

INSIDE

OPINION: I'm graduating. In my three years here I haven't had a date, gotten laid, or had a Pirate Rant published. Is one out of three too much to ask? **A3**

LIFESTYLES: TEC sits down with upcoming artist Andy Grammer to talk about his road to fame and his growing fan base. Turn to Lifestyles to learn more about this rising star. **A4**

SPORTS: ECU softball won its second straight Conference USA Tournament on Saturday. Turn to sports to find out which NCAA Regional the Pirates will head to. **A7**

BRIEFS

One month later: NC remembers tornadoes

Staff Reports

Eastern North Carolina is still recovering a month after the largest tornado outbreak was recorded in state history, killing 24 people and impacting 30 counties.

In Bertie County alone, 12 people were killed, and the storm itself took 133 lives and damaged homes and businesses across the South. According to the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, 28 tornadoes were reported across central and eastern North Carolina on April 16.

A total of \$8.9 million was approved for federal disaster assistance grants for those affected by the outbreak.

Children's Hospital receives large donation

Staff Reports

The new Children's Hospital at Pitt County Memorial Hospital received a \$9 million donation from James and Connie Maynard to fund the care of children in Eastern North Carolina.

The Brody School of Medicine also received a donation from the Maynards for \$1.5 million to go toward pediatric professorship.

According to WNCN, James Maynard started the Golden Corral Restaurant chain 40 years ago.

Construction for the James and Connie Maynard Children's Hospital will start later next month.

Local men arrested for multiple vehicle break-ins

Staff Reports

Three men were arrested after vehicle break-ins occurred around Greenville during the month of April.

Travis and Aaron Payton, brothers, were previously arrested on probation violation stemming from vehicle break-ins, and were allegedly accompanied by another accomplice in 24 other car break-ins.

According to police, surveillance video and stolen credit cards helped in solving the cases. Aaron Payton, 20, was charged with 15 counts of breaking and entering a motor vehicle, 13 counts of misdemeanor larceny, 10 counts of financial credit card theft and one count of felony larceny.

Larry Daniels, 36, was charged with two counts of obtaining property by false pretense. Travis Payton, 22, was charged with 24 counts of breaking and entering a motor vehicle, 24 counts of obtaining property by false pretense, 20 counts of misdemeanor larceny, 15 counts of financial credit card theft and three counts of felony larceny.

Suspects charged in brutal Sheetz stabbing

Staff Reports

Three people were arrested after allegedly stabbing a man outside of a Sheetz gas station last month.

Greenville PD arrested Latoya Hembry and charged her with assault with a deadly weapon, and also charged Demetrice Jenkins and Bernard McCarter on felony conspiracy charges.

Last month, police responded to a fight that happened outside of the Sheetz gas station on Charles Boulevard. Upon arrival, officers found Christopher Daniels with a cut to the throat and took him to Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

U.S. Marshall's helped local law enforcement to make the arrests and authorities said the investigation is still ongoing with further arrests still possible.

WEB POLL

Are you upset about Pirate Express not running this summer?

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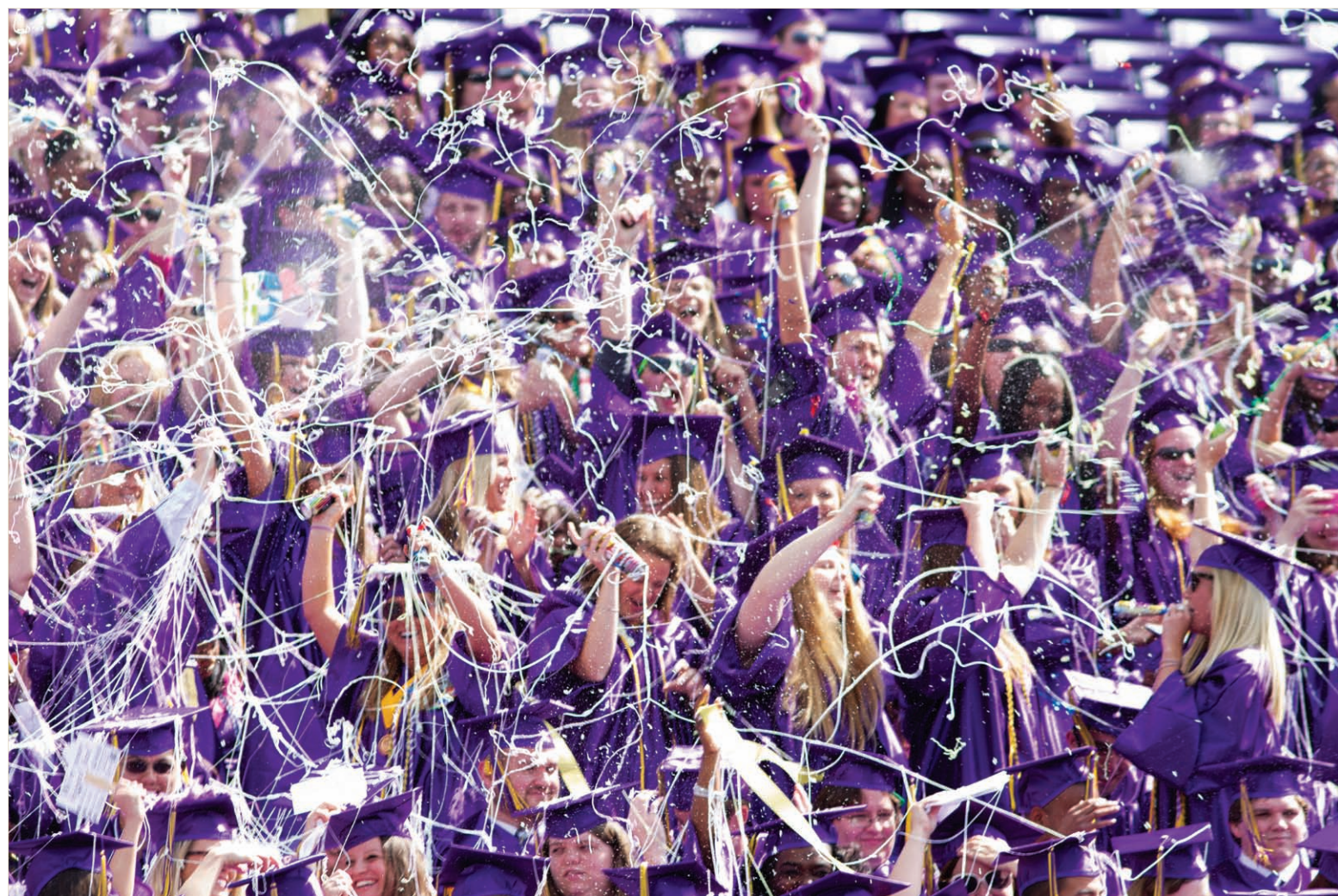
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YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925



Graduates use silly string to celebrate the completion of their Bachelor's Degree.

102nd annual graduation held

Cameron Gupton
STAFF WRITER

On May 6, a little over 3,500 graduates were honored in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium at the university's 102nd spring commencement ceremony.

The degrees, which were conferred by Chancellor Steve Ballard included 69 doctors of medicine, 15 doctors of philosophy, five doctors of education and

28 doctors of physical therapy.

Over the weekend, many schools and departments held their own commencement activities across campus.

Departmental graduations were held on Friday and Saturday. Those graduating in Wright Auditorium were limited to five tickets per graduate, while other venues such as Minges allowed as many as possible to attend.

Public relations major Cameron Jukes attended his departmental graduation that was held in Wright

on Friday at 5 p.m.

"We had to pick up our tickets before graduation," said Jukes. "I picked mine up on Monday, and they ran out early Tuesday morning before graduation."

Jukes enjoyed the university's commencement ceremony but was not too fond of the keynote speaker.

"I thought it was well done, it was organized, it

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Preliminary report would consolidate three colleges

Ashley House
STAFF WRITER

The Faculty Senate met last month to discuss a potential consolidation of three colleges at the university due to educational budget cuts around the state.

The three colleges that may be consolidated are the College of Human Ecology, the College of Fine Arts and Communication and the College of Health and Human Performance. If the proposal is accepted, the three colleges will be closed and then combined with other departments on campus.

Not only could these three colleges be closed, but also the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Science may be split up into two colleges: The College of Arts and Humanities and The College of Physical, Biological, and Social Sciences. Many departments from the three closings would be moved to Thomas Harriot.

This proposal came from the Education Policies and Planning Committee created by Chancellor Steve Ballard. The EPPC committee has given two reports – one being to prioritize criteria for dif-

ferent programs and the second is the potential consolidation. Budget cuts are responsible for the forming of the committee and its proposal. This proposal will only be implemented as a last resort.

Chancellor Ballard appointed the EPPC in preparation for the state budget cuts to the UNC system, which could be up to 15 percent. Every university and college in North Carolina is undergoing budget cuts. The chancellor wants the committee to minimize the amount of faculty losses.

Some members of the Faculty Senate are wary of the proposal, and wish to know if it will indeed save the university money. Members of the senate also want to keep all programs if possible. The committee has been formed to examine options to help insure that students get a good experience at ECU.

Glen Gilbert, dean of Health and Human Performance, said, "Students hopefully will notice minimal impact if indeed there is re-organization. This certainly will be the intention of everyone involved."

Other universities in North Carolina are also feeling the pres-

sure of budget cuts and are trying to pick out the best route for their schools. Chancellor Woodson of NC State has announced a realignment plan. This plan will help the university deal with the North Carolina's statewide budget cuts.

Some students have heard talk of the proposal given by the EPPC and how it may, in the future, affect them.

In an article written on the preliminary proposal, Mary Schulken, director of Public Affairs, stated, "This is a very preliminary proposal and any academic consolidation plan that is approved down the road will reflect feedback from the campus and an in-depth evaluation of its cost-saving impact."

Steve Gordon, chair of the EPPC and associate professor in the Department of Exercise and Sport Science, stated that this proposal was to start discussion, and it may never have to be implemented. Both Schulken and Gordon stated the university is trying to protect its academic core.

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

Niswander appointed to vice chancellor position

Cameron Gupton
STAFF WRITER

Frederick "Rick" Niswander has officially been named vice chancellor for Administration and Finance after a search to fill the position was conducted by the university.

The search continued for many months until a decision was finally reached to name Niswander vice chancellor.

A search committee headed by Phyllis Horns, vice chancellor for Health Sciences, invited many candidates to campus to tour and to be interviewed. Yet, through the process, Niswander was chosen. The ECU Board of Trustees approved Niswander at their April 15 meeting.

Other candidates for the posi-

tion of vice chancellor included Robert Specter and William Bowes of Georgia Medical College, along with several others who wish to remain unnamed.

Prior to the announcement, Niswander had been serving as interim vice chancellor after Kevin Seitz stepped down to accept a position at UNC-Chapel Hill. He began on December 1, 2010. He previously held the same position from December 2004 to February 2005.

Niswander has been working at the university since 1993 when he began as a professor of accounting. He also served as the dean of the College of Business until he assumed the post of interim vice



DAN WILLET | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
Frederick "Rick" Niswander was named Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance.

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Kidnapper arraigned

Jamie Coan
STAFF WRITER

Kaimeek Brown, 17, has been charged with violently abducting a female, 22-year-old student from a parking lot near Reade Circle and Third Street on Monday, April 25.

He went before a district court judge on May 12, at the Pitt County Detention Center. Brown was charged with eight crimes, including first-degree kidnapping, first-degree sex offense, robbery with a dangerous weapon and possession of stolen property. He is being held at the Pitt County Detention Center until his next trial date on July 5.

Brown is suspected of forcing the victim into her car at approximately 1 p.m. in a parking lot near Reade Circle and Third Street, after following her for some time. Police say her attacker forced her to drive to several ATMs in the Greenville area to withdraw money. The victim said that the first bank they stopped at was the BB&T off Reade Circle, but her card would not work.

Police say that Brown was armed with a knife and a gun. About an hour into the abduction, the suspect made her drive to a dead end road where he told her to give him her credit cards and cellphone. The victim was able to escape her car on Country Club Drive, miles from campus, and run to a nearby house to call for help while her attacker fled on foot.

The 911 recording was released by the Greenville Police Department on Wednesday morning. The recordings are public records under North Carolina Law. The victim told an emergency dispatcher about how she ran from her abductor.

"He got out his gun and he said he was going to shoot me, and I just ran," the victim said.

In the 911 call, the victim gave a full and detailed description of her attacker and told the police which ATMs she had gone to. This information helped Greenville Police track down the suspect within hours of the crime.

Greenville Police apprehended the suspect at around 8:30 p.m. on April 25.

Campus surveillance cameras from the parking lot where the student was abducted and video cameras from the ATMs that she had stopped at also helped the police to catch the suspect.

According to an alert email sent out to all students, Brown is facing charges of first-degree kidnapping, first-degree sexual offense, robbery with a dangerous weapon, possession of stolen property and goods, felony probation violation and misdemeanor larceny. He was informed of these charges Wednesday, April 27, during his first short court appearance at the Pitt County Detention Center. Chief District Court Judge David Leech set his bond at \$500,000.

In an email sent out to all students, Greenville Police Chief William Anderson said that the incident was "a random act of violence."

"I never walk alone at night, and I thought that was enough, but this happened in the middle of the day. I was shocked," said student Jessica Bellamy.

ECU Police Chief Scott Shelton said that this is the first violent kidnapping on campus that he is aware of. He said that it was very unusual that it happened during the middle of the day. He encourages students to walk in pairs and to be aware of their surroundings. "We always encourage students to walk in pairs or in groups, if they can. And we understand that there are times they can't. When a student can't, the one thing

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New terror alert system begins

Jamie Coan
STAFF WRITER

The U.S. government has developed a new system for terror alerts and will begin to use Facebook and Twitter to announce its warnings to the public.

Currently, the government uses a five-color coded terror alert system. This will be replaced with two levels of warnings, "elevated" and "imminent," that will be relayed to the public only under certain circumstances and for a limited amount of time, according to a Homeland Security Department plan obtained by The Associated Press. This plan calls for alerts to also be published on social networking services such as Facebook and Twitter "when appropriate," according to the 19-page draft.

"I think it's a good idea to use Facebook to tell the public of a terror threat," said sophomore Jacob Lewis. "That's how most young people get their information these days."

According to this plan, some terror warnings could be withheld from the public if an announcement of the threat

could risk exposing an intelligence operation or an ongoing investigation.

The government has long struggled with how much information it should release to the public concerning terror threats. The five-color coded warnings ranged from the lowest level green to blue (guarded), yellow (elevated), orange (high) and red (severe). They were put in place after the terror attack on the U.S. on 9/11, but are now considered hard to understand and often ignored. The new advisory system is designed to be more specific and began on April 27.

Under the new plan, members of Congress will be notified first, followed by counterterrorism officials in states and cities, then governors and mayors and, last, the public, AP reported.

According to the plan, an "elevated" alert would "warn of a credible threat against the U.S. It would not likely specify timing or targets, but it could reveal terrorist trends that intelligence officials believe should be shared in order to prevent an attack. That alert would expire after no more than 30 days but could be extended."

And an "imminent" alert would "warn about a credible, specific and impending terrorist threat or an on-going attack against the U.S. That alert would expire after no more than seven days but could be extended."

"The new system reflects the reality that we must always be on alert and be ready," Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said in a speech to George Washington University's Homeland Security Policy Institute.

"The alerts will be specific to the threat posed. They may recommend certain actions or suggest looking for specific suspicious behavior. And they will have a specified end date," Napolitano said.

Major Frank Knight of the Emergency Management Planning division of ECU Police explains the ways campus authorities would notify students and faculty of any terror threat. "Number one would be the ECU web page, then the announce email that we send out. We also put it on any of the other systems, depending on how specific the threat is. If the threat is more detailed or there is a threat on our campus, we have several other notification

systems including the ECU Police Department Facebook page and the plasma TV screens in the classroom buildings."

Knight explained that there are outdoor speakers that can be used on campus in case of an emergency. He also explained the ECU Alert "pop-up" instant messaging software for PCs can be downloaded so students can receive emergency instant messages on a PC screen. Students and their parents can sign up to receive text messages and phone calls when any threat is presented on campus.

The university also has two Twitter accounts, ECUAlert and ECUSafety, which students can follow.

Sarah Holmes, a junior, thinks that the campus authorities do a good job of informing students when there is a threat. "I receive phone calls, emails and text messages when there's even bad weather around campus. It makes me feel safe knowing that ECU has so many ways of letting students know that they might be in danger," said Holmes.

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

GRADUATION continued from A1

started on time and the accommodations were good," said Jukes. "I wasn't a huge fan of the keynote speaker, however."

The keynote speaker at the university's ceremony was U.S. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus. Mabus delivered a speech in which he told the graduates to "do something bigger than yourself."

"I'm asking you to do something bigger than yourself, do something outside of yourself. Do something to give back to this unique country of ours. Do something to help people that you may never know and who may never know what you have done," said Mabus.

Mabus is the 75th United States Secretary of the Navy. Mabus is in charge of the country's Navy and Marine Corps and is accountable for an annual budget in excess of \$150 billion and over 900,000 people.

Mabus also told the graduates to thank their parents and families who helped them get to the monumental day.

Finally, Mabus paid tribute to Marine Corps Sgt. David Smith, class of 2010, who was killed in Afghanistan.

A few special awards were given out during the ceremony, as

well, including the 2011 Robert H. Wright Award, which honors four graduating seniors in the areas of academic achievement, service and leadership.

This year's recipients were: Brittany Leigh Carr of Mount Olive, Deepak Ravindranathan of Calabash, Paratek Singla of Greenville and Anna Elizabeth Smith of Oakboro.

Some faculty also received awards. John Howard III, associate professor in the School of Communication, was presented with the "UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching." This is the highest award given by the university and includes a commemorative bronze metal and cash prize.

Jarrett Stark, a sports studies major, graduated on Saturday from both the College of Health and Human Performance and the university.

"Graduation was pretty good. The speaker spoke a little too long for me, but overall it was great," said Stark. "Everybody was excited, the nursing graduates had silly string and the stadium was pretty much full."

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NISWANDER continued from A1

chancellor of Administration and Finance in December 2010.

When he held the position of dean of the College of Business, he was named a "W. Howard Rooks Distinguished Professor."

As interim vice chancellor, Niswander was responsible for all financial and business operations of the university and reported directly to the chancellor. This includes 6,500 employees, assets over \$900 million and annual revenues that exceed \$700 million.

Niswander received his bachelor's degree from Idaho

State University and graduated from Texas A&M University with a Ph.D. in accounting. In addition to this, he holds the University of North Carolina Board of Governors Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award, which he received in 1998.

John Durham, executive director of University Communication, says that he believes Niswander is an excellent choice to fill the position.

"Rick Niswander is a superb choice to fill the vice chancellor's role. He has a top-notch

combination of experience and accomplishment in both the academic and the business world," said Durham. "He will do an excellent job helping the university navigate the current budget difficulties."

Niswander will now be responsible for "business services, campus operations, financial services, human resources, information technology and university facilities, including construction and renovation of campus buildings," stated a university news article. His salary is set at \$270,000 per year.

Chancellor Steve Ballard commented on the appointment of Niswander in the article. "While this appointment reflects his financial skills and competencies, as well as his business experience, it is even more reflective of the great leadership skills that he exhibits every day," Ballard said. "He will be a great addition to an already strong senior leadership team at ECU."

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

KIDNAPPING continued from A1

that we strongly encourage is that the student has awareness around them," Shelton said.

"I walk back and forth to class alone all the time. It really could have been anyone, but it's going to make me think twice

about walking by myself," said student Sara Roberson.

Shelton also said, "Listen to yourself. If something strikes you as not right, it probably isn't right. We really want to stress to call the police department any-

time a person feels uncomfortable because a person is acting suspicious around them."

ABC News reported that Brown has prior convictions of breaking and entering. While he was incarcerated, Brown was

charged with several inmate infractions including: fighting, damage to property, lock tampering and disobeying orders.

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The above named organization has voluntarily requested this survey as a means of having a review of the entire organization to build upon strengths or identify opportunities to improve the delivery of quality health care.

Members of the general public, patients, and individuals on the staff of this organization, believing that they have pertinent and valid information about this organization's provision of health care or compliance with AAAHA standards, may request an information presentation with AAAHA surveyors at the time of the survey for the purpose of presenting such information, or may communicate such information in writing or by telephone to the AAAHA. All information received from identified individuals at or prior to the survey will be considered in

making the accreditation decision. The information presented will not be debated with the reporting individual.

Requests for presentation must be received at least two weeks prior to the survey in order to allow sufficient time to schedule the presentations.

Requests for public information presentations or reporting of pertinent and valid information may be communicated in writing or by telephone to AAAHA at the following address and telephone number:

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5250 Old Orchard Road, Suite 200 Skokie, IL 60077
Telephone 847/853-6060
FAX 847/853-9028

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Greenville Summer 2011: Who's coming with me?

I'm graduating. In my three years here I haven't had a date, gotten laid, or had a Pirate Rant published. Is one out of three too much to ask?

They say drinking kills brain cells. My only regret is that I don't have more to sacrifice.

I have a feeling that SOME of the student writers of TEC are underclassmen as they say the stupidest things.

Really sorry our deck collapsed; hope no one was seriously hurt. Party on, party people!

While all of you girls downtown have to spend 3 hours on your hair, 2 hours in the tanning bed, and \$200 on you slutty dress, I have the best boyfriend in the world and he fell for me in a t-shirt and gym shorts.

I wish they sold alcohol at the Galley. I would love to pay with a meal and Pirate Bucks!

At least P!nk will still think I'm perfect if I bomb my finals.

A friend just bragged to me about posting an Xtube video and getting 10k views in 24 hours. He feels like a porn star. I feel like a Catholic priest.

To the idiots that have been causing our campus to be unsafe lately: Don't take it out on us that you are too poor to attend the college in your own city.

I just realized I'm in love with a guy who's moving halfway across the country over the summer. Crap.

Karma's a bitch and so are you!

Surely ECU could have waited until after finals to declare war on the grass outside of my class while I took my exam.

NEWS FLASH: You're not going to find the man of your dreams at ECU!

How can I tell you that you are the essence that I speak of, the music of my soul and lately the very reason I smile each morning?

Thank you, Java City at Joyner for leaving out free coffee Sunday night for us hard-working students. Next time, can you please leave out some cream and sugar too?

To my amazing boyfriend: You were perfect until I caught you gnawing on your toenails. I think I'll vom if you ever kiss me again.

Shipyardshouts.com is gone! Nooooo!

To the guy that stole my food RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME at Sup Dogs: Get your nasty hands out of my food and get a job!

There are not enough cuss words to express how much I hate ECU's internet. Instead of a beach how bout faster internet, since you're wasting away my money!

You know you go to ECU when your friends ask the kid who beer bonged a Four Loko what happened last night.

I'm pretty sure you're not supposed to poop on the toilet seat.

So now school is over, are you gonna still booty call me? 'Cause I'll drive the seven hours.

Why do we even have a financial aid office? I'm pretty sure that a sign saying check your e-mail would work just as well and be friendlier than the rude lady that "assisted" me today.

To the loud and obnoxious drama students at Wright Plaza: You guys might have super easy finals but all of us with real finals need to study. So shut up.

More Pirate Rants on the website

LIFE AFTER VIDEO GAMES



Ben Cochran
OPINION COLUMNIST
Senior Nursing Major

It's springtime, and I couldn't be happier. The weather is warm, girls jog by in skimpy running outfits and the beer tastes even better when I can drink it guilt-free, knowing that I don't have to do any homework.

I would have been enjoying all of these summer treats from the comfort of my air-conditioned apartment as I capped bogie after bogie in Call of Duty, except the live PlayStation servers were down due to the recent cyber attacks on Sony.

Back on April 20, Sony was the target of a massive cyber attack by a group of hackers. The security breach was so bad that Sony shut down all of its PlayStation servers, as well as all of the Sony Online Entertainment servers. In total, more than 100 million people worldwide have user accounts with the Sony PlayStation Network that was down until May 15.

You see, boys and girls, I'm a gamer. I play video games. I'm not addicted to them, per se, but I probably have an unhealthy affinity for them. It's as if I view the world through the lens of pawning noob after noob. It's an itch that I have to scratch, or else I get fidgety. And for several weeks, Daddy was without his candy.

The attack didn't just affect Sony's ability to deliver a quality product — it affected every single account holder. Sony confirmed that personal data from 24.6 million user accounts was exposed. According to Satoshi Fukuoka, spokesman for Sony Computer Entertainment, Inc., personal data, including credit card information, may have been stolen from an additional 77 million accounts, as well. To put that figure in perspective, that's like one out of every three Americans having his or her identity stolen.

The network servers were shut down on April 20, but users were not notified of the breach until April 26. Sony claims that they didn't fully know the extent of the breach until that time. The situation is unacceptable. A class-action lawsuit led by plaintiff Kristopher Johns claims that "consumers and

merchants have been exposed to what is one of the largest compromises of Internet security and the greatest potential for credit card fraud to ever occur in U.S. history."

I can understand the need to shut down the servers until a better security system is implemented by Sony. I can understand that making online transactions demands constant vigilance on my part to ensure the security of my credit card account. I can even understand that sometimes it takes a little while to assess the extent of the damage dealt by malicious hackers. But what I can't understand and what I refuse to accept is that Sony didn't know what was happening for a solid week.

If you're in the business of online gaming and networking, you had better make darn-tootin' sure

that you know your system better than anybody else — by virtue of the fact that it's your system. I understand that there are some mischievous little degenerates out there, but the day they become smarter than you is the day you have serious problems. That day was April 20 for Sony. In relation to the "holiday," I suggest that Sony implement some serious drug testing policies for their IT department.

The past few weeks have been morose. However, I've had to spend my time doing other things, like leaving my room and going outdoors.

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



ILLUSTRATED BY TIMOTHY WEAVER

Mixed emotions



Morgan Logan
OPINION COLUMNIST
Senior Health Education and Promotions and Pre-Health

Nearly 10 years ago, Americans were faced with one of the greatest tragedies on our soil since the attack on Pearl Harbor. Days later, the citizens were informed that the terror attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were arranged by al-Qaeda, led by their notorious leader whom they now consider a martyr, Osama bin Laden.

We've lived the past decade in fear of what may come next, and that's not to mention the loss of thousands of our men and women in the armed forces as a result of this War on Terror. It's no surprise that there was a sigh of relief that many of us experienced on May 1 when headlines pronounced "Osama bin Laden Killed."

I, like many of my peers, changed my Facebook and Twitter status; however, no one had tweeted anything like I said. Most were tweets and status updates celebrating that bin Laden had been killed by the US military.

Mine was a little different: "Osama bin Laden has been killed. Do we mourn or rejoice?" I received one comment like, "I'm pretty sure no one is going to be mourning," which I figured would be a response.

Per the 2010 Census, 78.5 percent of Americans are of the Christian faith; so how appropriate is it that we are celebrating the death of one of God's creatures?

In the Book of Ezekiel 33:9, from the New International Version of the Bible, it says, "But if you do not warn the wicked man to turn from his ways

and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself." Christians may use this as justification, as if God wanted it to end like this.

Don't get me wrong — I do feel like a weight lifted off of us because he is dead. I believe this man had evil intentions. However, I do regret that the US forces were the ones to take him out. I feel like, since his death, another weight has been placed upon this nation.

Do we just expect to kill al-Qaeda's most loved figure and expect them not to retaliate? According to The Philadelphia Inquirer, an 11-paragraph statement issued by al-Qaeda followers stated, "Soon, God willing, their happiness will turn into sadness, their blood will be mingled with their tears."

The statement went on to describe the Egyptians and how they rallied against the "despicable President Obama" and vowed to avenge the death of "the martyred hero."

Celebrating his death may have been the tip of the scale for bin Laden supporters in the Middle East. It was not enough that the US killed their hero, but we celebrated. I remember watching the television and there were masses of people outside the White House chanting "U-S-A! U-S-A!" The same happened here at ECU.

News reporters were here as students congregated in a rally of the same degree. Yes, we should show our patriotism, but I don't think celebrating the death of anyone is appropriate, especially amongst Christians. Instead, there should have only been a sense of relief. Now, due to America's cockiness, we have recreated this sense of uneasiness once again.

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POLL RESULTS

Were you affected by the recent tornado damage?

Yes 11%
No 89%

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Should we be friends?



Abby Brockmeyer
OPINION COLUMNIST
Senior Public Relations Major

ECU is a campus divided by 60 percent women and 40 percent men. So why, with an overall bigger number in population, do women at ECU still treat themselves as inferior to men and generally with such low regards for their gender?

There is a growing theme between the female students that seems to only be exponentially getting worse as time goes on. Regardless of what our parents think, most girls are behaving as though the only reason they are in college is for the ever-important boyfriend, the drunken nights and the endless parties.

Gone are the days of actually worrying about an education or future, because now there are bigger things to worry about. Like why that bitch stole my hookup buddy and why he won't accept my friend request on Facebook. This is all directly related to the lack of self-esteem in young women today.

We no longer see our fellow college girls as the wholesome people who we might become best friends with. Now there is the growing threat of these girls stealing our boyfriends, or worse yet, looking better than us in a bathing suit! We see what should be our closest friends in college as direct threats. Whether some will admit it or not, sometimes girls' biggest competitors are with their best friends.

An article by Harvard psychiatric consultant Dr. Carl Binger states, "The single most frequently encountered emotional disturbance among these young women is depression." Many people from the outside, especially parents, wonder what there is to be depressed about.

The truth is that we create this bubble of competitive and emotionally draining chaos ourselves. Why else do we get on Facebook 50 times a day, even during the classes that we're paying for? We need to check if anyone wrote on our walls so that people can see how cool we are or to check up on a girl's pictures to make sure that we still have more tagged photos than her. We only seem to care about what's skin deep in college, and unfortunately that has caused most of us to live very conceited and backwards lives.

In what would be the perfect college scene, girls would embrace one another regardless of what they look like. They also shouldn't judge others based on what group they hang out with or what their Facebook looks like. Then, we would probably be happier, less self-conscious and therefore a lot less likely to be depressed. We would all be happier because we wouldn't have to ever worry about fitting into any type of mold.

Some people argue that Facebook is even making us believe our own fake images of ourselves. An article on ScienceDaily.com says, "users can choose what they reveal about themselves and filter anything that might reflect badly. Feedback from friends posted publicly on Facebook profiles also tends to be overwhelmingly positive, which can further boost self-esteem."

Why the heck do we need constant feedback on the Internet just so that other people can see that positive feedback? That logic promotes instability and a need to please other people, instead of worrying about pleasing ourselves. It also promotes constant competitiveness between girls, especially about boys.

Men come and go, especially throughout the craziness of college. Why should we ever let guys control what and how we do things when we need to be learning how to be independent ourselves? And why should we ever let a little portal on the Internet, like Facebook, control our lives?

The lack of self-esteem in college girls is a trend that needs to change. We left high school because we were supposedly older and wiser, so there is no need to bring up past habits that we really should have outgrown. We are pressured, stressed-out women, and our actions only show how much we still have to learn in life. Hopefully, one day we will figure it all out.

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The Did You Know's came from the book "The Book Of Useless Information by Noel Botham & The Useless Information Society"

The phrase "jet lag" was once called boat lag, back before airplanes existed.

Zorro in Spanish means "fox".

Spain literally means "the land of rabbits."

There's a cemetery town in California called Colma; its ratio of dead to living people is 750 to 1.

Harvard is the oldest university in United States.

Bank robber John Dillinger played professional baseball.

The average life of a nuclear plant is forty years.

One hundred seven incorrect medical procedures will be performed by the end of today.

Clouds fly higher during the day than at night.

The Asiatic elephant takes 608 days to give birth, or just over twenty months.

The leech has thirty-two brains.

A cockroach's favorite food is the glue on the back of a stamp.

November 19 is Have A Bad Day Day.

There was no punctuation until the fifteenth century.

"Stewardess" is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.

The oldest word in the English language is "town."

For the 66 percent of Americans who admit to reading in the bathroom, the preferred reading material is "Reader's Digest".

Aristotle thought blood cooled the brain.

Bill Clinton was the first left-handed president to serve two terms.

Pole vault poles used to be stiff. Now they bend, which allows the vaulter to be higher.

Husbands and wives in India who desire children whisper their wish in the ear of a sacred cow.

There is a town in Texas called Ding Dong.

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

The national anthem of Greece has 158 verses.

Pilgrims ate popcorn at the first Thanksgiving dinner.

Brand Arakelin, a Brink's car guard, was killed when \$50,000 worth of quarters fell on and crushed him.

Robert E. Lee wore size 4½ shoes.

Kotex was first manufactured as bandages during World War II.

New Zealand was the first country to give women the right to vote, in 1890.

It is forbidden to fly an aircraft over the Taj Mahal.

Voodoo originated in Haiti.

Japan's currency is the most difficult to counterfeit.

Organized crime is estimated to account for 10 percent of the United States' national income.

The sale of vodka makes up 10 percent of Russian government income.

The Apollo 11 had only twenty seconds of fuel left when it landed.

Baseball's home plate is seventeen inches wide.

Andy Grammer 'keeps his head up'

Hunter Ingram
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

From the moment Andy Grammer steps on stage, it's hard not to appreciate the enthusiasm and passion that he radiates through every one of his songs. And while, for some, it may be the first time they've ever heard of Grammer, once he leaves that stage, it will certainly not be the last.

Like most musicians, Andy Grammer's rise to fame hasn't exactly been an immediate one. And in his case, it's something he's been working toward for 10 years. During those years, he performed on the streets in Santa Monica to get his music out to the public. But after being signed by S-Curve Records, the label that is also home to We The Kings, Grammer got the chance to bring his music to more people than he could have ever dreamed of and hasn't stopped since.

When trying to make a mark in the music business, or any business for that matter, it never hurts to have something new and refreshing to spark people's interests. For Grammer, that intriguing spark would have to be his unique blend of musical styles.

"I would describe my music as having influences from awesome guitar dudes like John Mayer and Jack Johnson, piano rock people like OneRepublic and Coldplay, and then I just love hip-hop, so lyrically, it's all over the place," said Grammer. "And once you throw all three of those together, hopefully you get a Lauren Hill-John Mayer-Maroon 5-type [sound]."

On May 10, Grammer brought that unique sound to Raleigh's Lincoln Theatre, as part of the Plain White T's "Wonders of the Younger" tour.

As one of the openers for Plain White T's, Grammer got the audience riled up for the show by performing all of the songs from his recently-released self-titled EP, as well as a few of his lesser-known songs.

Throughout his set, Grammer invited the crowd to join in on his songs, whether they knew them or not. He even shared some of the inspiration behind a few of his own, like "Ladies," a song about respecting women, which he dedicated to his mother who died of cancer, and "Lunatic," which he wrote about his time as a street performer.

During the show, Grammer saved his upbeat first single, "Keep Your Head Up," for the end, giving the audience a chance to sing along with him as he energetically played the keyboard.

By creating this musician-audience experience to help close out his show, Grammer is paying respect to the song that has helped get him the recognition that he deserves. The video for the song was recently named the "Most Innovative Music Video" at the MTV O Music Awards.

The video, which features a cameo by "The Office's" Rainn Wilson, is the first of its kind. It actually provides viewers with a choose-your-own-adventure that allows them to take control of what happens to Grammer throughout the video, without messing with the flow of the song.

The popularity of the video and the radio play of "Keep Your Head Up," in addition to the fact that he was recently named by Billboard Magazine as an "Artist to Watch," have helped garner Grammer an impressive fan base, which is something that he still finds a little unbelievable.

"To show up to Raleigh and have people know who I am and know my music is ridiculous, but it's so much fun," said Grammer.

And while his fan base has drastically grown, his passion for making music and playing for people hasn't changed one bit.

"I have been [playing music] about as hard as I'm going right now for a while, but with more people, it's just more fun," said Grammer. "The same spark of creating music and then playing it for 20 people is still cool and something great definitely comes from that, but it's like [that experience] is on steroids when it's 600 people."

And once June comes around, Andy Grammer will have even more to smile about. Not only will he be releasing his self-titled, debut album on June 14, but he will also be joining Natasha Bedingfield on her "Less Is More" tour starting June 5.

For Andy Grammer, making a mark on the music industry was no easy task, especially since he hasn't even released his first album yet, but he has no doubt done it. If the unique music and infectious stage pres-



TYRONE DEMERY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ence that he showed in Raleigh is any indication of what he has up his sleeve, pretty soon, Andy Grammer will no doubt be a household name.

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TYRONE DEMERY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Andy Grammer plays for an audience at Lincoln Theatre in Raleigh, NC on May 10, 2011

Summer plans hitting a roadblock

Kate Wiggins
STAFF WRITER

On a dewy North Carolina morning, Sean Samuels sits in his black Ford Focus packed with suitcases, ready to hit the road. Similar to other college students, he has friends who disperse back to their hometowns after leaving ECU for the summer.

Samuels, a junior political science major, plans to drive from Fayetteville to New York and D.C. for Memorial Day weekend. With the national gas price average speculated at around \$4 dollars a gallon, Samuels, as well as many other college students, will not fulfill many of his trip plans.

According to a CNN poll, 63 percent of Americans say they have cut back on driving habits due to the rising price of gas. The high prices at the pump are also causing a spillover effect into the broader economy. Six out of 10 people report to spending less on other items.

So why are gas prices rising? According to James D. Hamilton in a special CNN report, the surge of oil prices is due to the continuing political unrest and military conflict in North Africa and the Middle East. According to a Washington Post research study, 31 percent of Americans blame the steep gas prices on the greed of oil companies themselves. Only 19 percent of typical Americans say it is because of wars and Middle East unrest.

Samuels says that gas prices are plain ridiculous. "Last summer, I could fill my gas tank with less than \$35 dollars worth of gas," Samuels said. "This summer, it takes almost \$50 dollars [to fill it up]. I don't think I'll be going very far this summer."

Although the price at the pump is bringing some young adults' driving plans to a screeching halt, there are several other ways to travel if necessary.

Contrary to popular belief, flying is a cost-efficient alternative for many frequent travelers. Considering that gas prices are so high, a one-way, \$50 dollar flight from Southwest Airlines saves both money and travel time. Greyhound buses and trains have also been popular alternatives for many college students, as they are both cost efficient and relaxing. However, many college students, like Samuels, will be "stay-cationing" this summer.

So, what's a broke college kid to do? Although it may be frustrating to feel confined to one's hometown after a fun year with friends at ECU, there are numerous alternatives to traveling - substitutes that do not include watching re-runs of soap operas and reading Facebook's newsfeed.

Thankfully, North Carolina is a large state with much to offer its residents. From the Coastal Plains, through the Piedmont and up to the mountains, there is always something to do outdoors. Depending on one's geographic location, a trip to the beach, a golf course,



Local Greenville man fills up his tank at the gas station near North Campus Crossing.

DIOVAL REMONDE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

the mountains, a water park or a cornfield could turn into an inexpensive, yet memorable day trip with food, sun and friends. You could even bring a camera and have a fun photo shoot.

Summer jobs are also a great way to pass the time while making some money. Fun summer job options could include a position at a local ice cream shop or the animal shelter, beach cleanup or camp counseling.

Internships are also beneficial alternatives to traveling. Many internship positions are unpaid, which turns a number of college students away from apply-

ing. However, some companies will pay for travel and will also grant college credit if the internship is within a major course of study. The experience itself can also be very rewarding.

Volunteer work can be a very gratifying experience, especially if the volunteering is for a group or cause one is passionate about.

Josh Schwager, a junior, has plans to travel with a youth group to volunteer this summer.

"I'm going to the Dominican (Republic) for a week to build houses and churches for people who aren't able to afford them," Schwager said.

Another alternative to traveling is getting a head start on next semester's schoolwork. Buy or rent required textbooks and start reading through the chapters. When school begins in August, there will be plenty of time to ease into the semester.

But Samuels says he plans to pick up a hobby this summer.

"I really want to learn how to play piano," Samuels said. "It's going to take practice, but I have the time since I'm probably not traveling anywhere."

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

"So, what's a broke college kid to do?"

'Something Borrowed' movie review

★★★★☆
Madonna Messana
 STAFF WRITER

Summer has begun, which means several anticipated movies are on their way to the big screen. "Something Borrowed," a romantic comedy based on the bestselling novel by Emily Giffin and directed by Luke Greenfield ("The Girl Next Door"), is one of those anticipated movies.

Like most books that are turned into movies, "Something Borrowed" had a lot to live up to for fans of the novel.

"I thought ['Something Borrowed'] was cute and touching," said Taylor Rathbun, an elementary education major. "I read the book and thought it was better. The movie left out some of the details from the book and added things to make it appropriate. Overall, I think they did a good job."

The movie mostly followed the plot line of the novel, yet with a few adjustments. It began on Rachel's (Jennifer Godwin) 30th birthday at a party thrown for her by her childhood best friend, Darcy (Kate Hudson).

Not to anyone's surprise, Darcy remained the center of attention on Rachel's night — which is typical of her character. Darcy has always been one step ahead of Rachel, who allows Darcy to sometimes walk all over her and to manipulate her.

Hudson, who played Darcy, did an excellent job portraying the snobby, self-centered character. She was casted well in this character because she exhibited Darcy in the same sense as she seemed to be in the novel.

In the fall, Darcy is to be married to Dex (Colin Egglesfield). Rachel introduced the couple six years earlier when Rachel and Dex attended law school together. Rachel, being Darcy's maid of honor in her marriage to Dex, makes things extremely complicated with what happens at the end of the night on her 30th birthday.

Egglesfield did a sufficient job portraying Dex's character, but in the novel, readers were able to get to know his character much better. The movie did not exactly go as deep into his character as the book did, which in turn made Egglesfield seem as though he was not doing well in the role. Casting did, however, manage to cast him adequately look-wise because the book made him out to be very attractive, like the movie did as well.

The morning after her birthday, Rachel finds herself in bed with, of all people, Dex. The two try their best all summer to put their "one-night-fling" in the past, as if it never happened. However, they realized they each have genuine feelings for one another and that they have had these feelings since they were in school together.

There are several "flashback" scenes in the movie that explain Rachel and Dex's friendship before Darcy came along, as well as Darcy and Dex's first meeting. The flashbacks also show the chemistry that has always been evident in Rachel and Dex's relationship.

Later in the movie, another childhood friend



The cast of "Something Borrowed" share a moment in the summer romantic comedy.

is introduced, Ethan (John Krasinski), who Rachel and Darcy fought over as children. We learn through Ethan's character that Darcy has always competed with Rachel and sometimes lied in order to seem as though she was better than Rachel.

Both Krasinski and Godwin portrayed their characters excellently and were favorites among many moviegoers. Throughout most of the movie, their humor and wit played well off one another, showing their chemistry and making fans fall for them. The two defined the novel's characters of Ethan and Rachel to a tee and were perfect for the roles.

"I loved ['Something Borrowed;'] it was hilarious and kept my interest," said Katie Wilson, a junior speech-language pathology major. ("Something Borrowed") was one of the best movies I have seen in a long time. I have not read the book, but I recently heard about it and plan on reading it this summer."

The movie, like the novel, takes the audience through the ups and downs of Rachel and Dex's relationship while their feelings for one another grow. The audience anxiously awaits Dex's decision to either marry Darcy or leave her to be with Rachel — who does her best to put her feelings behind her for the sake of her friendship with Darcy.

Greenfield did an excellent job illustrating Giffin's bestseller as a movie, however, the movie left out several aspects shown in the novel.

"Something Borrowed" is loved by movie-goers like Wilson and Rathbun, but many critics disagree and feel as though the movie was disappointing.

"The movie strains far too hard to make what Rachel and Dex have done all right," said Lisa Kennedy, a top critic for the Denver Post. "As if their guilty anguish — and the movies saccharine score — free us to root for them."

"I didn't like that they added scenes and left out parts from the book that could have really made the movie more romantic," said Rathbun. "I guess that's always how it is when you read the book and then see the movie. I loved the casting and thought they did a good job with this bestselling book!"

"Something Borrowed" is definitely recommended to movie fans. However, keep in mind that Giffin's novel is just as, if not more, enjoyable and is also recommended as a great summer read.

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

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C-USA Champs head to College Park Regional

ECU Media Relations

The Conference USA tournament champion ECU softball team is heading to the University of Maryland for the College Park Regional to begin the 2011 NCAA Tournament. The Pirates (39-20) earned C-USA's automatic bid into the post-season event after defeating Tulsa 4-1 in the league's tournament championship game Saturday. ECU is joined by the host Terrapins (39-17), Baylor (40-12) and Lehigh (33-21) in the College Park Regional. Baylor enters the tournament as the top seed in the region and the No. 11 national seed.

ECU begins action in the double-elimination regional Friday against the host Terrapins at 7:30 p.m. inside Robert E. Taylor Stadium on the campus of the University of Maryland. The Bears will face Lehigh at 5:00 p.m.

The Pirates have faced Maryland three times already in 2011 and Lehigh once, but have never played Baylor. ECU fell to the Terrapins 3-1 in Athens, Ga., Feb. 13 and split a doubleheader with Maryland in College Park March 9. East Carolina won the opener 3-2 and lost in the nightcap 4-2. At the Pirate Clash in Greenville Feb. 26, ECU downed the Mountain Hawks 8-0 in six innings. The berth is ECU's second straight, fourth overall and third in the last four seasons.

Baseball ranked No. 30 by NCBWA

ECU Media Relations

On the heels of a perfect 4-0 week, which included its third non-conference series sweep, the ECU baseball team garnered its second national ranking of the 2011 season coming in a No. 30 by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA).

The Pirates (34-17, 11-10) and are one of three C-USA schools ranked this week by the NCBWA joining Rice (No. 17) and Southern Miss (No. 20). For the 10th-straight week ECU received votes for the USA Today/ESPN Coaches' poll.

With just four games remaining in the regular season, the Pirates will play their home finale against former Colonial Athletic Association foe Old Dominion on Tuesday, May 17 at 6 p.m. before heading to Tulane for the final Conference USA series of the season May 19-21.

Club baseball heads to World Series

Staff Reports

After sweeping the Mid Atlantic Regional last weekend the ECU club baseball team is heading to the 2011 National Club Baseball Association World Series in Columbus, Ga. The Pirates went 25-7 overall and 12-3 in conference this season. At the regional ECU went 3-0, defeating James Madison once and Maryland twice to seal its first berth to the World Series.

Joining the Pirates in Columbus are UC Santa Barbara, Massachusetts, Texas Tech, Florida State, Iowa, Western Washington and Michigan. ECU is ranked as fourth seed and will square off with fifth seed Florida State to open up World Series play.

CHAMPS AGAIN

SOFTBALL WINS SECOND STRAIGHT C-USA TOURNAMENT



The ECU softball team celebrates its second consecutive CUSA Championship at home in Greenville on Saturday.

Stephen McNulty STAFF WRITER

Over the weekend, ECU softball hosted the Conference USA Tournament. The Pirates (39-20, 14-10 C-USA) rolled through fourth-seeded Memphis (35-12, 15-7 C-USA), two-seeded Houston (42-15, 19-5 C-USA) and regular season conference leaders Tulsa (43-13, 19-5 C-USA) on the way to their second consecutive C-USA Tournament Title.

The Pirates, who were fifth in the conference entering the tournament, continued to ride the strong right arm of pitcher Toni Paisley and the veteran leadership of Priscilla Velasquez.

"Our kids were so competitive all weekend, and I knew we had the ability to play some quality softball," head coach Tracey Kee stated after the victory over Tulsa. "This season has been full of peaks and valleys. Luckily, we are peaking at the right time."

In the first round, ECU won easily over the Memphis Tigers. Freshman Jordan Lewis had a two-out double in the fifth inning to give the Pirates the lead. Velasquez then drove in two insurance runs in the top of the seventh to finish with three RBIs on the day.

Paisley finished the game going seven innings and striking out 10, while only allowing a single run in the 5-1 victory.

Things got a little closer in the

second round against Houston. A lead-off home run in the second inning by freshman Alex Fieldhouse was all the Pirates needed as Paisley once again shut down the competition. The Lowes Senior Class Award candidate allowed just six hits in the seven innings of work from the complete game shutout.

The 1-0 victory over Houston matched the Pirates up with Tulsa in the championship game. ECU took two out of three when the teams met in the regular season.

The Pirates got on the board quick when Velasquez drew a bases loaded walk in the top half of the first to give the Pirates a 1-0 lead. Tulsa threatened ECU in the bottom frame by loading the bases, but a strikeout and foul out got the Pirates and Paisley out of the inning.

ECU added three more runs in the fourth. Both Fieldhouse and Jasmine Robbins walked to put runners on first and second with two outs. Then, the bat of Velasquez struck with a home run to left field.

A solo home run in the fourth got Tulsa on the board, but that was all that Paisley would give up, retiring the Golden Hurricanes in order in the sixth and the seventh to seal the victory.

Paisley finished the game with eight strikeouts and only three hits. The win put her at 30-11 on the season, a tie for fifth on the ECU single-season win list. Paisley's eight K's put her 20th on the NCAA Division I career list with

1,259. The right-hander was 3-0 with a 0.67 ERA and 21 strikeouts in the tournament.

"It was amazing playing at home," Paisley said following the championship game. "We struggled here during the season, but it is a dream come true to win a championship in your own stadium in front of your fans."

Velasquez finished with all four runs batted in during the championship game, and seven total during the tournament. This was a strong enough performance to name her the Conference USA Tournament MVP. Joining Velasquez and Paisley on the All-Tournament Team were Pirates Jill Jellnick, Fieldhouse and Lewis.

ECU will travel to the University of Maryland for the College Park Regionals. Joining the Pirates will be the Terrapins, Baylor and Lehigh. The double-elimination action begins Friday as ECU takes on Maryland.

The Pirates lost 3-1 to Maryland early in the season and split a doubleheader in March. ECU handled Lehigh 8-0 in the Pirate Clash, but has not played Baylor yet this year. Houston, Memphis, Tulsa and UAB will also be representing C-USA in the NCAA Tournament.

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

OPINION



Jordan Anders STAFF WRITER

The last decade has been quite a fruitful one for ECU sports. The athletic department has been through some drastic expansions that have brought ECU into the upper echelon when it comes to collegiate athletic facilities across the country.

It started almost 10 years ago, when the Murphy Center was dedicated in the fall of 2002. Clark-LeClair Stadium became one of the best collegiate baseball stadiums almost instantly upon its opening in 2005. The Cliff Moore Practice Facility was revamped in 2005 to give Pirate football players an NFL-

INTRODUCING 20 PREMIERE PIRATES

caliber practice field.

The last couple of years saw the Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium's expansion that brought us the new "Boneyard." We have seen the opening of a brand new softball stadium, a new soccer stadium inch closer to completion and plans for a \$9 million practice facility for men's and women's basketball.

Now, as a sports writer with The East Carolinian, I have had the opportunity to meet some pretty cool people. One such instance was my interview with the play-by-play "Voice of the Pirates," Jeff Charles.

Though most of the interview focused on himself, Charles, who has been at ECU since 1988, also talked a

little bit about the evolution of ECU athletics.

"I've seen a lot of changes," Charles said back in April. "I've seen the football stadium expand. The basketball arena was nothing like it is today in 1988. Then, you see all the things that have gone on with the baseball stadium and everything off Charles Boulevard out there. It's really changed a lot, and it's changed for the better."

That got me thinking. The athletic department has expanded by leaps and bounds over the last 10 years, and a lot of people are to be commended. But

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OPINION



Chase Kroll STAFF WRITER

The 2011 NBA playoffs are marking the course for one of the most exciting finishes in the past couple of years. Consider this, if one were to make a list of the top 10 most dominant players in the NBA today that have never won a championship, a player from each of the four remaining playoff teams would most certainly be on that list.

Dirk Nowitzki, LeBron James, Derrick Rose and Kevin Durant have all never won an NBA title, though some have had more years in the league than others to make an attempt. On top of that, their teams (the Mavericks, Heat, Bulls and Thunder, respectively) are all very eager to bring a championship home.

The Mavericks have never won an NBA title. The Heat won their only title in 2006 and are playing with an "us against the world" mentality. The Thunder haven't won an NBA title since 1979 when they were known as the Seattle SuperSonics, and the Bulls' six championships are all reminders of the pressure they face from

fans who say they can't win a championship without Michael Jordan.

This all breaks down to one thing for the final three series of the NBA postseason—passion. One passionate player will be able to cross his name off of the list of the greats who never won a title. Passion will allow one team to rid themselves of the excess pressure on their shoulders. And one passionate, yet overly optimistic journalist is attempting to break it all down before it even happens.

Out of the four teams currently still alive in the playoffs, I was able to correctly predict three of them a few weeks ago. My blunder was picking the Lakers to beat the Mavericks in seven games in the Western Conference Semifinals. Here are my updated picks for the rest of the NBA playoffs:

The Western Conference Finals:
Original Prediction: Oklahoma City Thunder vs. Los Angeles Lakers
Actual Series: Oklahoma City Thunder vs. Dallas Mavericks

The Thunder are just finishing up a seven-game series against the Atlanta Hawks, a team that some thought wouldn't make it past the Orlando Magic in the first round. The Mavericks are the hot hand and a team loaded with veterans. Conversely, the Thunder have

FOUR LEFT page A8

PIRATES SWEEP DELAWARE STATE IN SENIOR WEEKEND

Carlos Olivera STAFF WRITER

In the final home series of the 2011 season, the Pirates finished off a three-game sweep of Delaware State. The Pirates closed out the series with a 6-1 win over the Hornets, while outscoring Delaware State 37-2 over the weekend.

Stepping up in the series finale was freshman Chase McDonald, who hit his third homerun of the season while driving in his career-high of five runs. McDonald stepped in with two runners in the bottom of the first and crushed the first pitch over the left field wall for a quick 3-0 lead for the Pirates.

Scoring on the McDonald homerun was Corey Thompson, who walked, and Trent Whitehead, who singled the first of his three hits on the day. Thompson would score on McDonald's groundout to short in the third inning, pushing the Pirates' lead to 4-0.

Junior Mike Ussery would start the final rally of the day with a hit-by-pitch in the fifth inning. Ussery was then sacrificed to scoring position on a sac-bunt by sophomore Philip Clark.

With two outs, Whitehead scorched a double that flew into center field after hitting the first baseman's glove, allowing Ussery to come around and score the fifth Pirates run. Whitehead would later steal third before scoring on McDonald's single and fifth run batted in on the afternoon.

Junior Kevin Brandt once again dominated the Hornets, earning his sixth victory on the season. Brandt pitched five scoreless innings giving up just two hits and one walk, while striking out four batters.

The Pirate pitchers completely dominated Delaware State over the weekend. In 27 innings of baseball, Pirate pitchers combined gave up only 17 hits while allowing just two runs. The Pirates also combined for a 9-to-1 strikeout to walk ratio as they struck out 27 batters while only walking three.

ECU continued their dominance over Delaware State on Saturday, which doubled as Senior Day. Down 1-0 and the bases loaded in the second, freshman Jack Reinheimer tied the game with a sacrifice fly that scored Zach Wright. Ussery then singled up the middle, scoring John Wooten and giving the Pirates the 2-1 lead.

The Pirates would add two more runs in the bottom of the fourth on Clark's third home run of the season. Ussery led off the inning with the single to center. Ussery advanced to second on a passed ball before he came around to score on Clark's home run to right field. ECU would add another run in the fifth on a groundout by Senior Austin Homan, and two more runs in the eighth on a pair of errors by the Hornets, giving the Pirates the 7-1 victory.

Senior Seth Maness showed up on Senior Day, as he pitched well and earned the win. The victory was his seventh of the season, but more importantly, it was the 35th of his career, moving him into a tie for the most wins in school history. Maness went six innings, giving up one run on five hits with three strikeouts, giving him 320 for his career and moving him into second place in school history.

The Pirates started the weekend series with a 24-0 throttling of the Hornets on Friday night. Leading the Pirates was Clark, who had a career-best four hits and two runs batted in.

ECU came out of the gates fast, scoring six runs in the bottom of the first inning, all-coming with two outs. The Pirates opened up the scoring with a double from Wright that plated Clark from third.

Freshman Ben Fultz followed up with a double of his own, scoring Whitehead and Wright and making the score 3-0. John Wooten would line a single to left center, scoring Fultz before another double by Reinheimer.

With runners on second and third,

DELAWARE page A8

HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT THE SPORTS SECTION? CONTACT THE SPORTS EDITOR AT SPORTS@THEEASTCAROLINIAN.COM



MCT Chicago Bulls forward Carlos Boozer slams home a dunk in the second quarter of Game 1 of the Eastern Conference Finals on Sunday.



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DELAWARE continued from A7



Chase McDonald collected five RBIs against Delaware State on Sunday at Clark LeClair Stadium.

Ussery singled up the middle and gave the Pirates a 6-0 lead that they wouldn't relinquish, as they would add 18 more runs. Junior Mike Wright picked up his fifth win of the season and first since March 19. Wright went five innings and gave up just three hits, while striking out six Hornet batters. In the final home game of the 2011 season, The Pirates hosted Old Dominion inside Clark-LeClair stadium on Tuesday. ECU will travel to New Orleans to finish off the season with a three-game series against Conference USA foe Tulane, beginning Thursday, May 19.

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

20 PIRATES

continued from A7

that growth can't happen without showing progress on the field or on the court to justify it. ECU's athletic program has seen thousands of student-athletes suit up to represent the Pirates over the years. Each of the 14 varsity sports has produced its share of stars. It is the performance of those athletes that puts the fans in the seats, draws them to their television sets and draws the kind of publicity that has made all of those expansions possible. So maybe it's about time to acknowledge the athletes whose performances contributed to the upswing of ECU athletics and got the athletic program to where it is today.

So here's what we're going to do: Every Wednesday over the course of the summer, TEC is going to count down the top 20 ECU athletes of the past decade. Each week, I'll introduce you to two athletes who excel or excelled in their chosen sport. Some will be current athletes; some won't. Some are household names, and some are not.

But you will get to learn about some of the best athletes to come out of ECU in the past decade and learn about some of their accomplishments. We'll keep doing this until we get to the last paper of the summer semester, when we name the #1 athlete.

So be sure to pick up an issue of TEC every Wednesday this summer, or check us out at theeastcarolinian.com to keep up with the countdown and find out who is ECU's No. 1 athlete of the past decade.

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

FOUR LEFT continued from A7

worked hard day-in and day-out and field a team loaded with young talent. In many ways, these teams are opposites of one another, which makes for a very exciting series. Nowitzki has been playing like an all-star this postseason, and there has yet to be a player to properly defend him in any playoff game. As long as he is in the line up for the Mavericks, they will have a legitimate shot at winning any game. With that being said, I like the Durant-Russell Westbrook combination. They manage to work well together in blowout wins, jarring losses and everything in between. It's another long series for the Thunder. They win in 7.

The Eastern Conference Finals:
Original Prediction: Chicago Bulls vs. Miami Heat
Actual Series: Chicago Bulls vs. Miami Heat
The Bulls and the Heat meet for a star-studded

showdown with the Eastern conference title on the line. League MVP Rose has been putting up almost identical numbers to Michael Jordan for the Bulls when Jordan led them to six titles and won six NBA finals MVP honors. If that's not a foreshadowing statistic, then I don't know what is. However, I think if a team were to beat them, it would be the Heat. They are arguably playing the best basketball they have played all season, which comes at the perfect time. But if they fall into a quick hole and the media turns up the pressure, I think you could see an early exit from Miami. But the way they are playing now is looking good for next year. Bulls win in 5.

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

Email: SABFilms@ecu.edu Phone: (252) 328-4700 <http://www.ecu.edu/SAB>
Facebook: "ECU Student Activities Board"

ECU Student Activities Board Films May 4th, 2011

** Films and show times are subject to change without notice.*

 <p>I Am Number Four Rated: PG-13 Length: 109 minutes</p> <p>Monday, May 16th, 2011 and Wednesday, May 18th, 2011</p> <p>7:00pm</p> <p>Mendenhall Student Center, Hendrix Theatre</p>	 <p>Paul Rated: PG-13 Length: 104 minutes</p> <p>Monday, June 6th, 2011 and Wednesday, June 8th, 2011</p> <p>7:00pm</p> <p>Mendenhall Student Center, Hendrix Theatre</p>	 <p>Sucker Punch Rated: PG-13 Length: 110 minutes</p> <p>Monday, June 27th, 2011 and Wednesday, June 29th, 2011</p> <p>9:30pm</p> <p>Mendenhall Student Center, Hendrix Theatre</p>
 <p>Just Go With It Rated: PG-13 Length: 117 minutes</p> <p>Monday, May 23rd, 2011 and Wednesday, May 25th, 2011</p> <p>7:00pm</p> <p>Mendenhall Student Center, Hendrix Theatre</p>	 <p>Red Riding Hood Rated: PG-13 Length: 100 minutes</p> <p>Monday, June 13th, 2011 and Wednesday, June 15th, 2011</p> <p>9:30pm</p> <p>Mendenhall Student Center, Hendrix Theatre</p>	 <p>Your Highness Rated: R Length: 102 minutes</p> <p>Tuesday, July 5th, 2011 7:00pm</p> <p>Wednesday, July 6th, 2011 9:30pm</p> <p>Mendenhall Student Center, Hendrix Theatre</p>
 <p>The Adjustment Bureau Rated: PG-13 Length: 106 minutes</p> <p>Tuesday, May 31st, 2011 and Wednesday, June 1st, 2011</p> <p>7:00pm</p> <p>Mendenhall Student Center, Hendrix Theatre</p>	 <p>Limitless Rated: PG-13 Length: 98 minutes</p> <p>Monday June 20th, 2011 9:30pm</p> <p>Wednesday, June 22nd, 2011 7:00pm</p> <p>Mendenhall Student Center, Hendrix Theatre</p>	 <p>Source Code Rated: PG-13 Length: 93 minutes</p> <p>Monday, July 11th, 2011 and Wednesday, July 13th, 2011</p> <p>9:30pm</p> <p>Mendenhall Student Center, Hendrix Theatre</p>

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