

INSIDE

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SPORTS: The Pirate football team is headed to the Military Bowl and the men's basketball team having a record start. Turn to sports to read up on all the latest happenings with ECU sports. **A9**

BRIEFS

Bond reduced for ECU employee charged with sex crimes against girls

Staff Reports

During a hearing, a judge for the Pitt County District Court reduced ECU employee Jennifer Levine's bond from \$500,000 to \$250,000, after being charged with sexual offenses involving teenage girls.

32-year-old Levine is being held for allegedly committing sexual misconduct with teenagers and the Pitt County Sheriff's Office also had reports that she had given the girls alcohol while they were at her home.

Levine has been employed by ECU since February of 2008 as an administrative support associate in the Sociology Department.

According to deputies, two of the girls babysat for Levine. One of the victims is 16 years old and the other three are 15 years old.

Levine still remains in jail and her next court date will be Jan. 13.

Pirates set to take on Maryland in bowl game

Staff reports

Pirate Football will take on Maryland at the Military Bowl to be held on Wednesday, December 29, in Washington, D.C.

Student Activities will sell tickets at \$30 a piece, as opposed to \$50, and includes roundtrip transportation to and from the Military Bowl. Transportation will leave early in the morning and travel to the Nations' Capitol, returning after the game later that evening.

If interested, please visit the Student Activities and Organization website at ecu.edu/sao. You can also contact them by telephone at 252-737-1808.

Ticket availability for this offer is limited, and is on a first-come first-serve basis.

Two men shot outside Greenville nightclub

Staff Reports

During the early morning hours of Dec. 4, two men were shot outside of Club Fuzion nightclub located off West Fifth Street. Police say that they responded to reports of gunshots being fired and found one of the victims, Derek A-Shaheed Brathwaite, 25, lying face down in the parking lot with a gunshot wound to the chest.

Brathwaite was taken to Pitt County Memorial Hospital by EMS where he died from his injuries. Another victim, Ernest Joshon Wright, 24, had also been shot and was taken to PCMH by a private vehicle.

According to police, Wright had received a gunshot wound to the face because of an altercation that occurred at the nightclub. His injuries are non-life threatening, and as of 10 a.m. Saturday, police had not spoken to Wright.

WEB POLL

Do you volunteer during the holiday season?

Yes

No

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



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YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

190-proof alcohol to be banned



DOUG MACKENZIE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

North Carolina ABC stores are no longer selling 190-proof Everclear.

Jamie Harper
STAFF WRITER

The North Carolina ABC Commission is ending the distribution of 190-proof grain alcohol, including Everclear, in state-run stores.

In a memo sent on Nov. 17, the ABC Commission informed over 400 stores statewide they would no longer distribute 190-proof pure grain alcohol. After the current stocks run out, the alcohol will no longer be available at the government-operated stores and distribution from state warehouses ended as of Dec. 1.

This decision means there will no longer be any pure grain alcohol with a proof greater than 151, which is 75.5 percent alcohol by volume, available in local stores. The 190-proof variety of alcohol is often the main ingredient for the college aged beverage, "P.J." There are four products that have an alcohol content of 190-proof, or 95 percent alcohol, which are under the Everclear and Diesel brand names. There will be a replacement variety of the Everclear brand containing a less potent 151-proof alcohol, but Diesel will not be replaced on store shelves.

The concern about the distribution of pure grain alcohols began in Mecklenburg County. The county ABC Board realized most of the sales of pure grain alcohol were occurring in stores located in close proximity to college campuses. The Mecklenburg County ABC Board began to limit access of the product by reducing container sizes and moving bottles to other stores. The state board became aware of the issue and began its own review regarding the alcohol.

"It's a very smart decision. The label says it all: 'Can be hazardous to your health.' This is a great move," said Pitt County ABC Board Administrator Teresa Campbell.

Campbell said they also see the product purchased more near college towns. "We knew that was the case, it happened over the years since it's mostly used for P.J.," said Campbell.

Commission Chairman Jon Williams said in a news release, "The ABC Commission has long been concerned that young adults drinking nearly pure alcohol are especially vulnerable to alcohol poisoning." Pure grain alcohol, ethanol alcohol, is associated with binge drinking on college campuses because of its high potency compared to other distilled liquors. Concerns have long been present about the abuse of the pure grain products by young adults. Most

hard liquors, like vodkas and whiskeys contain 40 to 60 percent alcohol, compared to 95 percent in Everclear and Diesel. Certain types of grain alcohols are already illegal or have been banned in other states, including West Virginia and New York.

In Pitt County, Campbell does not think the change will affect stores sales. "I think they will just buy the other product," said Campbell.

Although Everclear is not distributed for commercial uses, it is commonly used by medical and industrial companies as a solvent for cleaning purposes. Everclear and other 190-proof alcohols used as industrial solvent can be pre-ordered and paid for in advance, stated state ABC Administrator Michael Herring in the memo.

The decision of the ABC Commission Board comes just two weeks after health hazards nationwide arose regarding alcoholic energy drinks, like Four Loko, resulting in its removal from store shelves.

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



LUKE RAYSON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Spice product—Posh—can be found in most tobacco stores around Greenville.

DEA bans popular designer drug

Tyler Kitchens
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 24, the Drug Enforcement Administration announced that within 30 days they would institute a yearlong ban on several synthetic chemicals found in many brands of the designer drug "Spice."

Using its emergency scheduling authority, the DEA will elevate the synthetic chemicals in Spice to Schedule I drugs, which it defines as "highly abused substances with no medical usage." Other well-known substances in this category include marijuana, PCP, LSD and ecstasy.

The chemicals found in Spice, which include JWH-018, JWH-073, JWH-200 and CP-47, are used to simulate the effects of THC, the psychoactive chemical in marijuana.

Although many college students might not recognize these

substances by their chemical names, they are undoubtedly familiar with the products that contain them.

Popular brands that are widely available around Greenville include Spice, K2, King Kong, Black Mamba and Black Magic.

These products, which contain several natural plants and herbs, are sold specifically as incense to mask their true purpose.

Some frequently listed ingredients in Spice, such as Damiana and Indian Warrior, reveal that many of these plants have natural relaxing properties, but when combined with potent synthetic cannabinoids, they can produce a high many times stronger than that caused by smoking marijuana.

Chemically, the substances found in Spice are completely unrelated to THC and are undetectable by drug tests. This makes

Spice a logical alternative for would-be marijuana users who want to experience the same high with no legal risk.

In a press release detailing the DEA's rationale for implementing the ban, the agency said they had received a growing number of complaints from hospitals, law enforcement and poison centers about the products.

"Makers of these harmful products mislead their customers into thinking that 'fake pot' is a harmless alternative to illegal drugs, but that is not the case. Today's action will call further attention to the risks of ingesting unknown compounds and will hopefully take away any incentive to try these products," said DEA Acting Administrator Michele M. Leonhart.

Governor Beverly Perdue prepares for upcoming year

Gov. Perdue and two cabinet secretaries traveled to hear from constituents

Jimmy Youn
STAFF WRITER

Governor Beverly Perdue came to ECU for the Eastern North Carolina Small Business Roundtable, which was held at the Murphy Center on Monday, Nov. 22.

Governor Perdue wanted to receive feedback and concerns on rules and regulations from local business owners and leaders preparing for the next budget year of 2011-2012. About 30 local business owners participated in the meeting along with Chancellor Steve Ballard and Susanne Sartelle, president of the Greenville and Pitt County Chamber of Commerce.

Perdue traveled with two of her cabinet secretaries, Lanier Cansler, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, and Dee Freeman, secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Sources. In addition, Jim Trogdon, the chief operating officer of the Department of Transportation, joined for the discussion.

"It is always a pleasure to host Governor Perdue and her team on our campus. We appreciated the opportunity to interact with her and provide

advice on regulatory reform issues. We are facing a critical time in our state's history, and ECU is proud to do its part to make our state the best it can be," said Philip Rogers, executive assistant to Chancellor Ballard.

The forum was held for the purpose of running the State of North Carolina more smoothly by working together. During this meeting, it was important for the business owners to inform to the governor and other government officials of any obstacles that lead to a gradual growth in jobs. "The goal of the roundtable was to set government straight while reviewing rules in state government and moving forward having a two-way conversation with the business owners," said Chris Mackey, Governor Perdue's press secretary.

With attention to North Carolina's unemployment rate of 9.6 percent compared to the national average rate of 9.2 percent, the local business owners praised Governor Perdue when she mentioned that it is a top priority for her to increase job opportunities and education.

Perdue has already started making plans for the upcoming year, creating a regulations review board aimed at setting the government right and passing Executive Order number 70,

Calendar Events

Dec. 6 - Dec. 7

Tuesday December 6

Epsilon Sigma Alpha's Blood Drive

12-6 p.m.

Come out and support the Red Cross and donate blood at the Volunteer and Service Learning Center (in the Old Cafeteria Complex) with the sisters of ESA!

Men's Basketball vs ODU

7 p.m.

Big Booty Bingo

7 p.m. at Mendenhall Student Center Social Room.

Sociology Open Forum

Brewster D-301 at 5:30 p.m.

The chair of the Sociology Department, Leon Wilson, will hold an open forum which will include a pizza meet and greet and will also give students an opportunity to ask questions regarding the Sociology Department, sociology courses and campus concerns in general. If anyone has any questions regarding this event, they can contact Dorothy Castillo, the president of the Undergraduate Sociology Society.

Wednesday December 7

Reading Day

Exam Slam at Joyner Library

6 p.m.

Take a break from studying for exams with free pizza, snacks, drinks and other goodies at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, in Joyner Library. ECU ID required. Sponsored by Synergy.

Women's Basketball vs Houston

7 p.m.

JAM Event: Midnight Breakfast

11 p.m. to 1 a.m. Todd and West End Dining hall.

FALL 2010

EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8

Reading Day

THURSDAY, DEC. 9

8 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.: 10 a.m. TTh
11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.: 11 a.m. TTh
2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.: 3 (3:30) p.m. TTh
5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.: 5 p.m. TTh
5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.: MATH 1065

FRIDAY, DEC. 10

8 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.: 10 a.m. MWF
11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.: 1 p.m. MWF
2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.: 4 p.m. MWF
5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.: CHEM 0150, 1120, 1130, 1150, 1160

MONDAY, DEC. 13

8 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.: 8 a.m. MWF
11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.: 11 a.m. MWF
2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.: 2 p.m. MWF
5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.: 5 p.m. MWF
5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.: CHEM 1121, 1131, 1151, 1161, 2753, 2763

TUESDAY, DEC. 14

8 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.: 8 a.m. TTh
11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.: 1 p.m. TTh
2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.: 2 p.m. TTh
5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.: FREN 1001, 1003, SPAN 1001, 1004, GERM 1001

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15

8 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.: 9 a.m. MWF
11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.: 12 p.m. MWF
2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.: 3 (3:30) p.m. MWF
5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.: FREN 1002, SPAN 1002, 1003, GERM 1002

THURSDAY, DEC. 16

8 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.: 9 (9:30) a.m. TTh
11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.: 12 (12:30) p.m. TTh
2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.: 4 p.m. TTh

PERDUE continued from A1

Rules Modification and Improvement Program. Previously, Perdue passed a rule reform, which was initiated to eliminate awkward or outdated rules, especially those that hinder businesses and job growth.

To cope, Executive Order 70 emphasizes three key elements. First, cabinet secretaries can request council of state members to stop

the creation of new rules unless it is absolutely necessary. Second, all new rules will be proposed by council agencies and reviewed by the Office of State Budget and Management and justified by the requesting agencies. Last, solicitation input from citizens, community groups, local governments, businesses and state employees on rules

and regulations should be reviewed, eliminated or consolidated.

As the N.C. General Assembly will hold a hard budget discussion in January, Perdue has proposed to state agencies a possible 15 percent budget cut, facing \$3 billion shortfall for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

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

SPICE continued from A1

Senior criminal justice major Sean Bowen believes that the DEA was justified in its banning of these chemicals.

"Even though it seems like that stuff is safe to use, there have been no long-term studies about the effects on humans. On one hand, it could be completely harmless, but then again, it could end up being very detrimental so it's better to ban it and keep testing it and basi-

cally save people from themselves," he said.

Junior David Kromah agrees, saying that the unknown effects of Spice could be very dangerous but he does not believe the ban will have a significant impact on the population that choose to use it.

"Because Spice is so new, I can understand the need to ban it and test it more, but besides making it a little harder to find, I doubt it's going

to affect how much people use it. If people want to smoke it, they're going to do it," he said.

The DEA intends to spend the upcoming year continuing to test the substances in order to determine what action they will take next. If need be, the agency has the power to extend the ban by six months upon its expiration.

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

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IFC loses second organization

Cameron Gupton
STAFF WRITER

The North Carolina Kappa Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon has closed its doors at ECU. According to the fraternity's national headquarters, the ECU chapter has failed to fulfill the expectations associated with the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and the university itself.

Sigma Phi Epsilon was initially placed on suspension in 2009, but recent violations of this suspension resulted in the removal of its charter, despite attempts at reorganizing the group over the last few years.

Investigations were launched after reports of alleged hazing, though they were never proven. However, investigations did find that the chapter had broken certain policies that had been set in place to improve the group as a whole.

Brian C. Warren, Jr., executive director for the fraternity, stated in a press release, "The Fraternity expects chapters to hold members accountable for behavior that puts our members and others at risk." Sigma Phi Epsilon's national headquarters disclosed that they have no further information to offer on

the topic.

"It was a combination of things, not really one silver bullet," said Keith Tingley, director of Greek Life. "There are two ways a chapter will get shut down, one being a major accident and the other when a chapter is underperforming for many years."

According to Tingley, Sigma Phi Epsilon had been under the close eye of nationals for over the past four years. The fraternity had a hard time maintaining a 3.0 grade point average and had several parties, despite the fact nationals banned social events for Sigma Phi Epsilon.

The closing of a fraternity at ECU is not a new ordeal; Lambda Chi Alpha was recently disbanded as well. However, Lambda Chi was closed for financial reasons according to Greek Life; the fraternity was not paying its national debt. Lambda Chi also had trouble sustaining a reasonable grade point average.

"You're going to lose some chapters and gain some chapters. It's what happens," said Tingley. Sigma Phi Epsilon has been

a mainstay of ECU for almost 50 years. The current members of the chapter are determined to keep the reputation of the fraternity alive. In April, at the next meeting of Sigma Phi Epsilon's board of directors, ECU members will make an appeal to the current decision of the board.

In an interview with WITN news, Allen Wooten, the president of ECU's Sigma Phi Epsilon chapter, stated, "They came down here for one thing and made a judgment call, and then the next thing you know we are losing our charter and it all happened quickly. We are doing our best to reorganize and prepare for the appeal."

The university's Greek Life department has given Sigma Phi Epsilon's national headquarters the option to reopen the fraternity at any time in the future. More than likely, students can expect to see the fraternity return in about four years, once all of the current members have completed their courses of study and have graduated.

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

Operation Santa helps kids in need

Alexis Headley
STAFF WRITER

Unwrapped toys and canned foods are welcomed donations for the annual Christmas benefit called Operation Santa. The Pitt County charity drive joined with ECU and Dowdy Student Store's annual holiday sale to contribute to the citywide drive. The donated toys will be given to the underprivileged children of Pitt County, and the canned foods will go to the North Carolina Food Bank.

This is the first time ECU and Pitt County have combined forces for this particular benefit. This is the 16th year ECU has done a holiday drive and the gifts have always gone to Pitt County.

Both Pitt County residents and ECU students flooded Dowdy Student Store to help with the benefit. "ECU supports volunteerism and this is one way to do it. This is my first year and I'm enjoying it," said assistant director of marketing for business services Karen Simmons. Bringing in an unwrapped toy

or a canned good not only helped the drive, but it also provided a free Christmas picture with PeeDee the Pirate. The dance team and cheerleaders helped to partake in the event and also wrapped gifts.

"It's my first year helping to wrap gifts but I love it. It feels great to help out," said freshman dance team member Christina George.

For the dance team and cheerleaders, this is a mandatory event, but they did not mind wrapping gifts for children and doing it all for a good cause. "I've never wrapped presents before but I love lending a hand," said junior elementary education major Sara Robertson.

Simmons also was proud to mention that Pitt County Operation Santa Claus has been collecting and distributing gifts to hundreds of underprivileged children, from one to 18 years of age, in Pitt County since 1980. She was proud to be a supporter of this cause and looks forward to doing it next year.

For the other volunteers, it was not just about the people they were helping with their donations, but

also welcoming the people in the community. "I like meeting new people. It helps me to get in touch with not only ECU's community but the people of Pitt County's community," said junior dance team member Alexa Hamon.

If interested in donating, there are donation boxes in Joyner East, Dowdy Student Store, Student Health, The Old Cafeteria Building, Brody, Speight, Howell Science Complex and there are also donation boxes off campus.

The citywide drive will be accepting donations until Dec. 17. The drive is sponsored by Greenville Fire and Rescue, local police departments, Greenville Utilities, State Highway Patrol, The Salvation Army, Pitt County Sheriff's office, schools and social services office. These organizations will also accept donations of unwrapped toys, canned foods and checks.

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

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

Good Luck on Exams Pirates! Arrggh you ready? :O)

Why do you always walk in front of my car suicidal pedestrians?!

I love how both of my roomies fight with their boyfriends every night but they both say that they don't have problems...haha glad I'm single!

I am so ready for some good ole turkey, gravy, corn, green beans, stuffing and many more yummy!

Attitude check!

Maybe I'm just stoked about Christmas, cause I could've sworn that my bus today smelled just like Christmas trees!

You are moving out in a month then why are you stealing our other roomie's coffee creamer and blaming it on us...WE DONT EVEN DRINK COFFEE!!!!... can't wait until you are officially OUT!

I don't mind busloads of kids visiting ECU. What I don't like is that they are sent to eat at 12, when the Dining Hall is the busiest. It's unbearable!

I just heard a kid on the phone begging for Adderall. Welcome to Joyner Library, ECU's most popular crack house.

To the boy who rudely interrupted my conversation with my friend on the Minges bus because your crack was in our face as you were getting off: How dare you! Shave please!

I love when the ROTC people are driving the buses. It seems like they are leading me into battle!

To the guy in my Chemistry class: Why did you cut your hair? I miss your curls terribly and will forever hate the person who cut it!

To every guy who cheats on their girlfriend: Grow some balls and just break up with her already. It's only fair.

To the girl who made a stop sign with her hand and crossed the road at Joyner while I was pulling out: Yeah, I honked at you. There was NO cross walk there! F***ing idiot!

To the girl who drives the Hello Kitty car: I've never spoken to you or even seen you before but I am IN LOVE!!! Whoever drives a car like that must be awesome!

Today, the unthinkable happened...I met a hot ginger.

To whoever keeps dumping their coffee grounds in the bathroom trashcan on the 8th floor of White: please stop; it's nauseating.

OMG!!! I can't believe that I just said, "If I do my husband then we will make a baby," in front of my professor and my entire class. Now I feel like a complete jack*** who has no chance of EVER getting into medical school.

To the guy in my Chem 1160 class with the Mohawk and black jacket: You are so fine, I just never had the guts to tell you. Sincerely, the girl with the bright red hair.

Dear Chancellor, I'm really sorry for puking on your lawn on Friday morning. Sincerely, Hungover.

To the girls in my non-fiction writing class who talked bad about everyone after class on Thursday: It's not my fault you look that way, and don't bad mouth us 'cause your life and your writing SUCKS!!!

More Pirate Rants on the website!

Sorry, I'm the GRINCH



Abby Brockmeyer
OPINION COLUMNIST

It's the end of a long semester with tons of exams, possibly a job or two to juggle on top of that, and not to mention trying to have a social life in college because everyone is always telling you it gets worse after you graduate.

It's a hard life some of us have, with all of our goals and striving to reach our potential.

So with the semester finally heading to a close and counting down the seconds to enjoying a lovely, holly jolly Christmas with some eggnog, family and friends, volunteering is probably not on your top list of priorities. It wasn't on mine. But, it is the right thing to do.

I embarked on my six (which turned into eight) hours of driving back to Greenville after Thanksgiving break and heard something interesting. Since I don't happen to have a CD player in my car, I have had to switch radio stations back and forth as I make my way through four states and I found a correlation between about five different stations.

Everyone is asking for volunteers; anyone and everyone who can help out is being asked to give up some of

their time this holiday season. I think that's a great way to get in touch with a lot of different people. It certainly got my attention.

To shed some light on the subject, I thought I'd wrangle up some holiday facts for myself to see whether or not I should do this volunteering thing. In America today, 39.5 million people live below the poverty line and, before you say that they are just lazy people who don't work, remember that 12.9 percent of these people are children and 40 percent of these people are employed.

These children will probably not be getting any Christmas presents this year and will may not be get the Christmas dinners and cookies we are all looking forward to, either.

I am not usually all about spreading the holiday cheer to people I don't know and I tend to look at the holidays as more of a self-fulfilling season. Still, I figured I should try to volunteer because it will make me feel better about myself. Plus, there's an added bonus in ECU for some classes where volunteering can get you extra points for your grade, which always helps when that pesky B just won't reach the A you want.

Volunteering, I learned, is a selfless act and the feeling you get you can only understand if you actually volunteer yourself. Practically everyone I know is tight on the money situation this year. Struggling myself just made me think that if I was struggling, how about the people who are

way less fortunate, without the family that supports them?

Yes, it is a great thing to donate money to an organization, say the Salvation Army or for the troops overseas. But when I volunteer, almost all of the time I know exactly what my time is going toward. I can have a direct hand in making somebody's holiday better than they imagined.

There are also numerous other ways that I found I could help out where I get more involved in helping somebody than just giving an organization money. Many churches and work places participate in the angel tree every year. The angel tree is where you pick an angel off the tree and on it will be the sex, age and wish list for the person of need. The angel tree and so many other different places will give me the opportunity to be in control of a person's Christmas, and that is, in my opinion, a truly wonderful experience I could have.

I realized that this is a special time of year when I can have the ability to make little kids still believe in Santa and answer some desperate parents' prayers. Maybe I should check myself this holiday season, to make sure I don't have any Grinch tendencies inside me, and to spread some holiday cheer, if not for all the kids, then for myself. After all, maybe that's what Christmas is all about.

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



ILLUSTRATED BY CRYSTAL NEVILLE

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

Break an issue

The holiday break marks the end of exams and the overall freedom from the fall semester. All thoughts are directed toward vacation time and the hope to become more stuffed than the turkey. There's a tiny thought of final grades, but this is shrugged off until it's time to check OneStop.

Whether the grades are good or bad, the initial anxiety wears off and thoughts of returning to school disappear until Jan. 7 draws near.

The upcoming spring semester will start on Jan. 7, like it has since 2002. Unfortunately, Jan. 7 just so happens to be a Friday.

Many of ECU's students are out-of-state and international students, and starting class on a Friday forces students to lose a weekend with their families -- just for one day of class. Many of these students only get to see their families on winter break and occasionally over the summer.

We believe it would be much better to begin classes on a Monday, and many faculty and students would agree. It seems as though students are given an ultimatum as to either come back for one day or miss the first day of class.

Easing into a semester on a Monday would allow for more travel time and more time to get set for the first day of classes. It would be much more effective to tack another day onto the end of the semester. Classes last spring ended before May even started; one more day would not be a big deal!

The North Carolina General Assembly requires the balancing out of days for the school year in order to make the number of Monday, Wednesday, Friday classes even with Tuesday and Thursday classes.

The ECU Calendar Committee has to carefully plan out the schedule in accordance to the general assembly's requirements. According to Shannon Gibson, chair of the calendar committee, starting classes on Friday automatically makes up for classes missed in observation of the Good Friday holiday. However, this logic doesn't account for the lost days students could have with families they rarely get to see.

Sure, ECU has to have a certain number of class days per semester, but tacking on an extra day at the end of the semester would allow students to have an extra few days with their families and allow students to start the semester with a fresh outlook on a Monday, even if it needs to mimic a Friday.

POLL RESULTS

Do you plan on attending the Military Bowl game?

Yes	60%
No	40%

Submit your Pirate Rants by **WEDNESDAY at 12:00 p.m. for the last edition of TEC this semester!**

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After Graduation



Leslie Baker
OPINION COLUMNIST

"So, what are you going to do after graduation?"

The fabricated answer that often follows that question may go something like, "Oh, you know, I'll probably find such-and-such idealistic entry-level job until I'm able to land a permanent position with Elite Awesome Company Incorporated."

The more honest answer would sound something like this: "First of all, I hate it when people like you ask me about my future. Secondly, jobs aren't being offered right now, so I'll probably move back with my parents until I can find a job more promising than Starbucks."

Graduation is terrifying. The transition period following college can be depressing and uncertain. Without money or job prospects, many graduates have no choice but to move back home. According to Twentysomething Inc., 85 percent of graduates were planning to move in with their parents last May.

This decision can be a difficult one, particularly because many students think of graduation as a right of passage into the "real world."

Some even consider moving back in with parents a regression, a cop-out, or worse, laziness.

However, these people are failing to recognize the benefits. Living with parents, rent-free, gives the savvy graduate a chance to pay off student loans

and save money. Susan Newman, author of "Under One Roof Again: All Grown Up and (Re)learning to Live Together Happily," suggests that the experience can even enhance the relationship between the graduate and his family.

"Take advantage of the opportunity to view them as people, not parents," says Newman, "and enjoy getting to know them in ways not possible when you were growing up."

Throughout the chaotic post-graduation period, the graduate should remember that the choice to move back home isn't synonymous with irresponsibility or failure. He should view it as a time to plan, save and maybe even find a job with Elite Awesome Company Incorporated.

But what about those people who are making it on their own without moving back home?

Well, most of those "independent" grads are working minimum wage jobs that barely cover the rent and are surviving off Ramen and expired milk.

Going home can be frustrating and embarrassing, but the graduate will ultimately benefit from the move. Sleeping with old stuffed animals and obeying a curfew is certainly a small price to pay.

Don't be ashamed to answer those nosy people who ask you about plans after graduation.

Reach for some self-confidence and tell them it's 100 percent possible to proudly, maturely, responsibly move back.

And forward.

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

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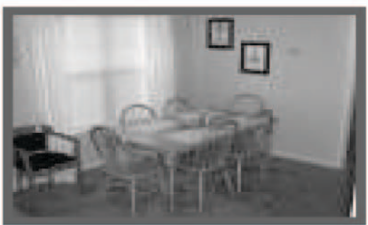
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THE CROATAN

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Walnuts - protein and good fatty acids
Yogurt - calcium
Peanut Butter - protein
Complex carbs - provide fiber and less sugar than other types of carbs
Granola bars - provide grains and calories while on the go
Trail mix - easy on-the-go snack
Lean meats - things like chicken provide good amounts of protein

Here are some helpful tips for exam preparation:

1. Complete the study guide before taking the exam.
2. Complete the sample exam first without consulting the answers. Then make sure to carefully read and understand the feedback.
3. Make sure to allow for plenty of time when travelling to the exam location.
4. Enter an exam well rested.
5. Start with the easy questions. Do not get stuck on difficult ones, but put those questions aside and return to them later.
6. Often, first impressions are best. Therefore, do not change your answers unless you are absolutely certain that you have made a mistake.
7. Read the question very carefully. Consider what precisely is being asked. If the question demands four arguments, then give four, not three or five. Do not write more than required in the hope that the people marking the exams will select the correct answers.
8. The so-called "open exam questions" demand that you compose the entire answer yourself, so make sure you write clearly.
9. In the case of multiple-choice questions, think of your own answer first before looking at the answers listed on the page.
10. When you are finished, check carefully whether you have answered all the questions.

THESE TIPS WERE FOUND AT:
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Alumnus starts college advice blog

The College Survival Handbook covers a wide range of student issues and interests

Rebecca Blanchette
 STAFF WRITER

For those looking to suck up to a professor, learn how to make PJ or scam your parents into giving you money, look no further. The College Survival Handbook is a blog written by ECU graduate Benjamin Herring in which he dispenses all of his out-of-the-classroom college knowledge that he wishes he had when he was in school.

Herring's blog covers a range of topics, from sex to drinking games to how to do laundry. Some other more serious topics are also featured, such as suicides on college campuses. When writing his blog entries, Herring asks himself the questions, "What helped me survive?" and "What did I wish I knew when I first started?"

Before starting his blog, Herring took note of other college blogs that were already up and running. "All of the other ones were half naked college chicks. There was no substance there," he said. "I wanted it to be somewhere between the half naked chicks and serious," he said of his own blog. "I wanted to put a little more business sense behind it."

"I didn't want it to look like someone who just got out of college was doing it," said Herring, which is ironic considering he started the blog this past summer after graduating in the spring. "I wanted to start it off as profes-



Benjamin Herring created a college survival blog after he graduated from ECU. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

sional looking as possible." Herring majored in business while at ECU, and he admits that his decision to start a blog was random. "It was very spontaneous," he said. "This is a new feeling, the whole writing thing. It's probably the last thing I thought I would do, but I'm enjoying it."

"I don't just sit down and write it in 30 minutes and I'm done," said Herring of his posts. "I treat it like a paper." Small details, such as Herring's correct use of grammar, are what set his blog apart and make it a more serious read. "I don't like putting

out garbage. I really want it to be as good as it can be," he said. He also sets up his posts so they're easy to read, such as using lists. "You have to make it easy to consume," he said.

Herring's blog has gotten popular quite quickly, and it continues to grow every day. "It's growing more rapid," he said. "Social media in general I think is what did it," he said of sites such as Facebook. On days when he posts something new, he receives anywhere from 200-300 hits. "I try to do it three times a week," he said of posting new material.

"I've been trying to do it more and more."

It's not just ECU students viewing the blog, either. Herring has a feature that allows him to see where his viewers are from by lighting up locations on a map. He explained that people are viewing his blogs from all over the country and even all over the world, citing views from Pakistan and the U.K. "Once you're part of that Google search, you can be seen from anywhere," he said.

The fast growth of his site has gotten Herring some recognition. He was recently offered a job writ-

ing for myUsearch.com, one of the top college blog websites. "It's a whole lot different from what I've been doing," said Herring. Whereas he is able to write on whatever topic he desires on his own blog, he will now be asked to write on specific issues for myUsearch. Still, he plans to keep his own blog running, even in the event that he receives a full-time job in the future.

Though Herring enjoys blogging, he admits that it isn't always easy. "It's real slow and drawn out," said Herring. Though his blog is receiving a decent amount of views, the rise to the top is a steady one with so many blogs out there. "It's almost like that 'I'm gonna grow up and be a rock star' thing," he said. "So many people think they can sing." Herring explained that finding good blogs means filtering through all the bad ones first. He said that it's "hard to get heard and get through all that."

Herring's two biggest blurbs of advice for people trying to start serious blogs are to "be patient with it. Don't think it's going to happen over night," and "Don't quit your day job. Don't stop everything. Do something else while you blog." He also said that it's about "putting your own flare on it."

Herring hopes that his blog will help students make the transition into college easier and keep them from flunking out or living back at home after. "I at least want it to be somewhere people can find advice," he said.

Visit Herring's blog at www.thecollegesurvivalhandbook.com.

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



Users can now charge numerous devices simultaneously with the PEG. ERIN DUNCAN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

New charger runs off of kinetic energy

The PEG is an environmentally friendly product that powers electronic devices

Alexandra O'Halloran
 ASSISTANT LIFESTYLES EDITOR

From cell phones to iPods to MP3 players and more, in this day in age, one person alone can use a tremendous amount of electricity on personal electronics. Also, with the active lifestyles people lead

today, they don't always have time to find an outlet and wait for these devices that we so heavily depend on, to charge.

The nPower Personal Energy Generator, or PEG, is designed to be both environmentally friendly and convenient for the modern person on the go. College students all over can relate to a fast-paced lifestyle and a push for more environmentally friendly initiatives.

The PEG is a device that was designed by a man named Aaron LeMieux, who subsequently founded the company Tremont Electric, which sells the PEG. It is a small device that runs off of

kinetic energy that we produce constantly. It can go in a purse or backpack and plug into a cell phone or other device at any time throughout the day.

In a press release posted on the PEG website on June 2, LeMieux commented, "The nPower PEG provides individuals an opportunity to capture their own renewable energy while simultaneously making an investment in the future of the kinetic energy generation."

Since this device simply runs off the energy that we create, it is a way for people to be green and make things very convenient at the same time.

Terry Little, coordinator of the ECU Recycling Department, said he thinks the most important aspect of this device is that it produces renewable energy. "Not only can we reduce our reliance on the power grid, but it is also completely self-sufficient — it doesn't require a battery, and it is 100 percent recyclable."

The need for this kind of item is greater than people may realize, and as the PEG website points out, it can be used by anyone from hikers to international travelers to college students and more, so that no one ever has to be without power. This can apply to the most dangerous of hiking experiences without access to power, and to the everyday need to keep in touch with the world around us and have unlimited access at the

> PEG page A8

Board of Trustees holds first student panel

Alexandra O'Halloran
 ASSISTANT LIFESTYLES EDITOR

In November, the Board of Trustees of ECU held its first ever student panel. Many members attended, including SGA president Tremayne Smith, Chancellor Steve Ballard, Vice Provost for Student Affairs Virginia Hardy and Chair of the University Affairs Committee and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees Robert Lucas.

The idea for this panel grew out of a need to get student opinion. Hardy said the BOT is calling this year "the year of the students," meaning they are placing a lot of emphasis on the importance of understanding the needs and wants of students.

"I didn't necessarily want the leader," she said. "I wanted people who didn't necessarily always get to have their voices heard."

This was also something that was important to Lucas. "We wanted a good cross-section of students — freshmen, sophomores, seniors, juniors — from all different departments," he said. "I wanted students who would speak up. I didn't want folks to just come in there and tell me what I want to hear."

To ensure a diverse panel, Hardy had faculty in several departments put together a list of students and then she picked them at random. As a result, the final panel was composed of a group of nine students from various ages and areas of the university.

Coleman Matthews, a senior business management major and Panhellenic president, was among the students chosen to speak.

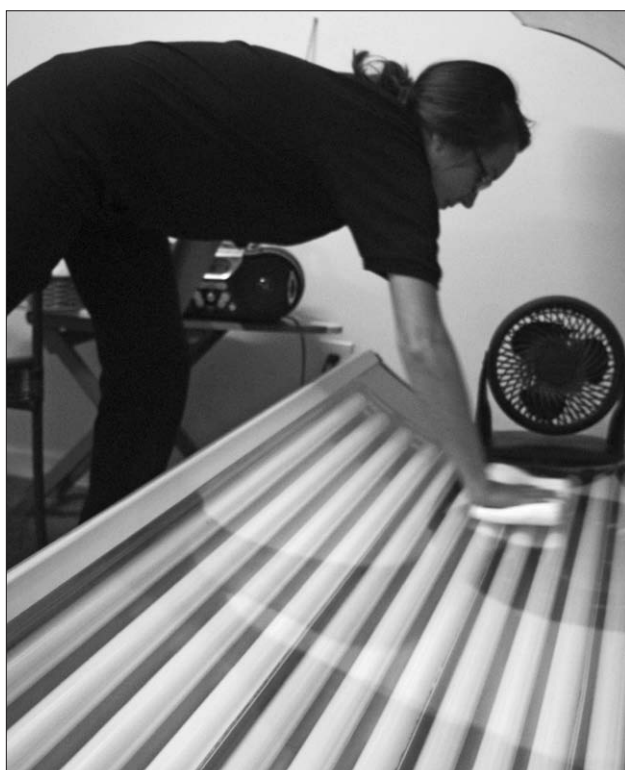
Matthews noted that she thinks she was chosen because she serves on the Chancellor's Round Table, a group that meets with the chancellor and as a result, they have become the go-to people, she said. She was excited to be able to voice her opinions on some of the most important issues.

"One of the things I told them is that ECU can be a drop-back school for people because they don't have to invest anything in the application," she said. "I think in order to change the perception, it requires more effort."

Matthews explained that since there is no essay requirement on the application for ECU, it is almost too easy for people to apply and she and

> TRUSTEES page A8

Tanning beds are cause for concern



Employee Brittany Daughtry cleans the tanning bed at Excel Gym. TYRONE DEMERY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Healthcare staff worry that tanning bed use in the winter and summer months is increasing the cases of melanoma

Alexandra O'Halloran
 ASSISTANT LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Type "how to stay tan in the winter" into a Google search and numerous answers will appear, claiming the use of tanning beds in the winter can help rid people of winter depression and even provide the necessary Vitamin D that many people lack during these darker, colder months. However, when many people use tanning beds, either in the summer or winter months, they forget the potential risks.

The U.S. News and World Report published an article in November 2007 entitled, "It's indoor tanning season. But watch out." The article commented on the increased use of tanning beds in the colder months and noted that melanoma, the worst kind of skin cancer, has increased more than 690 percent since 1950. This is cause for much concern to many

dermatologists and skin cancer experts. It shows that despite new knowledge that tells us how damaging the sun can be at any time of year, people are choosing to expose themselves to the sun because of the idea that tan is more attractive.

"Pale is beautiful," said Dr. Charles Phillips, an ECU dermatologist and part of the Brody School of Medicine. But from years of working with patients of all ages who have various degrees of skin cancer, he knows not everyone believes this.

He went on to explain that many people simply want to be tan, or grew up without some important knowledge about skin care. He said with the baby boomer generation getting older, he sees numerous people who come to him with damaged skin or skin cancer.

"The lag time between when you get significant skin exposure and skin cancer is a long time," Phillips said.

Though the time is significant, Phillips commented that he has had some very young people come in and find out they have melanoma. "I remember two young ladies who were going off to college and they both had melanoma," he said. "So they had

to deal with preparing for college and treating the melanoma at the same time."

This kind of problem can occur in people of all ages depending on the amount of sun exposure people allow their skin to have. "There is a pretty wide range," said Dr. Jennifer Defazio, an ECU dermatologist and part of the Brody School of Medicine, who does the actual removal of cancerous growths.

She explained that whether her patients are young or old, many of them seem to just want to keep that color. "I recommend spray tan, but you need sunblock," she said. She added that what people really need to understand is that any change in color from the natural skin tone is skin damage, whether it is drastic or not, so the best plan of action is to use sunscreen every day.

"I usually recommend 15 SPF for daily wear, and reapply every three hours," she said. She explained that this is very important because "melanoma is one of the cancers that young people get and that young people can die from."

She said in her experience,

> TANNING page A8

PEG continued from A7

tip of our fingers. Little said that from his experience working with college students to encourage recycling, he thinks over time these kinds of devices may be much more heavily used. "It may take awhile to catch on, but just like our recycling program, renewable energy initiatives will eventually become more and more mainstream. It doesn't hurt that it looks really cool!" It is also easy to use. All it requires is that it is placed vertically in a bag, plugged it into the elec-

tronic device, set to charge and the person using it walks or runs to their destinations throughout the day. While this device runs for about \$150, with the price of the electronics that we buy today, and the many ways in which this product can be used, it seems users can get their money's worth. This is not all we will be seeing from Tremont Electric in the coming years. They hold multiple patents on nPower technology and call their technology "the other alternative energy," so we can expect

to see more products come our way in the future. "It seems as though environmental technology is exploding," said Little. "I don't think anyone ever imagined we could use cooking grease to fuel automobiles, or algae as power!" To find out more about the nPower PEG or place an order, visit www.npowerpeg.com.

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

TRUSTEES continued from A7

some other students think adding that requirement could make a big difference. Some other important topics Matthews brought up during the panel included the idea of making sure to show students where their money is going and working on better advertising. "One of the weaknesses is that we have so many great opportunities, but they don't do a good job marketing them," she said. Deron Hall, a senior music education and performance double major, who previously served as the president of the National Panhellenic, also served on the panel and strongly agreed with Matthews about advertising. "Our academics here are something that should be envied," Hall said, and explained that the current advertisements don't really show that. Another issue Hall mentioned to the BOT was safety. He said ECU needs to have police officers on every corner to just give students that feeling of safety, and installing more blue

lights and ways to contact the police would be helpful. Cristian Potter, a senior math major, agreed with all of these topics, but said that he specifically focused on the topic of the budget. "They were talking about the town hall meetings and I said people can't make it because of the nature of the meetings and people having class," Potter said. "The information for those meetings is not readily available." Potter said he thinks it is important for students to understand what is going on with the budget and their tuition, but reiterated the importance of safety and creating a good perception of ECU as well. The main issues in the meeting that many students touched on were safety, the perception of the university, advertising, the budget and standards. Hall, Matthews and Potter noted that the panel as a whole tended to continue to bring up these common issues. While these students are seniors, they all come from different areas of campus and some of

the other members were freshmen, sophomores and juniors. As SGA president and a student himself, Smith said he was very pleased with the way the panel went. "I think it was very effective," he said. "Bob Lucas was the student body president so he understands the students the way some people don't understand." He added that he agrees with the issue of safety and he thinks it is the most important topic because "if you come here and can't be safe, you probably don't want to stay here." As far as the overall panel goes, Hardy believes it was a success and hopes they can organize many more in the future. "I thought that this was a great opportunity. It went better than I could have ever imagined," she said. But Hall was careful to say, "I think it was successful as a meeting, but we will really be able to see the effect of the meeting when some of our ideas are implemented." This writer can be contacted at lifestyles@theeastcarolinian.com.

TANNING continued from A7

out of all the other possible cancers young people can develop, this is the one she sees most frequently. She added that even in the winter months, when people step outside they should remember to apply sunscreen to protect against the possibility of skin damage. As for the claims that tanning can help with winter depression, Defrazio said, "Just put some sunblock on and go outside." She added that people can still get

Vitamin D during the winter and there is no need to go use a tanning bed to get it. In recent years, everyone has heard the constant urging of healthcare professionals telling people to please stop using tanning beds and find an alternative way to have that color. Spray tan booths have even become a popular alternative, allowing people to choose the degree of tan they want to get, while not damaging the

skin in the process. Even so, the traditional tanning bed seems to be the most heavily used form of getting a tan, but maybe people will think twice about getting in that tanning bed to keep that summer color when they truly understand the risks involved in the long run. This writer can be contacted at lifestyles@theeastcarolinian.com.

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ECU tames Fayetteville State 91-70

Best start since 1996

Adam Bunn
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Outside of Minges arena on Saturday night, the snow began to fall as the temperature began to plummet. But inside, ECU's offense was as hot as they have been all season, destroying division-II Fayetteville State, 91-70.

The Pirates (7-2) wasted no time in jumping all over the Broncos, scoring the first nine points while not allowing a field goal until the 17-minute mark of the first half.

Standout point guard Brock Young led the way for the Pirates, scoring 22 points, dishing out seven assists, while only playing 23 minutes. Young scored his first two points early in the game with a driving lay-up. That lay-up was the biggest shot of the night for Young, as that basket gave Young his 1,000th career point. Now sitting with 1,020 points for his career, Young has become the 24th player in school history to reach that mark, while showing off a side of his game that hasn't been seen so far this season.

Young, who has struggled all season from behind the arc, went 4-6 from three.

"It was a relief, really," Young said of his shooting display. "In practice, I've been missing and got my confidence down, but I kind of got my confidence back up hitting some 3s. When teams go underneath on screens, it's kind of a sign of disrespect, so I was just trying to hit shots."

The Broncos used a different method of avoiding ball screens than any other opponent the Pirates have faced all season. Instead of running through the screen, the defender would drop below the screen, basically daring



Senior guard Brock Young reached the 1,000 point mark Saturday against Fayetteville State.

the Pirates to shoot the ball from deep.

This method of defense allowed Pirate shooters Erin Straughn, Jontae Sherrod and freshman Robert Sampson to nail three consecutive 3-point shots, extending the Pirates' lead to 25-8 with 12:24 left in the first half.

Coming out of the third media time-

out of the first half leading 29-16, the Pirates would go on a 10-0 run in 3:01 of game action to take a commanding 39-10 lead. ECU would close the first half holding a 47-24 lead -- the largest lead of the game at that point.

ECU page A10

Pirates to face Terps in Military Bowl

ECU will play Maryland in the Military Bowl presented by Northrop Grumman at RFK Stadium on Wednesday, Dec. 29, at 2:30 p.m. (EST), according to a joint announcement by bowl officials and the Atlantic Coast Conference Sunday.

The Pirates (6-6, 5-3 Conference USA) will be making an unprecedented fifth-straight bowl appearance, their seventh since 2000 and 17th overall in program history, when they visit Washington.

ECU returned to bowl play in 2006 for the first time in five years with invitations to the PapaJohns.com Bowl and Sheraton Hawai'i Bowl (2007) before earning consecutive AutoZone Liberty Bowl berths as C-USA champions in 2008 and 2009.

The Terrapins (8-4, 5-3 ACC), who finished in a second-place tie with North Carolina State in the league's Atlantic Division, return to bowl action after a one-year absence.

UM posted victories in the 2006 Champs Sports Bowl (Purdue) and 2008 Roady's Humanitarian Bowl (Nevada), but suffered a setback to Oregon State in the 2007 Emerald Bowl. The Terps also made bowl appearances in 2001, 2002 and 2003 under 10th-year head coach Ralph Friedgen.

Women's hoops fall to 49ers

ECU fell behind by 19 in the first half and could never recover Sunday, dropping a 79-61 decision to Charlotte at Halton Arena. The Pirates are now 4-4 overall while the 49ers improve to 6-2.

Sophomore Shala Hodges led three ECU players in double figures with 11 points while Ashley Clarke and Allison Spivey chipped in 10 each. Additionally, Jean Best pulled down a team-best six rebounds and Elaine Morgan had two of the Pirates' nine steals.

Charlotte shot 50 percent in the contest, hitting 29 shots, as compared to a 30.9-percent mark for ECU. The 49ers also dominated the glass, out-rebounding the Pirates 59-35, but committed 24 turnovers as compared to 16 for ECU.

After Spivey tied the game at three with a triple, a 10-5 run over the next five minutes allowed the 49ers to edge ahead 13-8. Charlotte extended the lead moving toward the middle of the half, going up 25-12 on a Jennifer Hailey free throw. With 6:45 left in the period and the 49ers up 29-14, the teams played tight the rest of the way with Charlotte outscoring the Pirates 13-11 to take a 42-25 advantage into the break.

Spivey and Wilson led the offense with eight points in the first 20 minutes while Kim Gay had four rebounds. ECU also struggled from the field, hitting nine of its 30 field goal attempts for 30-percent showing. The Pirates were also out-rebounded 26-17.

The 49ers scored the first six points of the second half, making it a 48-25 game on a Shannon McCallum layup at the 18:19 mark. Over the next seven minutes, Charlotte beat ECU down the floor and used some nice passing to stretch its lead to 29 points at 64-35.

Hodges hit a jumper in the paint to cap a 12-6 ECU run that made it 70-47 at the 7:32 mark. The Pirates cut into the lead for the remainder of the game, scoring 14 of the last 23 points to give the 49ers the 18-point margin of victory.

ECU returns to Minges Coliseum Wednesday, playing its final home nonconference game against Hampton. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m.

Ask the sports editor
Have a question about
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Ranking the Carolinas

OPINION



Tyrone Spencer
STAFF WRITER

The year 2010 is ending, and with the beginning of the new year brings a new calendar, resolutions and a new national champion of the college football world. After dodging defenders and questions about his recruiting, Cam Newton leads his Auburn Tigers into the BCS Title game to square off with football's best-dressed team, the Oregon Ducks. Also, there were remnants of a Ben Hartman performance in Nevada as Boise State kicked themselves out of a shot at the championship. The football in my blood is boiling with anticipation for this season's 35 upcoming bowl games.

The only thing more surprising than random snow showers in Greenville is the mixed bag of NC-SC football schools. Although South Carolina was expected to play well, not many expected the quasi-disappointing seasons that UNC and ECU showcased. N.C. State outplayed most opponents, while Wake Forest and Duke were bullied nearly every Saturday. This rocky football schedule has come to a conclusion, and here is the last set of rankings for the 2010 season.



USC MEDIA RELATIONS

1. No. 19 South Carolina (9-4): The Gamecocks came into this season with hopes of making a splash in the SEC and the Spurrier-led

team was fairly successful. With that being said, not a single USC player caught the flight to Atlanta for the championship game against Auburn. Head Coach Gene Chizik and the Tigers mauled the birds from South Carolina in what seemed like an unfair fight. Quarterback Cam Newton rested early and drank his "Cammy-Cam Juice" en route to a 56-17 win. On the bright side, South Carolina is still going bowling and will face Florida State in the Chick-fil-A Bowl. This season will mark the third straight appearance for the Gamecocks. Expect to see a heavy dose of present and future stud, Marcus Lattimore. **Next game: 12/31 vs. No. 23 Florida State**



MCT

2. North Carolina State (8-4): Shortcomings prevented N.C. State from playing the ACC Championship game. The Wolfpack surprisingly lost at Maryland and consequently their bid to represent the Atlantic Division in place of Florida State. Even though N.C. State jumped ahead early in their Nov. 27 matchup, they were not able to get out of College Park with a victory and division title. Looking back on this season, Wolfpack fans have plenty of reasons to be happy with this team's steady improvement. Coach Tom O'Brien is leading his team into his second bowl appearance against No. 22 West Virginia in the Champs Sports Bowl. The last time these teams

played in 1979, the Mountaineers fell to N.C. State 38-14. **Next game: 12/28 vs. No. 22 West Virginia**



MCT

3. North Carolina (7-5): In what would have likely been a stupendous basketball game, the Tar Heels won their last matchup versus their hated rivals Duke. Their seventh straight victory over Duke brought their conference record to an even 4-4. So much more was projected from UNC, but with early-season infractions, the Tar Heels were never able to live up to expectations. Carolina looks to wrap its season up with an appearance in the Franklin American Mortgage Music City Bowl against Tennessee. This will be the third straight appearance for the Tar Heels, but they have not registered a win since the 2001 Peach Bowl. **Next game: 12/30 vs. Tennessee**



4. East Carolina (6-6): Senior Day ended in an upsetting overtime loss for graduating Pirates in Greenville on Black Friday. Conference USA West champion SMU defeated

ECU 45-38 before losing in the championship game at the hands of UCF. Although another conference title was the ultimate goal, the Pirates have plenty to be moderately proud about. The brand new coaching staff and a young defense was not enough to propel ECU back to the championship, but was sufficient enough to send the Pirates to a fourth-straight bowl game. The seventh-ranked passing offense will travel north to face Maryland in the Military Bowl. **Next game: 12/29 vs. Maryland**



CLEMSON SID

5. Clemson (6-6): The Battle for the Palmetto State left Clemson with a familiar feeling of defeat. The Tigers concluded their 6-6 season, losing to South Carolina 29-7 on Nov. 27. Clemson never really found its stride this season, only stringing together a pair of two-game win streaks. The Tigers finished at fourth in the ACC Atlantic standings and made few ripples in the conference. Clemson will appear in its sixth straight bowl game on New Year's Eve. The Tigers will meet South Florida in Charlotte for the Meineke Car Care Bowl, as the state of North Carolina welcomes back Skip Holtz and Kevin Gidrey. **Next game: 12/31 vs. South Florida**

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

All top-five teams are bowl bound

Griffin, Wall and Rondo ignite NBA fever

OPINION



Stephen McNulty
STAFF WRITER

It is just two months into the 2010-2011 NBA season and it surely has not let us down.

The honeymoon is over for the Miami Heat. Dwight Howard has finally found an offensive game, Russell Westbrook is stealing the spotlight from Kevin Durant, John Wall and Blake Griffin are taking the league by storm and Kevin Love and Rajon Rondo are rewriting history books.

Ever since LeBron James stepped foot in the league in 2003, I have taken it upon myself to find

every reason I could to hate him. "The Decision" made the mocking just that much easier. I agree the way James went about doing everything was wrong, but the Cleveland Cavaliers and owner Dan Gilbert had an opportunity to keep him, and they didn't. So as I sat there Thursday night and watched James take the floor, I finally felt for the man.

I grew up in the greater Philadelphia area, where the fans are proud. They booed Santa,

NBA page A10

Transfer students lead 2010 campaign

Chase Kroll
STAFF WRITER

It is hard to believe that another college football season is in the books and only bowl season remains to cap off an exciting year. ECU football has had its share of thrilling victories and crushing defeats, most of which could never be predicted before the first kickoff.

The program was in a state of unknown flux following the 2009 season (with the departure of Skip Holtz, a gut-wrenching bowl loss and mystery at the quarterback position), and the credit for the success of Pirate football in 2010 can be placed on the shoulders of these individuals:

Coach Ruffin McNeill: first year as ECU head coach

With bowl season so close to beginning, it is a great time to have new head coach Ruffin McNeill. Most ECU fans forget that last year in the Alamo Bowl, McNeill took over as the interim head coach for Texas Tech in absence of Mike Leach and led them to an exciting bowl win over Michigan State. McNeill brought the high-octane aerial passing game of Texas Tech with him to Greenville, where the Pirates have flourished under his guidance. This year, in his first NCAA Division I head coaching position, McNeill posted a 6-6 record, with five of those victories coming within the conference. With a .500 record and one game left to play, McNeill is the man who Pirate fans want to have wearing the headset. The mixture of bowl experience and gutsy play calling is just the ammunition that McNeill needs to make for an explosive Military Bowl.

Dominique Davis: junior quarterback

Davis's decision to stay committed to ECU, as opposed to taking his talents to South Beach (or rather Tampa with former coach Skip Holtz at USF), was a decision that highly impacted the success of this year's Pirate offense. This being his first year at the helm of ECU's offense, Davis broke single-season ECU records for most passing yards (3,699) and passing touchdowns (36). The junior transfer from Fort Scott Community College also ran for nine touchdowns this season, all while orchestrating the Pirates' offense to be ranked as the seventh-best passing attack in the FBS and scoring the 12th most points.

Lance Lewis: junior wide receiver

The offense was proud to acquire another transfer, this time from East Mississippi Community College, in Lance Lewis. At the end of the regular season, Lewis leads the team with 13 touchdown

TRANSFER page A10



Michael Barbour is one of the many transfer students making an impact on the Pirate football team

TRANSFER continued from A9

catches and is just 21 yards from having a 1,000 yards receiving season. With much of the hype this season going to standout receiver Dwayne Harris, Lewis has quietly had a breakout year. He has amassed just 76 yards less than Harris on 15 less receptions, which makes his yards per catch average 12.6, a full 1.3 yard more than Harris's per reception. All signs are pointing toward great things for next year's offense, with the helpful hands of number 88.

Bradley Jacobs: junior strong safety

Bradley Jacobs, another transfer this time from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, is maybe one of the most overlooked players on this Pirates' team. The

only explanation for this is the poor overall defense displayed by the Purple and Gold, because Jacobs has made his mark all over the field. Jacobs was able to post 76 total tackles this year, which ranks third on the team. He also leads the team in forced fumbles (2), both against Virginia Tech, as well as interceptions (3). He ranks second in pass break ups (6) and pass deflections (9), further proving the fact that he has the playmaking ability to provide a backbone to a rebuilding defense.

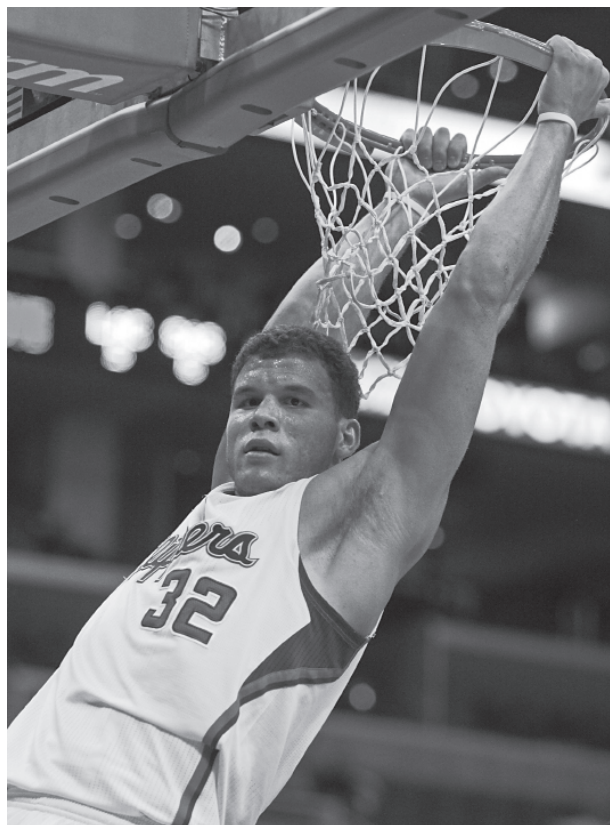
Michael Barbour: junior kicker

Since the Liberty Bowl debacle last year that fans would rather forget, no position on ECU's roster has been as closely scrutinized as

the position of placekicker. The former kicker (who must not be named) has been slowly forgotten thanks in part to the steady foot of Michael Barbour. Barbour, a transfer from Maryland, led the Pirates this year with 96 points scored and posted a respectable 98.2 percent for point after attempts. Of field goals less than 39 yards, Barbour is a perfect 10/10 and has only missed two field goals all year. His season long was a field goal from 52 yards. With the long-distance kick, Barbour proved he has leg power as well as accuracy.

When a new player or coach is thrown into the mix, there is always a lot of pressure to do well. But no one could honestly expect the effectiveness of the new offensive system, a record-breaking year for a new quarterback, a new offensive weapon leading the team in touchdowns, a defensive stud that is near the top of almost every statistical category and a placekicker that has reinforced the team's most shaky position. As each individual settles into his new role on the team, they are most certainly looking to cap off this season with a win, which is just another sign of good things to come.

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



After an injury plagued rookie season, Blake Griffin is racking up points in dominant fashion.

ECU continued from A9

After halftime, the Pirates continued their impressive play, opening the half on a 8-0 run to extend their lead to 55-24 and wrapping the game up just a few minutes into the half.

Wakefield Ellison hit a free throw, extending the Pirates' lead to 89-56. It seemed the Pirates would cruise to the 100-point mark for the first time since ECU scored 103 points against UNC Pembroke on Nov. 23, 2003. Instead, the Pirates faltered and allowed the Broncos to close the game on a 14-2 run and ending the hopes of a 100-point night. Despite the letdown in the final few moments, Head Coach Jeff Lebo praised his team's performance.

"For 30 minutes tonight, we played pretty good," said Lebo, who became the first ECU coach to start a season 7-2 since Joe Dooley accomplished that in 1996. "We did a good job on

their shooters. (Jarmel) Baxter and (Ariel) Robinson can really shoot, and they were 2-of-12 for the game from three."

For the fifth straight game, the Pirates' defense was dominant, only allowing the Broncos to shoot 34 percent, while shooting 19 percent from three.

Power forward Darrius Morrow was the only other ECU player to score in double figures, scoring 11 points, 10 of which came in the first half.

The Broncos (3-3) were led by freshman forward Tyrell Tate, who scored 14 points coming off the bench for FSU.

The Pirates will return to the hard wood on Tuesday, Dec. 7, when ECU takes on Old Dominion at 7 p.m. inside Minges arena.

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

NBA

continued from A9

threw snowballs filled with batteries at Jim Johnson and cheered as Michael Irvin lay motionless on the turf, but I have never seen fans as brutal as those at Quicken Loans Arena that night. Sure, a Duke fan may say he hates UNC or a Red Sox fan may say he hates the Yankees, but you can't truly hate someone until you've loved them, and Cleveland loved Lebron -- that goes without question.

James claimed that there was nothing personal, but his numbers said otherwise. James dropped a season-high 38 points to go with eight assists in his return home.

The crowd came prepared. Signs read, "Quitness" and "You're only a prince in Wade's country," among others. The bitter Cavaliers fans chanted obscenities along with "Akron hates you" and "Scottie Pippen". I know we are raised to believe names will never hurt you, but hatred like that from 20,000 strong can break a man down. But James didn't let that happen. He fed off the hate and shoved it back in their faces.

Meanwhile, in other NBA news, Dwight Howard has finally lived up to the MVP ceiling, so far. Howard has always been near the top of the league in rebounding and blocks but has struggled to score the rock. With the help of Hakeem Olajuwon in the off-season, Howard has been able to put together enough offense to average 21.3 points per game.

The top of the 2010 rookie class, not draft class, could be one of the better of all time. John Wall is doing his best to live up to the hype, but no matter how well Wall does, Blake Griffin tops it. Wall is averaging over 17 points and eight assist per game in his injury-plagued rookie season thus far. However, out in Los Angeles, Blake Griffin is taking names. Griffin is averaging over 20 points and nearly 12 rebounds in eight more games than Wall.

All in all, the 2010 NBA season has been exciting. Rondo is playing like Bob Cousy and the Celtics are great again. Although many expected the league to be dominated by the Miami Heat this year, it has turned out to be very competitive.

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

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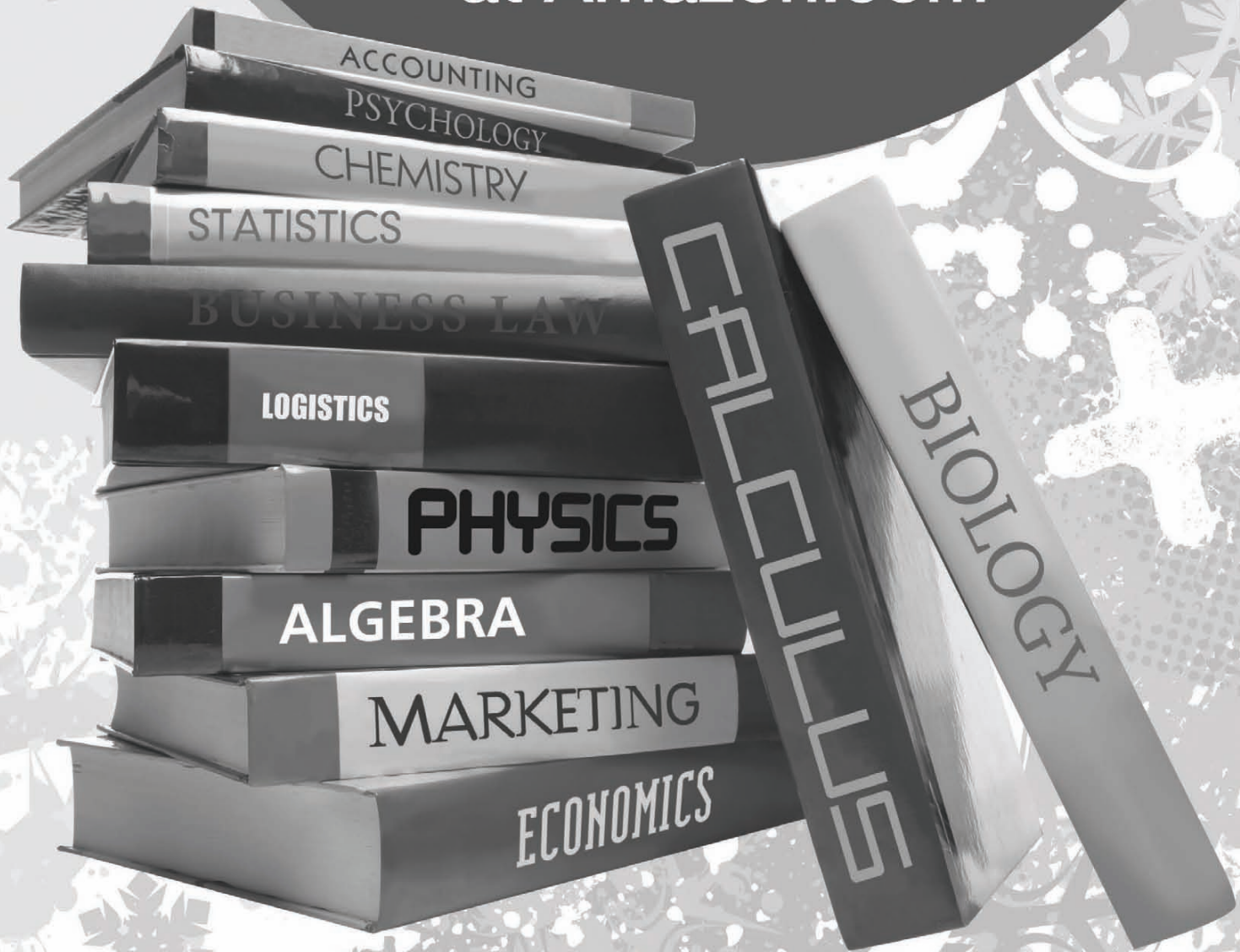
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