such as Milwaukee's Brandon Jennings, who dropped to 10 overall after foregoing college and playing a year overseas, stepped up in the first half of the season. Jennings leads scoring among rookies behind another unlikely rookie star, Tyreke Evans in Sacramento. Let's not forget the beating Jennings gave Golden State when he dropped 55 points, the most ever by a rookie.

Offset from the new guys, however, the rest of the NBA's stars seem to be stuck in the

norm.

James, Bryant and Dwayne all once again take up the top five in scoring, while Dwight Howard continues to reject shots and clean up the glass. Also, Chris Paul has continued to magnify defenders with his league leading assists and Rajon Rondo with his long fingers stripping balls from defenders.

Yes, it seems as if these stars picked up right where they left off in 2009.

Although, who is under the radar?

Kevin Durant has sporadically risen to mere dominance in scoring while averaging 29.7 points per game, which is second

only behind James's mark of 29.8.

Meanwhile, Oden has been injured once again, and took, for lack of a better term, revealing cell phone pictures of himself that have been released online.

It appears as if the Oden-Durant draft might show shades of the Hakeem Olajuwon-Michael Jordan draft of '84. Don't forget Sam Bowie to Portland, second overall, that year either.

On the court, everything seems to be going according to David Stern's masterful plan. TV ratings are back up, the NBA is popular again and stars are performing. Let's not forget the bad, though.

Stars like Gilbert Arenas, however, decide they need a little extra protection and bring handguns into the locker room. The NBA suspended Arenas and teammate Javaris Crittenton indefinitely after the two "pulled guns" on one another over a gambling dispute in the Verizon Center locker room. Arenas would go on to kid about the situation with teammates, boasting pistol hand gestures during pregame announcements that were caught on tape.

The Nets, like the Wizards, are experiencing turmoil, although not legally, but with their pride. Boasting a 4-47 record, they are on pace to finish with the worst record in NBA history.

Through the exciting and the good, past the immoral and the poor, at the halfway point we take some time to evaluate the

top five teams of the first half.

No. 1 Cleveland Cavaliers:

With the best record in the NBA, a star in LeBron James who doesn't seem to be slowing down and a group of stellar role players such as Anderson Varejao, Mo Williams and Shaquille O'Neal, Cleveland could be eyeing its first ring.

No. 2 Denver Nuggets:

Under the radar, Melo and the Nuggets are playing better than ever and could make a strong playoff run in the West.

No. 3 Los Angeles Lakers:

The reigning champs are once again playing strong basketball, but an injured Kobe and Andrew Bynum leave question marks.

No. 4 Oklahoma City Thunder:

Easily the biggest surprise of 2010. Durant is playing like a man-child and Russell Westbrook and James Harden are excellent offsets.

No. 5 Dallas Mavericks:

Playing in a tough division, arguably the most balanced team in the league once again shows their dominance.

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



LeBron James and Kobe Bryant have their respective teams on a collision course to meet in the NBA Finals at the midway point of the season.

SOFTBALL continued from A6

Paisley finished the weekend with 17 strikeouts, leaving her one shy of entering the Conference USA top 10 as she has fanned 555 batters in her career.

On Saturday, the Pirates split a pair of contests.

In the first-ever meeting between the No. 3 ranked Florida and ECU softball programs, the Gators hit three home runs and held on for a 4-3 victory in the season opener for both teams.

Sophomore pitcher Faith Sutton suffered the loss in her first career start for ECU after transferring from the University of North Carolina. She allowed five hits and struck out four.

In the bottom of the second inning, Florida tallied the first hit and run of the contest as Kelsey Bruder sent a home run down the right field line for a 1-0 advantage. It was the 18th homer of the junior's career after she hit 16 in 2009.

The Gators added two more runs in the bottom of the third when Paculba walked with one out and Florida's career home run leader Francesca Enea brought her

total to 42 with a long ball over the center field fence.

ECU got a run back in the top of the fourth to make the score 3-1.

Florida answered right back in the bottom of the fourth with its third home run of the game. Freshman Brittany Schutte led off the frame with a shot to center field to make the score 4-1.

In the top of the fifth, ECU scored twice to cut the deficit down to one run at 4-3. Sumner hit a one-out single and senior Christina Merrida followed with a bunt for a hit to put runners on first and second. After a strikeout, Gusman-Brown stepped to the plate and doubled off the wall in left field to drive in Sumner and Merrida, but that wasn't enough to secure the comeback.

Later in the day, however, ECU picked up its lone victory.

ECU used a 12-hit attack to defeat USF 5-1 Saturday night. Every Pirate starter but one had a hit in the game and four tallied two base knocks.

The triumph also gave 14th-year Pirate head coach Tracey Kee

her 575th win as the leader of the ECU program.

Paisley picked up right where she left off in 2009, recording the victory after allowing one run on just two hits, both coming in the fourth inning. She also struck out six in her season debut.

ECU broke the game open in the third frame with three runs. Gusman-Brown led off with a walk, stole second, advanced to third on a single to left field by junior Sissy Jimenez and scored on a single to right by freshman Kai Clark. Lopez then sent a double to right center, driving in Jimenez and Clark for a 5-0 score.

USF recorded its first base runner in the top of the fourth when Janine Richardson led off with a triple to right center. After Paisley recorded two outs, Alison Savarese came through for the Bulls with a single to center field to make it a 5-1 ECU advantage, which would ultimately be the winning margin.

ECU returns to the Sunshine State next weekend for the Lipton Invitational in Gainesville.



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The Anthropology Student Organization (ASO) we will be holding a Haiti fundraiser on Thursday, February 18th from 10am-2pm in front of the Flanagan Building. The fundraiser consists of a rice and beans meal that will be available for a few dollars. All proceeds will be donated to charity. For more info, email map1022@ecu.edu

February 20th, Bate Building: The 7th annual TALGS Conference will showcase diverse presentations, workshops, and discussions on linguistics and language teaching by domestic and international students and

educators. <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/engl/talgs/>

The ECU chapter of the Society for the Advancement of Management (SAM) is holding a fundraiser/drawing that includes four packages of gift cards to local restaurants amounting between \$210-225. Tickets are priced as 1 for \$1, 7 for \$5, or 15 for \$10. The drawing will be held on February 22nd. The proceeds will directly help SAM members attend the National Case Competition in April. For information on how to participate in the fundraiser/drawing, please contact London Core at lmc0315@ecu.edu

The North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources is having a public meeting on Monday, February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in Room 1503 of the Carol G. Belk Building about the Capitol Memorial Hearings. The purpose of these public meeting is to address the under-representation of minorities and women. For more information, call (252) 830-6580.

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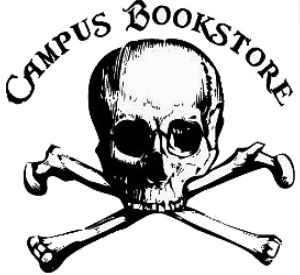
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