

OPINION: Dear Girls: I have decided to change my major to psychology to try and figure out why you are all so crazy. **A4**

LIFESTYLES: Worried that your zodiac sign has changed? Turn to Lifestyles to find out how we debunked this myth! **A5**

SPORTS: Turn to sports to find out how the men's and women's basketball teams fared over the holiday weekend. **A8**

BRIEFS

Students react to new freshmen parking lot

Abbey Way
STAFF WRITER

Students are expressing mixed feelings toward the relocation of the Freshman D parking lot to its new home at the former Curry Court C lot.

It only took a few days before students began sending in rants about the change.

"I hate that the fact that the Curry Court C lot has turned into the Freshman D lot," a student ranted in the Jan. 11 edition.

On the 13th, two more rants were printed. "Why do freshman need to be closer to their cars? Everything they need is on campus!" Another rant stated, "Dear parking department: I HATE YOU! Sincerely, all of the people who have classes in Belk but cannot park close to the building because stupid freshman park their cars there 24/7 MOVE THEM TO THE BACK!"

Director of Parking and Transportation Karen Mizelle said although there have been a few rants in the paper, the department has not received an overwhelming amount of complaints. "It is the mission of parking to provide a service that helps the university as a whole and not individual groups," she said.

According to Mizelle, the purpose of a C pass is that it requires transit to get to campus.

"It is \$96 a year for a C pass in comparison to individuals who pay close to \$300 a year and walk further than anyone," Mizelle said. She said it is actually a perk for students who use a C pass and have class in Minges and Belk because they don't have to walk as far as others or use the transit system.

Adrienne Charleston, a senior recreational therapy major, said the change has created too much of a hassle. "I think the D lot being moved is a huge inconvenience considering all of us students that have had class in Belk Annex in previous semesters and are used to the 10 minute route," Charleston said. "I now have to take the long bus route to get from Belk to campus and I am, in return, late to every class."

Wendy Thomas, a senior anthropology major, said, "It hasn't really been a problem for me yet, but it just didn't make any sense to me because the old lot was so big."

Mizelle said the change was not made to move the freshmen closer to campus but rather to cut costs and provide safe parking for all groups that are convenient as possible for everyone.

Jake Chandler, a freshman business major, said he noticed more crowding at the Curry Court Lot compared to the old Freshman Lot. "It's closer, but the other one was cool because it had a gate and seemed more secure," Chandler said.

Remus Adams, a senior recreational therapy major, said, "If it wasn't for the Freshman Lot, I would totally have a C pass." He said it is not worth paying for the sticker and gas.

Freshman Kayla Palmer said, "I like the location because it's closer to the mall and shopping."

Elizabeth Collins, a freshman elementary education major said, "I like it because it's closer and it's not a mess when it rains."

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

WEB POLL

Do you enjoy the new Croatan?

Yes

No

What is the Croatan?

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



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YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925



TYRONE DEMERY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The newly installed LED lights at Charles and Greenville have been reported make it hard for some drivers to see.

ECU digital sign misunderstood

Hannah Farmer-Fernandez
STAFF WRITER

Students were perplexed when construction of a new electronic sign at the corner of Greenville and Charles Boulevards began last semester. Black metal framework held up a large and bright sign, making students question two things: What was wrong with the gently used sign behind the latest one and why is this sign so bright?

Senior Morgan Dyches, a communication major, found the new sign very distracting. "I don't understand why it is needed. It's definitely easier to see but it can be a little bright on the lighter screen displays."

Recent complaints about the bright sign initiated the sign to be lowered in intensity of the sign at night to lessen glares for drivers. "The sign has been reduced to 5 percent of illumination capacity," said Brown.

Senior Ashley Nobles, a business management major, said she thinks the sign used to be too bright but immediately noticed the decrease in the intensity of the sign at night. "I passed the sign the other day and it was much better than it was at the beginning of the month."

In addition to rising concerns about the brightness of the sign, complaints have been made about the content being distracting to motorists. The sign displays advertisements from athletic sponsors, upcoming games and other events and information for the university.

Greenville has a city code that forbids signs that have text or display that change. According to the Greenville ordinance provision, "No electronic and/or mechanical interchangeable sign face copy shall be changed to include any new or different copy, color, intensity or graphic representation, more than one time in any 60-minute period."

The sign, however, is on North Carolina state property and is not connected to a building, thus the city of Greenville cannot regulate the sign.

Because of motorists concerns, Brown said that "outgoing messages have been slowed

down and the coloration has been changed to make the sign's screen less bright."

"Because white lights are the brightest, the white backgrounds have been changed to blue or black backgrounds," said Brown.

"I don't think the project is a waste of time. I know ECU has specific budgets for specific things, but I don't understand what was wrong with the old sign," said Nobles.

The sign has been relocated closer to the street to prevent cutting into the bases of the existing trees on the complex. "If a root of a tree is cut, the tree will die," said Brown. The project team has made an extensive effort to not cut or damage the existing trees. The sports complex renovation team "has put substantial amounts of tree replacements for trees that have been cut down for the project," said Brown. In addition to replacing the trees lost from construction, the project is recycling a piece from the previous sign for the latest one. The university logo plate from the pre-existing sign will be incorporated into the new video-display sign.

"It's very hard to see the full picture while the complex is still under construction," said Brown.

At the end of construction, the renovated sports complex will be surrounded by an artful brick columned fence. The new sign is integrated with the overall fence system and at the completion of the project, the electronic sign will be completely surrounded by brick, covering all the black metal exposed currently, and connect the fence from Charles Boulevard with the fence from Greenville Boulevard.

"When the construction is all done, it will make the university look nicer, especially when visitors pass by the sign," said Nobles. "It's definitely easier to see from the roads. I can't wait to see the end product."

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DOUG MACKENZIE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A shooting occurred at University Park apartments on 10th Street several days ago.

Former student shoots father

Cameron Gupton
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

At 6:50 a.m. Jan. 9, Greenville police responded to a shooting at University Park apartments on East 10th Street. Kevin Kleber, 25, reported that his father Roy Kleber, 55, of Vero Beach, Fla., was shot and killed only minutes before the police arrived. Upon arrival, the police found Roy Kleber fatally shot in the neck.

Kevin Kleber, who had been enrolled at the university in the fall of 2004 and spring of 2007, was an intended biology major but never graduated.

Kleber told the police that he saw three men in the parking lot that morning and that one of them, a 6-foot to 6-foot-2 black man with light complexion and an acne scar, in his early twenties, wearing a white shirt under a "puffy" heavy coat with a black wrap on his head entered his apartment. He then got into an altercation with Roy Kleber and then shot him. Soon after, police released a composite sketch of the suspect based on the information Kleber had given them.

Pitt-Greenville Crime Stoppers immediately offered a \$5,000 reward for

information leading to an arrest in the case, and anyone with information was encouraged to contact the Greenville Police Department. However, Kleber eventually admitted to murdering his father and fabricating the story of the shooter.

Police found two shots fired from Kleber's 9mm handgun but only charged him with obstruction of justice on Jan. 13, until they investigate further and consider other charges. Chief William Anderson stated that Kleber will face additional charges but that their investigation is still ongoing. He also reported that it has not been determined if the shooting was an accident or not.

Students who live in the complex felt uneasy after hearing about the incident.

"My roommate and I were hanging out in our apartment when we heard banging at the door. It was the investigating officer. He told us that there had been a shooting at our complex and that if we had any information to contact Greenville police, but the description was so vague we thought this was a random act of violence," said sophomore theater education major Amanda Holland, who lives in

University Park. "We began to feel unsafe and thought about leaving, but once we found out it was an isolated incident, we decided to let things blow over."

London Stillman, a criminal justice major, was unaware that the shooting took place.

"I had no idea anything had happened," said Stillman. "My fiancé and I got up early for church and we saw video cameras but I really didn't think anything of it."

Stillman says she finally found out what was happening when she received a text from a friend asking if there was a shooting.

"It isn't bad here, there really isn't any crime and I've never been afraid to live here," said Stillman.

Kleber is now out of jail on \$50,000 bond and has his next court date set for April 14. University Park declined further comment on the topic, but a representative for the complex stated that once the situation has settled, they might be willing to talk.

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Chili's Too an immediate hit on campus

Tyler Kitchens
STAFF WRITER

After patiently waiting through a yearlong reconstruction, students and faculty were finally able to welcome the Croatan back to campus this semester.

Headlining its return was the grand opening of Chili's Too, the first-ever restaurant-style eatery on campus.

During its opening week, lines stretched through the building as students clamored to get seats in the new Chili's.

Offering several selections found on the normal Chili's menu such as their famous burgers and baby back ribs, the presence of Chili's Too has made the Croatan the most popular food destination on campus.

"It's going to be great having Chili's Too on campus," said junior Emmanuel Madujibeya. "The service and food is amazing. I don't know of any other university in the state that can say they have a restaurant like this on campus."

One aspect of Chili's Too that makes it such an attractive destination for students is the fact that they can use Pirate Bucks here rather than spend their own money to purchase food as they would at normal restaurant.

Another service available to students is Chili's To Go. By calling their order in at 252-328-TOGO, students can come and pick up their food at Chili's Too.

John Budek, location manager at Chili's Too, believes that the campus reaction to the new restaurant has been extremely positive.

"All the comments that I've gotten have been pretty positive. Right now it's still kind of slow as everyone is getting up to speed as far as learning their new jobs."

He also expects traffic to slow down as the students and faculty get acclimated to having this restaurant on campus.

"Last week it was busy all day, but you'll always have your normal lunch rushes and dinner rushes," said Budek. "As the newness of it wears off, the lines will get smaller, and as students start to run out of money the lines will of course get smaller as well."

In addition to the normal dining areas, the Croatan also boasts faculty and staff dining areas known as the "University Club." At Chili's Too, faculty can seat themselves in this dining area or reserve a table, but after 2 p.m., they must make reservations.

In addition to the positive reactions from students and faculty, Budek was also impressed

Calendar Events

Jan. 20 - Jan. 26

Thursday, Jan. 20

Plunge into Purple - Get a Clue

A showcase of opportunities for students to get involved on campus. Sponsored by Student Activities & Organizations
7 to 9 p.m.

Polar Bear Plunge

Are you brave enough to take the plunge? The 15th Annual "Polar Bear Plunge" will be held on Thursday, Jan. 20, beginning at 7 p.m. at the ECU Student Recreation Center.
7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 21

Swimming & Diving

South Carolina
4 p.m.
Greenville, N.C.

Jazz at Christine's

8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 22

Swimming & Diving

Catawba/Gardner-Webb
1 p.m.
Greenville, N.C.

Men's Basketball

Marshall
7 p.m.
Huntington, W.Va.

Great Decisions 2011: "Horn of Africa"

Presented by The World Affairs Council of Eastern North Carolina and East Carolina University
10 a.m. to noon

27th annual Andrew A. Best M.D. Senior Recognition Banquet

Dr. Garth Graham, deputy assistant secretary for minority health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will speak at this banquet for minority medical students.
6 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 24

Women's Basketball

Southern Miss
3 p.m.
Hattiesburg, Miss.

Medical History Interest Group lecture

Histopathology in the 19th Century: Virchow to Frozen Sections
4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 25

Spring 2011 Perspectives Lecture Series

12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

LOL Comedy Series: A Pair of Nuts

8 p.m.
The Emmy-nominated comedy duo, Yamil Piedra and Johnny Trabanco, also known as A Pair of Nuts, will perform in Hendrix Theatre Jan. 25.

NCDOT launches app

Hannah Jackson
STAFF WRITER

The North Carolina Department of Transportation has launched a new web tool for smartphones that helps keep motorists in tune to road closures, traffic jams and other information. Winter weather typically creates confusion among drivers so the new tool provides further access to updates.

The NCDOT Mobile provides real time traffic information using the phone's built-in GPS and wireless location services; it coordinates with Google Maps to show the current area where you are driving. In a recent press release, communications director for the N.C. Department of Transportation Greer Beaty said, "People expect instant information and NCDOT Mobile gives it to them."

Winter weather is handled by several groups on campus such as Student Affairs, Student Transit, Facilities Services, Campus Police and others. Bill Koch, associate vice chancellor for Environmental Health and Campus Safety, stated that safety is the ultimate factor when determining delay of classes or closing the university.

The university has its own alert system in place. They are required to give a two-hour notice if the university plans to close or delay classes due to the weather. The university has to take many factors into account before making a decision.

"ECU is adequately prepared for the climate we have in Eastern North Carolina," said Koch.

The information is then quickly posted on the website, ecu.edu/alert, and an alert text message is sent to the students who signed up for them. With the use of the mobile tool, all drivers can now be prepared during good or bad weather conditions.

The mobile tool is specifically designed for users who do not have access to a computer, perhaps because they already left for work or school but need news before driving.

"Now you don't need a computer to get road closure or traffic updates before behind the wheel," said Beaty. "By typing m.ncdot.gov into their mobile phone's browser, the site will provide weather-related news and updates."

Some of the key features of the mobile tool are real-time traf-

fic updates, searchable Department of Motor Vehicles locations, searchable rest area locations, Ferry and Amtrak schedule information, Twitter messages and general NCDOT news.

The NCDOT urges motorists to use their best judgment during harsh weather conditions; if the roads even look difficult to pass, stay home. They also provide tips on how to keep the roads safe for everyone, such as driving slowly, keeping a safe distance from other cars as well as making room for snowplows and salt spreaders.

This fiscal year, \$30 million was budgeted for snow and ice removal and \$26.2 has been spent so far. If extra money is required, it will be taken from the general maintenance budget. The new NCDOT mobile tool is designed to be compatible on a variety of smartphones including the most popular iPhone, Android and some new Blackberry phones. NCDOT alerts and information are also accessible on Twitter, by calling 511 and by using the standard website, www.ncdot.org.

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

CHILI'S

continued from A1

by his team of employees.

"Right now we have about 35 employees," said Budek. "We have a real positive group of people that we're working with. We lost no one from our first pool of hiring which is unheard of really."

The Croatan itself is also one of the most unique buildings on campus. It holds the distinction of being the first building to be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified, which means that it was constructed in accordance with several environmental regulations. As part of this certification, the building was constructed using reclaimed bricks from a demolished tobacco warehouse.

Chili's Too is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. and on Friday from 11 a.m. through 7 p.m.

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

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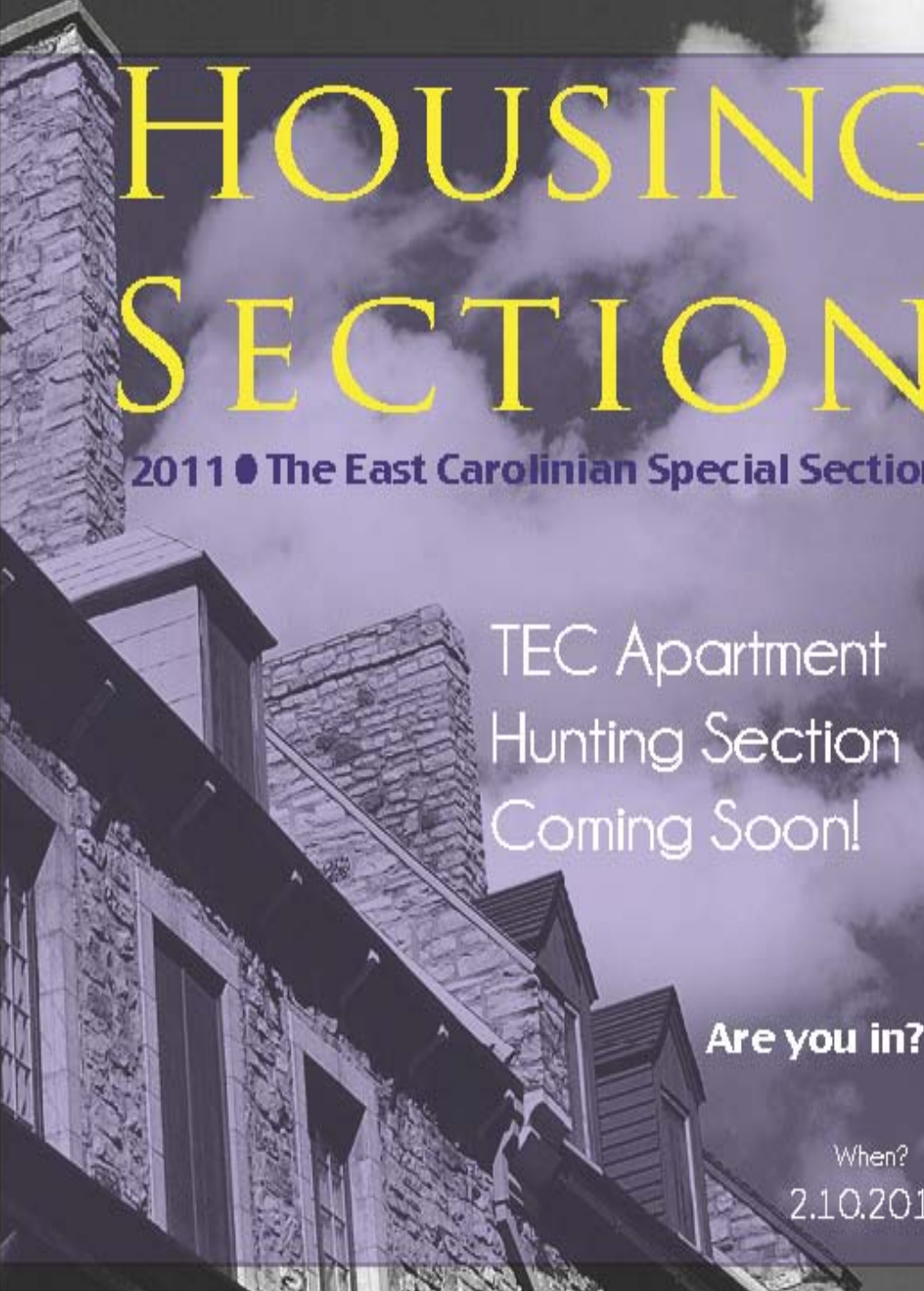


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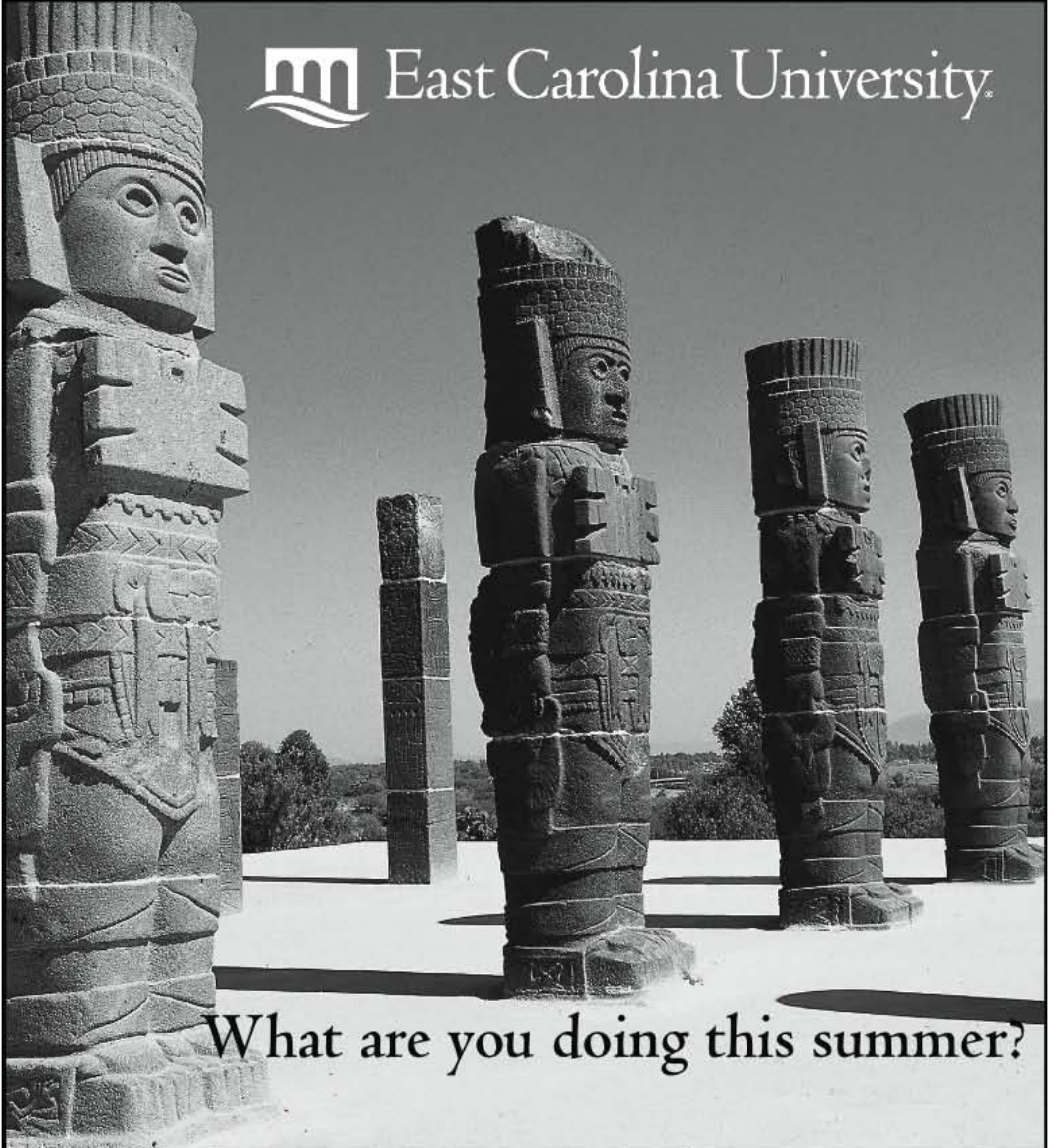
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The East Carolinian does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants. Questions regarding Rants can be directed to Katelyn Crouse, Editor in Chief, at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com. Log onto theeastcarolinian.com to submit a Rant of your own.

Thanks to the gravitational pull of the earth I have realized my whole life has been a lie and now what am I'm going to do with this scorpio tattoo?

To the person who wrote about the Chihuahua: I AM THE OWNER! YOU DIDN'T PAY A DIME FOR MY DOG TO BE THERE SO I SUGGEST YOU NOT MAKE A COMMENT ABOUT HOW LOUD SHE IS! SHE CAN BARK WHEREVER AND WHENEVER SHE WANTS! IF YOU STILL HAVE A PROBLEM COME ADDRESS ME AND NOT HIDE BEHIND A PIRATE RANT THANKS!

To the person who called out the owner of the Chihuahua at the Landing: We are all behind you! STOP leaving that rat out on your porch to bark at 8 in the morning!

Thanks ECU for shutting down the Drunk Bus this past weekend for MLK day. That would only be appropriate if it were Rosa Parks day.

To the guy who ate breakfast with me at 360 because he didn't like eating alone: You are super sweet feel free to do it again.

To the girl in my psych 1000, the one in the tie die shirt: You farted in front of me before class and you scared every single person who thought of sitting with me. Next time you even think about farting, remember... I'm going to rant yo'ass!

You may have 3 weird letters you like to put on all of your clothes, but you're not Greek unless your name is 12 letters long and you live on the other side of the ocean. Sorry.

Are all you comb-over bang-wearers really trying to look like Beiber or is it just the next cool thing to go along with your boat shoes?

Dear Girls: I have decided to change my major to psychology to try and figure out why you are all so crazy.

Oh honey, why are you so interested in a guy with the baby on the way?

Business major=Master BATE-er

There's a time and place to get over your ex-girlfriend: HERE & NOW.

Dear Roommate: I don't care if you're sick. Do your damn dishes and take out the trash you leave. I haven't been staying at home lately because of it.

Really? You're in your last semester here at ECU and you're STILL hitting on the freshmen girls. Get a life. No girl wants a guy that has the past you have!

Relay for Life is coming up, DONATE TODAY! It's a great cause :)

Dear Roommate: I REALLY hope you were actually sleeping when I was consummating my relationship across the room.

I know 4 bars that I will never go to again... As a non-smoker, I don't want to smell as disgusting as those places do at the end of the night.

The buses are extremely crowded. Sad to say but I cannot wait till people start dropping some classes.

Way to go! You got proposed to in a bathroom. How romantic.

ECU wants to increase our tuition because they "need" money; however, they can tear down the perfectly old LCD brick sign to build a blinding new one. Yeah, that sounds like there's a scarcity for money.

More Pirate Rants on the website!

THE MAN PANEL

Attraction

"The Man Panel" is for entertainment purposes only. Shane Small, Zack Cooper and Gordon Ingram are not certified sex columnists. They can only offer advice of an experienced college student. Please direct all comments, questions or concerns to the editor-in-chief at editor@theeastcarolinian.com.



Zack Cooper, Gordon Ingram & Shane Small
OPINION COLUMNISTS

Women can be incredibly attractive in so many different ways. Some ladies are intelligent, confident, witty, motivated or any other number of unique personality traits. Other ladies have great legs, amazing boobs, beautiful faces or even just an amazing smile. There is not one quality that makes it or breaks it for most guys.

However, there are a couple of traits that we have found ourselves being consistently attracted to. So here are three different opinions from three different men on what they find most attractive physically and mentally about women.

Bachelor 1

Have you ever been to the Student Rec Center and seen all the girls working out? I have. Several times. I don't mean that to be as creepy as it

probably sounds, but well, it happens. A woman who takes pride in her body and cares enough to maintain a healthy lifestyle is sexy in itself.

This leads me into to my personal favorite physical quality: Nice, toned, tan legs. Usually those amazing legs are followed close behind by a nice behind, which is always a plus. I'm also a sucker for a nice stomach. I'm not asking for a woman who looks like she is a power-lifter, but there is nothing better than a lean, toned, athletic look.

Just for added clarification (because I feel like a lot of women confuse this), being skinny does not mean you are in shape. There is a noticeable difference between girls who exercise and girls who don't eat!

Non-physical features of a woman are equally important to most men, despite our reputation for being shallow. When getting to know a woman, there is a wide range of characteristics that help evaluate what kind of person she is. Being beautiful is great, but if you aren't interesting to talk with or more complex than the way you look, chances are the relationship is going to stall early on. The thing I look for in a woman that I am truly interested in is having her own life and own goals that she is pursuing. I enjoy being a priority in my girl's life, but I don't want to be number one on the list. I am a driven person with my own goals and interests and likes women who have their own passions as well. If I fit into these goals and interests, then great. If not, don't be afraid to live your own life.

Bachelor 2

Of all the physical features I could pick out to be my biggest draw, I would have to say a nice butt is what really

grabs my attention. In my mind, the butt has the most potential to make or break my opinion of a woman physically. Not only is a perfectly sculpted butt fantastic to grab and look at, it is usually accompanied by nice, shapely legs, which can indicate a lifestyle with a certain level of physical activity. Being interested in sports and getting out of the house to go to the gym or engage in outside activities is a big part of my lifestyle; knowing she most likely takes care of herself and leads a similar lifestyle is very attractive in itself. I enjoy a great chest on a woman as much as the next guy, but I have found that I just love boobs in general and am not that picky. There is just something about the perfect butt accompanied by a pair of nice, long legs that, in my opinion, is unmatched.

The more girls I meet, the more I realize that there are an abundance of pretty girls. So what separates them into girls I would want to pursue? Personality. As far as I am concerned, there is nothing sexier than a confident, sarcastic, witty girl. I'm pretty sarcastic myself, so if a girl can take a joke and dish it right back at me, it really piques my interest. The second and probably most important personality trait is confidence. I think in order to be able to take jokes like I hand out requires a certain level of confidence. I've always said, if you don't believe other people should like you, why should they?

Bachelor 3

Physically, I am definitely attracted to a woman's breast, legs and butt. I also tend to notice her skin tone, lips and height, which can actually outweigh the breast/legs/butt. I also am attracted to women with nice bodies who aren't

afraid to flaunt it a little bit. If you have a nice body, please flaunt it! Wear clothes that accentuate your positives and hide your negatives. I like women who are well dressed, especially when they dress correctly for their body type. Women who look like they take care of themselves are sexy, so personal grooming and hygiene is a must.

A nice smile and a positive outlook can go a long way toward a woman's overall appeal. I like women who have a confident demeanor and are able to talk about something besides how wasted they got last weekend. The way a woman carries herself is the most important aspect of her overall appeal, physical or not. When a woman is comfortable with her body, she will give off an enjoyable and confident (almost cocky) vibe that is very appealing. I love a woman who treats me in a soft, kind-hearted and caring manner. I need someone who supports me and makes me feel relaxed and open. I also appreciate a woman who is at ease with her own sexuality. She can talk about her sexual wants, experiences and desires. I need someone who is comfortable with who I am and isn't intimidated by my past relationships or experiences.

As you can see, most men can agree on certain aspects, but the differences are what make compatibility. The main thing to take away is that not all men want, need or appreciate the same qualities. If we had to pick one quality that men will overwhelmingly agree they find sexy is a woman who is confident and comfortable with herself.

These writers can be contacted at manpanel@theeastcarolinian.com

Support your local dictator: Drink Coke



Ben Cochran
OPINION COLUMNIST

Henry Ford was a genius. Relatively speaking, the Model T sucked, but the way in which it was made was revolutionary. Ford's concept of interchangeable parts took the manufacturing world by storm, and industry as we know it would never be the same.

Southwest Airlines employs a similar business model: they use the same type of aircraft equipped with the same kind of hardware so it only has to train mechanics to work on one type of engine. It's efficient. It's simplistically elegant. It's flat out sexy.

But what allowed these two giants of industry to take off is that they were utilizing commodities. An engine valve was an engine valve. You couldn't accidentally put the wrong valve in the wrong engine because there was only one type of each. While this caused production to skyrocket, the collateral damage was that there were very few options for the end consumer.

If we understand nothing else about capitalism, let us understand this: consumers drive the market by their demand. If we don't demand it, then nobody will supply it. That is how a free market economy works — supply, demand and that invisible

hand known as competition. Judging by our complete lack of beverage options on campus, I'd say that ECU most definitely does not represent the essence of a free-market economy.

When ECU accepted the bid from Coca-Cola, one of three messages was sent: the university considers cola to be an interchangeable commodity, the university deems our pallets as unsophisticated and incapable of distinguishing between Pepsi and Coke or the university doesn't value its students' autonomy as an end consumer and our desire to make individualized choices.

ECU shouldn't underestimate the ability of its students to perceive and appreciate subtle differences in quality. After all, if we thought that a degree was just a degree, how many of us would have gone to NCSU, UNC or somewhere closer to our respective homes? The city of Greenville certainly didn't draw us here. But there was something about ECU that we valued — some perceptible difference that lent itself to our discerning minds.

Personally, I'm offended that this drastic change was sprung on us like this. The logic behind a move like this would also say that it is acceptable to leave your significant other when someone hotter comes along. I didn't see a single advertisement, notification or memo regarding a change in



ILLUSTRATED BY LOGAN WAGONER

beverage suppliers. At least you can tell when your girlfriend is about to leave you for someone else — like when she's always texting other people when you're together, or how she's always going downtown with her "girlfriends," or how you keep finding random condom wrappers in her bedroom that aren't yours.

The thing I find most puzzling is that this is ECU. New Bern, the birthplace of Pepsi, is within a mile's kick from this very spot. Coca-Cola, on the other hand, was invented in Atlanta. I don't necessarily have a problem with Georgia or Coca-Cola, but if I had any inclination

of making either of those products my primary aim, I would have gone to Georgia Tech. I chose ECU and I expect the products that are sold on this campus to reflect the local culture.

I won't apologize for being a loyal Pepsi man. In fact, Pepsi, Mountain Dew and Diet Pepsi all have a more loyal following than Coke products according to the Brand Keys customer loyalty engagement index. As such, I vehemently refuse to buy anything from the Coca-Cola vending machines. For all those who seek to do likewise, I urge you to abstain from all Coke products. This is not a protest

against Coke, but a snub to the university instead.

For all those who wish to join me on my carbonated crusade, I can be found on campus with a giant cooler of Mountain Dew and Pepsi, supplying the loyal Pepsi drinkers with their beverage of choice. Why? Because I believe that ECU students deserve the right to choose which brand of soda they wish to partake — and unlike the university, I won't sell that right to the highest bidder.

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

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Serving ECU since 1925, the *East Carolinian* prints 9,000 copies every Tuesday and Thursday during the regular academic year and 5,000 on Wednesdays during the summer. "Our View" is the opinion of the editorial board and is written by editorial board members. The *East Carolinian* welcomes letters to the editor which are limited to 250 words (which may be edited for decency or brevity). We reserve the right to edit or reject letters and all letters must be signed and include a telephone number. Letters may be sent via e-mail to editor@theeastcarolinian.com or to the *East Carolinian*, SelfHelp Building, Greenville, N.C. 27858-4353. Call 252-328-9238 for more information. One copy of the *East Carolinian* is free, each additional copy is \$1.

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In 1912, after being shot in the chest, Theodore Roosevelt finished a speech he was delivering before he accepted any medical help.

Theodore Roosevelt was the first to announce to the world that Maxwell House coffee is "Good to the last drop."

William Taft got stuck in his bathtub on his Inauguration Day and had to be pried out by his attendants. He had a special, reinforced steel dining chair.

When First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt received an alarming number of threatening letters soon after her husband became president at the height of the Depression, the Secret Service insisted that she carry a pistol in her purse.

John F. Kennedy could read four newspapers in 20 minutes.

Adolf Hitler was Time's Man of the Year in 1938.

Hitler's great-great-grandmother was a Jewish maid.

The Beatles song "Dear Prudence" was written about Mia Farrow's sister, Prudence, when she wouldn't come out and play with Mia and The Beatles at a religious retreat in India.

When John Lennon divorced Julian Lennon's mother, Paul McCartney composed "Hey Jude" to cheer up Julian.

The license plate number on the Volkswagen that appeared on the cover of The Beatles' album "Abbey Road" is 281F.

The song "I Am the Walrus" by John Lennon was inspired by a two-tone police siren.

The sound of E.T. walking was made by someone squishing her hands in jelly.

When the movie "The Wizard of Oz" first came out, it got bad reviews. The critics said it was stupid and uncreative.

Guinness World Records holds the record for being the book most often stolen from public libraries.

During the 18th century, books that were considered offensive were sometimes "punished" by being whipped.

Samuel Clemens, aka Mark Twain, smoked 40 cigars a day for the last years of his life. He was born in 1835 when Halley's Comet appeared. He died in 1910 when Halley's Comet returned.

Construction on the Leaning Tower of Pisa began on August 9, 1173. There are 296 steps to the top.

The Hoover Dam was built to last two thousand years. The concrete in it will not even be fully cured for another five hundred years.

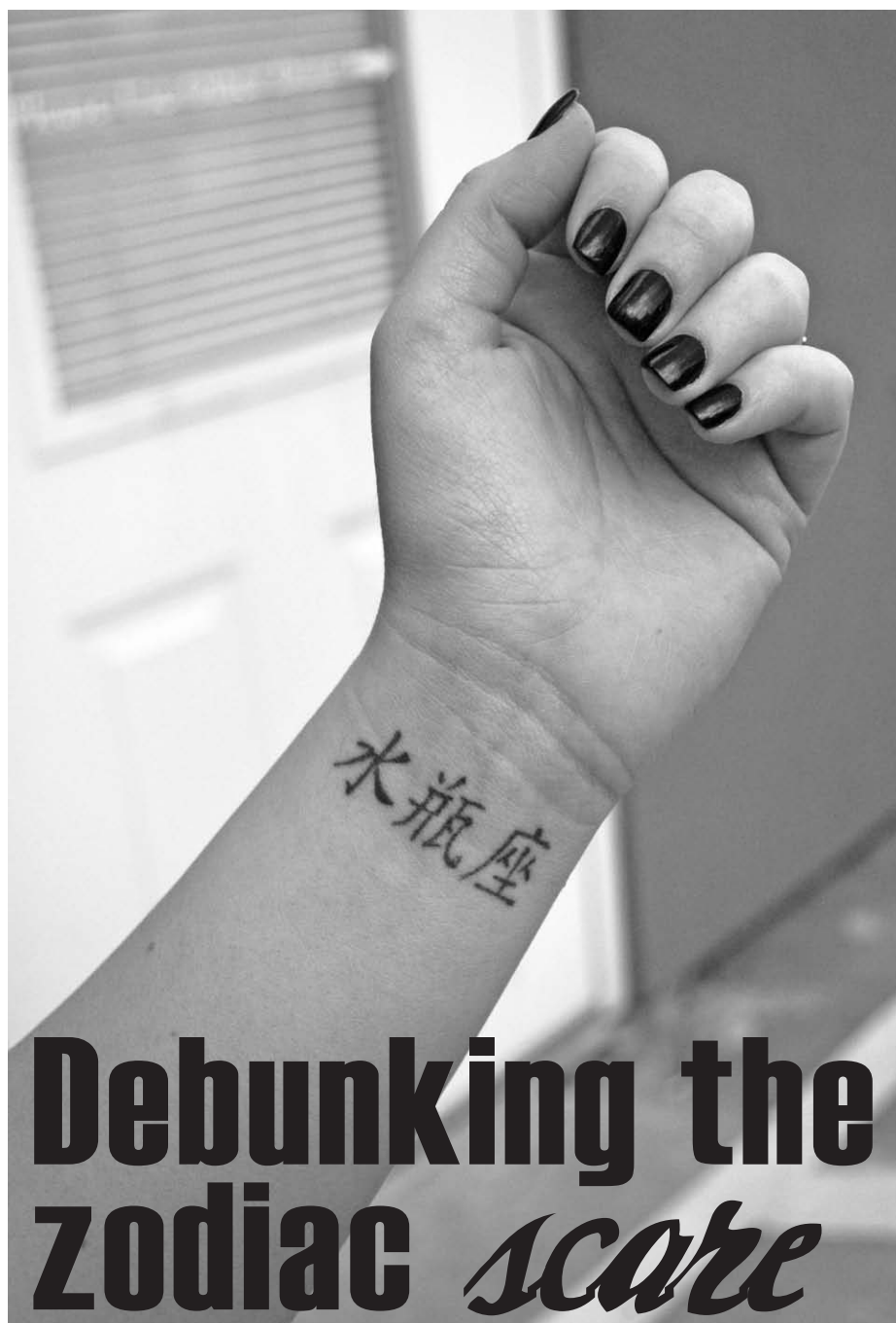
In Washington, D.C., no building can be built taller than the Washington Monument.

The Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, has five sides, five stories, and give acres in the middle.

At one point, the Circus Maximum in Rome could hold up to 250,000 people.

Buckingham Palace has more than six hundred rooms.

The foundations of many great European cathedrals are as deep as forty to fifty feet.



BECCA HARTMAN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

One student is happy that the zodiac signs haven't changed due the fact that she has an Aquarius sign tattooed on her wrist.

Rebecca Blanchette
ASSISTANT LIFESTYLES
EDITOR

A week ago today, people across the U.S. went berserk as the rumor circulated the country that zodiac signs had changed due to shifts in the Earth's tilt.

Since the Earth's axis has shifted 23 degrees since the Babylonians created the zodiacs, the constellations have also shifted. Therefore, the rumor began that since the constellations had shifted, the zodiac signs had also changed.

Angry Facebook statuses were posted, such as "What do you mean I'm not a Capricorn!?" and similar outbursts were posted on Twitter as the topic trended all day. Students were outraged because they felt that they identified better with the sign that they had always believed they fell under. Others who have their sign tattooed on their body worried that they would have to get it changed. Well don't call the tattoo parlor quite yet.

There were some students who didn't mind the change. "Of course, when I heard about it, I immediately looked at my own zodiac sign, which changed from a Virgo to a Leo," said freshman Chelsea Hughes. "The traits for Leo actually describe me better than Virgo ever did!" Still, the majority of students were upset about the alleged adjustment.

The first breeze of relief came when a second rumor spread that the zodiac change only affected those born after 2009. Still, students who have small children don't have to worry that their baby's sign has changed. CNN assured that, "If (Western Hemisphere residents) adhered to the tropical zone --

which, if they're a Westerner, they probably did -- absolutely nothing has changed for them." This is where it gets a little tricky; there are two types of zodiacs: the tropical zodiac and the sidereal zodiac.

The sidereal zodiac is used in the Eastern part of the world and is fixed upon constellations. The tropical zodiac is used in the Western part of the world, such as North America and Western Europe, and is fixed upon seasons. Therefore, the fact that the Earth's axis and the constellations have shifted does not affect the way zodiacs are perceived in the United States. It's the sidereal zodiacs that have changed, not the tropical zodiacs.

CNN talked with astrologer Jeff Jawer, who said, "The sun doesn't align with constellations at the same time of year that it did millennia ago. But that's irrelevant for tropical zodiac, codified for Western astrology by Ptolemy in the second century." Whereas sidereal astrology depends on the sun's relation to constellations, tropical astrology depends on the sun's relationship to Earth. Tropical zodiac signs are based off of where the sun is in relation to Earth and broken up into 12 different sun positions throughout the year, thus creating the 12 signs. Since the seasons also depend on the sun's position to Earth, then it therefore can be said that the zodiac signs are also based off of the seasons.

All this unnecessary controversy started when astronomer Parke Kunkle was interviewed for the Star Tribune of Minneapolis. He explained the changes in the sidereal zodiac without

> ZODIAC page A6

January is National Stalking Awareness Month

Katey Warren
STAFF WRITER

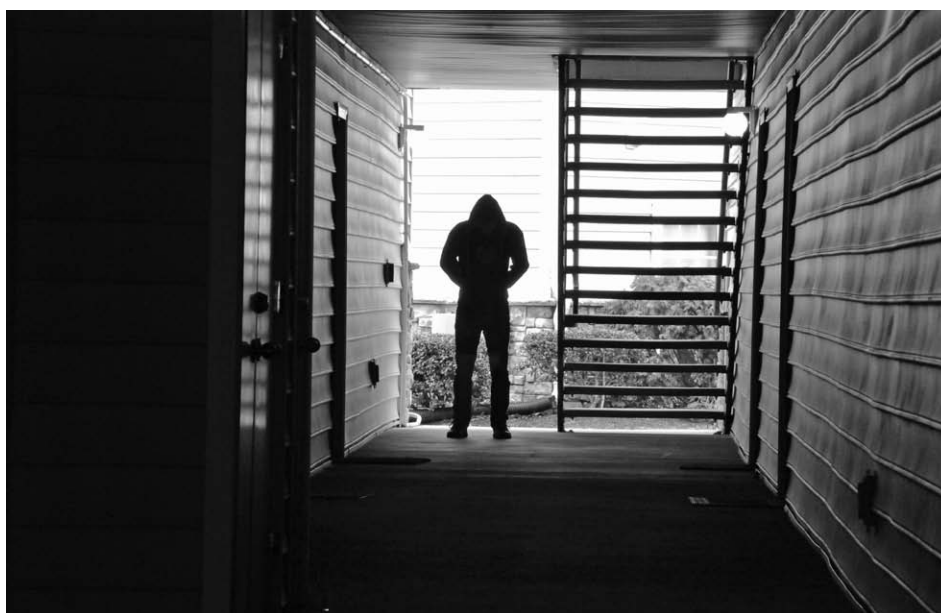
More than 3.4 million adults are stalked each year in the United States.

The risk of becoming a stalking victim is highest for young adults ages 18 to 24.

To promote learning about, recognizing and stopping this criminal act, this January the National Stalking Awareness organization is celebrating its eighth annual National Stalking Awareness month. The organization hopes to expose and combat "a crime that is pervasive, dangerous and potentially lethal," according to its website.

In addition to emphasizing the target age group of stalking victims, the National Stalking Awareness organization also frequently advertises several other eye-opening statistics. Three out of four stalking victims are stalked by someone they know, and 30 percent are stalked by current or former intimate partners.

"It's scary to think that people you know could be the ones to stalk you," said business major Marie Pisani. "It makes me frightened for my life. I don't want to have to worry about people knowing where I am and



DOUG MACKENZIE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Stalking Awareness Month gives students the chance to learn more about stalking.

what I'm doing."

Pisani recognized that stalking is a dangerous issue that greatly affects her peers after an experience she encountered in high school when her friend was stalked by a former boyfriend. According to Pisani, the stalker "would show up at her house and follow her in the car." Eventually, Pisani's friend, like many

other stalking victims, had to file for a restraining order against her stalker.

Since 2004, the National Stalking Awareness organization has worked to train and inform law enforcement about the crime. Though punishments for stalkers and elements defining stalking vary by state, most have a similar conceptualization on

how to classify the crime.

According to the organization's website, this classification usually includes a collective and repetitive combination of "making unwanted phone calls, sending unsolicited or unwanted letters or e-mails, following or spying on the victim, showing up at places without a legitimate reason, waiting at places for

the victim," and several other measures that inflict fear and potential danger on the victim.

In North Carolina, first-offense stalkers will be charged with a Class A1 misdemeanor, and those who have previously been convicted of stalking will be charged with a Class F felony.

Though stalking has always been a reoccurring issue, especially for teenagers and young adults, the act of stalking has been provoked by recent advances in technology, which now allow stalkers to easily access others' information. The availability of cell phones, social networking websites, global positioning systems, video or digital cameras and listening devices have contributed to instances of stalking.

Now, both the National Stalking Awareness organization and many law enforcement officers are educating the public on how individuals should censor certain information they share with others and how to stay safe in a technology-infused society. Many students also recognize that some of their peers share too much personal information online.

"With Facebook, you can

> STALKING page A6

Pirates brave the Polar Bear Plunge

Madonna Messana
STAFF WRITER

It's time for students to grab a pair of swim trunks and head out to the Student Recreation Center to participate in the 15th annual Polar Bear Plunge.

Tonight at 7 p.m., students, staff and faculty are all invited and encouraged to come out to participate in the plunge, where they will be expected to jump into the SRC's ice cold outdoor pool.

"I took the plunge my freshman and junior year," said Amanda Mason, senior nursing major.

When asked what first time plungers should expect, Mason said, "Expect the water to be really cold but it's a really great adrenaline rush and I really recommend it. And it's an easy way to get a free T-shirt!"

The first 700 jumpers will receive a free T-shirt, and all students will be entered into a drawing for several prizes. The grand prize will be a 3-foot stuffed polar bear that has been donated by Coca-Cola.

The very first Polar Bear Plunge took place in 1997, where the event served as part of the grand opening of the SRC. The first plunge only included 35 participants, but every year since then, more and more have braved the icy waters.

Over 10 years later, the event has grown to more than 500 jumpers. Last year's plunge had more than 700 participants. Organizers of the event anticipate that almost 1,000 people will take the plunge into the chilly water at this year's event.

"Normally the pool is really dead and there is no one really in there. Then for Polar Bear Plunge there are a lot of people. They're blasting music and there is a lot of energy in the area," said Amanda Donnelly, a lifeguard at the SRC who has been on duty during the Polar Bear Plunge before.

Life guarding the Polar Bear Plunge event requires more attention than a typical night at the SRC's pool. Guards must look out for signs of hypothermia, as well as judge if participants' bodies are adjusting when



TYRONE DEMERY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The Polar Bear Plunge will be held tonight at 7 p.m. at the Student Recreation Center's pool.

jumping from the outdoor pool into the indoor pool's warmer water.

Also, because there are so many people jumping in and getting out of the pool at once, guards must be sure that par-

ticipants aren't hitting the walls of the pool or each other while they're taking the plunge.

"I did the Arctic Duck Dive (Monday night) at The Landing, and it wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. It was a lot of fun,"

said Donnelly, who has not been able to participate in the Polar Bear Plunge event before because she has always been

> PLUNGE page A6

ZODIAC continued from A5

clearly explaining the fact that that is not the zodiac system commonly used in the United States. Astrologers across the country shook their head at this vague dispersion of misinformation. The Huffington Post reported on Friday that "Linda Zlotnick, an astrologer for 32 years in St. Paul, Minn., said she and fellow astrologers have long known of the issue raised by Kunkle." However, these astrologers did not make it a point to publicly announce this information because it is irrelevant to the way zodiac signs are perceived in this country.

Every few years this same zodiac sign scare story pops up, frightens everyone, and then is explained and forgotten. Perhaps it blew up so big and quickly this time because of the use of social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, which spreads news faster than ever before. Whatever the reason, students will take comfort in knowing that their signs have not changed.

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

STALKING continued from A5

track people online so much easier, and everyone writes what they're doing and where they are," said Pisani. "And that's just asking for trouble."

Another student, Katy Murphy, agrees with Pisani that many of her peers are inflicting danger upon themselves by posting excessive personal information online.

"A lot of people don't think it's actually gonna happen to them," said Murphy. "Students should be careful who they give their stuff to and be aware that there are creepy people out there who will take your status literally and come find you." In North Carolina, cyber-stalking is also seen as a criminal offense, but has slightly different consequences than other types of stalking. These cyber-stalkers, who stalk via any type of electronic communication or electronic mail, will be charged with a Class 2 misdemeanor. For stalking victim assistance, students should call 1-800-FYI-CALL, and for more information and statistics on stalking, students should visit www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org.

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

PLUNGE continued from A5

on duty. Food will be available for all jumpers on the SRC Concourse, where prizes will also be awarded. WZMB-FM will also be broadcasting live from the event.

"Basically, (the Polar Bear Plunge is) a way to bring students to the Rec Center who normally would not go there and it is a tradition that is fun. Also, Get A Clue is going on (during the same time) that advertises the different clubs on campus," said Mason.

Participants of the plunge are all encouraged to bring a canned food item for the Feed the Bear campaign, and all donations will go to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. Those who bring in a canned good will receive an additional raffle ticket to double their chances of winning prizes.

Registration will begin tonight at 6:30 p.m. on the SRC's Court Number 1. Students must bring their ECU OneCard to sign up and prize drawings are expected to begin at 8:15 p.m.

The Polar Bear Plunge event is sponsored by Campus Recreation and Wellness, Campus Living and Dining, American Campus Communities, Coca-Cola and Student Involvement and Leadership.

So for those who aren't scared of a little cold water, head out to the SRC tonight to take the plunge!

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

Midseason shows are heating up

Hunter Ingram
STAFF WRITER

It's time to dust the snow off those DVRs because January marks the beginning of the midseason television premieres, and this year there's something for everyone.

Coming off of a disappointing fall lineup that failed to produce any breakout hits like last year's "Glee" and "Modern Family," television networks are eagerly looking for the next great show. One of the biggest new shows hoping to score it big is ABC's exotic medical drama "Off the Map."

From Shondra Rimes, the creator of "Grey's Anatomy" and "Private Practice," "Off the Map" tells the story of three young doctors who volunteer to work at a medical clinic in a South American jungle. However, its premiere last Wednesday didn't exactly bring in the ratings, with only 7.56 million viewers tuning in.

Senior nursing major Kimberlee Kraft, a big fan of "Grey's Anatomy," wasn't impressed with the new medical drama. "Off the

Map" was made up of bad acting, very unlikeable characters and, compared to "Grey's Anatomy," there wasn't nearly enough drama," said Kraft. "Plus, the medical treatment and situations weren't very realistic either. I was very disappointed."

ABC will also be adding a new comedy to its roster in January, on the heels of its success with "Modern Family" and "Cougar Town." Matthew Perry will take over his former "Friends" costar Courtney Cox's timeslot on Feb. 9, when his new show "Mr. Sunshine" premieres. The show has Perry playing a sports arena manager who begins to have a midlife crisis over turning 40 and having to deal with his outrageous employees.

NBC is shaking things up this winter by bringing the three-hour comedy block back to Thursdays. Returning favorites "Community," "The Office," "30 Rock," "Outsourced" and "Parks and Recreation" will be joined by the new comedy "Perfect Couples," a show about a group of six friends who make up three very different cou-

ples. NBC is also hoping to attract superhero fans with their new action-drama "The Cape," which tells the story of a disgraced detective who takes the form of his son's favorite superhero to regain his life and clear his tarnished name. However, just like "Off the Map," this superhero couldn't deliver record ratings, with only 8 million viewers catching the 2-hour premiere on Jan. 9. Regardless of the ratings, senior construction major Dan Gorman enjoyed the show. "It had action and a pretty good story, which is about all I look for in a show," said Gorman. "I wasn't expecting 'Iron Man' or anything, but it was still good."

The biggest show on television is also back for its 10th season on Fox, with a few new changes. Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler will join Randy Jackson, Ryan Seacrest and thousands of new hopefuls for an all-new season of "American Idol." For the first time, the show will have the contestants living together and working with bands and dancers to not only sing, but put on theatrical

performances as well. Over on MTV, "Skins," a remake of the hit British show, is sparking some buzz with its provocative ads and steamy subject matter. "Skins" features a group of teenagers as they navigate a world of sex, drugs and self-discovery in high school. In addition to "Skins," MTV will also be premiering "Teen Mom 2," which features a new crop of young mothers, one of whom is from North Carolina, as they deal with the difficulties of having kids at an early age.

El will add to its ever-growing arsenal of Kardashian family shows on Jan. 23 with "Kourtney and Kim Take New York," which will follow the two sisters as they move to New York, bringing all of their hilarity and drama with them.

While it is not known if any of the shows premiering this winter will survive to see fall 2011, one thing is for sure: every television network is working hard to deliver the next great television show to eager audiences across the country.

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



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Ruffin McNeill sends thank you to Pirate Nation

"I am appreciative and deeply touched by the caring support so many have extended to me as I work through another one of life's journeys. My first priority is to regain an active lifestyle that will not only benefit myself physically, but put me in a position to provide uninterrupted leadership to our football program and service to East Carolina University. It is a blessing to be under the best of care by two of the finest doctors in the country, who have implemented a team approach to allow me to reach these goals. The first step was to address the strain I was putting on my body and I am pleased to announce I am successfully in the recovery phase of bariatric surgery last Thursday (Jan. 13).

It is our plan that this procedure will precede hip replacement surgery later in the spring that will allow the pain-free mobility I have longed for over the last few years.

While I understand the process has only started, my commitment to get back in the weight room and resume a daily workout routine runs deep. My wife Erlene, my daughters, our football team and the Pirate Nation has and continues to serve as an inspiration for me."

Indoor track medals in Blacksburg

A pair of newcomers led the way for the ECU track and field program at the Virginia Tech Invitational as Tyshonda Hawkins and Jordan Neil set school records in the 300-meter dash and 3,000-meter run, respectively. With his time, Neil also won the event title.

Hawkins posted a 38.95 in the 300, good for third place, while Neil ran an 8:26.37 in the 3,000.

Hawkins also showed well in the 200, finishing fifth with a time of 24.54. In the 300, Tiffany Harris was sixth, clocking in at 39.60. Brittany Copeland won the 1,000, turning in a 2:57.77 while Amanda Lapp captured fourth in the same event at 2:59.45.

In the relays, the distance medley tandem of Lapp, Copeland, Brooke and Brittany Kott grabbed the event title, finishing in 11:59.06 ahead of the team from Virginia. The 4x400 relay squad also produced a solid result, taking fifth with a time of 3:49.81.

Sophomore All-American performer Tynita Butts stayed consistent in the season's second meet, winning both the high and long jump titles with marks of 1.78 and 6.01 meters. In the weight throw, both Kim Kanala and Dana Keister were in the top eight as Kanala captured fifth (16.54 meters) and Keister fell just behind in sixth (15.44 meters).

On the men's side, Austin Lewis was fourth in the 60-meter dash with a time of 6.85 before finishing fifth in the 200 at 22.04. He also turned in a second-place finish in the long jump, recording a mark of 7.04 meters. Adding to the Pirates' event title collection was Lawrence Campbell in the 500 as he crossed the line in 1:04.22. In the 60-meter hurdles, Mario Briscoe finished sixth with a time of 8.11 after qualifying in 8.15.

Like their female counterparts, the distance medley team of Antonio Palmer, Jakub Trzasalski, Zach Montijo and Campbell took first in the event, clocking in at 10:37.13. Defending C-USA, high jump champion Drew Kanz O'Shea took second in the event with a mark of 2.05 meters.

Dennis Aliotta and Kenneth Rowland both were top-eight finishers in the shot put at second and sixth, producing 17.05 and 16.17 marks, respectively. A trio of ECU field athletes also took fourth (Montrell Morrow), seventh (Aliotta) and eighth (Varela) in the weight throw with marks of 17.10, 16.33 and 15.88 meters.

The Pirates continue their indoor season Feb. 5, traveling to Penn State for the Sykes-Sabock Cup at the Ashenfelter Indoor Track.

SPORTS

Men's hoops torched by Sanders, UAB



ERIN DUNCAN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Senior Jamar Abrams (21) breaks for the paint against UAB defender Preston Purifoy (24), during ECU's 66-59 loss to the Blazers.

Adam Bunn
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Learning how to win is the first major step in becoming relevant in the college basketball world, and ECU's 66-59 loss to UAB Monday night proved that the Pirates still aren't at that level.

With 16:14 remaining in the ball game and the Pirates in the midst of a 15-3 run to give them a 39-27 lead, it appeared that the Pirates would coast by the Blazers and head to 2-1 in conference play.

But coming out of the under-17 media timeout, something amazing happened. What happened? Well, Blazers guard Jamar Sanders showed up, scor-

ing 17 of his game-high 26 points in the second half, leading UAB on a 27-13 run, taking the lead back for good with 5:50 remaining in the ball game.

"Sanders was terrific," ECU head coach Jeff Lebo said. "He was like an NBA player tonight. Coming in we thought he was the best wing player we would face and he played like it."

The Pirates were not giving Sanders any easy looks. Several times he took shots that would have been good from NBA range.

"When you've got a guy like Sanders and he's hot and he's feeling it, I mean, he could have put up anything and it probably would've gone in," guard Brock

Young said. "But that's just the way it goes sometimes. You just hope he misses it."

Down the stretch it seemed like the Pirates couldn't buy a basket, missing shots that had fallen regularly early in the second half.

"Brock just kept telling me to shoot it again," Pirate guard Jontae Sherrod said. "I think I missed four or five in a row. I'll make those shots next time."

Both teams came out sluggish to start the first half of play, scoring only 51 combined points.

The Pirates used a 7-0 run after the first media timeout to overcome an early 16-12 UAB lead. After that run, both teams

would trade momentum swings as well as baskets as foul trouble for both teams began adding up.

While the majority of the half was listless, the last 40 seconds produced some of the most exciting basketball to come to Williams Arena this season.

With the Blazers trailing by two with 38 seconds left, freshman forward Anthony Criswell calmly nailed two free throws, knotting the game at 24. On the ensuing Pirate possession, the half's leading scorer Jamar Abrams would hit a 3-pointer with just 2 seconds left to give the Pirates a three-point half-time cushion.

With the loss, the Pirates lost out on a chance to not only get

on a conference winning streak after defeating Tulane on Saturday, but also a chance to shoot up the C-USA leader board.

The Pirates will need to shake off the cobwebs from this loss and return their minds to the basketball court as the Pirates now head on a road swing that takes them through the heart of C-USA.

ECU squared off with UCF last night in Orlando and will then travel to Marshall on Friday before returning home to host Southern Miss next Wednesday.

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

ECU notches first C-USA victory

Carlos Olivera
STAFF WRITER

The ECU Lady Pirates basketball team picked up their first Conference USA victory (1-3), with a win over the Rice Owls this past Sunday, 66-55. The Lady Pirates put an end to their four-game losing streak and ran their overall record to 7-10 on the season.

"I'm just really happy for the kids," ECU head coach Heather Macy said. "They have been working hard and resilient in practice and really working on their skills."

Showing her skills and really playing well for the Lady Pirates was junior center Jean Best. Coming off the bench, Best had a game and season-high 17 points.

"Jean is very humble and doesn't like to talk about herself, but she has refocused and recommitted herself and the way she's been preparing physically and mentally and how dominant she is in the paint, I'm not sure if she's stoppable," Macy said.

Best was part of a Pirates' second unit that outscored the Owls second unit 31-7. Adding to her season-high in points (17), Best

C-USA page A9



ERIN DUNCAN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Ashley Clarke (12) in home action against Rice. The Pirates sealed their first conference win over the Owls on Sunday.

Champs weekend looks promising

OPINION



Stephen McNulty
STAFF WRITER

And then there were four. It is time for arguably the greatest day in professional sports. No, not the Super Bowl, but championship Sunday.

The Green Bay Packers will travel to Soldier Field in

Chicago to take on their long-time rival the Chicago Bears, and the Pittsburgh Steelers and New York Jets will meet for a shot to represent the AFC.

Last week, the Packers sent a message to the league, dominating the No. 1-seed Atlanta Falcons 48-21 in an old-fashioned whooping. Aaron Rodgers threw for 366 yards and three touchdowns while completing 31 of 36 passes. But this Bears team that beat the Seattle Seahawks in a sloppy 35-21 win doesn't want to hear any of the statistics. They feel disrespected, and rightfully so, as the road team and No. 6-seed Packers are four-point

favorites.

Yes, Aaron Rodgers looked amazing against the Atlanta Falcons, but don't expect him to be nearly as comfortable in the Windy City. It will be cold, it will be windy and the turf will be treacherous. I expect the Bears and Julius Peppers to bring a much better pass rush than the Falcons did. Also, the Bears have the second best rush defense in the league going up against the Packers' 24th-ranked rushing attack.

On the other side of the ball, the Bears must protect Jay Cutler from a very good Green Bay defense. Clay Matthews, aka Thor, could easily

be named the 2011 NFL Defensive Player of the Year. However, Mike Martz is an offensive genius, and in his third time preparing for the Green Bay Packers this season, I am sure he and Jay Cutler will have plenty of ideas on how to beat the pass rush.

Then there is the X-factor. The one guy in the National Football League who you never want to kick to: Devin Hester. Hester has found the end zone 14 times on returns, more than anyone to ever play the game. Also, in what I expect to

CHAMPS page A9

Pirates from every nation

Lorianna Whitford
STAFF WRITER

The United States of America has been commonly referred to as the world's melting pot of cultures, races and ethnicities. All of this diversity has proved to be what makes our nation so special, yet many sports continue to have cultural stereotypes linked to the participants of certain games. Even ECU, which strives relentlessly to encourage the importance of diversity in the university, falls victim to this unintentional, yet completely noticeable, occurrence that certain cultures, races and ethnicities are more prominent in some sports than others.

One may find it interesting that ECU's most winningest team is also the most internationally and culturally diverse varsity athletic program in the Pirate Nation.

ECU's very own "melting pot" is the Pirate swimming and diving team. With three athletes from Brazil, two from Israel, one from Canada, one from Hungary and countless others from states all over the U.S., the aquatic squad exemplifies the diversity that ECU so greatly strives for.

"Typically we've always had an international athlete or two, but we've picked it up a bit this season," Head Coach Rick Kobe said. "As always, any swimmer we have is going to be fast. Having so many kids from different places makes it educational for everyone. If all of the kids were from the same area, it would be boring. We've got kids from multiple states and countries and that's what makes it different and fun. You don't always want to be predictable."

Kobe added that the international talent on the team ranks among the best.

"Some of our international swimmers are the best swimmers in their country." Not only are all of the swim team's international students in the top percent of athleticism, they are all on the Deans List at ECU for academics, as well.

After an exciting defeat over Old Dominion last weekend, the water-enthused Pirates have a season record of 12-3.

From Brazil, senior swim star and economics major Thiago Cavalcanti described the team's last meet against Old Dominion. "They beat us last year, pretty bad," he said. "Everyone got pumped up this year and it came down to the last relay for the guys. They had to win it to win the whole meet."

Cavalcanti is no stranger to success at ECU. He has been named the Pirates' "Most Out-

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standing Male Swimmer" for three consecutive years and continues to improve his speed. He has impressed the masses by setting the ECU varsity record in the 200, 500, 1,000 and 1,650-yard freestyle.

With the intensity needed to prevail and the discipline to allow it, Cavalcanti described what it is like to come from Brazil to study as a student and athlete at ECU.

"In Brazil, if you have an opportunity to go to America and swim or play some kind of sport, that's a big deal," Cavalcanti said. "Swimming is really hard. You do the same thing every day. You don't score goals, you don't score points, there are no touchdowns, but it's awesome."

ECU shows no signs of giving in to the challenges that this weekend's home meets may hold. Especially against top 25 team South Carolina.

The swim team will follow the Friday meet against South Carolina, with a Saturday meet against Catawba and Gardner Webb at 1 p.m. This will also serve as the last opportunity for fans to catch the swimming and diving Pirates at home this season and Senior Day.

Cavalcanti made remarks in reference to what will be his last home meet at ECU. "It goes by so fast," he said. "It hasn't hit me yet. I'm thinking every single day about it. I've been swimming, practicing every day, saying 'Coach, I don't want to leave yet.'"

As the regular season comes to a close for the water-bound Pirates, may ECU congratulate them in their success. They have shown the importance and success of diversity in athletics and academics and continue to impress fans with invigorating battles of athleticism.

Cavalcanti said it best: "People hear a lot about baseball, football and basketball, but swimming is here too. We're one of the winningest sports on campus. Come support us. It's a lot of fun."

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

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had a season-high nine rebounds, as well as blocking two shots.

"It's really skewed when you think about it, because it's not very common," said Macy, when referring to the bench play. "We've made a conscious effort to really get the ball inside."

The Lady Pirates got the ball in the paint and had their way with the Owls. The Pirates outscored the Owls 38-14 in the painted area. They also outrebounded the Owls by 11, 47-36.

One main emphasis lately for the Pirates has been defense.

"In practice, we've been really focusing on defense, defense, defense," said Best.

As of late, the Lady Pirates have struggled a bit, giving up an average of 84 points per game during their four-game losing streak. They got back on track with the win on Sunday.

The Pirates held the Owls to just 30 percent shooting for the game, including 18 percent in the second half. In the second half, the Pirates held the Owls to 6-33 from the field, including 2-17 from behind the 3-point line.

First up for the Lady Pirates is a trip to Hattiesburg, Miss. The Pirates will have a week off then travel to Mississippi take on the Southern Miss Golden Eagles this Sunday, Jan. 23, with tip-off scheduled for 3 p.m.

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be a very close game, one spark could change everything and field position will determine a lot.

Despite what many saw last week in the Packers, I believe the Bears will come out and play stronger on defense, and with some help from Mother Nature, they will hold the Packers to a mediocre day on offense. Defense wins championships, and in just their second playoff appearance in the last five years, the Chicago Bears will return to the Super Bowl.

The excitement on the faces of New York Jets players epitomized the meaning of their win over the New England Patriots. The Jets played with more passion, more pride and more anger than anyone could have imagined. They beat up Tom Brady and really handled the Patriots. But there is one thing that is often seen after passionate wins: A hangover.

Meanwhile, the Pittsburgh Steelers took care of a division rival of their own in the Baltimore Ravens. The Steelers held Baltimore to just 126 total yards of offense, forced three turnovers

and returned a fumble for a score while sacking Joe Flacco five times. Oh, and Ben Roethlisberger threw for two scores as he continues to light up the playoffs.

I believe that when it is all said and done, the Jets will have a hard time following up their performance in Foxboro and a better, more experienced Steelers team will come out on top.

Two weeks from Sunday, two teams will be playing for history. A Steelers title would just add to the towering trophy case in Pittsburgh. Jay Cutler could finally quiet many of his critics by slipping a big shiny Super Bowl ring on his finger. Mark Sanchez and Rex Ryan could cement their legacies in New York early in their careers, and in the year that Brett Favre finally calls it quits (we hope), Aaron Rodgers could win his first title. No matter if your team is already out of it or if you're not even a big football fan, there is one thing for sure. This will be exciting.

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



Chicago Bears tight end Greg Olsen (82) runs for a first down against Seattle Seahawks safety Lawyer Milloy (36) during the first quarter. The Bears defeated the Seahawks, 35-24, during the NFC divisional playoffs in Chicago, Illinois on Sunday.

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Greenville Recreation and Parks Department is recruiting for a gymnastics instructor. The position performs professional and supervisory responsibilities related to the development, coordination, and implementation of various gymnastic skills for the Greenville Recreation and Parks Department. The instructor will maintain complete attendance records Assumes on-site responsibilities for the operation of the program, handles parental concerns and complaints. Primary purpose for the beginning Gymnastics programs will be to provide safe and fun recreational activities for children ages 3&4 and 5&7. Must have experience working with children and have experience teaching/leading gymnastics. Rate of pay is between \$8.00-8.50, depending up prior experience. Apply on-line at www.greenvillenc.gov by January 17th. For additional information, please call 329-4650.

Greenville Recreation & Parks Department is recruiting youth soccer referees for the spring soccer program for ages 3-15. Applicants must possess a good knowledge of soccer rules and have the ability and patience to work with youth. Duties include but are not limited to: officiating games, ensuring safety of field, and ensuring proper care of program / facility. Hours are from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturdays and 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm for some weekday games. Flexible hours according to class schedules. This program will run from March 19 - mid May. Referees will be paid \$12.00 / \$14.00 a game. For more information, please contact the Athletic Office at 329-4550, Monday through Friday, 10 am until 7 pm. To apply, please visit www.greenvillenc.gov. Applications accepted until February 1.

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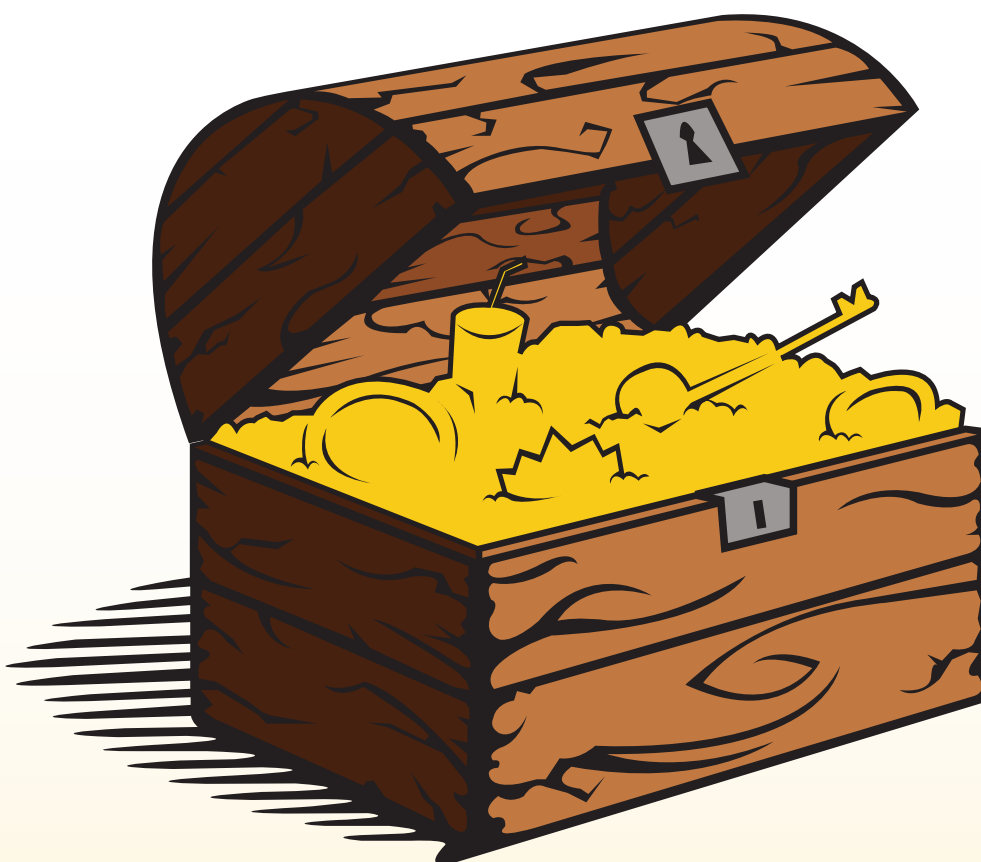
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