

INSIDE

OPINION: You know your life fails when you use the computers at Best Buy to check your ECU e-mail after your laptop crashes! **A4**

LIFESTYLES: One alumnus and past football team member spends his days training for triathlons. Turn to Lifestyles to find out how this 90-year-old man stays in such great shape. **A6**

SPORTS: The Pirates hit the hardwood against Southern Miss last night at Minges Coliseum. Turn to sports to see if they extended their win streak to three-games straight. **A8**

BRIEFS

Two men die in car accident on Charles Boulevard

Staff Reports

A wreck on Charles Boulevard on Monday night took the lives of two men. Matthew Fritscher, 52, and Bradley Lee Novotny, 23, died as a result of the tragic incident.

The incident occurred between Hyde Drive and Thackery Road. After the accident, emergency workers closed Charles from Red Banks Road to Turnbury Drive.

At around 5:40 p.m., Fritscher was driving his GMC Envoy northbound when Novotny's Honda Civic crossed three lanes of traffic and hit Fritscher head-on.

Novotny was a 2007 graduate of J.H. Rose High School and was attending Pitt Community College. Fritscher, an engineer, had recently moved to Greenville to be closer to his sons who live with their mother, Leslie G. Van Der Have, an attorney with Ward & Smith in Greenville.

Van Der Have was in Raleigh at a mediation when the wreck happened but went directly to Pitt County Memorial Hospital when she was notified.

According to Charles Ellis, a managing partner at Ward & Smith, Fritscher was on his way to pick up his sons from their babysitter.

Novotny died at the scene and Fritscher was pronounced dead at Pitt Memorial Hospital. Funeral plans for both men were finalized on Tuesday.

University master plan survey closes Monday

Staff Reports

ECU is currently updating its campus master plan. The plan will decide how growth is dealt with over the next 20 years.

The process deals with assessing things ranging from campus growth projections and building quality to circulation patterns.

Master plan consultants presented scenarios on campus Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 2010. Four scenarios were presented for Health Sciences campus and three for the main campus. These scenarios can be found on the ECU website.

ECU is now asking students to take an online survey through its website to provide the university with feedback. The survey closes on Monday and the feedback will be presented on campus in February 2011.

The survey can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/s/ECUMasterplan or through the university's website.

Mellow Mushroom pizza bakers coming to Greenville

Staff Reports

Mellow Mushroom will open its 14th location in Greenville late next fall. The new restaurant will be located in an outparcel of the Greenville Mall.

According to Reid Fogelman, a member of the franchisee group, the location is perfect. "We think the Charles location is the best spot in Greenville," he said. "It has five entry points and plenty of parking."

Though most Mellow Mushroom open in renovated buildings, the Greenville location will be built on site.

Fogelman said that the floor plans have been drawn and approved by the corporate office, but the architects have not figured out what the exterior will look like.

WEB POLL

Do you believe in the privatization of alcohol?

Yes

No

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



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YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925



DOUGLAS MACKENZIE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

This January's flu outbreak has visiting the ECU Student Health Center frequently.

Influenza outbreak hits campus

Alexa DeCarr
STAFF WRITER

There has been a widespread eruption of the influenza virus throughout the university since students have returned for the spring semester.

Since Jan. 1, Student Health Services has documented 144 cases of the influenza virus. That number is expected to grow until the end of flu season, which could last until March.

According to Jolene Jernigan, a nurse practitioner and the director of Student Health Services, the predominant strain this year is the H1N1 virus.

"With H1N1, the plus is that there is a shorter duration and the fever is not so high," said Jernigan. "But when you have it, you feel so lousy that you're not thinking about that."

Other influenza symptoms besides a fever include a severe sore throat, cough, headache, body aches, chills, fatigue and sometimes nausea. The onset of these symptoms usually occurs suddenly and can occur in all strains of the influenza virus.

Once flu symptoms have set in, they typically last between two and five days. During this time, Jernigan recommends fluids, fever reducers such as Tylenol, and plenty of rest.

Medical attention is not always necessary.

"Unless a person has a major medical problem, symptoms lasting longer than a few days or an unusually high fever, most healthy people can manage treatment by themselves," said Jernigan.

Someone carrying the virus can be contagious as early as one day before their symptoms appear until 24 hours after fever and symptoms subside. The virus can be passed on through the air when an infected person speaks, coughs or sneezes, or by touching an object that contains the virus on it. A person can then become infected by touching his or her mouth, nose or eyes.

"The flu can enter the body through the eyes, and the average healthy person touches their eyes 300 times a day," said Jernigan.

Students can become infected with the virus easily because their immune systems may already be weak due to the lack of sleep and poor nutrition.

> INFLUENZA page A2



TYRONE DEMERY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Students going to and from their classes early on Wednesday.

Minimal learning

Study shows students learn very little their first two years of college

Hannah Jackson
STAFF WRITER

Half of the nation's undergraduates show nearly no gains in learning after their first two years of college. A new report states that some colleges do not make academics a priority to students and are more focused on their own faculty research. Not making the students a top priority leads to students more focused on their own social lives rather than learning.

The report is based on a book titled "Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses," from which findings are based on surveys of more than 3,000 full-time students on 29 campuses nationwide.

In "Academically Adrift," it was found that college students spend 51 percent of their time socializing, 24 percent sleeping, 9 percent working or with student organizations and 9 percent attending classes but only 7 percent studying. The book also said that 45 percent of students showed no significant gains in learning after two years, but many factors do come into play when attempting to generalize all students in the country.

Each university has its own priorities; the question is what

should be at the top -- research or teaching students? On average, students earned a 3.2 grade point average, portraying that either the material is fairly easy and they do not need to spend time studying or that they do little work and still earn good grades. This may explain why only 32.5 percent of undergrads at ECU graduate within four years.

With over 21,000 undergraduates on this campus, it is understandable that some end up dropping out or at least transferring to other schools. It may come as no surprise that here there are policies and ways of making up for mistakes when it comes to grades.

According to the ECU website, "A student is permitted to use the Grade Replacement Policy a maximum of three times for courses below 3000 in which he or she has earned a grade of D or F." Students have to request a grade replace on the form via online and then retake the course for a better grade.

Many students are familiar with the university's probation, suspension regulations and readmission, as this becomes the case for many who struggle to keep their grades up. The university will place a student on an academic warning if his or her GPA is less

than 2.0 but meets the minimum required for their retention period.

Students are sometimes under constraint to compete with classmates and please their parents, which leads some to doing anything they can to get good grades, including cheating.

Virginia Hardy, vice provost of Student Affairs, said that she believes that students cheat because of the stress. "I think cheating exists on college campuses because of the amount of pressure students are under, and they can't fight the temptation," said Hardy.

Within the first two years of college, students go through many changes, which include making some life-changing decisions such as choosing a career path. Typical freshmen take courses that fulfill the general education requirements like English 1100 or Health 1000. It would come as no surprise if they did not learn anything from these courses; the students are most likely not trying to learn because it does not relate to their majors.

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ITCS upgrades outrage students

Hannah Farmer-Fernandez
STAFF WRITER

ITCS scheduled maintenance Sunday made Blackboard, OneStop and other student services inaccessible for users longer than expected due to data storage environment updates.

ITCS maintenance sent out a "downtime announcements" notification on Jan. 14 to all students, stating that specific student services, including Blackboard, Banner Self-Service, OneStop and Piratedrive, were scheduled to be down from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday.

The "scheduled maintenance" took longer than ITCS officials expected.

Senior Ira Lawson, a communication major, realized that Blackboard was down when he tried to submit an assignment. "I had an assignment due by 11 a.m. Monday. I was being a proactive student, trying to submit my assignment early so I didn't have to worry about it, but Blackboard and OneStop were not accessible."

"I received the e-mail, but didn't think twice about it because ITCS is always performing updates and sending e-mails every other week," said Lawson. "ITCS notifies students all the time, so not many students paid attention to the message."

> ITCS page A2

Notable Greek chapters honored

Abbey Way
STAFF WRITER

Students, faculty, staff and community leaders dressed to impress and filled Harvey Hall in the Murphy Center Monday night at the fifth annual Greek Leadership Awards Night.

The event was held from 7 to 9 p.m. and included a dinner, guest speaker and presentation of awards.

Virginia Hardy, vice provost of Student Affairs, was the keynote speaker. Hardy talked about the history of secret societies, how Greek Life developed and what it means to be Greek.

Keith Tingley, assistant director for Greek Life, said, "I think it's a good night for everyone to come together to see and recognize the good things that we are doing."

Representatives from each Greek Council were in attendance, including the Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council and the Multicultural Greek Council.

According to Tremayne Smith, student body president and a member of Phi Gamma Delta, each organization held individual banquets in the past.

"What better way to show coming together," said Smith. The Greek Man of the Year award was presented to James Jeffries, a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Greek Woman of the Year was Coleman Matthews, a member of Kappa Delta.

"It is really rewarding to know that everyone appreciated all my hard work," said Matthews.

> GREEK page A2

Clarification

In the Jan. 25 edition of The East Carolinian, the article "McNeill recovers from bariatric surgery" incorrectly stated that Ruffin McNeill was a running back for ECU football. McNeill played defensive back from 1976-1980.

ITCS continued from A1

"The maintenance for 1/23/2011 did not complete during the scheduled time," stated an ITCS notification sent to all students around 8:30 p.m. "Blackboard, Moodle and most other student services were made available at approximately 7:30 PM. We appreciate your patience while we did the necessary upgrades to improve student services."

Junior Kayla Vann, a history major, had an assignment due Monday on Blackboard. "I was slightly distressed that I couldn't complete my assignment on time Sunday night, but I assumed that my assignment would be pushed back by my professor because it was an uncontrollable circumstance."

Thirty minutes after the first notification was sent out, another message was sent to students, stating, "The scheduled maintenance for the below systems went beyond the announced maintenance window of 2 p.m. Major systems were back online between 6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. with the exception of portions of the main Web site (i.e. CommonSpot Web pages). They are now online as well. We apologize for the inconvenience."

"Blackboard became accessible in time for me to complete my assignment, but I was a little panicked because I was running out of opportunities to get my work submitted," said Lawson.

Vann stated that she was able to complete her work without penalty but acknowledges this is not the

first or last time the university's technology will conflict with her schoolwork.

"(ITCS) kept sending notifications saying they apologize for the delay from the maintenance but it didn't help my frustrations not being able to access the information and sites I needed," said Vann.

Students who attended the university last year are familiar with system updates. Students were given new PirateID usernames, confusing outgoing and incoming e-mails.

"It was extremely frustrating that we had to change our e-mail addresses in the summer when no one focuses on their school e-mail addresses when they are on break," said Vann.

"The recent (ITCS) maintenance is just another frustration for students at ECU. Students are supposed to be more connected through the Internet at our university but the constant updates during students' academic schedules makes it difficult for students to be successful online," said Vann.

ITCS wants to remind users that the regular maintenance schedule on all computing systems is on Sundays between 5 a.m. to noon. If there is any other previously announced work on the systems, a notification will be sent through ITCS Notifications.

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INFLUENZA continued from A1

"I try to get eight hours of sleep as much as I can, but during the week I usually don't get enough sleep every night. If I don't sleep well, I don't feel 100 percent, and sometimes I start to feel kind of sick," said sophomore elementary education major Cameron Crowder.

Some students go to class despite an illness, which also contributes to the spread of viruses like influenza.

"I try pretty hard to go to class because making up work is usually worse than being sick while in class," said junior psychology major James Lancaster.

The university is also taking some steps to try and prevent the spread of the virus. They are offering a "self-reporting form" on OneStop that enables students to check off symptoms they have if they are sick and send the form to their professors.

For students who live on campus, there is also a "flu buddy"

form that can be found on the school website. If a student is sick, this allows their roommate to get them a meal from the dining hall and bring it back to them.

As far as preventing the influenza virus goes, Jernigan recommends "hand washing, hand washing, hand washing" and urges students "not to drink out of the same cup as someone else or share food with others." She also recommends getting a flu shot around the third week of October.

"Not near as many students get flu shots as they should," said Jernigan. "You have to control what you can."

Although it has been a particularly high year in terms of influenza cases, ECU is equal with other universities in the state as far as campus outbreaks.

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GREEK continued from A1

The Chapter of the Year awards were presented to Pi Kappa Alpha for the IFC, Kappa Delta for PC, Zeta Phi Beta for NPHC and Lambda Theta Alpha for MGC. According to Matthews, this is the fifth year in a row that Kappa Delta captured this award.

President of IFC Daniel Thornton said, "It means the world to us. We (Pi Kappa Alpha) pushed all year long and it was a total team effort."

"Rewards like this really do show that everyone works hard to show the community that Greek Life is really more than just the image that is portrayed," said Matt Paske, a member of Pi Kappa Alpha.

Matthews also received the undergraduate Greek Hall of Fame Award, as did Portia Harris, a

member of Zeta Phi Beta.

The Alumni Greek Hall of Fame Award was given to Emily Carter of Alpha Omicron Pi.

The Chapter Advisor of the Year Award was presented to Martha McCain of Kappa Delta and Sherra McMillan of Zeta Phi Beta.

"I am ecstatic. I really can't explain it," said McMillan. "I have a home life and a school life and a great advising staff. I really can't say that I have done this all myself."

Outstanding Faculty Advisors were Jennifer Abbot of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Doug Schneider of Alpha Delta Pi and Toya Jacobs of Sigma Gamma Rho.

The Laura Sweet Award, presented by Sweet herself, was given to Caitlin Reschly of Alpha Delta Pi.

The Outstanding Educational

Program was awarded to Pi Kappa Alpha of IFC, Zeta Phi Beta of NPHC and Lambda Theta Alpha of MGC.

Kirk Little received an appreciation plaque for continued commitment to the Greek Presidents Retreat and other Greek Life endeavors.

Other awards of appreciation for commitment to Greek Life were also awarded to Peter Romary, Robert Morphet, Toya Jacobs, Tara Honesty, Leonard Reaves, Michael Brown, Elizabeth Coghill, Maggie Olszewska, Krista Wilhelm and Likkia Moody.

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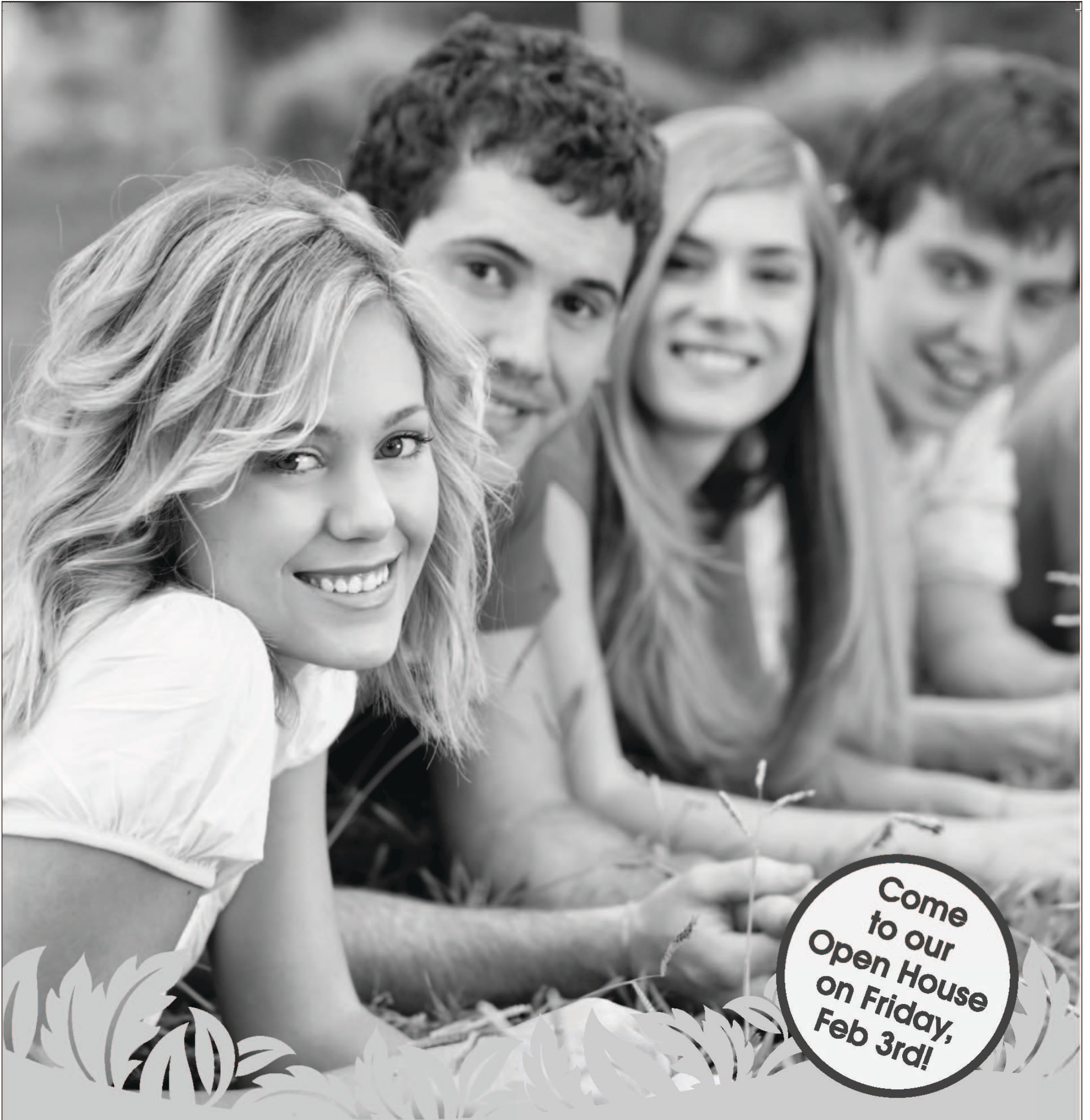
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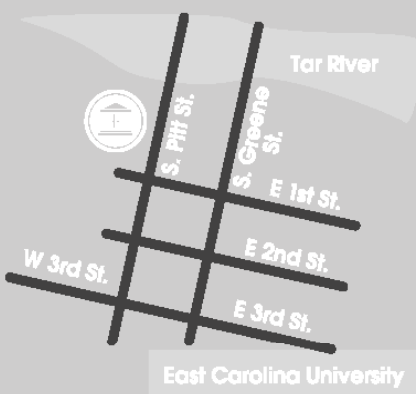
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The East Carolinian does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants. Questions regarding Rants can be directed to Katelyn Crouse, Editor in Chief, at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com. Log onto theeastcarolinian.com to submit a Rant of your own.

Welcome back to college. I just spent my last \$11 on a pregnancy test and cover to get into the club.

Dear Professor: Why is it I have to be in your class on time, with my homework done, but you cannot reply to my correctly formatted e-mail within 24 hours?

To all the people at the Landing that are pissed off about the little yippy overgrown rat: Next time she leaves it outside steal the rat and bring it over to my place. My half Saint Bernard, half German Shepherd would love a new squeaky toy.

I need warm weather so I can sit by the pool and not feel bad about missing class.

Dear Roommate: The world does not revolve around you; do your own dishes for once.

To the girl who's about to work nights WHILE going to school to support her boyfriend: you're an IDIOT.

If olive oil is made from olives, and peanut oil is made from peanuts, where does baby oil come from?

You know your life fails when you use the computers at Best Buy to check your ECU e-mail after your laptop crashes!

There seems to be an inverse relationship between the weather and the amount of orange in one's skin tone: the lower the temperature, the more orange girls' skin seems to become.

Dear roommate: I love you to death, but please learn to have quiet sex with your boyfriend while I am in the next room. Otherwise, payback will be painful for you.

This is COLLEGE not high school, go back to where you came from if you wanna cause pointless pathetic drama.

Fix the damn belt in Todd Dining Hall!

To the ignorant people who post pictures of them getting wasted in their dorms on Facebook: I really hope you get kicked out.

Now that my bed against the wall, which has a hallway on the other side... It will be really interesting when I'm having sex with my girlfriend. My apologies to Greene Hall.

In response to the poll results in Tuesday's issue: If you don't know what The Croatan is, consider enrolling in community college. You are bringing down our reputation.

It sucks that I still love you but in pictures I saw you look AWFUL, so it's your loss, not mine. And maybe you should think about what you're doing now and what you really want!

To the girl talking about your "itch you need to call your gynecologist about" in Rivers: The only person who needs to hear about that is your doctor.

Campus has nothing to offer me. Annoying people, slow computers and teachers that keep you later than they should be starting to wear on me. If I could take all my classes online, I would.

OH NO. It's happening, the squirrels.... they're back! Protect yourselves! Soon they'll be multiplying. SPRING IS UPON US!

Nobody cares about how every weekend you and your doormat boyfriend go see Rocky Horror. Stop talking about it, we're sick of it. Also, stop talking about bananas.

More Pirate Rants on the website!

Pedigree predicaments



Leslie Baker
OPINION COLUMNIST

The joy of having your own place comes from many unlikely sources. It seems natural to fill the new apartment with new furniture and decor. New furniture, new plates, new curtains, everything is new!

Unexpected excitement occurs when buying sheets without searching for an "extra long twin" label, owning a refrigerator larger than a suitcase and, of course, gaining the most coveted luxury of all: breathing space. Filled with a sudden burst of independence, the newly liberated student may even decide to get a new pet to round out the grown-up living experience.

"I do my own laundry and heat my Ramen on a real-life stovetop; surely I can take care of a little puppy," thinks the student. So the student turns to Google to help find a dog he or she may be interested in. The student is excited to find that there are hundreds of animals available locally.

"Perfect!" thinks the all-grown-up decision maker. "There's a pet store right around the corner, and their dogs are 'purebred' ... so they're, like, healthier and stuff!" The student, thrilled by the idea of having a fluffy little pal, quickly goes to the store and forks over hundreds of dollars for a new purebred puppy. What he doesn't know, though, is that the puppy's breed is probably anything but pure.

According to the ASPCA, these puppies are often sold by local unlicensed breeders, who use the same haggard dogs over and over to repeatedly crank out dozens of new puppies. As long as these animals aren't reported as abused or severely neglected, this type of breeding is deemed perfectly legal.

According to The Humane Society, there are an estimated 300 puppy mills in North Carolina, and the state has no clear laws to restrict these practices. This means the student may be spending over \$600 for a diseased inbred with a fifth leg ready to sprout at any moment.

In addition to that first expense, the all-grown-up decision maker can also expect to pay hundreds to thousands of dollars in vet bills.

According to the Canadian Veterinary Journal, purebred animals have considerably more health problems than mixed breeds. This is primarily due to the fact that purebreds have parents with two very similar genetic compositions. As a result, the breed-specific genetic diseases and deformities of both parents are given to the offspring, increasing his chance of developing these problems.

On the other hand, if an animal has parents from two completely different breeds, his chances of inheriting breed-specific diseases and deformities goes down. If he's a combination of several breeds, his chances reduce even more. This is known as "hybrid vigor" and can result in fewer illnesses for a dog and lower vet bills for his owner.

The best part is that you can find such a dog at Greenville's local Humane Society. The shelter's adoption fee, which starts at only \$70 for cats and \$95 for dogs, covers de-worming, heartworm treatment, spaying/neutering, vaccinations and a month of pet insurance. The shelter even offers a selection of purebreds if the student is particularly picky.

Of course, the decision to adopt an animal is



ILLUSTRATED BY CRYSTAL NEVILLE

one that shouldn't be taken lightly, but if a student feels he or she is responsible enough to care for a pet, then the student should stop by the shelter to take a look.

Who knows? You may just find a kindred spirit who is dreaming of the day he too can have that coveted breathing space in a real, grown-up home.

To find out more about how you can adopt a pet, contact the Humane Society of Eastern Carolina at 252-413-7247.

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Now it's personal



Chelsey McClagherty
OPINION COLUMNIST

I finally threw on my shoes, jacket and book bag and ran out the door to the parking lot of my apartment complex. I sped to the bus stop in just enough time to see the back of the bus disappearing through the gate without me.

I know this has happened to tons of us who live off campus, and what

do we do next? We have three options: skip class, catch the next bus and be 10 to 20 minutes late to class (depending on where your class is located) or drive to class. On this particular day, I was headed to a class that took attendance and had daily quizzes. Skipping was out of the question, as well as waiting for the next bus, because I couldn't miss the quiz.

I decided to take the only option I had left: Drive to campus. Once there, I frantically looked for parking anywhere near my class and failed miserably because parking was full. Finally, I found an open spot nowhere near where my class was, where I'm technically not allowed to park. I cringed as I imagined a ticket on my windshield, or even worse, my car getting towed. Then I thought of class and missing my quiz, so I parked and ran to class.

We all know that parking is a major problem at ECU, but the tickets are hurting our wallets the most. Some 12,809 citations have been written this fiscal year (July 1, 2010 to present), including warning citations issued at the beginning of each semester, which have no fee. On average, up to four vehicles are towed every day on campus.

"We all have our strategies to avoid getting parking tickets on campus," says junior Chris Miller. "Parking in the sneaky spots or only at night ... doesn't always work. ECU needs to take the money that is made from parking tickets and build a parking deck on campus."

When asked where all the money from tickets goes, ECU Parking and Transportation Services reported that 80 percent is sent monthly to the North Carolina government for secondary education and the other 20 percent goes to the operating budget to help cover the expense of writing citations.

But where exactly is this money going? The students, as the payers of the fines, have a right to know where the money is being spent. Isn't it only fair that some of the money is used to try and fix the issues? No one seems to be addressing the problem or even admitting to one.

Assistant Director of Administrative Services at ECU Parking and Transportation Services Karen Mizelle said, "Parking violations are issued to educate parkers in order to maximize usage of the parking spaces on campus. Illegally parked vehicles reduce the number of spaces that are available to permit holders and visitors to campus."

The people who pay tuition and put money into campus resources are so-called "illegally parked" on campus. We just keep getting fined over and over, and the vicious cycle never ends. I know I don't want fines anymore, and I think I should be able to drive to my university and park for free since I am paying tuition. Simply put, this shouldn't be such a hard problem to fix. We are a growing campus and we need to expand. The current system is obviously not working.

On my unlucky day, I made it to my quiz on time and got credit for attending class. I was also lucky to not get a ticket, but I can't be sure about next time, especially since ECU refuses to change their flawed system.

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Learning from disaster



Ryan Chandler
OPINION COLUMNIST

After the shooting that took place in Arizona, many questions arose around the nation magnifying the gun controversy of our country. Should everyone be armed to prevent these situations? Is our system to screen gun purchasers effective? How simple is it to access or obtain a firearm? How easy it is to buy an assault rifle and extended magazine clips, which allowed the Arizona shooter to fire 31 rounds? All of these questions have to do with America and its fascination with guns. This obsession dates back to the frontier days whenever man had to protect what was his from the many threats that surrounded the time period.

Many similarities and comparisons were made between the Arizona incident and the massacre at Virginia Tech. In both cases, the mental state of the shooter was a focus on why these tragedies happened, yet the gunmen were able to possess firearms. This led me to examine the safety of our campus and how a situation like those of recent

memory can be deterred.

To me, college campuses are most vulnerable to shootings and robberies because they are weapon-free zones and any sort of protection is prohibited in most cases. So this is an advertisement to criminals that defenseless victims are around who won't be able to fight back and are easy targets.

As of right now, 26 universities allow concealed carry on campus, including all public universities in Utah and multiple campuses in Colorado. Including junior and community colleges.

Over 70 campuses in the United States allow students to carry a gun.

According to crime statistics for these campuses, there hasn't been a single reported instance of shootouts, accidents or heated confrontations resulting from concealed carry on campus. Colorado State University's crime rate has even been on a steady decline since allowing concealed carry.

This made me wonder how I would respond if this was allowed on ECU campus. At first thought, it seemed like a good idea due to the crime in the Greenville area, but after picking my brain, I thought about the stresses of college and the amount of anxiety associated with this time in our lives. It just doesn't seem smart to me to have students walking around campus with firearms strapped to their waists.

With the amount of pressure students endure, someone could snap at any time. I've

seen it personally with a friend having to leave ECU and go home unexpectedly one weekend because they hit the boiling point and couldn't handle it anymore. A firearm in that situation would have made it very intense. Stress and guns are like oil and water: they just don't mix.

The flip side is that if more people carried guns when the Virginia Tech shooting and Arizona shooting happened, the aftermath would not have been as severe. This raised a good point when examining ECU's safety, so I thought of ways it could be improved.

One idea is if we could allow firearms in the hands of appropriate officials around campus such as higher administration and select professors. This would allow more protection and aid the campus police force that generally has to keep a vast area of campus safe. I believe this would lower crime and also allow a quicker response if an incident like those of past were to ever happen here.

Increasing safety is something that no one would argue against, and every measure taken is that much more helpful. So let's learn from these events and understand that we aren't indestructible. Something like this can happen to anyone at any time. Firearms are a right of the citizens of this country, but when they get in the wrong hands, disaster can strike and all we can do is be prepared.

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Student Homecoming Chair

The homecoming committee is currently looking for a person to fill the 2011 position of Student Homecoming Chairperson.

The position calls for the applicant to:

Oversee eight(8) subcommittees

Manage a \$30,000 budget and process expenditures in a timely fashion

Chair all student Homecoming bi-weekly (Spring) and weekly Fall meetings

To apply for the position, all applicants must:

Be a full-time student in good standing with the University

Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5

Have a class standing of sophomore or higher

This is a **paid** student position. All applicants must fill out a student homecoming chair application. Applications can be picked up at the Mendenhall Student Center in the Student Activities/Organizations Office, or by emailing Emily McLamb, Homecoming Advisor, at mclambe@ecu.edu. All applicants must be submitted to Emily McLamb no later than February 4, 2011.



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Jolly Skull Beer Fest

The first annual Jolly Skull Beer Fest will take place this weekend on the nights of Jan. 28 and 29. The event will be put on by Beer Army and will take place at the Greenville Convention Center from 6 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$40 at the door.

The festival will host over 40 microbrewers and over 100 types of beer will be offered. Food such as hot wings and bratwurst will be offered to compliment the beer. American craft and local microbreweries will be the main focuses of the event. Beer Army's mission is to create a craft beer community in Eastern North Carolina and promotes and supports local breweries in order to do so.

The event will raise money for Give2theTroops, a patriotic organization that supports the physical, moral and spiritual health of U.S. armed forces by sending boxes, letters and cards to troops from citizens.

A donation will also be given to North Carolina Brewers Guild, which is a non-profit organization that is focused on promoting North Carolina beer. North Carolina has more craft breweries than any other southern state with more than 20 brewpubs and 20 packaging breweries.

An after party will take place both nights at the City Hotel and Bistro from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Live music will be featured by Mystic Bandits on Friday night and Spare Change on Saturday night. The cost of admission will be half price for those who attend the festival as long as they save their ticket stub and show it at the door.

Visit www.beerarmy.com to purchase tickets and learn more about the event.

IVASA Pageant 2011

This Saturday, ECU will be hosting the Inter Varsity African Students Association's pageant for the first time.

The event will bring together African student organizations from colleges throughout the state, including but not limited to UNC-Greensboro, N.C. Central University, N.C. A&T, UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke. Each year, a North Carolina university hosts the event and this is the first time that ECU will be the host. Each university is required to have both a male and female representative at the event. Each contestant must meet a certain GPA and community service requirement.

The purpose of the pageant will be to raise awareness of not just African issues but current events throughout the world as well. There will be a question and answer portion of the event that will reflect such issues. The contest winners will choose a service project that they will put together and carry out in the future.

The event will take place this Saturday at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium and admittance is FREE!

1942 Alumnus breaks records



Charlie Futrell is number one in his 90 and over triathlete age group.

Charlie Futrell is the number one triathlete in his age group in the world

Rebecca Blanchette
ASSISTANT LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Charlie Futrell, an ECU alumnus and past Pirate football running back, is competing in triathlons at the age of 90. Not only that, but he is the only man at his age to complete a sanctioned triathlon at any distance.

Futrell is unofficially ranked the number one 90 and older triathlete in the world and has competed in 118 triathlons since 1985. "I'm the most unusual man in the world, I've been told," said Futrell. "What I'm doing, no other man at my age is doing. I stand alone."

"I'm a Greenville boy," said Futrell, who was raised in Greenville. "We lived across the street from the college," he said. "I went to college for \$33 a quarter."

Futrell attended what was then East Carolina Teachers College from 1938 to 1942, where he studied history and physical

education. He was part of the football team during all four years, but a leg injury caused him to sit out his senior year. "I didn't go back to finish the season with them because I was just starting to do double student teaching at Greenville High School, and I was walking around limping with a cane," he said. Though he was unable to play football his senior year, he was still able to lead the baseball team as captain and bat an impressive .404.

"When I graduated, I immediately went into the service for 45 straight months," said Futrell, who served in the U.S. Air Force as a physical training instructor during World War II. After the war, he became a high school teacher and coach in Maryland, where he worked for many years. However, he gained some weight, which motivated him to start getting active again by jogging. "I was totally out of shape. I was totally out of condition," he said. "That got me into doing my first 5k road race in 1980." Since that first road race, Futrell has completed over 400 races, from marathons to 5ks.

After becoming a good runner, Futrell took up triathlons. "I started because I met a

friend in Florida (where Futrell now resides) who happened to be the world champion in our age group and he talked me into considering (triathlons)," he said. Futrell trained with this friend six months out of the year in Florida and trained in the mountains of North Carolina the other six months with a woman who was a world-class triathlete. "I had the best training one could expect to get. I was training with two world champions," he said.

Futrell currently holds five national records. Four are in the Olympic distance for the USA Triathlon and one is in the Full Iron Man Distance, which Futrell characterizes as the "granddaddy of all triathlons in the world." About 80,000 people worldwide try to qualify for this triathlon each year and only 1,750 are selected. The Full Iron Man Distance requires its participants to swim 2.4 miles in open ocean, bike 112 miles through lava fields in Hawaii and then run 26.2 miles, all nonstop. "That's what every triathlete wants to get into," said Futrell. "It's the most difficult athletic competition

> ALUMNUS page A7



DOUGLAS MACKENZIE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

This January, the dreary weather has people bundling up to keep from becoming sick.

Stay safe and healthy in winter weather

Precautions students should take in order to avoid becoming ill

Katey Warren
STAFF WRITER

While winter weather may bring excitement to students in the form of cancelled classes and snowball fights, the conditions are generating dangerous and unhealthy environments.

In the midst of the winter season, campus health professionals, campus safety and local student housing complexes are encouraging students to follow certain precautions in order to stay safe and healthy.

Ellen Goldberg, nurse manager of Student Health Services, has noticed several patterns of illness during the winter season throughout her eight years of experience on campus. According to Goldberg, the most common illnesses for students this time of year are viral upper respiratory infections, such as colds and the flu. Goldberg said that "strep throat, sinus infections, mononucleosis and bronchitis" are also common cases at Student Health Services.

According to public health officials, the flu is currently classified as widespread in North Carolina. Cases of the flu are often even worse on college campuses, where infections are easily transmitted and

spread.

"College campuses often are good places for illnesses to spread due to the fact that people live together in close quarters like residence halls and apartments," Goldberg said. "(Students) spend lots of time with others in class, going out downtown or socializing in large numbers."

Goldberg also noted that since students often have unhealthy sleeping habits, poor nutrition and high levels of stress, their immune systems are weakened, making them more prone to illness. Since viral illnesses cannot be cured by medicine, Goldberg suggests "getting lots of rest and making sure you are hydrated by drinking clear liquids."

For students who have yet to become infected by the flu virus, taking a few precautions could prevent them from getting it.

According to Goldberg, these practices include "regularly washing your hands, staying away from sick people and being diligent about hygiene practices such as wiping down commonly used surfaces, avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth and coughing or sneezing into your sleeve or a tissue." She also encourages students to get the flu vaccine and to take multivitamins to help them stay healthy.

In addition to being at

great risk for catching the flu and other illnesses, students are also at great risk for physical injuries this time of year. Driving, walking or running on icy surfaces can be extremely hazardous.

Lydia Harris, leasing agent manager of Copper Beech Townhomes, said that stairs often become dangerous to use during winter storms. To prevent slipping or falling on icy stairs, Harris suggests "buying a small bag of salt so you don't slip when you come out."

In addition to taking the precautions suggested by Goldberg and Harris, students, staff, faculty, family and community members may also sign up for the ECU alert system, which sends users emergency notices. According to its website, the alert system provides users with "the latest ECU critical news, announcements and official statements," which includes alerting users of adverse weather conditions.

This alert system is available via text message, e-mail, "pop-up" instant messaging software, Twitter and other campus systems. To sign up for ECU Alert, or for more information about the system, students should visit ecu.edu/alert.

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

MTV's 'Skins': Is it crossing a line?

Hunter Ingram
STAFF WRITER

The premiere of MTV's new show "Skins" may have been a hit, but some groups are asking for the FBI's help in making sure the show isn't blurring the line between teen drama and child pornography.

For months leading up to the premiere, MTV played promos for its remake of the hit British drama of the same name, endlessly advertising the show's raunchy subject matter and provocative cast of characters.

Last Monday, the network launched the show by airing a new

The FBI was alerted last week after the premiere when it was notified by the PTC and other organizations that MTV chose to cast unknown 15-19 year old actors as their characters. This is unlike shows such as "Glee" and "Gossip Girl," which cast adult actors as high school students. The "Skins" actors, some of whom are underage, participate in nude scenes, sex scenes and scenes where they do multiple types of illicit drugs. But do the sexually explicit scenes cross the line into child pornography?

According to a recent article by New York Times writer Brian Stel-

"The most dangerous show ever foisted on our children."

-PTC

episode of its biggest hit, "Jersey Shore," on the same night as "Skins" in an effort to attract viewers to the new drama. With more than 3 million viewers having tuned in for the premiere, most would call it a success. However, now that America has seen the show, parents and organizations are firing back at MTV in regard to the show's racy content.

"Skins" depicts the lives of several high school friends as they navigate through a world filled with underage sex, heavy drug use and excessive partying.

The main supporter behind the fight against "Skins" is the Parent Television Council, which released a statement before the show even premiered, calling it "the most dangerous show ever foisted on our children." As a result of their displeasure with the show, the PTC has called for the immediate boycott of all of the show's sponsors, prompting Taco Bell, Wrigley Gum, General Motors, Subway and H&R Block to pull their ads from the show.

This isn't the first show the PTC has had a problem with in the past year. The organization publicly chastised several "Glee" cast members for their participation in a racy GQ photo shoot and "Gossip Girl" for a three-way sex scene that played out last season.

Sophomore biology major Liz Richard, who is a fan of the original British "Skins," believes the situation could be worse. "The American 'Skins' has actually caught a lot of criticism from fans of the original because it is so watered down - in the original series, there's nudity, graphic sex scenes, explicit language and an insane amount of drugs," said Richard.

"People who have a problem with the series need to remember that, while the American 'Skins' is edgy and raw and graphic at times, it's still really tame compared to what's airing in the UK," she added.

ter, "Child pornography is defined by the United States as any visual depiction of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct."

MTV has stressed from the beginning that the show airs after 10 p.m. and carries a TV-MA rating, which means it is for mature audiences only. But do these things stop young children from watching a show that some parents feel could lead them to believe this type of lifestyle is acceptable?

Stelster's article points out that the answer to that question could very well be 'no.'

"According to the Nielsen Company, the first episode drew 1.2 million people younger than 18," said Stelster.

While most people don't believe that the show is breaking child pornography laws, there is an overwhelming sense that the show needs to be toned down. MTV is said to be closely monitoring future episodes of "Skins." Reportedly, there have even been meetings at MTV headquarters to discuss whether MTV or producers of the show are breaking any laws, and, if so, what needs to be done about it.

Regardless of what side people are on, the whole situation has put a spotlight on the real reason behind "Skins," which is the depiction of teenage life, and whether the average teenage life is as explicit as "Skins" depicts it is definitely a matter of opinion. In the end, "Skins" second episode lost more than half of the premiere's viewers, with only 1.6 million tuning in. Whether this decline in ratings was due to the PTC's outcries or the lack of a "Jersey Shore" lead-in remains to be seen, leaving the future of "Skins" up in the air.

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



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Danielle Bryan and Steven Knezevic perform as a courtesan and sailor in 'The Brothers Menaechmus.'

'The Brothers Menaechmus' comes to campus this spring

Plautus's classic comedy is sure to entertain students

Hunter Ingram
STAFF WRITER

Greek playwright Plautus's classical Roman comedy of mistaken identities is coming to campus in a three-night performance event.

Starting Jan. 28, "The Brothers Menaechmus" tells the story of twin brothers who are separated when one of them is kidnapped at the age of seven. Years later, the left-behind brother goes searching for his long-lost twin and ends up in the same city as him. While there, the brother meets everyone but his twin, causing the townspeople to confuse the two, which leads the brothers down a path of hilarious mishaps.

The play will feature a cast of characters that includes "the clueless twins, clever slaves, seductive prostitutes, quack doctors, burly sailors, disgruntled wives, gourmet chefs, tottering fathers and even a hungry parasite," according to the play's website.

"The best thing about (the

play) is the idea that it was written around 2,200 years ago and it will still have audiences rolling in the aisles," said director and classical studies professor John Given. "The Brothers Menaechmus" is the second play Given has directed in the past year. He also directed last March's "Lysistrata."

"(The Brothers Menaechmus) truly is a classic in the biggest sense of that word, yet it's something that is going to seem very familiar," said Given. "It's the same kind of humor that you would find on a sitcom; it is very situational."

Auditions were held in early November for the 16 roles. Since then, Given has held several rehearsals in order for the cast to work on their character development. However, in recent weeks, the cast and crew have been rehearsing at least four nights a week.

"The reason that I've started directing ancient plays these last few years is to show that these plays are meant to be performed," said Given. "To read them in a book is to miss something, but when you put them onstage, they not only make more sense but they are truly worth watching. They are always really entertaining."

Given and a group of students spent time last summer reading through classical Greek plays to find the best one to perform on campus. Givens said they chose "The Brothers Menaechmus" because "it was the funniest one we read."

The writer of the play, Plautus, is the oldest Roman comic playwright to have his works survive over the years. He wrote "The Brothers Menaechmus" in the second century B.C. The play has also influenced a few very famous writers throughout history. Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors" and Rodgers and Hart's "The Boys from Syracuse" are said to have been influenced by the play.

"The Brothers Menaechmus," which is sponsored by the Program in Classical Studies and The Center for Student Leadership and Civic Engagement, will begin its three-night run on Friday, Jan. 28, and continue through Sunday, Jan. 30. It will be performed in the Recital Hall in Fletcher Music Center. The show will begin each night at 8 p.m. and attendance is free for everyone.

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

ALUMNUS continued from A6

in the world to qualify for."

The race has to be finished within 17 hours, with the swimming and biking portion having to be completed within 10.5 hours. Futrell has competed in this triathlon a total of six times, the first time being at the age of 72 in 1992 and the last time being in 1997. "I missed the cutoff by five minutes one year and 10 minutes one year," he said. "No one else in my age group got that far. But I finished the other four all under 17 hours."

Futrell also has two world triathlon records in Olympic distance triathlons, which include a one-mile swim, 25-mile bike ride and 6.2-mile run. There are four different levels of triathlons: sprint, super sprint, long distance and full distance. Futrell is still competing in sprints and super sprints in the USA Triathlon and

hopes to compete in the long distance (often referred to as the Olympic distance) this year. "I always set goals every year. One of my goals is to complete Olympic distance this spring," he said. "No one over 90 has done that yet by USA Triathlon."

Futrell said that his role model was legend Jack LaLanne, who just passed away last week at the age of 96. "He is the man most responsible for fitness centers in the United States," said Futrell. "He was my idol over all these years. I knew him and he was just a great role model."

Futrell is currently in the Athletic Hall of Fame at ECU. "It was a great honor to be inducted into the hall of fame at East Carolina," he said. Futrell takes pride in the school and wears ECU attire during his events.

"I believe exercise is the

reason to why I'm 90 years old," said Futrell. He trains for about two hours a day five days a week by using exercise machines, participating in spin classes and swimming outdoors. "My personal medical doctor has told me that I am the healthiest 90-year-old man he has ever examined," he said. "I said, 'Doctor, it's a result of about 30 years of exercising five days a week.'"

People will often ask Futrell why he "punishes his body." His response is, "So I can live to a rightful age." He is an inspiration to many people and talks to large groups often about his success. "I feel like I've motivated a heck of a lot of people," he said. "And maybe when I'm 100 years old I'll be able to do a 10k road race and a triathlon."

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

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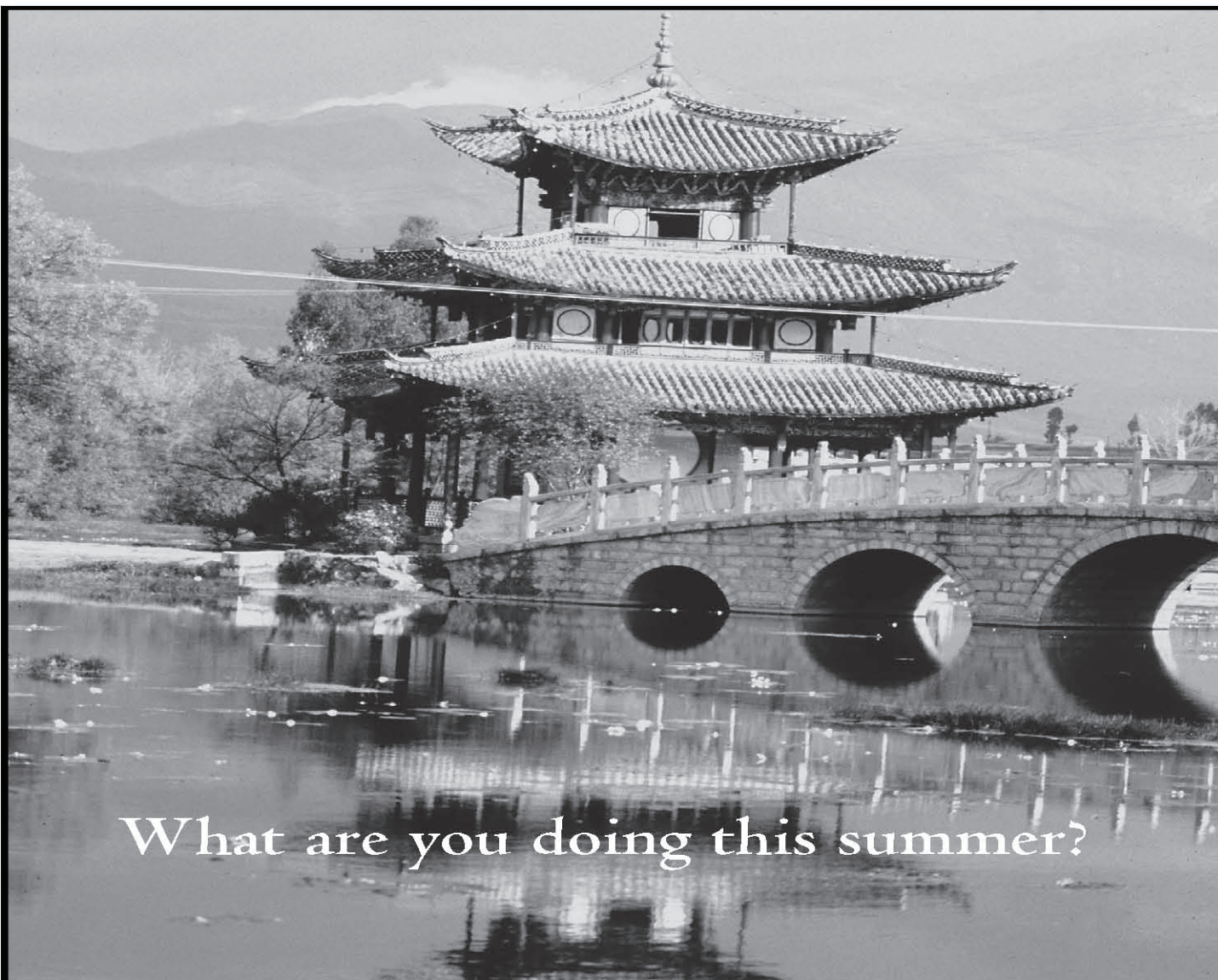
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Silent auction on Saturday

The ECU men's basketball team will host a silent auction on Saturday, Jan. 29, as part of the Coaches vs. Cancer Suits and Sneakers awareness weekend. All the proceeds from the auction will stay in Eastern North Carolina to help support cancer patients and their families throughout the region.

The silent auction will take place inside the Murphy Center. Bidding starts at 5 p.m. and will continue through halftime of the Houston game, which tips off at 6 p.m. The highest bid on each bid sheet will be declared the winner and winning bidders will be notified the following day. There is no cost to participate in the silent auction.

Coaches vs. Cancer is a collaborative initiative of the American Cancer Society and the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) that empowers coaches, their teams and local communities to make a difference in the fight against cancer.

Basketball coaches nationwide will wear sneakers with their suits to demonstrate their support for the American Cancer Society this weekend, Jan. 28-30, and its vision of a world with less cancer and more birthdays.

Basketball to host food drive

The ECU men's and women's basketball teams will be holding canned food drives to benefit the Pitt County Homeless Shelter.

The men's basketball team will hold its drive on Wednesday, Jan. 26, when it welcomes Southern Miss to Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum at 7 p.m., while the women's team will hold its food drive on Thursday, Jan. 27, when it hosts UAB at 7 p.m.

Fans that bring one canned food item can purchase a ticket for the men's game for only \$5. Admission to the women's game with a canned goods item is free. Fans can bring donations of canned or non-perishable food items, such as canned vegetables, tuna, soups, pasta and rice. Collection bins will be situated at the ticket window outside the arena.

Fans wishing to avoid standing in line can bring their canned food donations and pick up their discounted tickets at the Athletic Ticket Office prior to 4 p.m. Wednesday.

ECU will also host "Take a Kid to the Game," on Saturday, Jan. 29, when the Pirates take on Houston at 6 p.m. Kids ages 17 and under are admitted free with the purchase of an adult ticket.

Signing Day event set for Feb. 2

ECU head football coach Ruffin McNeill will officially display his second signing class to Pirate Club members and their guests Wednesday, Feb. 2, during a "2011 Signing Day Celebration" event beginning at 4:30 p.m. at Harvey Hall inside the Murphy Center.

Tickets for the event, priced at \$15, can be purchased by Pirate Club members by calling 252-737-4540, visiting the Pirate Club Suites on the third floor of the Ward Sports Medicine Building or online at www.ecupirateclub.com (login required first).

Starting at 5:30 p.m., McNeill will announce the newest additions to the Pirates' program and provide details on each signee before capping the segment with assorted highlight video footage.

SPORTS

Golden Eagles burn Pirates, 84-77



Senior guard Brock Young gets airborne in the first half of ECU's game against Southern Miss.

Adam Bunn
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The Pirates were unable to extend their conference winning streak to three games Wednesday night, losing to the Southern Miss Golden Eagles 84-77.

Exactly one year ago today, ECU was in the middle of yet another lackluster season characterized by poor defensive play and middle-of-the-road offensive numbers. Fast forward one year and it's a whole different ballgame in Greenville. The name East Carolina is starting to get recognition around the conference.

"This is going to be a scary team to face in the future," seventh-year coach Larry Eustachy said after the game. "Jeff has done a fantastic job and he fits this program well."

With the game tied at 56 with 8:59 remaining following a Brock Young free throw, it looked as though this game would come down to the wire. However, Sai'Quon Stone converted an old fashioned 3-point play, giving the Golden Eagles a lead they would never surrender.

The Golden Eagles would build their lead to as much as nine before some questionable ball handling in the last two minutes gave the Pirates a shot in the final moments.

"We didn't have our best defensive game down the stretch," Young said. "We just have to man up and protect our floor."

Pirate big man Darrius Morrow, who exploded last time out against Marshall scoring 33 points, led the team in scoring once again, throwing in 18 points in 34 minutes of action. But down the stretch the Pirates weren't able to feed the ball inside.

"They did a great job," Morrow said of the Southern Miss defense. "They put a smaller defender on me and they fronted me. It's easier for a smaller guy to get in front of you."

USM, which came into this game having dropped their last two games to Memphis and Southern Methodist, basically implemented the burn offense to defeat the Pirates. The burn offense is commonly used when a team feels less confident playing a typical style of basketball and instead will hold the ball the entire shot clock, not even looking for a shot until the majority of the clock has run down. The Golden Eagles ran it to perfection.

"Tip my hat to them," first-year head coach Jeff Lebo said. "Their strategy was to milk the clock, and they made every big shot at the end of the shot clock. At halftime, I told the kids that they wouldn't make those shots in the second half, and I have to eat those words 'cause they shot it better in the second half."

The Golden Eagles came into this contest boasting the league's top scorer in Gary Flowers, but decided not to start him for match-up reasons. Despite not starting, Flowers logged 27 minutes and dominated the Pirates in the time he was on the floor, scoring a team-high 17 points while also dishing out 5 assists.

"He hit some tough shots," Morrow said. "He's a good player. The leading scorer in the league."

This match-up generated action right from the opening tip, as both teams looked to gain control at different points during the opening half.

The Pirates dominated the first four minutes of game action, forcing the Golden Eagles coaching staff to use two of their allotted

SOUTHERN MISS page A9

Baseball prepares for 2011 season

Michael Perry
SPORTS EDITOR

Cold rainy days keep most people inside this time of year, but within three weeks time, the ECU baseball team will take the field and embark on the 2011 season.

The Pirates have been preparing since the start of the new year and will begin full practices next week. ECU is just three weeks away from opening the season at Clark-LeClair Stadium and will host a three-game series with Youngstown State.

"My expectations are high (for this season)," Head Coach Billy Godwin said. "My ideal here is to win championships."

The Pirates endured their share of on-field and off-field troubles and missed a bid to an NCAA Regional for just the second time in Godwin's six-year tenure. ECU finished the 2010 campaign 33-27 overall but placed sixth in Conference USA with a 11-13 conference record.

Despite the disappointment of last year, Godwin and his team are prepared and excited for the upcoming season. The team features six seniors

and 20 returning lettermen.

Headlining the team is an experienced pitching staff that returns marquee hurlers like Seth Maness, Seth Simmons, Zach Wood and Kevin Brandt. To add to the team's veteran mound presence, the Pirates also boast a new pitching coach, Dan Roszel.

Roszel brings a coaching style that is driven by passion, strong work ethic and expert knowledge of good pitching.

"I'm really excited about the staff we have right now," Roszel said. "We have different guys. We don't have the same look through the entire bullpen."

Maness, a solid starting pitcher, was named 2010 C-USA pitcher of the year. The right-hander finished last season with 90 strikeouts in 101 innings pitched.

"(Maness) does deserve the attention if you have a year like he had last year," Roszel said. "He's special. There is no evaluating. There is only tweaking to get him to his maximum ability."

Simmons played the role of ECU's closer last

MANESS page A9



Starter Seth Maness in action last season against South Carolina. Maness and the ECU pitching staff will be the biggest strength during the 2011 baseball season.

Gaining Respect



Guard Corvonn Gaines leaps to make a layup against a UAB defender. Gaines has been a crucial part of the Pirates offensive attack this season.

A look at standout guard Corvonn Gaines

Lorianna Whitford
STAFF WRITER

For many athletes and sports fans, there is no sound as recognizable as the squeak of basketball shoes on a shiny wooden court. Each squeak representing a distinct movement, a specific play, a pivot to the right, a fake to the left. The only time the squeaking desists is right before you hear yet another recognizable sound when the crowd inhales and the glorious wind-whipping swoosh of the basketball through the net tickles the senses.

For many past seasons, ECU fans mainly heard the swoosh sounds going through the opposing team's net, but with a new head coach in Jeff Lebo and talented athletes to act on his instruction, oh how the tables have begun to turn.

Sophomore guard Corvonn Gaines is one of the many athletes beginning to turn heads toward ECU's basketball court.

The Wisconsin native is making his move on the court to show he can keep up with the best of them. Gaines admits he just wants to win and will play as hard as he needs to in order to achieve that.

Lebo has already made a

huge difference in the basketball program at ECU. In just his first season, the Pirates are already 11-8 for the season and have no plans of stopping their very obvious improvement.

"Coach Lebo's main emphasis is for defense to play hard and let the offense speak for itself," Gaines said. "So we've just been playing hard and hustling out there on the court."

Gaines gave some insight on what he hopes will happen for the Pirates basketball program in the next few years.

"I just want to make a post season as a first step with Coach Lebo," Gaines said. "I'd also like to have the school turn around and become a winning basketball school. I'd like to help put the school on the map."

Gaines's statistics for the 2010-2011 season so far certainly back up his passion for the game, and he doesn't seem to have any intention of letting his performance slack. This athlete lives and breathes basketball. When asked what he does on a day without practice or playing basketball, the look on Gaines's face and the chuckle that preceded his question, "A day without basketball?" explained it all. A day without his sport was unfathomable. Gaines clearly embodies the mindset of a true athlete.

When he isn't on the court,

Gaines indulges in pizza, his favorite food, and enjoys spending time with his teammates and relaxing.

At the beginning of the season, Coach Lebo emphasized how important it was for the basketball team to find chemistry as a team.

Gaines's description of the team's bond on and off the court explained that the chemistry Lebo was looking for has finally shown up.

"We're all molded together and in the post, and we're just all gelling together now."

Gaines also commented that during times like winter break, when most students go home for the holidays, the basketball team depends on each other for company, which adds to the team's bond and chemistry on and off the court.

As a business major, Gaines spends a lot of time studying to keep up with the academic side of being a student-athlete.

"The business major is tough right now, but I'm going to tough it up and work through it."

ECU's basketball team spends a great deal of time traveling to all areas of the country for games. "Since we've been traveling, we've just been trying to keep our head in the books."

Overall, Gaines explained his

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Pros and cons of the Pro Bowl

OPINION



Jordan Anders
STAFF WRITER

We are nearing the end of January, and the sports world is abuzz with all-star fever.

The NBA is bearing down on its annual all-star weekend, slated for Feb. 18-20. The NHL will throw its own all-star party this weekend in our own state capital of Raleigh, home of the Hurricanes.

Then, you have the enigma that is the NFL Pro Bowl.

On Sunday, Jan. 30, millions around the country will tune in to watch the 2011 edition of the NFL's annual showdown between the best in the NFC and AFC.

I won't be one of them.

I get the appeal of all-star games. We all watch sports and wonder what would happen if the best players from the league were combined onto two teams and allowed to duke it out. The Pro Bowl is a chance that comes around once a year for football fans to see that happen.

So why isn't it entertaining? Give the NFL credit for trying. They use this game as an opportu-

nity to give their fans unique insider access that no team or network would allow during the regular season.

One big draw is that ESPN will have a large number of the players wearing microphones during the game, to give fans a true feel of the sounds of an NFL field. In years past, fans have been able to log on and choose a play to be run during the game from their computers.

But I have to wonder how much of that is to cover up the fact that there just is not good football being played during the game itself. Because, for all the entertainment value a game like this should have every year, it is befallen by one fatal flaw: It is uninspired football.

We love the big hits and the physicality that comes along with football, but it is also exactly why this concept of a football all-star game doesn't work. During a 16-game regular season, when these NFL players are out there laying those hits and absorbing that physicality, they have something on the line. At the end of the day, they are paid to throw their bodies around with the sole intention of helping their team inch closer to hoisting that Vince Lombardi trophy in early February.

What do these guys have to gain by laying their bodies on the line in the Pro Bowl? Absolutely nothing.

Since the outcome of this game is completely pointless, odds are you won't see a Philip Rivers (the AFC's starting quarterback in this year's game) or a Michael Vick (the NFC's starter) out there diving for a first down like they would in the regular season. They'll go out and play two or three series, and then they'll be taken out to sit on the sidelines in their visors and watch

as the game is decided among third-string all-stars whose names no one will remember this time next season.

The end result is the endless promotion of the NFL's "top stars," who actually wind up playing less than a quarter of glorified flag football before soaking up some of those Honolulu rays from the bench for the rest of the game.

When the words "Pro Bowl" come to my mind, I have only one favorable memory: watching Buffalo Bills punter Brian Moorman get absolutely baptized by the late Redskins safety Sean Taylor on a fake punt during the 2007 edition (look it up on YouTube if you've never seen it; it's well worth it). After the hit, some analysts and football pundits questioned whether the hit was too rough for the Pro Bowl.

That's exactly the problem. Anytime the phrases "too rough" and "football" are together in conversation, the game suffers.

We don't want to watch a bunch of professionals go out there and drag each other to the ground like they're afraid of breaking a nail. That's what you get in the Pro Bowl. None of these receivers, or any other position players, want to get out there and risk an injury that could cost them playing time when the games actually matter.

Hence, you get uninspired football, something that no football fan should ever have to endure.

So, on Jan. 30, millions will tune in to watch the NFL's "best of the best" come together to battle it out for conference supremacy.

Someone tell me how it turns out.

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

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season and saved nine games. With 20 saves in his career, Simmons ranks second among all closers in Pirate history.

The biggest surprise coming out of the bullpen is the potential for sophomore Joseph Hughes to be a top contender. In practice, Hughes has been registering at 92 mph, in addition to showing a good command of the strike zone.

"He's been one of the guys that I really love his work ethic," Roszel said. "The talent is there. He had an OK year last year, but I think he has a chance to do some special things here."

While seasoned veterans of the mound like Maness and Simmons have performed well in the past, Roszel emphasizes that he is looking for the best guy with no guaranteed roles.

"We have seven guys battling it out for the top three positions," Roszel said. "It's just going to be who's going to win the battle right now?"

Defensively, ECU returns five starters, but they add 12 newcomers to the team. In the infield, the Pirates bring back Corey Thompson and John Wooten. The team also introduces two talented junior-college transfers in Mike Ussery and Timothy Younger. Potential has also been seen in freshmen Jack Reinheimer and Drew Reynolds.

"I'm excited about the talent level we brought in,"

Godwin said. "Drew Reynolds and Jack Reinheimer have a chance to win jobs on the left side of the infield as true freshmen."

In the outfield, ECU returns Austin Homan and three-year starter and Washington native Trent Whitehead.

Behind the plate, the number one job will most likely go to junior Zach Wright. Three quality freshmen catchers, Kyle Pittman, Joshua Lovick and Will Connerley, will back up Wright.

In the past, ECU has been a team of superior offensive prowess, but new NCAA regulations regarding the aluminum bats used in college baseball are sure to curtail the ridiculous power-hitting numbers. The new bats, still made of aluminum, are designed to swing more like wooden bats.

"They are definitely not the bats of the past," Whitehead said. "It's just the ball exit speed is not as high as it used to be."

ECU will practice and scrimmage against one another to prepare for the opening series against Youngstown State. The first pitch to the season is set for Friday, Feb. 18, at 3 p.m. at Clark-LeClair Stadium.

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hopes for the remainder of the season: "I want to win. That's what we all want to do. We're just now starting to get over the hump. We lost a couple of close games, and we just want to start to finish our games strong and turn things around. This coaching staff has been working us hard, keeping us on point and on task, and we're going to try to live up to the expectations that are held for us."

ECU's basketball team is playing hard to fight their way out of the slump the past several years have left them in.

"I'd like to see fans come to more games because we'll play hard for them," Gaines said.

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timeouts in that four-minute span.

USM, however, was able to weather the early storm and tied the game for the first time at 19, following a 6-2 run that spanned just under three minutes of game action. Over the next 8:24 there would be four ties and the lead

would change hands 5 times, including 3 times over the final 1:34.

Both teams would trade a series of fouls, with USM guard D.J. Newbill hitting two to give the Eagles a two-point cushion at the half.

ECU will host the Houston Cougars at Minges Coliseum on Saturday. Tip off is scheduled for 6 p.m.

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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.

CAMPUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

ECU hosts its 8th Annual TALGS (TESOL/Applied Linguistics Graduate Students) Conference on Saturday, February 19, 2011, 9:00am-6:00pm. \$5.00 pre-registration ends February 1. <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/eng/talgs/>



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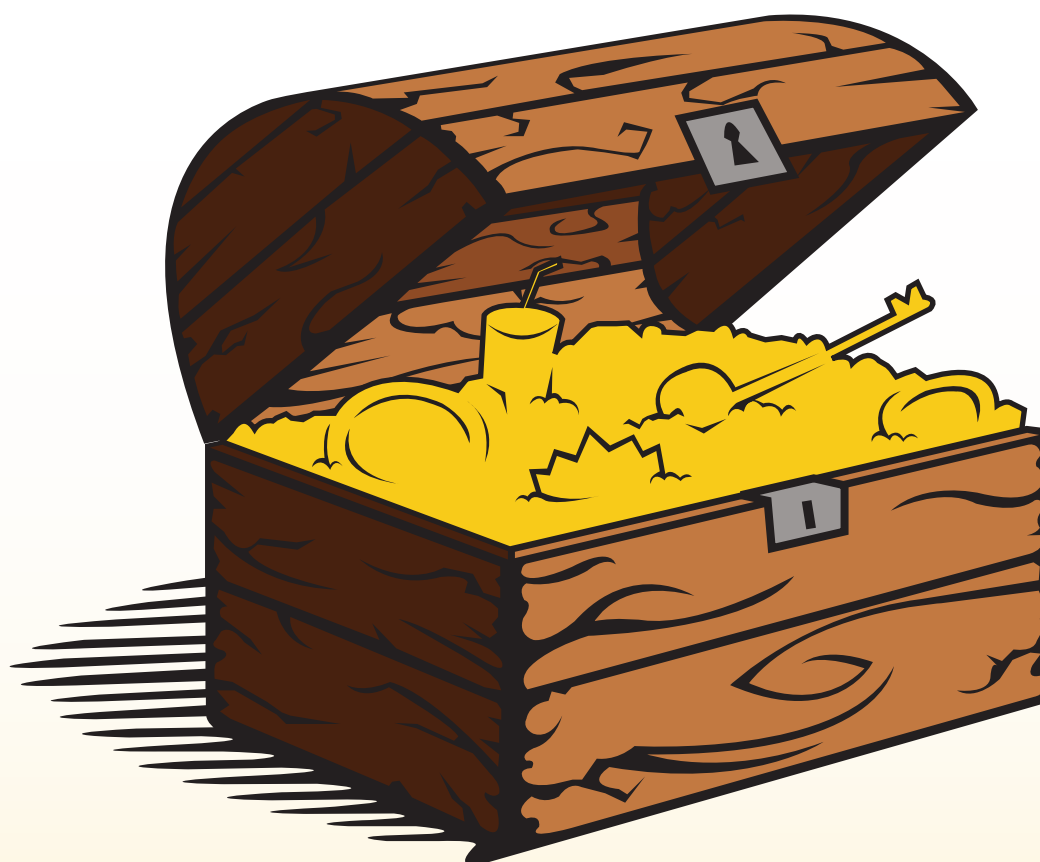
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