

INSIDE

OPINION: Graduating from college in four years is like leaving a party at 10:30. Who does that? **A3**

LIFESTYLES: With Valentine's Day quickly approaching, many students are looking for the perfect date. Turn to Lifestyles to find out the dos and don'ts of college dating! **A4**

SPORTS: One dominant Pirate pitcher is entering her senior year at ECU, turn to sports to find out who she is and what her hopes are for the 2011 season. **A6**

BRIEFS

ECU alumna escapes from Egypt unharmed

Alumna safely returned home to her family in Roanoke Rapids

Jimmy Youn
STAFF WRITER

Amid the violent crisis in Egypt, an ECU alumna, April Davis, safely returned home from Cairo last week.

She had been teaching at the elementary school at the American College of Cairo. The United States government acted forthwith to evacuate all Americans out of Egypt, and so far, more than 1,600 Americans have been able to leave the country.

"This is such a surreal situation, and Cairo was a very peaceful city when my family and I visited a year ago. Egypt is one of the developed countries in Africa, so it is quite heartbreaking to hear the unfortunate news. I certainly hope that the U.S. government will be able to evacuate all Americans to their homes soon," said Esther Seisay, a graduate student and a Sierra Leone citizen.

After experiencing the chaos in Egypt and living in fear for several days, Davis wanted to leave the country. Unfortunately, she lost contact with her program director; however, her roommate from Canada helped her find a ticket home. She was able to get on one of the last flights out to Turkey on Monday.

In an e-mail sent from Davis to WITN, she mentioned that she was "highly frustrated with limited contact back home and no response from work as to the stability."

She also wrote that she had to mute the TV to make sure that she was experiencing the real life situation.

Davis's friend in the Marine Corps at the American Embassy reached her to share information that it was only voluntary to leave the country at that time, yet that it would become mandatory.

Meanwhile, Davis headed to the airport at 3 p.m. even though her flight was scheduled to depart at 8 p.m., so as not to get caught by the curfew. While she was waiting and praying at the airport, she noticed that all flights, except her flight to Turkey, were canceled. The flight

> **ALUMNA** page **A2**

Suspects arrested after stealing from employees

Staff Reports

Three suspects have been arrested after breaking into several offices and stealing from employees in the Old Cafeteria Complex during normal business hours.

Police say Quamane McNair and two juveniles went in to different offices in the building and stole various items, including purses, wallets and cell phones. Employees said they became suspicious of McNair and the other suspects and immediately called authorities.

According to campus police, all academic buildings remain unlocked during the day for anyone to come and go as they please. They are reminding everyone to keep valuables locked up or on your person at all times to help prevent any kind of theft.

All three are being charged with felony breaking and entering and larceny after breaking and entering. A court date has yet to be released.

WEB POLL

Should ECU excuse absences for certain kinds of illness?

Yes

No

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



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YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

HigherOne adds fraud protection

Tyler Kitchens
STAFF WRITER

In the wake of the University Book Exchange credit card scandal, which saw thousands of dollars stolen from students' banking accounts, financial management service Higher One Holdings sent messages to all account holders informing them of the company's fraud protection policy.

The message outlined many provisions of the "zero liability" that Higher One account holders should be informed of. One of the major positives for students going forward will be the knowledge that their cards will be safe from fraudulent purchases.

The majority of the new protection measures were already being utilized by MasterCard but now apply to Higher One cards as well.

Students should be aware that this new coverage is only valid if several preconditions are met. The accounts must be in good standing with Higher One, must not have reported more than two incidents in the past 12 months and a final provision states that students must "have exercised reasonable care in safeguarding the card from any unauthorized use."

According to MasterCard, unauthorized use "means that you did not provide, directly, by implication or otherwise, the right to use your card and you received no benefit from the 'unauthorized' purchase."

One other additional term of this service that is very important for students is that none of the preventative measures will apply to cases in which a PIN is used for debit transactions.

While Higher One cardholders who were victims of the U.B.E. credit card theft will be happy to know that this protection exists for their accounts, this issue continues to affect some students. WITN reported that students were still being charged for fraudulent purchases as recently as Feb. 1.

Nearly one month after the initial incident occurred, university officials have yet to make



DOUG MACKENZIE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Fraud Protection has now been added to the ECU HigherOne Card.

an official statement on the matter, forcing many students to learn about the issue from a Student Government Association e-mail.

"As members of SGA, our main duty in this situation is limited to providing students the information and updates. We are working diligently to keep students up to date on this matter," said SGA Chief of Staff A.J. Malicdem.

While students are frustrated at the lack of response from university officials, they are slightly relieved to know that Higher One does at least offer some type of protection for their accounts.

"It's a relief to know that students have this protection for their accounts, but it's just disappointing to see that the university hasn't gotten involved in this issue at all," said junior Christopher White.

"ECU chose to partner with Higher One to provide students with this service, but then they can't tell us when our own money is at risk? Students are using this money for things like paying rent, buying groceries and books, so it doesn't make sense why the university isn't trying to help students as much as they can here."

Higher One, which was founded by two Yale University college students in 2000, provides a link to the fraud protection policy for account holders on their website, HigherOne.com. This policy can also be accessed through ECUcard.com.

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

University braces for more budget cuts

Alexa DeCarr
STAFF WRITER

The university faces up to \$60 million in budget cuts, which will affect students not only next year, but in years to come as the deficit becomes more prominent.

According to Rick Niswander, interim vice chancellor for Administration and Finance, the school has managed small budget cuts of some sort for many years now. However, 2011 will mark the fourth year of permanent budget cuts. Since permanent budget cuts cannot be recouped the following year, the university will face the challenge of working with a shrinking budget for yet another year.

The general downturn of the economy, lack of federal stimulus money and a loss of sales tax revenue are all contributing factors behind the cut.

If the cut is as high as 20 percent, or 60 million, it will mean larger classes sizes, fewer sections at less desirable times, the possible loss of faculty members and increased tuition, which will be the most significant aspect for many students.

The university anticipates that students will help fund around 25 percent of the budget deficit through increased tuition.

"Making higher education less affordable is a not an attractive option for me," Chancellor Steve Ballard said during his State of the University speech last week. "I would not propose it if I did not consider it necessary to protect the quality of what we do and the quality of the experiences our students are getting."

The university will still remain one of the more affordable schools in the UNC system.

"It won't be fun paying more for tuition," said freshman biology major Isha Patel. "But I know I'll still be paying less than some of my friends at State or Chapel Hill, so I guess I don't mind."

However, this may not be the case for out-of-state students.

"Being in college during a time when the economy is down is not easy," said Nick Thrasher, a sophomore criminal justice major from Massachusetts. "Because of the increase in tuition, I may have



TYRONE DEMERY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU is expected to suffer budget cuts this year.

to attend a less expensive school back home that I can afford."

As the university continues to explore its options to help alleviate the crisis, it can rule out salary cuts. The state has currently issued furloughs amongst the faculty members, meaning the school does not have the ability to lower professors' salaries.

Despite the difficulties, Niswander is confident that the university's budget issues will not continue in years to come.

"It will take a dip and level out," Niswander stated in regards to the financial situation. "We have a short-term problem we

have to fix. It is not going to keep declining."

As far as plans for the future go, Niswander says that the university will continue to use its money wisely.

"We're all in this together," he stated. "We have to figure out a way to do this so that there is the least negative impact on our students and faculty. It'll be tough, but we can do it."

Although the university may be facing hard times, many other states in the country are in worse financial scenarios when it comes to higher education.

"North Carolina is better than

Arrington charged with misdemeanor

Cameron Gupton

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

ECU student Kamil Arrington has been charged with two counts of death by motor vehicle for the wreck that killed two of her sorority sisters last November.

Arrington fell asleep at the wheel and veered into a tree off of Greenville Boulevard at around 6:30 a.m. on Nov. 20.

The girls were on their way to get their hair done in preparation for a sorority event when the wreck took the lives of Briana Gather and Victoria Carter. A fourth student, Taylor King, was also in the car at the time of the incident but survived the accident.

Initially, Arrington was charged with misdemeanor death by motor vehicle and released on \$1,000 bond, but she now faces much more serious charges. The charges of death by motor vehicle come almost three months after the accident happened.

"Three months is not a tremendously long time to investigate accidents involving fatalities. They usually take much longer," said Lieutenant Williams of the Greenville Police Department. Arrington was not taken to jail immediately following the wreck; Williams explained that she was given a bond with collateral.

"She had a \$1,000 unsecured bond. She was allowed to sign a promise to show up to court and did not actually have to go to jail and post bond," said Williams. Williams stated that he does not know if a jail sentence is even an option at the current time; he

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Illness not excused by university rules

Jamie Harper

STAFF WRITER

The absence policy at ECU does not designate illnesses, hospitalizations or any psychological situation as excused absences.

Students should be aware of university policies regarding excused absences. University-excused absences include death of an immediate family member, participation in an authorized activity as a representative of the university and crisis situations approved by the Dean of Students Office. Immediate family members include parents, siblings and grandparents. Participation in an authorized activity includes off-campus athletic events. Crisis situations include court appearances if the student is a crime victim or under subpoena to testify in court.

Examples of absences that may not be excused by the university, whether or not there is official documentation, include but are not limited to illnesses, hospitalizations, psychological problems, death of an extended family member, court appearances and interviews. Religious observations must be excused in all UNC schools due to

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Calendar Events

Feb. 8 - Feb. 14

Wednesday, Feb. 9

SAB presents "R.E.D."
9:30 p.m. in MSC Hendrix Theatre.

Women's Tennis vs. Campbell
2 p.m. at the tennis facilities. Free admission.

Thursday, Feb. 10

SAB presents "R.E.D."
7 and 9:30 p.m. in MSC Hendrix Theatre.

Blood Drive
The National Pan-Hellenic Council and the American Red Cross are hosting a blood drive on Thursday, Feb. 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Student Health Building Multipurpose Room.

Women's Basketball vs. USM
7 p.m. at Minges Coliseum.

Friday, Feb. 11

SAB presents "R.E.D."
7 and 9:30 p.m. in MSC Hendrix Theatre.

Women's Tennis vs. Appalachian State
1 p.m. at tennis facilities. Free admission.

Saturday, Feb. 12

SAB presents "R.E.D."
7 and 9:30 p.m. in MSC Hendrix Theatre.

Josh Warren & the Revelation with Suicide Blonde
8 p.m. at Tie Breakers.
Epsilon Sigma Alpha service sorority is kicking off their Band Aid series for St. Jude Children's Hospital this Saturday. Cover is \$10 at the door and all proceeds benefit St. Jude.

ECU Lacrosse vs. TCU
2 p.m. at NCC recreation fields. Free admission.

Men's Basketball vs. Marshall
5 p.m. at Minges Coliseum.

ECU Orchestra Symphony Orchestra Concert
7:30 p.m. at Wright Auditorium. Free admission.

Sunday, Feb. 13

"The Vagina Monologues"
7 p.m. at MSC Hendrix Theatre.
ECU and MY VOICE will present a three-night only benefit reading of Eve Ensler's award-winning play, "The Vagina Monologues." Tickets are \$8 (pre-ordered) \$10 (night of show) and may be purchased by calling the ECU Central Ticket Office at 252-328-4278 or by purchasing online at www.ecuarts.com. All proceeds will benefit The Center for Family Violence Prevention, in Greenville, N.C.

Monday, Feb. 14

Valentine's Day

"The Vagina Monologues"
7 p.m. at MSC Hendrix Theatre.
ECU and MY VOICE will present a three-night only benefit reading of Eve Ensler's award-winning play, "The Vagina Monologues." Tickets are \$8 (pre-ordered) \$10 (night of show) and may be purchased by calling the ECU Central Ticket Office at 252-328-4278 or by purchasing online at www.ecuarts.com. All proceeds will benefit The Center for Family Violence Prevention, in Greenville, N.C.

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other states," said Niswander. "I think it's a pretty good place to be right now, actually."

Despite the financial burdens, Niswander still feels the academic degree is well worth it.

"Higher education is significant," said Niswander. "You leave after four years a different kind of

person just because of being here."

The university will find out just how bad the damage will be when it hears from the North Carolina legislature this summer.

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

ARRINGTON continued from A1

said he is not sure what was stated in the statute.

"We filed the charges after consultation with the district attorney," said Williams. "The district attorney thought these charges were appropriate." Williams also stated that it is up to the university to decide if Arrington will be allowed to retain her status as a student.

In an interview with WITN, Student Body President Tremayne Smith shared his view on the charges against Arrington. "There

is an account to give for our actions, whether they are negligent or on purpose, or just a matter of it just happened, but I do know now that it's in the legal system, it will be worked out there properly."

Students are very opinionated about Arrington, the accident and the charges she now faces.

"It seems unfair that Kamil is facing these charges. I doubt she intended on killing two of her best friends that morning," said sophomore media production major Bray

ALUMNA continued from A1

left Egypt around 10 p.m. After a 10-hour wait in Turkey, Davis safely arrived in New York on Tuesday, yet a snowstorm delayed her train to North Carolina until Thursday. She arrived shortly after 3 p.m. at the Rocky Mount train station via Amtrak.

The Alumni Association confirmed that Davis graduated in 2006 with a double major in fine arts and

communication. In addition, Paul Clifford, president and CEO of the Alumni Association, stated that Davis was a student worker for the association.

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

ABSENCE continued from A1

state legislation. Proper documentation is required for all excused absences.

Based on current policies, students who have been diagnosed with a communicable disease, such as the flu, could be required to attend class. If students are diagnosed in the infirmary or by another physician, absences still may not be excused by the university.

Due to the absence policy, many students feel their academics could easily suffer due to unavoidable circumstances.

The university policy also states, "Regardless of whether or not an absence is excused, all make-up work and attendance policy issues are at the discretion of the instructor."

"I don't think that's fair at all," said Lauren Mathieu, a freshman speech and hearing science major. "Most of the time you don't choose if you end up in the hospital or not and clearly you can't be in class. I mean, I think if you have a simple cold or something you should try to get to class."

Other nearby schools in the UNC system honor different policies regarding university-excused

absences. N.C. State's policy states that an absence will be excused if a student is away from campus in an official university function, required to be present in court, death or serious illnesses in the family and "short-term illness or injury affecting the ability to attend or to be productive academically while in class, or that could jeopardize the health of the individual or the health of the classmates attending."

Regarding health-related issues, the UNC-Chapel Hill policy states that an absence may be excused for "severe health problems leading to the student's placement on the Infirmary List, for serious personal or family problems, for religious observances required by the student's faith."

To receive an excused absence, students must go to the Dean of Students to place a request. If a student feels they have been treated unfairly or misinformed, they have the right to appeal through the appropriate dean.

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

McCloud. "She is probably going through so much right now and that should be punishment enough. The wreck was an accident."

"There was no alcohol or drugs involved; it's not stupidity or negligence," said junior Elizabeth Anderson, who is a criminal justice major and completely disagrees with the charges against Arrington.

"I know that it has happened to me before. There have been times where I have dozed off at the wheel. I'm lucky that this has not happened

to me," said Anderson. "When your body is tired, it does what is necessary to recuperate."

Since the incident happened off campus, the university will not conduct any further investigation. Arrington's next court date has been set for March 21.

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

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I don't want chocolate or flowers for Valentines Day. I just want great sex and delicious food.

If guys are the scum of the earth then why don't girls clean it up and make me a sandwich?

To the person living in the room directly above me in Pirates Cove: Oil your bed or something cause the repetitive and monotonous squeak of your bed as your getting on is keeping me up all hours of the night. Get creative so I can get some sleep!

Graduating from college in four years is like leaving a party at 10:30. Who does that?

To the passenger who said I made their day by singing firework: I take requests.

Would it be too much to ask of ECU to put a spot light on the fiberglass pirate on the mall? He looks so creepy at night standing amongst the trees. Thanks!

To the girl who was clipping her finger nails on the bus: I got home and to find a nail clipping in my hoodie. Wow. REALLY?!

To my fat friend in denial: You are FAT! Changing your Facebook pic to one from 2007 will not hide the fact that you have gained 200 pounds. Sincerely, your skinny friend

Your newest girlfriend can't get in to college and your ex just got in to law school. How's that working out for you?

My roommate's boyfriend just told me that I needed to go find somewhere else to "hang out" for the next three days because he caught what's going around. Excuse me, but this is MY apartment and YOU can get the hell out.

I'm sorry I almost saw your self-made porn. Really sorry.

I know I'm not the only one who has thought about what it would be like to hook up in the dark room of the art building.

You mess with a million guys and they drop you afterwards. I do one thing and you judge me? No ma'am. Look in the mirror.

I haven't met a girl in a long time that makes me as schoolboy nervous as she does. And I keep fudging things up as a result of it. Oh life.

To the girl who came into my 8 o'clock sociology class eating ramen noodles: You have an odd taste in breakfast food but you're still gorgeous.

If I am in the crosswalk first, then don't blow your horn and me and flick me off. Get you lazy butt out of your car and walk around campus too!

To the girl singing along with the Goo Goo Dolls in the Harris Teeter bread aisle: You're a woman after my own heart.

I felt kind of violated when the maintenance man keyed into my room to change my air condition filter...I was sleeping naked at the time.

To the idiot who stole my credit card information and tried to spend \$70 at Wendy's: The joke is on you, I only have \$50 in my bank account. Epic fail.

When a society starts looking to Lil Wayne for philosophical advice, then you know it's time to worry about which direction we're all going in.

To the boys in the downtown apartments: Thanks for Thursday night. You guys are so badass.

More Pirate Rants on the website!

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

Misdemeanor charges?

In December 2010, the ECU community was struck with the tragedy of the loss of Victoria Carter and Briana Gather from a fatal car accident. The women were pledging Delta Sigma Theta and were preparing for their initiation until early in the morning.

Kamil Arrington, the driver of the vehicle, fell asleep at the wheel and is now being charged with two counts of a misdemeanor death by a motor vehicle. While everyone in the car took the responsibility of riding with a driver while overly tired, the charges are concerning.

Yes, Arrington was the driver, but the entire responsibility

may not be left all on her.

Arrington has to cope with recovery and the loss of two friends but is now being charged with two accidental deaths. While the law is working to prevent future accidents, the cause and the blame need to be further investigated.

But why, months after the accident, is Arrington being charged with two misdemeanors from an incident that was originally presented as a horrific accident instead of a crime?

Information about the accident is still scarce. All four women were said to be on their way to a hair appointment for their initiation to the Delta Sigma Theta sorority when the accident occurred. Though the women of the sorority lost two potential members, their secrecy in the investigation and reporting of what happened the night before the accident is still unclear.

Arrington was the driver and has to have some responsibility in the situation. She made

the conscious decision to drive her and her friends when in an unreliable state.

A survey from 2000 in the British journal Occupational and Environmental Medicine reported that driving while sleep deprived is just as dangerous as driving while intoxicated.

TEC was affected by the loss of our employee, Victoria Carter, and we were deeply sympathetic to everyone who knew Briana Gather. We can all agree that we want justice for the deaths of these two women, but we also don't want Arrington to be used as a scapegoat by Delta Sigma Theta, the Greek system or ECU officials.

Arrington is still facing charges and has yet to be tried in a court, but we are still supporting her, both with legal struggles and recovery. As the trial unfolds, Arrington will hopefully not be immediately charged and all angles will be presented. We hope authorities take action in the upcoming trial and investigate the situation thoroughly.

Some apartments SPARKLE, others are just flat[s]



Ben Cochran
OPINION COLUMNIST

One of the best things about spring semester is looking forward to fall semester. That is never any truer when searching for a place to live come August.

Unless you were one of those freshmen who always stayed on campus, you've undoubtedly visited many of the surrounding student apartment complexes. At first glance, they seem to all be carbon copies of each other with the only tangible difference being the shape of their pools and hot tubs.

Almost all of the surrounding complexes are furnished, include at least a portion of the utility bill in the rent and have a bus that takes your pajama-wearing butt to campus.

Having been in Greenville for almost three years now, I've lived at a few and partied

at almost all. And while the selling point for most of you might be how many bikini-clad chicks or Speedo-donning hunks per square inch the pool area can accommodate, I urge you to consider some of the other, less frequently thought about qualities of your potential new home.

Does the complex allow pets? Does it have plastic baggie dispensers when you need to pick up your dog's feces (or fashion a make-shift condom because you lacked the forethought to wrap your foreskin)? Does the complex hire employees based on looks or brains? Because I don't care how hot your office staff is; if she can't lift a finger to enter in a work order to unclog my toilet that my drunken roommate crapped in, then maybe I should just start leaving upper-deckers in the clubhouse bathrooms until I start seeing some results. These are the things you have to think about.

When you sign that lease, just what exactly are you signing up for? Do they have any clauses that might allow you to cancel the contract in case some emergency comes up? A friend of mine got mono, withdrew from school, moved back

home, and now, unexpectedly, owes the apartment complex she signed with around \$5,000 and a pound of flesh, or some such Shylock-ish figure. Make sure you know what you're signing!

But perhaps the most abhorrent quality about certain apartments is their complete lack of customer appreciation. Sure, they might hire radio stations to throw slammin' hot parties in "your" honor, but don't think for an instant that those types of parties aren't sponsored by their corporate headquarters under the budgetary line item of "marketing." It's not you they care about; it's a last-ditch effort to outmaneuver competing companies and sign more leases.

If you truly want to know if your potential apartment complex values your business, see what kind of retention programs they have. Ask them if they offer renewal specials. If so, how do they compare to what they're giving the new lease signers? You should be rewarded for your loyalty, not penalized. If you renew your lease, then that's one fewer apartment that has to have the walls painted, the carpet steam-cleaned and the locks

changed. You're saving them so much money by renewing; so ask them what they plan to do for you.

Ultimately, you're probably going to wind up living where you think you can score some easily impressionable freshmen. For that, I can't really judge you. But don't come crying to me when your lease gets jacked up and you have to live with self-absorbed morons who phrase otherwise simple questions with the prefix "Are you tryin' to (fill in the blank)?" No, I'm not "trying" to do anything. I'm just going to do it. And no, you're not invited.

The sad fact is that while Bambi in the front office may, indeed, have a rack that seems to say "sign here," she also has the misfortune of being a complete knob-jockey — a quality which more or less renders her useless for any matter of any significance whatsoever. A man's home is his castle. Don't get stuck in a dump of an apartment for 12 months because of some siren's song of seduction. Think for yourself.

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

TODAY is the last day to take TEC's readership survey on OneStop!

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More than just free pizza



Leslie Baker
OPINION COLUMNIST

In case you're wondering: Yes, they really are targeting you.

Have you ever walked past a university event or fair booth with strangers offering you a free T-shirt or slice of pizza if you sign up for a credit card? How many times have you been at a department store and replied, "Not today, thanks," when asked if you'd like to sign up for a store credit card? What about the endless card offers in the mail -- how many of those have you cursed at and thrown in the trash?

According to Consolidated Credit Counseling Services Inc., 20 percent of college students have had a credit card since high school and nearly 40 percent of students received their first card their freshman year.

Students are so often lured into getting their own credit cards because they have always been told that having their own credit card is the easiest and fastest way to build credit. However, owning a card may actually be damaging students'

credit scores if they aren't responsible.

Because of the high cost of tuition and limited funds, many students are now paying tuition with a 12 to 20 percent interest rate credit cards. Most assume they will have a steady income after graduation, never mind the currently looming 9.8 percent unemployment rate in the U.S.

This "buy now, pay later" mentality may hurt students in this anemic economy, especially if their credit card debt is coupled with high-interest student loan debt.

As a result, these students may find themselves jobless and thousands of dollars in debt, with interest accruing by the second. When they are unable to pay on time, nasty penalty fees are added onto the mountain of other charges.

Debt is scary. It's one of the top causes of divorce, depression and even suicide. So often, young and old alike get themselves into debt and never find their way out.

The good news, according to Credit.com, is that serious debt can be avoided by remembering a couple things the credit card companies won't disclose in their flashy commercials.

First, and probably most important: It usually isn't necessary for a student to get his or her own account while still in college. The student can gain credit simply by being added



ILLUSTRATED BY CRYSTAL NEVILLE

to his or her parent's account, which likely has a fairly low interest rate. Choosing to do this also allows the parent to easily track spending and help educate the student on proper credit handling.

Second, credit cards that are geared toward students often have astronomical interest rates -- some as high as 22 percent. Eek! Knowing students are less likely to read the fine print makes jacking up

the interest rate easy.

If you are interested in a credit card, be sure to shop around and not sign up for the first one you see with the best advertising strategy. There's more to a card than a funny commercial or a street rep with a fancy table.

Finally, it's important to remember that young students are major targets. Credit card companies love to sucker naïve students into signing up for

credit cards, because it usually means they are going to get a lot of mommy and daddy's money once they're in a binding contract.

But hey, you get a free T-shirt if you sign up. Your choice.

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

STAFF INFORMATION

Katelyn Crouse, Editor in Chief	
Andrea Robertson	Managing Editor
Katie Bates	Public Editor
Katie Hatfield	Production Manager
Michael Perry	Sports Editor
Jennifer Soares	News Editor
Caitlin Hale	Lifestyles Editor
Kelly Nurge	Opinion Editor
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Contact Info

Newsroom 252.328.9238 Fax 252.328.9143 Advertising 252.328.9245

LikeALittle.com comes to ECU

Flirtatious and playful website allows fellow students to meet

Lynsey Horn
STAFF WRITER

Do you ever find yourself thinking about that guy or girl you saw on campus or shared a flirtatious glance with?

One Stanford University graduate, Evan Reas, decided he had enough of that and created a website where people could find each other even if they had never met. LikeALittle.com is a place where students can go and post about someone they saw and would like to see again. Each college has its own specific page on the site.

"We like to think of the site as a flirting-facilitator platform," said the "About" portion of the site.

Valerie Mele requested a page for ECU and is now the founding member of LikeALittle.com/ecu. The first post on the ECU page was made 60 days ago by Mele. To get the site started, Mele and her friends posted to each other but within two days real posts were submitted.

The site is fairly new to every campus. LikeALittle.com was started Oct. 25, 2010, but "thousands of college students have requested a LAL chapter for their school, and we are rapidly growing around the world," according to a press release from the site creator.

Mele saw the link for LikeALittle on Facebook and liked the idea of the website because it is a place for people to express themselves in a fun and nice way, unlike sites like JuicyCampus and CollegeACB.

"I think it's a good positive way to express yourself. It's not gossip and rumors," said Mele. She also liked that it was similar to Pirate Rants that are often published about "the girl in my psychology class" or "the guy with the blue backpack."

"It's like (Craigslist's) Missed Connections meets Pirate Rants," said Mele.

The mere mention of Craigslist brings to mind thoughts of stalkers and the Craigslist killer, and JuicyCampus and CollegeACB make some wonder what makes this site different. No worries. Every campus's page has moderators and the founding members to watch the site to be sure that anything creepy, inappropriate or just plain rude is deleted. There is also an automatic filter that screens for negative words and phrases and users are given the option to report posts.

Josh Weinstein is the creator of CollegeOnly.com, LikeALittle's competitor.

"Really the whole idea and design of the site was ours," said Weinstein in an article from the Baltimore Sun. He said that he even considered a lawsuit against the site creators, but ECU students did not take to CollegeOnly.com the way they did to LikeALittle. The ECU CollegeOnly page only has three posts that are all over a month old. LikeALittle.com has some other features that help keep the flirtations going. When users comment on a post, they are automatically given a fruit as a username.

"Fruit names contribute to the positive, playful spirit of the site. People find it difficult to take negative comments seriously when they've been written by a Blueberry," said the website's press release.

The creators are also working on anonymous chat option

> LIKEALITTLE page A5

Bold students start sports phenomenon

Bold Sports Talk popular in Greenville

Alex Serkes
STAFF WRITER

Sitting amongst Bold Sports Talk creators Kevin Jones and Nabeel Amadiéh in a small room inside of a house off of Jarvis Street can almost be deemed a privilege. To be able to act almost as a fly on the wall, listening to the pair converse over the hottest sports topics in an avant-garde style that is unlike any other is an experience to remember.

Undergraduate seniors studying broadcast journalism, Jones and Amadiéh have an above reproach knowledge on sports to say the least. This knowledge

is what led to their creation of the hottest new radio sports talk program in Greenville. Since the summer of 2010, Bold Sports Talk on WZMB 91.3 has been a smashing success amongst the Pirate community.

The way in which Jones and Amadiéh are able to involve the idea of professional sports into nearly every conversation of the day with such impeccable accuracy and amazing background is both astonishing and extremely entertaining. For those who haven't discovered these two bold students, whether it is through campus, on Twitter or on the radio, it's about time that you did.

"(Our) junior year came around and we asked ourselves, what are we going to

> SPORTS TALK page A5



REBECCA HARTMAN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
Senior Kevin Jones discusses his views on the Super Bowl as he hosts the Bold Sports Talk radio show.



CASEY BOONE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
Amanda Buie and Bryan Thigpen gaze into each others eyes while resting on a bench.

The do's and do-not's of university dating

How and where to meet potential partners

Madonna Messana
STAFF WRITER

With Valentine's Day in just a few days, students are beginning to take notice of the relationships around them, as well as their own relationship status.

Dating in college seems to be a big leap from dating in high school, but is it really that different?

"Dating in college can be hard, because if you date someone at a different college, there is the pressure to meet other people," said Catie Fox, a freshman business major. "If you're dating at the same school and have different schedules, it can also be difficult to see each other."

Fox and her boyfriend met in high school and have been dating for about a year. She explained that their relationship has only grown while dating in college.

While in college, students are exposed to more dating options than they will during any other time in their life — there are so many people on campus that it is simple to meet a potential partner.

The problem most students have is figuring out where to go to meet possible dates. Some students do not realize that downtown is probably not their best option when it comes to meeting places.

"There are plenty of places on campus to meet potential dates/partners," said Ryan Jett, a freshman athletic training major. "Obviously, you meet a lot of people from sitting next to them or having class with them. You can also meet people at social and sporting events."

According to an online article titled "College Student Dating Tips" one of the DO'S to dating in college is to look for people in common classes. Meeting someone in class shows that there is a common interest and it is also an easy place to meet someone.

Students can also meet one another at the Student Recreation Center and social events, such as events put on by the Student Activities Board in Mendenhall Student Center. Sporting events, such as baseball, basketball and football games, are also great places to meet potential partners because there is already a common interest.

"If you meet someone at a baseball game, you can assume that you both enjoy baseball," said Jett.

According to the online article, a DON'T of dating in college is not to date people in the same dorm. However, the article explained that if students in a common dorm do date, they should proceed with caution because if there is a breakup, it could become very awkward. Students who live in the same dorm will more than likely still see each other on a regular basis.

Fox and her boyfriend currently

live in the same dorm, and so far she is enjoying sharing a common living area. "I like how close he is," said Fox. "I feel like if he were farther away, then I wouldn't see him as much. I like being able to just go downstairs to see him and not have to tailgate into another building or have him walk me to a different dorm."

Fox explained that a con to living in the same dorm as her boyfriend is that they are always together and sometimes the two do not get all of their school work completed.

Justin Ricciardella, a sophomore accounting major, met his girlfriend in high school and they have been together for more than two years.

"You get to meet a lot of new people through your significant other," said Ricciardella. "You also never get lonely." Ricciardella explained that along with the pros to dating in college, there are also cons like shopping with them and dealing with their drama.

Dating in college is the time to explore and meet new people, so students should take advantage of all the opportunities on and around campus that will allow them to meet new people.

"The hardest part is not meeting someone," said Jett, "it's breaking the ice!"

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

Prom dreams come true

The Fairytale Boutique provides local students with prom dresses

Katey Warren
STAFF WRITER

The Volunteer and Service-Learning Center is preparing to host its third Fairytale Boutique event, allowing deserving young women to shop for prom dresses at no cost.

The center has spent the past two years collecting dresses, shoes and accessories to set up their three-day, invite-only prom boutique. With the help of Pitt County Social Services staff as well as Pitt County high school guidance counselors, the center is in the process of selecting 45 deserving young women to receive invitations to the event.

Jessica Cloutier, Volunteer and Service-Learning Center coordinator, says the process of choosing these girls is "extraordinarily difficult." The organization looks for female students whose families are in strong financial need and would not be able to afford prom expenses. These families are often suffering from major medical expenses, loss of jobs, loss of possessions in house fires and other financially burdening situations.

"We really want to make sure that the ones who are truly in need are the ones who get to shop," said Cloutier. "We started (Fairytale Boutique) because we wanted to ensure that every girl had the opportunity to go (to the prom) and feel just as special as those of us who have been before."

The Fairytale Boutique will be set up in a donated space on Feb. 18, 19 and 20. Cloutier says they are working with Uptown Greenville to acquire a donated space where they can host the event. Volunteers will organize the donated dresses, shoes and accessories to resemble the set-up of modern dress boutiques. The space will include dress racks, dressing rooms, mirrors and a seating area for family and friends of the shoppers.

"It's very much like a traditional shopping experience," Cloutier said, "but the difference is that we have limited numbers, colors and sizes."

Fairytale Boutique volunteers plug 10 dresses in their inventory for each of the girls. This inventory ranges from sizes zero to 28, and styles range from formal pageantry gowns to less-formal cocktail dresses.

The shoppers will be able to choose a dress, a pair of shoes and jewelry, all of which will be at no expense to them or their families. According to Cloutier, in past years that the event took place, the young women have always been extremely grateful to shop at the Fairytale Boutique and are always surprised and thankful to learn that they are allowed to keep the items they selected.

"This shopping experience is really a blessing to me," said a shopper from South Central High School about a previous Fairytale Boutique event.

Products and services, such as flowers and limo rides, will also be given away from local Greenville businesses at drawings during the three-day opening of the boutique.

After the cancellation of 2010's Fairytale Boutique due to lack of inventory, Whitney Sibol, a student and member of the Fairytale Boutique Advisory Board, is excited to see the event come together this year. "I'm hoping that we get to fulfill the needs of several different girls," said Sibol. "And I hope they find a good dress and leave happy."

Cloutier and Sibol encourage students to help give the full prom experience to these young women by donating new or gently used dresses and accessories. All dresses will be dry-cleaned for the young women before hitting the racks.

If students are interested in donating to the Fairytale Boutique, they should drop off their donations at the Volunteer and Service-Learning Center, located in the Old Cafeteria Complex. Drop-offs for this year's event will be accepted until Feb. 11, and all donations are tax deductible.

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



TYRONE DEMERY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
The Fairytale Boutique provides new and gently used prom dresses for qualified high school women.

LIKEALITTLE continued from A4

and it currently offers testimonials from users who have actually met through the site.

Lindsey Anderson, a sophomore music major, visited the site and thought it was just another funny website that is good for procrastination.

"I enjoyed reading it. I even saw a post that was about my friend but I would never post on it," said Anderson.

Not everyone is impressed by the site but it could be the cute story that someone tells at their rehearsal dinner. Take a minute and visit LikeALittle.com/ecu to find out.

One post reads, "At Subway: Female, Blonde hair. Gorgeousss girl today in subway around 6:30 today wearing a red t-shirt... marry me!" This could be about you.

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

SPORTS TALK continued from A4

do with our lives?" said Jones. "I said that I have to do something with sports for my career," referring to the origin of the show.

In February of 2010, Jones and Amadiel, along with two of their sports savvy peers, Chris Albright and Mark Davis, started doing sports podcasts in order to get their name out. However, the podcast days would serve as a stepping stone for one of the best decisions they would go on to make. As the 2010 fall semester approached, Jones and Amadiel got in contact with WZMB 91.3 Pirate Radio with the idea of putting on a sports talk show, a segment that the station did not have at the time. The rest was history.

However, the fact that Jones and Amadiel are senior undergraduates and amateurs does not discredit their ability as witty sports broadcasters. The men of Bold Sports Talk have developed extremely respectable resumes over their college careers. Jones has been and still is a major contributor to Pirates Illustrated, Rivals.com, Bleacher Report, Florida College Summer Baseball League and ESPN's TrueHoops Blog network, blogging for Philadelphia's PhilaDunkia outlet. Along with blogging for ESPN's TrueHoops as well, Amadiel has interned for the LaVar Arrington show with Chad Dukes in Washington, D.C. He has also interned for the Washington Examiner, covering D.C. area teams such as the Washington Wizards, Nationals and Capitals. He has also held many other prestigious and higher-tier internship positions. Needless to say, The Bold Sports Talk guys have an amazing sports background and know what they are talking about.

The show launched last summer on Aug. 28, and every Friday since, the WZMB studio has gotten bolder. The first big break for the show was the Chad Ochocinco tweeting incident in which Bengals wide receiver Chad Ochocinco tweeted about an article that Jones had written.

"That was huge for us," Jones stated. "He had recognized who Bold Sports Talk was, and after that, we started getting guests on the show."

There have been a variety of prestigious guests who have come onto the show since then, including Brandon Banks of the Washington Redskins in studio, Vonta Leach, a pro bowl fullback for the Texans, and prestigious sports writers Les Carpenter, Harvey Arrington and Don Banks.

"Our goal in getting guests to the show is to let people know, 'look, we exist. We're young and small now, but our future, who knows where it can go,'" Jones stated. "We want to put ECU's journalism program on the map."

"It's hard for someone to get a job as a sports writer or broadcaster straight out of college," said Amadiel. "They usually have to start somewhere small, but we want to take a different approach."

Bold Sports Talk takes a real in-depth, comedic and bold look at the hottest sports topics of the week, stringing from the NFL all the way to the PGA tournament. Whatever is happening, Jones and Amadiel have the knowledge to put on a great show.

"Our expertise is really diverse. Kevin is better with some sports, I'm better with some, but our knowledge ranges so far that there really isn't anything we cannot discuss when it comes to sports," said Amadiel. "We make a lot of bold predictions, and I've learned, screw reading a book, go out and watch a game and form your own opinion on sports topics. Don't be influenced by other people's words."

As graduation approaches for these two aspiring broadcasters, their ideas for their personal futures, as well as the future of the show, seem very promising.

"We understand that Bold Sports Talk may take a small hiatus for now, but we have the drive and dedication to both become famous writers and then reunite this idea," Jones said. "An analogy I like to use is, we're like Girl Scouts out there trying to sell cookies, but our cookies are different, and we're out there. We keep knocking at the doors and we know eventually someone will bite."

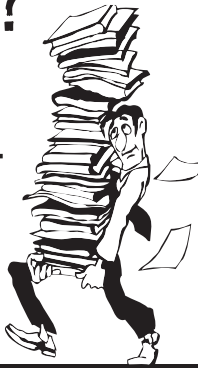
Jones, Amadiel and Bold Sports Talk have made a huge name for themselves within the community of Greenville in merely a year. It is promising to consider that this amazing idea could potentially be on a regional to national scale within the next 10 to 20 years. Jones and

Amadiel's dedication to this field is unprecedented amongst any other, and it will not be surprising to see the pair down the road as professional and prominent sports writers or broadcasters.

Bold Sports Talk airs every Friday afternoon on WZMB channel 91.3 Pirate Radio from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. The show will also be sponsoring a 3-versus-3 basketball tournament for autism awareness this upcoming spring. Students can stay updated on this event and Bold Sports Talk via Twitter and Facebook.

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

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Lady Pirates fall in Memphis

Memphis rode a hot shooting display in the first half and received 32 points from junior transfer player Brittany Carter (University of Georgia), recording an 83-70 Conference USA victory Sunday at FedExForum. The Tigers improve to 17-6 overall and 6-3 in league play, while the Pirates had a three-game winning streak snapped and dropped to 10-12 and 4-5.

Celeste Stewart netted a career-high 13 points in the set-back while senior Allison Spivey netted 14 points and knocked down three more three-point field goals to push her career total to 183. Chareya Smith also scored in double figures off the bench with 12 and matched teammate Crystal Wilson with seven rebounds. ECU now has a streak of 21-straight games in which a player off the bench has netted double figures.

ECU was playing without leading-scorer Kim Gay for the second-straight contest as she continues to nurse a knee injury. Senior Kelly Smith also missed her third consecutive game due to medical reasons.

The Pirates were 24 of 60 from the field, ending the contest with a 42-percent shooting mark but could not match the Tigers' 51-percent performance. Memphis also won the battle on the glass by one, 34-33. Both teams ended up with 11 offensive rebounds.

Carter scored nine of Memphis's first 12 points in the first four minutes, but ECU kept close and trailed by two at the first media timeout (15:20). Over the next six minutes, the Tigers went on a 15-5 run to push out to a 27-17 advantage as the clock ticked under 10 minutes. Memphis would stretch the lead to 17 at the 4:46 mark on two Carter free throws and it would be Carter who closed out the period's scoring with a three at the buzzer — putting the Tigers ahead 52-36.

Carter scored 20 points in the first 20 minutes, while Celeste Stewart set her career high with 11. ECU pulled within 12 on a Spivey triple, but Nicole Dickson answered with two from beyond the arc to quell the rally and essentially seal the victory. The Pirates return home to Minges Coliseum for their next contest as they host Southern Miss Thursday. Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Homan wears No. 23 for a second year

Senior baseball player Austin Homan will wear ECU's honorary No. 23 jersey for the second-straight year, according to an announcement made by Head Coach Billy Godwin during the program's annual "Meet the Pirates" fan session, which was held inside the Murphy Center Saturday afternoon.

The No. 23 jersey, which was the number worn by the late ECU Head Coach Keith LeClair throughout his coaching and playing career, became an honorary number for the Pirate baseball program in 2003. Homan, the Pirates' top utility man, set career-highs in hits (40), doubles (7), RBI (28) and belted his first collegiate home run against Conference USA foe Tulane on April 3. He played in 43 games with 33 starts and ranked fifth on the team with a .313 batting average.

The number is awarded annually to a deserving player who best displays the hustle, determination and desire that made LeClair a great coach and player. Homan (2010-11) becomes the first two-time recipient and is the eighth Pirate to wear the honorary No. 23 jersey.

LeClair's courageous battle against amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly referred to as ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease, has garnered support and admiration throughout the ECU and collegiate baseball community. The Pirates will open the 2011 season on Feb. 18 when they play host to Youngstown State at Lewis Field inside Clark-LeClair Stadium. First pitch is scheduled for 3 p.m.

SPORTS

Sherrod leads Pirates over Knights

Adam Bunn
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Saturday night inside Williams Arena, there was a MJ sighting.

No, it wasn't air Jordan, but instead his son Marcus, who, despite being the game's high scorer, couldn't help his team get by ECU as the Pirates handed UCF their seventh straight loss, 68-61.

Senior guard Jontae Sherrod led the Pirates' offensive onslaught, scoring 19 of his team-leading 23 points in the second half, including 13 in the Pirates' 22-5 run to open the second half. That 10-minute stretch allowed some breathing room for the Pirates after trailing by five heading into the break.

"We had to overcome a lot of adversity, especially in the first half with foul problems," first-year head coach Jeff Lebo said. "We made some good adjustments at halftime defensively. I'm just really proud of the group to find a way to win."

The play by the Pirates in the second stanza stood in stark contrast to the first half, where the Pirates seemed to not be able to get their game going due to mental mistakes and foul trouble. Coming out of the break, Sherrod and Pirate big man Darrius Morrow knew that it was on their shoulders.

"When we were in the locker room (at halftime), D-Mo came to me and said 'Let's go,'" said Sherrod, who, with his 23 points, put up his sixth 20-point game of the year. "He said, 'We've got to come out this half ready to go.' That's what we did."

Despite the two early fouls committed by Morrow in the first half, the senior was only called for one foul the rest of the game.

"He's a smart player," Lebo said. "He's usually bright enough to not put himself in position to foul. He drew some charges out there when he had some foul problems. He did a nice job when he had the two fouls."

Even with the Pirates' blistering pace in the second half, the Knights weren't out of the game. Jordan refused to quit scoring a basket and drawing a foul with 57 seconds left that had the potential to make it a one-possession game. Jordan headed to the line as a 78 percent free-throw shooter but missed the shot, preserving the Pirates' two-possession lead.

For the Knights, this season just continues to head downhill with no end in sight. After starting the season 14-0 and getting as high as number 18 in the Associated Press Top 25, the Knights have dropped seven in row.

"The momentum changed on turnovers," UCF coach Donnie



ERIN DUNCAN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU leading scorer Jontae Sherrod goes up against Marcus Jordan of UCF during the Pirates 68-61 win over the Knights.

SHERROD page A7

New bats for the better

OPINION



Michael Perry
SPORTS EDITOR

A Hail Mary touchdown pass, a goal scored or a buzzer beater three: All of these exciting sporting events are something special. For baseball, it's the moonshot home run to deep centerfield, and as far as college baseball is concerned, that won't be happening quite

as often.

The NCAA ruled that there will be new requirements for the performance of the metal bats used in college baseball. The new requirements mean aluminum and composite metal bats deemed legal will perform more like the wooden bats used in professional baseball.

All new bats used will be

subjected to BBCOR testing, which stands for batted ball coefficient of resolution, basically referring to the speed and power at which the ball leaves the bat.

Since the introduction of the metal bat in 1974, college baseball has been a game dominated by offense.

NEW BATS page A7



Senior pitcher Toni Paisley in action last season. Paisley and the ECU softball team are preparing for the 2011 season.

Paisley poised to lead ECU in 2011 season

Carlos Olivera
STAFF WRITER

Choosing which college an athlete will attend is usually a painstaking process and a big decision, but for Toni Paisley, choosing to come to Greenville and attend ECU was an easy one. Bringing the program to national prominence and conference championships has seemed just as easy for her.

Paisley attended Lakewood High in Los Angeles and always told herself she was a "California girl" and was never going to leave. That all changed when her parents insisted that she take her recruiting trip to ECU. The softball coaches took her to McAllister's, where she saw all of the school spirit and pride, which made her decision a done deal.

"I saw all of the ECU pride and really enjoyed the community support, so that was the number one reason I chose to come to Greenville."

Paisley is coming off of back-to-back Conference USA Pitcher of the Year awards, among a number of other accolades. She was also recently named to the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Top 50 Watch List for Softball Player of the Year.

"It's a huge honor for me, but it's based off of last year. I'm excited and see it as a tool for this year and continue to get better," said Paisley.

"Toni has truly set herself among the nation's elite pitchers. We are so happy for her and all she has accomplished. She is a fierce competitor and a relentless hardworker," said Head Coach Tracey Kee.

Paisley is already one of the most decorated Pirate and C-USA athletes, but with another good season, she'll add a few more records to her belt. With 894 career strikeouts, she is just 55 away from the ECU and C-USA record holder and former teammate, Keli Harrell. She is also currently ranked fourth in wins (86), 22 behind Lindsay Chouinard of DePaul.

"What Toni has done for ECU and our program is hard to put into words. Her statistics and records speak for themselves, but nothing can measure her heart and pure joy of competing game after game," Kee added.

The self-proclaimed "Chatty Cathy," Paisley has had to step up into more of a leadership role this year because of the youth on the team. Last season, the Pirates graduated seven seniors and welcomed 10 freshmen. She "realized how much more vocal" she's had to be.

Game-day routines and superstitions are nothing new for athletes, but the one thing Paisley cannot go without on game day is a necklace near and dear to her heart. Her necklace is aligned with three charms on it, one from her mother, one from her visit to ECU and one from her nana, who was a big part of her life and sports growing up.

"I always wear my necklace. I try not to forget it, but if I do, it's hard not to think of it during the game," she added.

PAISLEY page A7

OPINION

Stephen McNulty
STAFF WRITER

Rodgers reigns



It was nearly six years ago that a young Aaron Rodgers sat anxiously in the green room of the NFL draft as pick after pick went off the board. His hopes and dreams of being the number one overall selection were shattered when the San Francisco 49ers selected Alex Smith. Then with pick number 24 in the 2005 NFL draft, the Green Bay Packers selected Aaron Rodgers of the University of California. This wasn't the first time Rodgers was overlooked, and it wouldn't be the last.

At Pleasant Valley High School in California, Rodgers set numerous single-game and single-season records. However, no Division I programs showed interest except for a measly walk-on offer from Illinois. He declined and decided play at local Butte Community College. Rodgers led the Roadrunners to a 10-1 record and a No. 2 national ranking, and after one year, he transferred to the University of California.

Rodgers had a very successful first two years at Cal, finishing his junior year All Pac-10 and Honorable Mention All-American by Sports Illustrated. After a loss in the Holiday Bowl, Rodgers decided to forgo his senior season and enter the NFL draft.

Then came Brett Favre. That is really all that needs to be said. Favre came back in 2006 and then again in 2007, and Rodgers continued to sit on the bench. He didn't complain or bark about being traded. He just waited for his opportunity. In 2008, when Favre retired, then un-retired and was traded to the New York Jets, Rodgers finally got his opportunity.

Fast forward now to Sunday. Rodgers has been a starting quarterback in the NFL for three full seasons. He has been praised as one of the best young arms in the league and received pre-season MVP talks and Super Bowl predictions for the past few years. Despite ridiculous numbers, Rodgers lost his first playoff game to the Cardinals 51-45 in 2009, and the 2010 season failed to go exactly as planned as Favre continued to overshadow Rodgers in the media, and the Packers' biggest rival, the Chicago Bears, won the NFC North Division.

Then he beat Mike Vick and the Eagles, Matt Ryan and the Falcons and Jay Cutler and the Bears. Tom Brady and Peyton Manning both fell on the AFC

side and the Packers were set to square off against Ben Roethlisberger and the Steelers. This was finally Rodgers' chance to put all of his naysayers to bed and plant himself securely as one of the best quarterbacks in the NFL.

I was one of those naysayers. I did not believe that Rodgers had it -- that gene that only a select few human beings are born with. Guys like Dan Marino and Donovan McNabb have failed to show they have it, while guys like Joe Montana proved they are entirely made up of it. It hurts to say you were wrong, but after Super Bowl XLV, I, Stephen McNulty, was wrong about Aaron Rodgers.

The community college transfer, who sat, and sat and sat on draft day, then sat, and sat and sat behind he-who-will-no-longer-be-talked-about-for-year-after-year, lit it up. Rodgers was 24-39 for 304 yards and three touchdowns. It wasn't the six touchdowns Steve Young threw in Super Bowl XXIX or the 414 yards Kurt Warner had in Super Bowl XXXIV, but it was special. The Pittsburgh Steelers are defense. They have always been defense, and an offensive output against them like this is a rare occurrence.

"We put everything on his shoulders," Packers' coach Mike McCarthy told ESPN. "He did a lot at the line of scrimmage for us against a great defense."

There is one throw in particular that comes to mind, however. One that will forever be in Rodgers' highlight reel just before the clip of him standing on the stage, raising the Lombardi Trophy above his head, championship belt over his shoulder. The Steelers had just scored a touchdown and gotten cute with their two-point conversion. Then, on a key third down, Rodgers hit Greg Jennings down the seam for a 31-yard gain. Jennings called it an "outstanding throw."

The Packers kicked the field goal and left it up to Thor (Clay Matthews) and the defense. After an incomplete pass on fourth down, Rodgers trotted out to the huddle as "Go Pack Go" echoed through Cowboy Stadium. After a long road there, the kid nobody wanted out of Chico, Calif., got to do what every man in America dreams of. Rodgers snapped the ball, took one step back and knelt down. World Champions.

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

NEW BATS continued from A6

During this generation of baseball, multiple home runs in a game were almost guaranteed and the feat of knocking a round tripper has certainly lost its luster.

The new requirements also provide a safer environment for pitchers and infielders, as the speed at which the ball leaves the bat with the old aluminum bats is well above any human's reaction time.

Other added benefits include shorter game time and a better filtering of possible professional talent. Most college baseball games average upwards of three hours a game, with four-hour games not being such a rarity. The new bat will also ease the jump from college to professional baseball. Many great college hitters enter the minor leagues simply unable to produce with a wooden bat.

For ECU, the drastic change could be a good thing as the Pirates look to lean on a veteran pitching staff this season. To add to the pitching potential, ECU will benefit from the high energy and one-on-one involvement of new pitching coach Dan Roszel.

"I couldn't care less if it's a new bat or an old bat," Roszel said. "The philosophy has always been the same: You're always going to go after and be the aggressor. If you have good pitchers, you have a chance to win."

In recent history, the Pirates have been an offensive-minded team, with big-hitters Kyle Roller, Brandon Henderson and Devin Harris. As a team, ECU connected on 81 homers in 59 games last season.

"I'm curious to see what the bats are going to do to the game," Head Coach Billy Godwin said. "I do think the bat is going to prevent you from getting beat by a 145-pound second basemen in the ninth inning because he got out on his front foot. I think when you see a home run, they are home runs."

Despite the loss of power hitters and the addition of the new bats, ECU boasts several pure-hitters, like centerfielder Trent Whitehead and third baseman Corey Thompson, who are sure to still make contact no matter what they're swinging. Thompson and Whitehead both got on the ball last season, boasting batting averages of .377 and .331, respectively.

"They're going to be fine," outfielder Austin Homan said. "It's going to change the game a little bit, but everybody's got to use them. It's not like it's just us that has to use them."

Some will say that the new bats take away from the game, but once the transition period is over, the new bats are sure to make for better quality baseball. No longer will some games look more like the home run derby.

True power hitters will still cream the ball, and when they do, they will earn it. Others who will struggle at the dish will just have to work harder. Pitchers will win out in this new era, and the defensive abilities of infielders and outfielders will make them hot commodities.

Eventually for college baseball, the grass will be greener on the other side. Much like the 2010 Major League Baseball season was "the year of the pitcher," college baseball could see its own year, or years, of impressive hurlers.

Baseball players, coaches and fans alike will need some time to get used to the change, but once they do, I think it's safe to say we can all enjoy better baseball, and when home runs are hit, they will mean something again.

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

PAISLEY continued from A6

Heading into her senior season and coming off the heels of a C-USA championship, Paisley holds herself and her team to high standards and expects a lot this season. She expects to play her very best every single game. One goal Paisley has set for herself is to throw a perfect game and strike out every single batter.

"That's one goal I've always had, and believe I'll get it someday, is to strike everyone out, have 21 strikeouts at the end of the game."

As far as her career after softball, Paisley hopes to go into social work in her hometown of Los Angeles. Growing up, she was exposed to a lot of crime and criminals and hopes to one day give back. She has a bachelor's degree in social work and hopes to pursue her master's in criminal justice so she can one day work with criminals and gangs in hopes of changing their lives for the better.

Paisley officially begins her final season in purple and gold this weekend at the Red & Black Showcase at the University of Georgia.

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

SHERROD

continued from A6

Jones said. "We had two assists and 12 turnovers in the second half. We knew (ECU) would come out and be a little more aggressive, but a lot of those were unforced turnovers."

The first half of this match-up was an up-and-down slugfest that was as physical as any half played so far this season.

The lead changed hands seven times, with the game also being tied five times. The Pirates suffered a big blow early on as Morrow was forced to sit just 59 seconds into the contest after picking up his second foul.

With Morrow and Sherrod on the bench with foul trouble, the Pirates turned to Jamar Abrams to keep the team afloat, and he delivered. With ECU trailing by one with 2:59 remaining, Abrams found an opening in the left corner and drilled a 3-pointer,

putting the Pirates in front for the moment. Abrams would score all 12 of his points in the first half.

Despite Abrams's heroics in the first 20 minutes of action, ECU was unable to overcome the MJ-factor as the young Jordan dominated play in the closing minutes, scoring six points in the final two and a half minutes to lift the Knights to a 39-34 halftime edge.

Morrow added 15 points for the Pirates, as well as notching his 500th career rebound.

Jordan led the Knights with

24 points, while A.J. Tyler was the only other Knight in double figures, scoring 10.

ECU will look to establish a conference-winning streak when they welcome Marshall to Minges Saturday.

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

East Carolina University

2010-2011 Southern Circuit tour of Independent Filmmakers

The School of Art and Design and the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series present six films and the filmmakers that created them

Abel Raises Cain
Tuesday, February 8, 8:00 p.m.
Speight Auditorium in the Jenkins Fine Arts Center
Meet the filmmaker following the screening.

Alan Abel has a rather unusual job—he's a professional prankster. His hoaxing career began in the late 1950s with a campaign to clothe all animals for the sake of decency. More than 40 years later, Alan continues to wreak havoc on the media. Daughter and filmmaker Jenny Abel documents his latest hoax.

Free for ECU students. General admission tickets (\$5) available at the door or in advance through the Central Ticket Office, Mendenhall Student Center, 328-4788.

The 2010-2011 Southern Circuit is a program of South Arts. Southern Circuit screenings are funded in part by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and local partner organizations. Special support for Southern Circuit was provided by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Individuals requesting accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact the Department for Disability Support Services at least 48 hours prior to the event at 252-737-1016 (voice/TTY).

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CAMPUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

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