

INSIDE

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BRIEFS

ECU plans next 20 years

Master plan survey closed

Jimmy Youn
STAFF WRITER

The ECU Master Plan survey, to further aid in updating the current campus master plan, was closed yesterday, Jan. 31.

The ECU master plan will serve as a guideline to accommodate the school's growth over the next 20 years; therefore, it was imperative for students to contribute comments to help the university to expand. The master plan, along with the survey results, will be presented as a preliminary plan in February.

The master plan serves as an outline of the future development of the current campus, which is projected to meet the goals, objectives and design principles to facilitate the community.

The plan has been flowing smoothly so far, gathering input through various meetings and from local residents regarding every aspect of building structures, quality, features and patterns without limiting any and all circumstances pertaining to the campus infrastructure. To help perceive the enhanced plan more lucidly, the initial work has been represented in physical form indicating how the diverse campuses will come together in the future.

"Despite the adequate resources at ECU, I have found that it is a bit difficult for health science students to park on main campus. Normally, I only need to park for a few minutes, but I always have to pay by minutes to park on main campus," said Alexa Landsman, a first year master of public health candidate.

Shelby Johnson, a junior nursing major student, has the same opinion as Landsman does about the inconvenient situation when seeking parking on main campus.

"The bus that runs from the main campus to the health science campus does not operate after 6 p.m., so I have to look for other options getting back to the main campus. Also, it would be better for buses to stop in front of the library rather than stopping at the gym," said Johnson.

In addition to the impact of the updated master plan, there are three key themes: to create an environmentally benign campus, to unite four diverse campuses (main campus, health science campus, west campus and north recreational fields campus) and to support and enhance the university. Moreover, there are plans to modernize the Brody School of Medicine whereas expanding medical education along with the possibility of a brand new cancer center.

"I am an ECU graduate, but I always had a different feeling visiting the medical campus. It needs to be more modernized. I feel that it is just too bland," said Vivek Miyani, an ECU alumnus and a master of public health candidate.

In addition, the master plan will be focused on expanding research facilities and upgrading the current IT infrastructure.

The draft alternative scenarios were presented by the master plan consultants from Eva Klein & Association, Ltd. on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. They presented four detailed scenarios for all campuses, which can be reviewed on the university website for more information for those who were not able to attend.

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

WEB POLL

Should ECU release a statement regarding the credit card fraud?

Yes

No

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



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ERIN DUNCAN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Credit card fraud hits students hard after weeks of no announcements from anyone.

U.B.E credit card scandal

Cameron Gupton
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Students who have recently used their credit cards to make purchases at the University Book Exchange may want to keep a close eye on their bank accounts. The store has recently had a breach in its credit card system, and card information has made its way to an unknown location.

Several students' card information was stolen when they made purchases at the Cotanche Street store between Jan. 7 and 14. Local law enforcement began investigating the issue almost immediately. Though purchases with the stolen information have appeared in places as far away as Canada and Florida, the police say they are not ruling out that this started out in the Greenville area.

Don Edwards, the owner of U.B.E., stated that the store has always had high security standards and this is the first time something like this has happened since the store began accepting credit cards about 40 years ago.

Edwards said that the store has increased its security since the

incident happened. "We are PCI compliant, meaning we do the right things to have a safe system," said Edwards. "We do not have a way to contact individual students that this has happened to."

Yvonne Perry, operations manager for U.B.E., wants students to know that it is now safe to shop at the store.

"We are sorry that this has happened and we put a lockdown on our system on the 15th," said Perry. "This is external. We have ruled out the possibility of it being internal."

U.B.E. is currently working with local authorities and Visa and MasterCard to investigate further.

The university has yet to release an official statement on the topic and most students are unaware as to what is happening. Students who have been victims of the breach do not know when or if they will be refunded their money.

Samantha Wenger, a junior elementary education major, had \$1,500 drained from her HigherOne account. The money was used at two separate locations.

> UBE page A2

Pets in bed poses health risk

Brian Havens
STAFF WRITER

A recent study performed by two animal-human disease transmission experts has shown that sleeping beside a pet may not be the best idea for the owner.

Although rare and uncommon, certain pathogens may transfer from the animal to the person. Despite the rarity of this transfer, the perchance happening usually results in a severe condition.

The health risks of sleeping beside a pet include the bubonic plague (a possibly deadly bacterial infection), cat-scratch disease (a infection that causes swelling of the lymph nodes), chagas disease (which causes possibly deadly heart and digestive disorders), contracting worms and many other various infections.

One report shows that a 9-year-old from Arizona died of the plague after repeatedly sleeping next to his flea-ridden cat.

However, as seen in this circumstance, young people and individuals with low immune systems are more likely to become infected by their pets than others.

According to a survey, 60 percent of American homes have a pet. Out of this percentage, up to 62 percent say that their pets sleep beside them, and 53 percent even consider their pet to be a member of their family.

Senior Madison Hickman, a hospitality management major, says that she considers Luna, her new dog, to be "the first member of (her) own family. If that makes sense."

Like Hickman, it is not uncommon

> PETS page A2



TYRONE DEMERY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Starbucks has recently upgraded it's large size beverage.

Starbucks introduces larger sized drink

Hannah Farmer-Fernandez
STAFF WRITER

Starbucks introduced their newest and biggest drink size, the Trenta, to 14 states, including North Carolina, on Jan. 18 in response to customer demand for larger cold beverages.

10th Street Starbucks store manager Maritza Moore said a lot of people have come into the store asking about the new Trenta size.

"A lot of people have heard about it through e-mail or if they are Starbucks registered card holders," said Moore.

Moore, who has been with the Starbucks Company for 10 years, says that the new size has had positive responses from the customers. "Starbucks is geared toward what the customer wants. Starbucks noticed across the board that customers were constantly asking for refills on iced beverages, and to satisfy customers, they added this new size, the Trenta."

Senior Beverly Neffa, a nutri-

tion and dietitian major, said the additional size is mind blowing. "Starbucks is changing their logo and added this new drink size. I think that the three original sizes were enough but it's something new and everyone loves Starbucks."

Trenta, which means 30 in Italian, is 31 ounces and is 50 to 70 cents more than the 20-ounce Venti size, depending on the store location, and will be available for iced coffee, tea and lemonade drinks.

"Because its only 50 cents more for a bigger size, people are going to go for it," says Neffa.

According to Moore, Starbucks' iced drinks are very popular, especially in the summer months, but iced beverages are diluted by the ice so the additional size will help better quench customers' thirst.

"It comes down to the marketing aspect. Starbucks is targeting what entices people. It's a new thing and if students are curious,

they will at least get the new size once," said Neffa.

The Trenta was launched in 14 states including Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Illinois, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii, Nevada, Arizona and Mississippi, after a successful pilot-test last summer in several U.S. markets. The new size will be released nationwide on May 3.

Questions have been raised to why Starbucks targeted the specific 14 states to be the first for this extra-large size. "Because of the heat and humidity in the South, customers request refills more often in the hotter months," said Moore. "But no matter what size of the beverage or cup, what customers look for is a connection with the Starbucks staff. We personalize beverages for each customer. Starbucks is the Tiffany's of coffee."

Sophomore Carrie Downing,

> STARBUCKS page A2

Volunteer fair helps students

Cameron Gupton
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

On Jan. 27, Volunteer and Service-Learning Center hosted a service opportunities fair as part of the university's Plunge into Purple events. Representatives from local non-profit organizations were on hand to inform students and faculty about service opportunities with their agencies.

During the fall semester, the Service-Learning Center hosted a similar fair on the mall; it was the largest fair in the six years the fairs have been hosted.

Shawn Moore, community partner coordinator for the Service-Learning Center, says she believes this is the largest spring fair she has ever put together.

"This is a good opportunity for community partners to network. It may have been the biggest spring fair ever," said Moore.

The fair was not only for students who are taking service-learning classes or have to participate in service-learning projects. Campus as a whole was invited to learn more about what they can do to serve the Greenville and Pitt County communities.

"I think it's really important for students to volunteer and get involved with what's going on outside of campus," said sophomore Ann Schafer. "I think it's great that the university puts on fairs like this."

Students who did attend the fair were able to get information from over 29 agencies that were represented. There were several new additions to the lineup this year. New agencies include ENC Stop Human Trafficking Now, American Red Cross: Pitt County Chapter and Lucille W. Gorham Intergenerational Center.

Pirate Tutoring Center, United Way and The Little Willie Center returned to the fair this year to provide information to students on what they do to give back to the community.

"There is a variety of things to do, from The Humane Society to the Boys and Girls Club," stated Moore.

According to Moore, students tend to think of their community as the area between Fifth and 10th Streets, basically only campus. She hoped that this fair and the one in the fall really helps students to get out of this mode of thinking and realize that the entirety of Pitt County is their community.

"Students can have such a great impact at large when they step outside of their bubble."

Moore stated that most of the non-profits depend on students from the university to help their organizations. Fairs like this one help to recruit students and further spread the cause of each non-profit. It also makes the task of contacting agencies less intimidating for students.

"It is hard for students to talk to agencies. The fair is more relaxed and lessens students' anxiety," said Moore.

The VLSC office is located in the Old Cafeteria Complex and is readily available for students wishing to participate in service-learning projects or volunteer work.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com

Calendar Events

Feb. 1 - Feb. 6

Tuesday, Feb. 1

7th Photographic Image Biennial Exhibition

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Wellington B. Gray Gallery, School of Art and Design. Free admission. Exhibit runs until Feb. 19, 2011.

Lecture: "On Leadership" by retired Lt. Col. Eric Buller

12:30 p.m. at Global Classroom Science & Technology Building 144NW.

Men's Tennis matches

2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. at the tennis facilities. Free admission. ECU will play Mount Olive and Chowan.

Dance 2011

8 p.m. at McGinnis Theatre. Original choreography by ECU School of Theatre and Dance faculty and guest artists. Tickets are \$10.

Friday, Feb. 4

Annual Library Book Sale

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Greenville Convention Center. Free admission.

First Friday ArtWalk Series

6 to 9 p.m. Sponsored by Uptown Greenville and Pitt County Council of Arts at EMERGE. Greenville residents are invited to take a self-guided tour and enjoy artwork exhibitions and discounts at several uptown retailers and restaurants. The Jolly Trolley will be running free of charge during the event. For more information visit www.pittcountyarts.org/exhibits/current-exhibitions/

SAB presents "For Colored Girls"

7 and 9:30 p.m. at MSC Hendrix Theatre

Wednesday, Feb. 2

Pirate Football Signing Day Party

4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Harvey Hall (Murphy Center). Must have been a 2010 or current 2011 SPC member to purchase tickets.

State of the University Address

11 a.m. at MSC Hendrix Theatre. Chancellor Ballard will be speaking. Free admission.

SAB presents "For Colored Girls"

9:30 p.m. at MSC Hendrix Theatre

Saturday, Feb. 5

Annual Library Book Sale

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Greenville Convention Center. Free admission.

Women's Tennis vs. App State

10 a.m. at tennis facilities

Men's Basketball vs. UCF

5 p.m. at Minges Coliseum

2011 Chinese New Year Celebrations

5 p.m. at the Brody School of Medicine Auditorium. The celebration consists of a stage show followed by a buffet dinner. The ECU Chinese Student and Scholar Association and the Greenville Chinese School are organizing the celebration.

SAB presents "For Colored Girls"

7 and 9:30 p.m. at MSC Hendrix Theatre

Thursday, Feb. 3

Brody Women Faculty fundraiser

4 to 7 p.m. at Winslows Tavern

SAB presents "For Colored Girls"

7 and 9:30 p.m. at MSC Hendrix Theatre

"Lying in State" (play)

7:30 p.m. at the Magnolia Arts Center. Admission is charged.

Sunday, Feb. 6

Annual Library Book Sale

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Greenville Convention Center. Free admission.

STARBUCKS continued from A1

a biology major, says that she thinks the bigger size is pointless. "I don't think people need that much of a beverage. It's an excess. The Venti size is big enough for me."

Moore wants to remind students that the Trenta is specifically available in iced coffees, teas and lemonades. Moore and other

Starbucks employees do not have the recipes to make other drinks in the Trenta size. "Maybe in the future Starbucks will create recipes for other drinks, but for right now there is no recipe for hot beverages."

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

CREDIT continued from A1

"I was trying to use my card and it was declined, I went and checked my statement," said Wenger. "I wouldn't have known about the issues at U.B.E. if my roommate had not told me."

Wenger was told to cancel her card and wait until the following day to see what could be done about the situation. Wenger uses her refund for rent; she says her rent is due on the 31st of each month and her account has been drained.

"ECU should definitely alert students, especially since a lot of them use U.B.E.," said Wenger.

The Student Government Association released a statement following several reports of the incident. In their release, the SGA encouraged students to check their per-

sonal bank accounts and statements for fraudulent charges. The release even offered a few reminders for students that would protect them against fraud. Graduate students received the same e-mail hours after the organization sent out the e-mail to undergraduate students.

Sophomore Kristen Caputo saw the e-mail from SGA and checked her bank account.

"I lost over a \$1,000," said Caputo. "I immediately called my mom and told her what was going on and then I contacted my bank."

Caputo's bank will be refunding her the stolen money in the next few days but her concerns do not end with her bank account.

"I think that so much of the confusion on this topic could have

been cleared up if we had been informed by the university," said Caputo. "At least we have the Student Government Association looking out for us; without their e-mail, I would have been completely lost."

Students are reminded never to share their Personal Identification Number, avoid providing personal information over the phone, immediately contact their bank if suspicious charges appear on their account and to make sure websites are secure before using their cards online to protect themselves from fraud.

As of Monday, the university still had not released an official statement regarding the issue.

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

PETS continued from A1

mon for many college students to let their pets sleep beside or near them.

Sophomore Laura Flaherty, a nursing major, finds her three cats (Sparks, Jack Daniels and Sophie) keep her and her sister up at night. "I do," Flaherty said. "They walk all over us all night long. I think it would have something to do with getting sick, because I get sick so often."

"Luna and I cuddle. We spoon," said Hickman. "But I'm going to try to crate train her, because I can't be spooning with Luna when she's two years old, you know? She's going to be huge."

Experts believe that it is necessary to set boundaries for pets. Although it is fine for a dog or cat to sleep next to the bed, the pet should

not allowed on the bed at any point.

Another way to avoid catching infections is to steer clear of being licked by the pet. Likewise, it is also important to avoid kissing the pet, because infections can quickly travel in this manner. Although many owners might allow or encourage this type of bonding with an animal, the health concerns should outweigh the inclination to do so.

"It's really easy to treat a puppy like a baby," said Hickman, "but this is when they're learning what they're going to do for the rest of their lives."

Other common-sense practices are helpful as well to stay healthy, such as washing hands after playing with the animal or frequent trips to the veterinary office.

In spite of the information

recently released, researchers still hold on to the fact that the positive side of having pets outweighs the negative consequences.

Having a dog or cat is known to reduce stress and improve the mood of the owner. They can also help reduce blood pressure, increase the owner's motivation to exercise and eliminate feelings of loneliness.

"Having a pet is a big first step in a young adult's life to embrace new and kind of scary responsibilities," said Hickman. "It forces you to 'put your pants on' and do what you've got to do. You have another soul with you that you have to provide for."

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

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ECU Student Health has reported the spreading of 144 cases of influenza. I guess it's better than the other things ECU is known for spreading.

The next time you decide to get blackout downtown and puke all over us as we're trying to drag you out the back of the club, we WILL throw you in the trunk of the car for the ride home!

My professor told the class that he was sick all weekend and ate lots of chicken noodle soup - with soda on the side. I think we're going to get along.

Dear Todd Dining Hall: Thanks for fixing the damn belt, now lower the heat in the back left section.

I loved my Jersey Shore coloring book until my orange crayon broke.

Thanks for the great support this past week in Minges and especially during our win on Saturday vs. Houston. How about an encore next Sat. vs. UCF?

So why is it that someone could get a horrible GPA, grade replacement, and then get a fantastic GPA? Just helping those who don't belong here!

Dear cute guy in the suit in 360 on Wednesday: I saw you staring. If you asked for my number you would have gotten it. If I ever see you again, don't be shy. Sincerely, Overdressed Girl.

Why must teachers assign so much homework? A 3-credit course does not mean three hours of homework each night.

Whoever was riding around Riverwalk Sunday night blasting crappy music: We all hate you and ask that you never have children.

I was walking into my apartment after a long day of classes when I stumbled upon my roommate having sex on our couch. She's clinically obese. There was nothing sexy about it.

To the girl in my CHEM 1150 class who said you got seriously depressed because you found out you couldn't go to a concert over spring break because you're already going to be on a cruise: SHUT UP, YOU ARE A BRAT!

To the girl who was working out in jeggings at the gym: You just took fashion faux pas to a whole new level!

My professor said the test was on a Monday because the weekend would give us more time to study and sleep? We must have different weekend plans.

Your new love interest canceled the casual sex agreement with me AFTER he asked you out. Just sayin'.

To the guy who held the door for me on the third floor of Brewster B on Thursday: Thank you so much! I thought all gentlemen had ceased to exist.

I hooked up with a TA, guess that's close enough to a Professor so I can cross that off my Bucket list now.

Just because you have a boyfriend back home doesn't mean you can play the new area code game here with another guy! Just break up with your boyfriend!

To the girl with red hair that sits in the front of my Archaeology class: Please quit packing up your stuff when there are 15 minutes left of class. It is very rude. This is not high school anymore. If you don't want to be there don't come.

More Pirate Rants on the website!

Friends don't let friends drink industrial beer



Ben Cochran
OPINION COLUMNIST

A lot of people don't like Kevin Costner. He's bland, ordinary and tasteless. The quality of his acting is subpar, at best. Monotone, listless and expressionless -- you're left scratching your head as to how he even got his big break in the first place.

But even with overwhelmingly insipid performances, everybody knows who he is. In a complete reversal of roles, I find that in many of his films, he acts as a better antagonist than a lead. Such is the case in his timeless classic, "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves."

It was in that film where his morally wholesome character of Robin Hood elicited the best flaws from the crudely base Friar Tuck. The unorthodox wisdom of Friar Tuck can best be summarized in his often-underappreciated monologue where he states, "This is grain, which any fool can eat. But for which the Lord intended a more divine meaning of consumption. Let us give praise to our maker and glory to his bounty, by learning about: beer!"

To be sure, the world might be a far better place if all sermons consisted of

such enlightening messages. And if it is God's purpose to educate people about the merits of quality beer, then Dustin Canestorp, founder and general of the Beer Army, is a modern-day Friar Tuck.

This past weekend, the Greenville Convention Center was the site of the Jolly Skull Beer Fest, where over 40 breweries from all over the U.S. came together and sampled out their wares. It was Greenville's inaugural beer festival with many more to follow. Canestorp's mission through the Beer Army is to "develop a robust craft beer scene and community in Eastern North Carolina."

Before you jump to conclusions, Beer Army is actually a philanthropic organization. At first glance, a beer festival might conjure up images of drunken hedonism and rampant orgies. To be quite clear, Beer Army condones no such actions and, through this event, actually supports local charities such as Give2theTroops.

Organizing such a feat is a huge undertaking that took more than six months to coordinate, but the final product was out of this world. The brewers featured at the festival specialize in craft beers. Some people might be turned off by the higher prices of these brews and would rather utilize economies of scale to purchase large quantities of an equally alcoholic alternative. I can't argue with attempting to stretch a dollar, but I can argue with how and on what products you choose to save money. Unequivocally, beer should not



ILLUSTRATED BY CHASE KROLL

be one of them.

A lot of people drink beer in order to get drunk. For the life of me I can't understand why. There are far more easy and inexpensive ways to get drunk than to crank down can after can from a company that, after five or six cold ones, sounds like they're asking, "And how's your bush?"

For the record, I don't have a problem with big beer companies. After all, they are the face of the American redneck -- a demographic of which I consider myself to be a part of. I just find that money is better spent and beer is better enjoyed when purchased from companies that brew in much smaller batches.

One of the featured beers at the festival was "Belgian Style Red Ale," which is brewed

by Kind Beers out of Charlotte. Commercially brewing for less than three years, Terry Bum-baugh, inventor and owner of Kind Beers, entered the beer industry with an unparalleled drive for quality.

The Huske Hardware House is a brew pub in downtown Fayetteville. One of its flagship beers is "Brass Tacks," which has a flavor that really comes alive after each and every sip.

The St. George Brewing Company out of Hampton, Va., specializes in English-style beers. From pale ales to porters and everything in between, you're sure to find a brew that you thoroughly enjoy.

Perhaps the most popular brewery at the festival was Heavy Seas. Based in Baltimore, Md., they are renowned

for their "Loose Cannon" -- a very hoppy American ale. With easily the most appropriate marketing scheme geared toward Pirate fans, Kelly Zimmerman, the marketing director, has done a fantastic job of bringing the amazing beers of Heavy Seas to the Greenville area.

With all the richness and body that microbrews bring to the table, it's almost impossible to voluntarily drink the swill that comes out of the industrial breweries. And with constant efforts of men like Dustin Canestorp and the Beer Army, we may never have to settle for beer that's as uninspiring as Kevin Costner's last performance.

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

Scribbles to the Captain

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Dear Editor,

This letter is in reference to "ASL Now Considered Fourth Most Studied" from Jan. 13. I have a degree in linguistics, am fluent in American Sign Language, and have been involved with the Deaf community for two decades, so while I appreciate your attention to ASL, I have concerns about the views expressed by Professor John Stevens that were not balanced against other perspectives.

Professor Stevens's quote states ASL courses cannot count for the Bachelor's degree language requirement because "a foreign language is a means of accessing the way an entire culture thinks." While there are likely many administrative hurdles to approving ASL for the requirement, the reason given is simply not accurate.

Indeed, the reason Deaf people choose to communicate in and preserve ASL is because of the access it provides to Deaf culture through cultural forms such as poetry, drama, jokes, and folktales. There are social markers like politeness just as in other languages. Learning to think about language in visual ways, stretching interpretations of "spoken language," and learning the art forms that accompany such a language are all cultural aspects that ASL students access through their studies. A list of 166 universities that accept ASL for a foreign language requirement is posted here: <http://web.mac.com/swilcox/UNM/univlist.html>.

I wish you had interviewed people with more knowledge on this topic - perhaps ASL instructors or Deaf community members - who could have provided additional information. I look forward to expanded reporting on this important topic in future papers.

Sincerely,
Dr. Caitlin Ryan

Be sure to take TEC's readership survey on your Onestop!

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Our View

All ideas and viewpoints expressed in "Our View" are those selected and discussed by the editorial board of The East Carolinian. Questions? Please call 252-737-2999 or e-mail opinion@theeastcarolinian.com

Credit card fraud

The ECU motto is "Servire," meaning "to serve" in Latin, but somewhere along the line, the ECU administration has failed to serve its students.

For a week in January, the University Book Exchange was hacked and many students' accounts were wiped out. Those who have a well-established bank likely had credit card fraud protection. So when handfuls of students are all getting calls from their banks about a mysterious transaction in Florida, questions were raised.

Anyone who used a Higher One card at U.B.E. does not have fraud protection. This means that for the students who used their ECU credit card at U.B.E. from Jan. 7 to 14, their money may have been stolen and cannot be refunded. So if you used your financial aid or refund money for books at the beginning of the semester, monitor your account.

The two major issues here are that ECU officials have yet to release any information on the issue and that our campus card is unstable. Though U.B.E. is not a campus-run organization, the university has an obligation to inform the students of major issues. We, quite frankly, would rather know that thousands of students' dollars may have been lost to fraud than all of the weekly ITCS notifications about downtimes of websites.

It seems that the only ones on campus who are talking about the fraud are TEC and SGA. We at TEC are scrambling to find the answers to this unspoken, yet incredibly important, issue so our campus can be informed.

SGA sent out an e-mail and Facebook message in regard to the fraud, but not all students check their e-mail and the Facebook group only has 1,186 followers. The message of student credit protection should not be left to student-run organizations. The administration should be telling us where our money is going -- not students.

The other major issue is that ECU is handing out credit cards without protecting its students. When refund and financial aid money is automatically put on a card, students are hoping that the information to their accounts is not easily traceable. And if something were to go awry, which it has for many students, we should be notified of the issue immediately.

When there's a natural disaster, citizens expect the government to step up and help with the recovery. At the very least, people can get a weather report before disaster strikes so they know to get the hell out. Well, we may not be dealing with inclement weather, but ECU students haven't even had a warning about the disaster that's striking our wallets. Some of us are even left stranded, floating in a pool of fraud.

TEC urges everyone to watch your bank statements and, if there are inconsistencies, call your bank immediately. If you used your Higher One account, I guess we have to wait out the storm until the ECU administration decides to act.

POLL RESULTS

Do you believe in the privatization of alcohol?

Yes	56%
No	44%

Contact Info

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'The Idiot Cycle' screens for World Cancer Day

Documentary on man-made carcinogens comes to Belk Building

Marlana Sifter
STAFF WRITER

Tomorrow evening at 5:30 p.m., the Environmental Health Sciences Program will host the first North Carolina screening of the documentary "The Idiot Cycle" on behalf of World Cancer Day.

Officially Feb. 4, World Cancer Day focuses on a specific cancer-causing agent each year. In 2011, attention centers on the dangers of overexposure to the sun among children and teens. In previous years, themes included the threat of smoking, sedentary lifestyles and benefits of preventive vaccines.

"The Idiot Cycle" features none of these topics but introduces a new and less-public cause of cancer. Filmmaker and director Emmanuelle Schick Garcia presents the problem of man-made cancer-causing agents, specifically dioxins, which are found in the ground or in food products.

As an environmental health concern, the film's subject matter caught the eye of EHS department head Tim Kelley, who heard of the film through contacts in the Pamlico-Tar River Foundation. From there, the EHS decided to share the information with the larger community and rent the documentary from production company JPS Films for a free and public viewing.

"The Idiot Cycle," written by Garcia and produced by Laila Tahar, discusses the causes of cancer most often ignored and deals with the reasons for this silence. The research follows the world's six largest chemical companies (Dow Chemical, Dupont, Bayer, BASF, AstraZeneca and Monsanto) to determine how much carcinogenic contamination they cause. The biotech industry, as well as genetically modified foods, plays a role in the mystery as well.

"From a toxicological standpoint, genetically modified foods have not been fully evaluated," said Ed Crofts, instructor in the EHS department. One way the film explains lack of testing is by drawing attention to the complex and expensive nature of the process — something big companies are often not willing to indulge. Another is the fear of government regulation. Countries must decide how much, if any, federal interference they want in business.

Further reason for investigation is the investment chemical companies have in producing cancer treatment drugs. In the film, Garcia asks how much trust the public can place in large companies that display conflicts of interest by selling treatments to the diseases they are accused of spreading.

Not surprisingly, the film does not have permission to air on North American television due to its failure to obtain errors and omissions insurance, which is meant to protect companies from legal liability. The film was denied on the grounds that its subject matter was inappropriate. Therefore, "The Idiot Cycle" will air on European television this year, but in the U.S., the documentary can only be rented from the JPS Films website.

The dioxins cited in the film are carcinogens that can be produced through various methods, such as incineration or bleaching with chlorine. They have a half-life of 15 years and will pass on to

> SCREENING page A5

From Pirates to PR partners

Two alumnae find success building their own savvy PR company

Katey Warren
STAFF WRITER

When two Pirates and best friends packed up their bags, loaded their cars and headed to the West Coast for a warm-weather adventure shortly after graduating, they never imagined that it would lead them to where they are today.

These two alumnae, Jamie Sigler and Sarah Evans, are now the co-founding partner and managing partner, respectively, of J Public Relations, one of the top luxury hospitality and lifestyles public relations firms in the country. With locations in San Diego and New York City, J Public Relations delivers campaigns for a list of high-end clientele ranging from Fairmont Hotels & Resorts and Starwood Hotels, to Willow Stream Spas and YCO Yachts.

Though Sigler and Evans's business seems glamorous, both women remain grounded by acknowledging that their road to success was not, and at times is still not, easy. For the past 10 years, both women have put in countless hours, worked several jobs, taken extreme risks and built important



Jamie Lynn Sigler (left) and Sarah Evans (right)

relationships in order to fulfill their dreams.

"We've completely built our business up from nothing and built it organically," Sigler said.

When Sigler and Evans arrived in San Diego in 2001,

it was just days after Sept. 11, and they found themselves struggling to find work in a depleting job market. Both Sigler and Evans eventually did, however, find jobs in the public relations field and worked additional part-

time jobs in order to pay for the increased cost of living expenses on the West Coast.

Even after finding stable jobs, both the women still felt a need to push themselves further and take more risks. In 2003, Evans left San Diego

for New York, a place where she had never stepped foot, and found a job working for a public relations firm. "I knew that the buzz, energy and media culture of New York was a place where I'd thrive," Evans said.

In the meantime, Sigler left her stable job to partner with friend Kim Guyader to start what is now J Public Relations. "I thought to myself ... if I don't seize this experience, I'm always going to ask myself 'what if?', so I quit my job and didn't look back." Sigler and Guyader spent the next few years building their company and in 2009 made the decision to expand.

"Jamie and I were doing very similar things on opposite coasts," Evans said. So when the time came for Sigler and Guyader to expand nationally and internationally, they approached Evans with the idea of opening a J Public Relations office in New York. "The timing worked out, and we just took another leap of faith," Evans said. "I quit my job and started our New York office out of my apartment."

As J Public Relations expanded, Sigler, Evans and the rest of the firm's team made sure to mold their business into a brand that reflected their personalities. "Jamie, Kim and I put our

> PARTNER page A5



Madonna Messana chats with her date at the speed dating event.

TEC goes speed dating

One staff writer tries out speed dating in hopes of meeting new people

Madonna Messana
STAFF WRITER

I had never been to any type of speed dating event, so when I got the opportunity to attend one and write about

my experience, I decided to give it a shot and go into it with an open mind.

I attended a speed dating event in December that was put on as a class activity for

the Health 2050 Sexual Health Class.

I decided I was going to go into this experience without any expectations and just see what speed dating was like. Since I didn't really know what to expect, it was not hard to let go of any of the assumptions I had considered prior to the dating event.

The night before the event I asked some of my friends and roommates if they wanted to go with me so that they could have the experience too. But it wasn't a surprise when none of them wanted to tag along. It also wasn't a surprise when they gave me a hard time for attending the event — even though I assured them I was doing it in order to write an article about it.

So the next night I got ready just like I would for a typical date and made my way to campus.

The event took place in the Mendenhall Great Room, where there were several chairs placed at tables all around the room and each person was assigned a number. The females remained in their seats and at the end of each date the male dates would rotate to their next date.

My experience with the speed dating event did not land me with a soul mate, but I definitely did not expect it to — nor did I really want it to. Honestly, I expected a bunch of awkward conversations with random guys — one right after another. And that is how it turned out, for the most part.

Being forced to talk to someone in a speed dating setting took away the awkwardness of just starting up a conversation. However, it is very difficult to get more than just basic information on the other person out of a three-minute conversation. Basically I was able to find out the name, major and hometown of each of my dates.

Each date was about three minutes long, which is only enough time to get an introduction to each date. However, the three minutes were not nearly enough time to be able to judge if I would actually get along with the person — especially because I'm a person who enjoys a good conversation, one that takes longer than three minutes.

The dates all seemed to start off the same way — we shook hands and exchanged names. Then we went back and forth with the same couple of questions: "What year are you?" "What's

> DATING page A5

'No Strings Attached' is predictable but lovable

★★★★☆

Hunter Ingram
STAFF WRITER

The idea of "friends with benefits" gets put to the ultimate test in the raunchy new comedy "No Strings Attached," which opened Jan. 21.

Coming off a Golden Globe win and an Oscar nomination for her dark turn in "Black Swan," Natalie Portman joins Ashton Kutcher to show off her funny side. She plays a woman who believes that, because of her demanding job, she has no time for a real relationship and only has time for sex. Enter Kutcher's character, who agrees to be that "friend" — as long as neither of them develops feelings for the other. Naturally, they both do the opposite.

From that point on, "No Strings Attached" proceeds to play out a good portion of the romantic comedy clichés that audiences have come to love, or in some cases, be annoyed by. However, through their chemistry and likeability, Portman, Kutcher and the entire cast manage to provide funny and touching moments that save this film from becoming just another generic rom-com.

With most of the buzz surrounding Natalie Portman, coming from a role where she plays a mentally unstable ballerina, "No Strings Attached" does a great job at reminding audiences that she is, and always has been, a funny woman that can deliver a dirty joke just as good as anybody. In the film, Portman is fun and loose and that ability to switch between such drastically different roles is what truly makes her a great actress.

Ashton Kutcher, who is known for his romantic comedies, gives one of his more likeable performances in recent memory. Here, he gets to play the romantic in the relationship who has to hide his true feelings for Portman, in fear that he will lose her if things get too serious.

Sophomore biology major Shelby Barry saw the movie on opening weekend. "I loved it," said Barry,

adding, "That pressure to control your feelings for someone close to you is something that both guys and girls can identify with. I will definitely be adding it to my collection when it comes out."

One aspect that really works for this movie is its R-rating. For a film about sex, a censored PG-13 rating would have seemed like a cop-out. With the R-rating, the film gets to use and say things that provide for more adult laughs in a classy way, which the entire cast takes full advantage of.

Joining the cast in a supporting role, as one of Kutcher's friends, is Ludacris, who performed at ECU's 2010 Homecoming Concert back in October. Throughout the film, Ludacris is there to deliver one-liners and, to some degree, be a voice of reason for his friend.

Senior construction management major Jake Manire says that what he has seen of the previews just isn't enough for him to see the film. "I'd like to see it because I really like the cast and the chance to have a few laughs, but I just wouldn't pay the outrageous ticket price to see it," said Manire.

"No Strings Attached" isn't the only movie hoping to cash in on the "friends with benefits" craze that has been sweeping Hollywood recently. Last November, Anne Hathaway and Jake Gyllenhaal attempted it in "Love and Other Drugs," and this summer, Portman's "Black Swan" costar Mila Kunis will join Justin Timberlake and Emma Stone in a movie that is actually called "Friends with Benefits" (out July 22).

Even with this recent overload in "friends with benefits" themed movies, audiences are still flocking to theaters, resulting in a number one debut at the box office for "No Strings Attached" on opening weekend, taking in over \$21 million. It will be interesting to see if the success of "No Strings Attached" will help or hinder July's very similar "Friends with Benefits."

By the time the credits roll, it's evident that "No



'No Strings Attached' was released January 21.

"No Strings Attached" doesn't quite break away from the romantic comedy mold completely, but with stellar leads and great supporting characters, it is still a pretty enjoyable trip to the movies.

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PARTNERS continued from A4

personalities into everything that we do. We both love to talk, communicate and have fun, and we're both very social," Evans said. Sigler agreed with Evans, and said, "While we are serious about our business, we also try not to take ourselves too seriously, and that's why we picked hot pink to establish our brand."

With a successful business that caters to more than 20 different luxury travel and lifestyle companies, as well as a staff of women that Evans describes as an "amazing, smart group of passionate people," both Sigler and Evans feel grateful and humbled for what they have accomplished. They also recognize that several of the skills they have used along their journey are skills they learned through their college experiences.

"I loved my time at East Carolina and am proud to be a part of it," Sigler said. "The

greatest thing I did there was learn through experience, of making friendships, of starting something and finishing it, and ... all of it has helped mold me into who I became today and pushed me to realize my potential."

Evans agrees with Sigler that her college experiences helped mold her into a confident, risk-taking woman. "ECU really gave me the confidence, experience and knowledge to go out and take the next step in the world," Evans said, "and gave us the foundation and network to take those risks and face those challenges."

As best friends and business partners, Sigler and Evans have worked extremely hard to build and expand their internationally renowned firm, but also still face daily obstacles. For example, both women constantly struggle to create an appropriate "work-live balance," but have learned to trust

their team to take on tasks while they are out of the office. To Sigler and Evans, however, every challenge has been worth the struggle, and they encourage current students and graduates to push themselves to their fullest potential in order to succeed.

"Go out and take a risk. Challenge yourself like you've never challenged yourself before, and put yourself in new situations that you would never try, because you're never going to truly realize your potential unless you're pushing yourself to a point outside of your comfort zone," Sigler said, regarding her advice to current students. "And if you fail, at least you have learned."

For more information on the J Public Relations company or staff, visit their website at publicrelations.com.

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DATING continued from A4

your major?" "Where are you from?"

There were also "Skype daters" at the event — where students from other schools were set up via webcam for the speed daters to interact with.

"The feedback I received from it was positive," said Karen Vail-Smith, Health 2050 teacher. "I think we might try it

again this semester. However, I think I'll do it with schools that are closer. I'm thinking about UNCW and N.C. State."

Although my experience with speed dating did not give me much personal benefit, it was definitely an experience and I'm glad I went into it with an open mind. I recommend anyone who is interested in

trying it out to give it a shot — there really isn't anything to lose and it's a fun and interesting experience. There will be another speed dating event on April 11.

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SCREENING continued from A4

the fetus. The most recent contamination involved a batch of dioxin-tainted eggs in Germany a few weeks ago. The film argues that such dangerous pollutants should be studied further.

The film uses published peer-reviewed studies, government records, onsite questioning, industry figures and other research. None of the chemical companies agreed to talk to Garcia, though some agreed to an interview only to cancel later.

"Some people leave the screenings very angry," said Garcia, who earned an MFA in Film Production/Directing at UCLA in 2003. "But I think (their anger) comes from how conflicts of interest have really affected how our governments protect our health ... It's not a scientific debate, it's an economic one."

Thirty other universities across the U.S., Canada, Sweden, Ireland and England

are also viewing the film this week for World Cancer Day.

Student environmental organization ECO-Pirates is promoting the event, which will take place at the Carol Belk Building in room 1501, on Charles Boulevard across from McAllister's Deli.

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

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Pirate golfers ready for spring season

The ECU men's golf team will begin the 2011 spring season on Monday at the JU Invitational hosted by Mark McCumber at the famed Stadium Course at TPC of Sawgrass.

The 15-team field will play 36 holes on Monday, followed by the final 18 holes on Tuesday on the par-72, 6,900-yard course that hosts The PLAYERS Championship each May.

ECU's lineup will consist of juniors Jake Colley, Harold Varner and David Watkins, along with sophomore Zach Edmondson and senior Warren Straub.

The Pirates, who are ranked 43rd in the latest Golfstat ratings, are joined by four other Top 50 teams, led by No. 1 Florida, along with No. 21 Wake Forest, No. 40 Clemson and No. 42 Liberty. The rest of the field includes Charleston Southern, defending-champion East Tennessee State, Florida Gulf Coast, Jacksonville, Jacksonville State, James Madison, Mercer, North Florida and Old Dominion.

As a team, ECU placed fourth at last year's event with a trio of players finishing in the Top 25. Watkins concluded the 54-hole event at 12-over par, which left him tied for 15th place. Colley tallied a three-round score 13-over to finish tied for 19th. Colley led the tournament after 18 holes, firing a first round five-under 67. Varner finished one stroke behind Colley with a 14-over in 22nd place.

ECU will be among the first group of teams to tee-off Monday. The Pirates will play with Jacksonville and Jacksonville State. The first wave of golfers is scheduled to tee-off at 8 a.m. Golfstat.com will provide hole-by-hole scoring of the event. The first two rounds will be played on Monday, Jan. 31, and the final round is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 1.

Men's tennis posts two wins to open season

The ECU men's tennis squad opened the 2011 season with a pair of victories Thursday afternoon, sweeping a split double-header with a 5-2 win against Liberty and a 7-0 triumph over Bluefield State at the Green Brier Sporting Club.

Massimo Mannino, Henrik Skalmerud and Jordan Vliegan each won a pair of singles matches, while David Masciorini, Simon Escourrou, Stian Tvedt, John Schmitt and Mario Martinez each claimed victory in their lone singles match of the day.

After dropping the doubles point to Liberty, ECU followed by taking five of six singles battles to notch the team win. The Pirates outscored Bluefield State 24-2 in three doubles victories before sweeping the singles matches.

Mannino, Skalmerud, Vliegan, Schmitt and Martinez all came out on top in singles play at the No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5 and No. 6 positions against the Flames. Mannino rolled past Tristan Stayt (6-3, 6-1), Skelmerud defeated Piotr Krula (6-3, 7-5), Vliegan dismissed Giancarlo Lemmi (6-3, 6-0), Schmitt handled Shea Thomas (6-1, 6-3) and Martinez dispatched Mandeep Yadav (6-2, 7-6 (3)). Liberty booked its only tally when Siim Tuus outlasted Jaroslav Horvath 6-2, 7-5 in a No. 1 matchup.

Against Bluefield State in the second match, the Pirates lost just two sets in doubles play and posted 12 straight-set singles victories. Mannino (No. 1), Skalmerud (No. 2), Vliegan (No. 3), Masciorini (No. 4), Escourrou (No. 5) and Tvedt (No. 6) combined to post 72-18 ledger to help ECU cruise past Bluefield State in convincing fashion.

The Pirates will return to action Tuesday, Feb. 1, when they return home for matches against Mount Olive and Chowan. The Mount Olive match is scheduled for a 2 p.m. start, followed by the Chowan match at 5:30 p.m.

SPORTS

Late-game rally seals win over Houston

Adam Bunn
ASSISTANT SPORTS
EDITOR

With four minutes remaining in Saturday's contest between ECU and Houston, the Cougars held a seven-point advantage, causing some of the fans in attendance to head for the exits.

Boy did they miss something special, as the Pirates would close the game on a 17-4 run to beat the Cougars 74-70.

"For 30 minutes, the best term that I could use for our play was funky," first-year head coach Jeff Lebo said. "We turned it over. We didn't shoot the ball particularly well, but I commend my group for competing to the very end. Getting to the foul line helped us win the game."

That it did. The Pirates reached the foul line 11 times over the final 2 minutes and 50 seconds, hitting 10 of those 11 attempts.

The Pirates began their comeback when Pirate guard Brock Young nailed a 3-pointer from the top of the key, pulling ECU to within six points with just under four minutes left. Coming out of the media timeout, starting point guard Corvonn Gaines drove baseline past two Cougar defenders, scoring the basket and getting fouled; Gaines would make the free throw. With that 3-point play, the score was the closest it had been since it was 7-4.

"This team right here is resilient," Pirate guard Jontae Sherrod said after dropping his team-high 20 points. "We just had to dig in and get tough."

Following a Houston turnover, Jamar Abrams zipped a beautiful pass in to Darrius Morrow, who threw down a monstrous dunk, cutting the lead to just one and sending the fans into a frenzy.

Houston would turn the ball over again on their ensuing possession and after Sherrod missed a 3-pointer, Abrams picked up the board and was fouled. He would hit both free throws, giving the Pirates their first lead of the game. ECU would spend the rest of the night at the foul line salting the game away.

Comebacks in the final minutes have become something of a regular thing for this Pirate team, and it speaks to the leadership brought by the new coaching staff. Just a year ago, if the Pirates saw themselves trailing by double digits early in a ball game, the confi-



ERIN DUNCAN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Darrius Morrow slams home a pass from Jamar Abrams against Houston on Saturday.

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ERIN DUNCAN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Allison Spivey drives the lane against UCF defender Gevenia Carter, during the Pirates victory over the Knights on Sunday.

Lady Pirates top UCF

Chase Kroll
STAFF WRITER

With one minute to play, the ECU women's basketball team converted on 5 of 6 free throws to hold on to a 65-58 victory over Conference USA rival UCF.

Central Florida entered the game looking for its first win in Minges Coliseum but instead fell to 0-6 in the building. The Pirates now stand at 9-11 overall, 3-4 in conference and are riding on a two-game winning streak.

ECU began the second half with a 26-20 lead and managed to push their lead to 17 points halfway through the second half. With 7:39 remaining, UCF called a timeout, down by 15. After the stoppage, they managed to right the ship and come to within four points of the Pirate lead after Central Florida's Chelsie Wiley made a 3-point basket with 1:54 left to play. But that would be as close as they would get, as ECU shot very well from the free throw line to

seal up the victory in the final two minutes.

The story of the game, however, was the amount of assists and the unselfish play of the Pirates to get the job done.

"The big stat that stands out in my mind is 20 assists on 23 buckets. That's pretty good," Head Coach Heather Macy said.

Out of the first 11 shots in the ball game, 10 of them were assisted. Celeste Stewart

PIRATES page A7

Lockout lowdown

What does it all mean?

OPINION



Stephen McNulty
STAFF WRITER

Billionaires are arguing with millionaires over who will get more money and it is making the possibility of an NFL lockout one of the hottest topics in

sports.

If the NFL and the players union cannot come to terms on a new collective bargaining agreement by the March 3 deadline, it is expected that the owners will lock out the players. Most people know that they do not want a lockout, but few actually understand the depth of the situation.

Obviously the number one item up for debate is money. The previous CBA stipulates that players receive 60 percent of the revenue. However, owners believe that this is too much money, and some reports say they are asking for a 9 to 18 percent decrease. The union is replying by calling for the

owners to open their books and show their true profit reports. The only publicly owned team in the NFL is the Green Bay Packers. Because of this, the true NFL revenue report is unknown, but some estimate it to have been around \$9 billion last year.

Owners such as Jerry Jones of the Dallas Cowboys have also said they would like stadium construction to be covered by revenue. NFL players strongly disagree, and I am on their side. Employees don't pay to maintain the workplace.

Another major issue between the NFL and the players union is the idea of an 18-game

LOCKOUT page A7

Harris makes mark on punt return in Senior Bowl

OPINION



Jordan Anders
STAFF WRITER

This past Saturday, 100 of the best outgoing seniors from around the country came together in Mobile, Ala., to compete in the 2011 Under Armour Senior Bowl.

The Senior Bowl is a showcase that represents the last chance for these seniors to gain attention and show off their skills to professional scouts. The quality of a performance in the Senior Bowl can drastically improve or harm a player's chances of getting drafted to an NFL team come April.

This year's game marked a final bittersweet milestone for Pirate football fans: ECU's all-time leading receiver Dwayne Harris wore a helmet emblazoned with the ECU logo for the final time.

Harris spent last week trying to improve his draft stock by catching passes and showing off his offensive skills in practice.

The reigning Conference USA Most Valuable Player turned a few heads with his performance early in the week and has popped up on the draft boards of a few teams, including the St. Louis Rams and the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Harris earned a reputation while he was setting records for the Pirates as a receiver with explosive speed and great hands. He is known for his ability to turn a 3-yard catch into a

30-yard play. That reputation seems to be following him to the NFL, and he has been getting looks from teams in need of slot receivers to make short catches on third down, just like he was so great at doing in his four years in Greenville.

During the game on Saturday, Harris suited up for the North squad, coached by Cincinnati Bengals head coach Marvin Lewis. Harris did not post a reception on offense, but he did return three punts for a total of 36 yards, which ranked him sixth in all-purpose yards for the North.

Whether or not the performance is enough to improve Harris's draft stock remains to be seen, but one thing is for



SID

Former ECU player Dwayne Harris in action against SMU. Harris performed in the Under Armour Senior Bowl as the punt returner on Saturday.

sure: the Senior Bowl marks the official end of one of the greatest careers in ECU football history.

Harris was joined at the Senior Bowl by a couple of fellow C-USA competitors looking to further their potential NFL careers. He was joined on the North team by Lee Smith, a tight end from Marshall University. Smith, a

HARRIS page A7

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dence would disappear and that 10-point lead would turn into a 30-point drubbing.

"This year, we just haven't folded under pressure," Morrow, who scored 18 points, said. "We're just not going to stop playing hard."

Gaines added 13 points in 34 minutes of action, while Young produced numbers of 11 points and a team-high five assists in 29 minutes.

Leading the Cougars was big man Maurice McNeil, who scored 18 points and grabbed 13 rebounds good for his seventh double double of the season. McNeil scored 11 of his 18 points

in the first half.

The score at the end of the first half seemed a lot closer than the actual play during the first 20 minutes of action inside Williams Arena.

Houston seemed to dominate the action on both the offensive and defensive ends of the floor, frustrating the Pirates and forcing multiple mental mistakes.

The Cougars raced out to a quick 20-8 lead, with just nine minutes gone in the opening stanza. The Pirates used a 14-6 run over the next eight minutes of action to trim that lead to four points, allowing the Minges Maniacs to get into the ball game.

Houston exploded out of the media timeout racing back out to a 10-point lead with a dazzling 10-3 run that took just under two minutes. Sherrod would add two free throws late for the halftime score of 35-28.

ECU would put up a much bigger fight in the second half to extend their Conference USA record to 4-3, which makes the Pirates even with Southern Methodist. ECU will head to Dallas, Texas, Wednesday to take on the Mustangs.

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

LOCKOUT continued from A6

The accepted belief is that the preseason will be shortened to add the regular season games. However, NFL players are not excited about playing two extra games for less money. The players are demanding that they be guaranteed more money after they retire and that the route to free agency be quicker. All signs show that Commissioner Roger Goodell is set on an 18-game schedule.

I, personally, am against an 18-game schedule. The toll on the players will shorten careers and alter the record books. You could say I am afraid of change, but I won't deny it. The NFL is good the way it is. There are numbers that people have set and altering the schedule will only shift things around. If the NFL has 18 games the next full season, expect to quickly see rushing, receiving, passing and many other stats surpassed.

One of the final components

to the labor dispute is a rookie salary cap. Very few dispute that the lucrative contracts signed by high draft picks need to be tamed. Even NFL veterans believe the contracts need to be trimmed. The argument revolves around the destination for the money no longer being paid to rookies. The players union believes it should go to retired players and veteran contracts, however the owners want the money for themselves.

Cleveland Browns linebacker and union executive committee member Scott Fujita said it best. "The rookie money that's saved, should it go to the vets? Absolutely. Should it go to retired players? Absolutely. Should it go to improving post-career medical (benefits)? Absolutely." Fujita said. "But the league didn't want to do any of that kind of stuff. It seems like the league is asking the union to bail them out because of some of their bad decisions and draft choices."

People are preparing for the worst. Players have been advised for over the past few months to save their money. Many coaches have provided strict and detailed off-season workout regimens for their players. The possible scenarios that could unfold over the next several months are unpredictable. But if there is a lockout, there is one thing for certain -- very little football. The draft will continue to go as scheduled; however, there can be no rookie contracts or workouts. Also, no free agents can sign and there are no mini camps. Careers will end, players will find a way to get into trouble and a lockout could quite possibly leave a smear on the NFL for years.

Football is as American as apple pie, and the NFL will never die, but it sure will be a depressing season without the National Football League.

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PIRATES continued from A6

anchored ECU with five assists throughout the game, followed by three from both Crystal Wilson and Kim Gay.

"Every time before the game, I tell them, we have to share the ball," Gay said. "And it really stood out this time because we were actually scoring off of sharing the ball."

In the first half, UCF opened up to a 5-0 lead after a fast-break lay-up from D'Nay Daniels and a 3-point shot by Gevenia Carter, respectively. The Pirates were able to tie up the game at 10, from which point they held the lead until the final whistle. With time expiring in the first half, Crystal Wilson was able to make a last-second lay-up off of a Jean Best assist to set the score at 26-20 at halftime.

ECU was led in scoring by

Ashley Clarke's 12 points, followed by 11 from Wilson and Gay, as the team shot 44.2 percent during the game, as opposed to just 36 percent for the Golden Knights of UCF. But this game for ECU was all about the defense.

"I can't say enough about the way that we defended," Macy said. "The way that we played defense just transferred over to the offensive end. We were sharing the basketball and it's a lot of fun to watch."

With the assists piling up and the team defense firing on all cylinders, the team chemistry is obviously starting to become a more influential part of the game for the Lady Pirates.

"I've been talking about how hard they are working and how we were going to turn the corner," Macy said. "I think we are really

on the verge of getting that done."

That was evident Sunday afternoon as the Lady Pirates who stepped foot on the court provided the team with quality minutes on both sides of the court. It seemed that no matter which five players were on the court, they were able to work together without missing a beat.

When asked if the number of players playing well made it more difficult to put the right five on the court, coach Macy just laughed, "No, I'll take that problem any night."

ECU will travel to Huntington, W.Va., to take on the Marshall Thundering Herd on Thursday.

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

HARRIS continued from A6

second-team All-C-USA pick, did not register a statistic during the game. On the opposite side, the South team had Tulsa running back Charles Clay, who also did not record a statistic.

Outside of Dwayne Harris, the state of North Carolina was very well represented at the Senior Bowl. North Carolina sent defensive backs Da'Norris Searcy and Kendrick Burney to play for the North. Burney would go on to be named most outstanding player for the North team. They were joined in Mobile by N.C. State's standout linebacker Nate Irving,


who was part of the South team.

As for the game itself, former Florida State quarterback Christian Ponder did loads to help his own draft stock, as he earned game MVP honors by throwing two touchdown passes and leading the South team to a 24-10 victory over the North. Ponder was thought to be heading into the draft on a bad note, having missed Florida State's ACC championship game appearance with an elbow injury. But this performance puts his name right back in the mouths of draft analysts and scouts across the NFL.

The seniors who participated in the Senior Bowl, as well as the underclassmen who have declared for the draft, must now sit back and wait until April 28, when the Carolina Panthers make the first pick to get the 2011 NFL Draft underway. Only then will they know when, or if, they will be drafted and get the opportunity to live the dream of playing at the next level.

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