



BRIEFS

ECU legal service official receives award



Peter Romary

CONTRIBUTED

Staff Reports

The Director of Legal Services at ECU Peter Romary was presented with the 7th Annual Verizon Wireless Men for Change Award from the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Romary has represented over 1,200 victims of domestic violence free of charge, and is a leader nationally and internationally when it comes to advocating for victims. He was also only one of 52 men worldwide who was honored in the Times Square project for work that combats violence against women.

According to Romary, he got involved in domestic violence more than 16 years ago when he was approached by a local victims' advocacy agency that asked him to help a woman and her son.

Student pleads guilty in car crash related deaths

Staff Reports

Kamil Arrington plead guilty yesterday on two counts of misdemeanor death by motor vehicle after a car accident last November left two students dead.

According to WNCT, Arrington was handed a suspended sentence with one year of supervised probation and 100 hours of community service.

Officials said that Arrington fell asleep at the wheel with three of her friends in the car when she ran off the road around the intersection of Greenville Boulevard and Rosewood Drive. Twenty-year-olds Briana Gather and Victoria Carter were killed in the accident, and 19-year-old Taylor King was treated and released from the hospital.

All women were aspirants of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority and were preparing for an induction ceremony that evening.

Animal Shelter drops 72 hour kill proposal

Staff Reports

The Cumberland County Animal Control Board has removed the proposal to ban the adoption of several restricted breeds from the animal shelter after more than 60,000 people signed a petition on Change.org.

Iowa resident Christina Selak had heard about the proposed ban, which would result in all dogs that fit the description of the banned breeds being killed within 72 hours after they were dropped off. Selak started a petition that gained 60,000 signatures in just three days.

If the ban had passed, all dobermans, rottweilers, chow chows, German shepherds, great danes, pit bulls, mastiffs (all bully breeds), akitas and huskies would be killed within 72 hours after they were dropped off to the animal shelter. If a family had brought its pet in that met any of these breed restrictions, the pet/dog would be put down immediately after drop-off.

Crime escalates in Greenville

Caitlin Hunnicutt
STAFF WRITER

With three homicides occurring in four weeks, reports of crime in Greenville, both on and off campus, have escalated in recent months. Meanwhile, statistical information given in reports from the 2010 year say that crime in Greenville was on the decline.

In the 2010 annual summary report of crime given by the North

Carolina Department of Justice and SBI, crime was down in Greenville by 11 percent.

In the October 2011 crime analysis, gathered by the ECU Police Department, crime had risen on campus in 14 different categories for the current year to date.

"I don't think crime is down at all. Maybe petty crime is down, but I think that the violent crime has gone up," said Cameron Trimmer, senior construction management major.

The 2011 Annual Safety and Fire report was put out on the ECU Police Department's website, containing statistical information on crimes that happened on the university's property from 2008-2010.

In the annual crime report, the ECU Police Department's jurisdiction is stated, as well as who has overlying jurisdiction. The ECU Police Department works together with the Greenville Police Department, the Pitt County Sher-

riff's Department and seven other smaller police departments in the area.

The crime report stated, "The ECU Police Department collects statistical information from law enforcement agencies on crimes that occur within their jurisdiction on public property that surrounds the ECU campus and from addresses

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DAN WILLETT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The smartphone app allows students to check Blackboard and Onestop and use other features.

University releases smartphone app

Jamie Harper
STAFF WRITER

The university's mobile website now has a smartphone version available to keep students, faculty and staff connected both on and off campus. The "smart" version of the mobile website is designed like a smart phone mobile app.

Currently, when a student accesses the mobile website from a smartphone, they may receive a message that says, "We believe your device is capable of running the latest version of this mobile suite. Would you like to see the latest version?" By selecting "OK," the student is taken to the smart version of the site. The smart version for the website is designed and set-up just like a mobile phone app that a smart phone user would download to their device. The app can also be downloaded from iTunes for free.

Jo Lynne Daughtry, the web service coordinator and academic computing technical lead for the ITCS Department, said, "We decided it would be advantageous for students if an app like this was created."

The mobile smart phone app is compatible with Android, Blackberry, Web OS Devices, and iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, which must have iOS 3.1.3 or a later version.

Tori Martin, a freshmen elementary education major, said, "I like the mobile app more. It is helpful and more detailed. Everything is so easy."

There is a quick search available, as well as headlines, athletics, events, directory, courses,

OneStop, library, SearchECU, maps, InnerPirate, alerts, video and image tools available on the main page of the app. With the maps tool, students can pinpoint their destination on campus and locate it relative to where they currently are. The images tool allows students to save images of the university to their phone that can be used as a background. Also, the courses tool allows students to easily access and browse course information for selected terms and contact the professor directly.

Sarah Nichols, a freshmen nursing major, said, "I really like it. It's easy to access everything you need."

The mobile site was first launched about a year ago, and the smartphone mobile app is another improvement created for students to provide them access to any needed information.

Daughtry said, "The new smartphone app is more utility-based than the previous mobile site."

In order to convert the website to a mobile version, the ITCS worked with the Department of Marketing and Publications and the mobile site was developed in about four and a half months.

Currently, approximately 70,000 users have utilized the mobile site since Aug. 3, 2011. That number is approximately 34 percent Android users, 25 percent iPhone users, 16 percent BlackBerry users, 13 percent iPad users and 11 percent iPod Touch users.

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Debt report sheds light on tuition cost

Cameron Gupton
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

According to a recent report from the Project on Student Debt, students at ECU graduated, on average, with \$17,243 in debt in 2010.

The report found that about 57 percent of students end their academic careers with some amount of debt.

These numbers reveal that a little over 10,000 of the 18,392 full-time students at the university graduated in debt that year.

Director of Financial Aid Julie Poorman said that the figures are not as worrying if circumstances are considered.

"Who are we really comparing ourselves to," said Poorman. "We really aren't comparing ourselves to places like Elizabeth City State."

According to Poorman, smaller and bigger schools are very different places with separate demographics and conditions.

Elizabeth City State, one of the many smaller schools in the state, had an average student debt of \$3,846. However, the school only enrolled 2,871 students full-time.

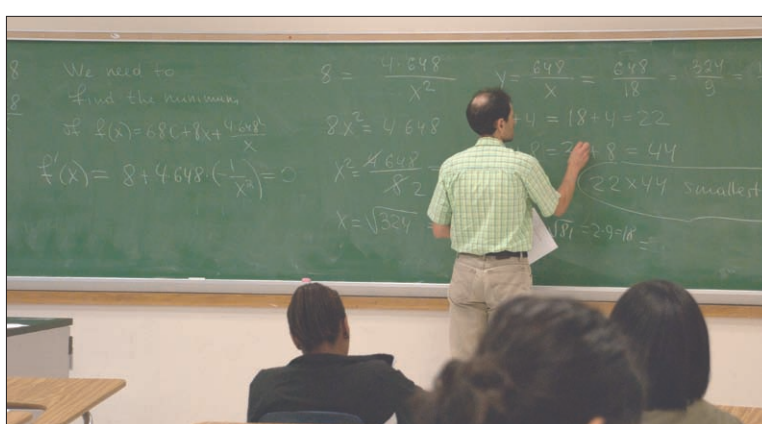
ECU in-state tuition and fees totaled \$4,477 and out-of-state tuition \$16,502, with 29 percent of students receiving Pell Grants. Also, student debt did not amount to as much as others schools.

Average debt at NCSU was \$19,998, at UNC-G \$23,772 and North Carolina A&T University was \$21,644.



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Being a professor proves profitable



DOUG MACKENZIE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Professors do not make as much money as some students assume they do.

Lauren Keranakis
STAFF WRITER

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, postsecondary teachers held nearly 1.7 million jobs in 2008.

The BLS expects the profession to grow by 15 percent between 2008 and 2018, due primarily to increases in college and university enrollment over the next decade.

Most college and university faculty are in four academic ranks, which include professor, associate professor, assistant professor and instructor, reported USA Today.

And behind being a software engineer, being a college professor

landed at No. 2 on CNN Money's 50 Best Jobs in America.

"I get to do something that I like to do. I don't have a nine to five job where I have to punch a clock. I have flexibility with my hours and I have the summers off," said Associate Professor of Philosophy, John Collins.

But while being a college professor may be rewarding on some levels, the salary is also a factor in job satisfaction.

"I think the average professor makes around \$78,000 a year," said

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INSIDE

OPINION

Is the potential slave labor worth a chance to hang out with Mickey Mouse? Read Angus McKellar's take on Disney Internships by turning to Opinion! **A4**

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ONLINE



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New program makes attending college easier

APP

Melanie Jock
STAFF WRITER

The Career College and Promises program, passed under the Appropriations Act of 2011 year by Governor Bev Perdue, allows high school students to earn an associate's degree while completing high school.

This act is part of the ongoing initiative to help students receive postsecondary education or to assist in preparation for a career field. The program allows students to dual enroll with a local community college while still in high school to receive a tuition-free education.

In her speech last February, Perdue said this gives students a new motivation to stay in school because, for many families, it may be the first time a family member is given a clear path for success.

Pitt Community College is among the 58 community colleges in the state that allows high school students to earn credit.

"I think it will be a big help to

students," said Alton Wadford, the director for the program at Pitt.

The student may choose three paths, including the career and technical pathway, the college transfer pathway, named "Core 44," and the cooperative innovative high school program, which target students at risk of dropping out.

Pitt offers the college-transfer pathway as well as career and technical education, which allow students to earn a certificate or diploma.

The act is to go into effect on Jan. 1, 2012.

"We're still in the process of advising students," said Wadford.

An eligible junior or senior high school student may participate in one of these programs to fit their future.

To qualify, the student must have a 3.0 GPA and demonstrate college readiness with an assessment test.

While enrolled, the student must keep a GPA of 2.0 or higher. Once completed, the student is on track to earn either a diploma or 30 college credit hours that he or she can bring

with them to college.

Programs like this would provide students with the opportunity to not only gain college experience, but also to save money on tuition expenses they would face.

According to College Board, the average price for a year of college for in-state students totals \$8,244 in tuition and fees, and a community college student would face \$2,963 in tuition and fees.

By taking the college transfer pathway, a student has the opportunity to cut a year of tuition if he or she earns the 30 credit hours available.

Sarah Melton, a senior health fitness specialist major who is dual enrolled in a local community college while still in high school, has been taking both history and English classes. Her classes were similar to what a student would face while on the college transfer pathway.

Melton felt that she benefited greatly from the classes, which earned her 12 credit hours and allowed her to graduate earlier than she intended.

"The content was clear; it was high school level," she said. "But the biggest benefit was to graduate in three years instead of four."

Since Melton attended a small private school, her college teachers would come to her school to teach classes. However, some students would need to travel to Pitt to attend the classes offered.

"Some will come to campus, some teachers go to the high schools and some classes are offered online," said Wadford.

Perdue's promise program replaces existing college credit classes, such as dual enrollment and Huskins courses.

The replacing of these courses with Perdue's program allows the state to face no new costs that would occur.

The North Carolina New Schools Project reports that the program has received broad bipartisan support. It will begin in the Spring 2012 semester.

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"It's a step forward. We hope to move towards a more tool-based site," said Daughtry. "Phase 2 will be approaching soon and we hope to enhance the features of the mobile app."

The ITCS Department is currently still working on the re-design of the university website. According to Daughtry, they hope for that to be completed by January 2012, and then, the focus of the department will be shift to creating enhancements of the mobile site and mobile app.

There have been no complaints received by the ITCS department so far. Students should contact the help desk about any questions they have or problems they may experience.

"We are always interested in feedback from students," said Daughtry.

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TEACHING continued from A1

sophomore psychology major Keeshunda Poston.

The guess was close, but the average professor salary is \$80,427, reported CNN Money. And while that may be true for the profession in general, The Chronicle of Higher Education's database, Salary Explorer, narrows the average salary straight down to the institutions.

Of the 17 University of North Carolina institutions, ECU's average professor salary of \$95,800 ranked number four behind North Carolina Central University with an average of \$100,100.

UNC-Chapel Hill has the highest professor salary average at \$143,300; N.C. State came in second with \$116,100 and UNC Charlotte in third with \$112,700.

Another dynamic to consider is the salaries do not just vary from region; they vary in subject, too.

"I think foreign languages

or math professors make the most," said sophomore communications major Randa Claiborne.

According to the Huffington Post the top three highest paying subjects to teach are law with an average of \$134,146, engineering with an average of \$112,679, and business, management and marketing with an average of \$109,919.

However, the Top 3 highest paying subjects taught at ECU are marketing with an average of \$130,519, accounting with an average of \$129,973, and theatre and dance with an average of \$126,400, reported ECU's summary of full-time faculty salaries.

According to North Carolina University's Salary Protocols for 2008 to 2009, ECU Chancellors and President's salaries ranged from \$273,868 to \$438,205.

N.C. University also

reported the combined salaries for head positions in the Cardiothoracic Surgery Department from both UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Medicine and Brody School of Medicine. The average professor and chair, division chief or center director for this department makes roughly \$1,116,000.

Significant earnings from consulting, teaching additional courses, research, writing for publication or other employment are additional factors to add to professor's base salary, reported BLS.

And along with the flexibility, many postsecondary teachers find the environment intellectually stimulating and rewarding because others who enjoy the subject surround them, reported BLS.

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CRIME continued from A1

of off-campus properties of student-run organizations and other non-campus property." This statistical information is included in the annual crime report.

The report with information from crimes happening on campus will be put out to the public in October of 2012, according to Lt. Amy Davis with the ECU Police Department.

"I still feel safe in Greenville because crime is going to happen everywhere, but it does worry me that there has been so much more crime this year," said Josie Chatman, junior supply chain management major.

The ECU Police Depart-

ment's October 2011 crime analysis was obtained from crime incident logs, incident reports state citations and arrest reports, according to the information given out on behalf of the university's Student Government Association.

The report stated that in October there were 85 incidents reported. Thirty-four percent were larcenies, 22 percent were drug law violations, 20 percent were injury to property and the remaining 24 percent fell under miscellaneous categories.

The reported stated that burglary had increased by 220 percent, non-physical assault by 171.43 percent, weapons

by 150 percent and disorderly conduct by 120 percent for the current year to date.

In the property section of the October 2011 report, 12,245.25 dollars worth of property was stolen, \$839.60 of which was recovered. There was a total of 20,900 dollars worth of damaged property.

The majority of the incidents in the report were drug and larceny reports, which is the most common violation seen on campus. The report stated that the majority of the larcenies were of unsecured property, and that 74 percent of the drug violations for the month of October occurred on College Hill.

While the ECU Police Department reports crimes that occurred on their property, the Greenville Police Department has a larger jurisdiction, including off-campus student living facilities. Crime has been reported heavily at these facilities in recent months.

"It is unnerving thinking I lived at one of the nicest apartment complexes in Greenville, and then three people get shot outside of our building, and the guy got away with it," said Trimmer. "That definitely makes me nervous."

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DEBT continued from A1

The debt accrued by students at ECU was lower than these and several other 4-year public universities in the state.

"When you compare us to other schools, it doesn't seem so bad," said elementary education major Carolyn Gannon. "We're still below the averages at State and Greensboro."

An interactive map on The Project on Student Debt's website shows North Carolina's average student debt is \$20,959 with a debt proportion of 53 percent.

North Carolina students fair better than several nearby states. Virginia has a student debt average of \$23,327, and \$23,623 in South Carolina.

However, Tennessee students' debt is about \$1,000

less than North Carolina students.

All of the four-year public and private universities in the state racked up a total debt to rank it 38 in the nation for student debt.

"Thirty-eight out of 50 isn't so fabulous," said Poorman; but she offered a reason as to why the ranking isn't as harsh as it seems.

"Public universities tend to spread more debt," she said when comparing public and private institutions. "There isn't as much money to offer students."

There are a total of 16 public universities in North Carolina; therefore, the majority of students in the state do not have access to large endowments and excess financial aid.

"If schools don't have much money to give to students in the first place, what can you expect?" said junior Jen Ward. "That really only means students will be in debt."

Poorman suggested that students should be informed in the areas of loans and credit in order to avoid sinking into debt.

She advised students who are struggling with loan repayment to opt for deferment; which means repayment will be paused for an amount of time but immediately after will begin again.

"The period without payment can be given but interest does accumulate," said Poorman.

Those who cannot afford their loan payments should

check into consolidation, which allows student loans to be combined and paid in one payment at intervals.

Poorman warns that interest will affect almost every area of life, including buying a car, house or even obtaining a federal job.

She said students should visit annualcreditreport.com, a website mandated by Congress. The website is the only true free credit report website but credit reports can only be issued once a year.

Poorman said it comes down to "what is a want and what is a need and when you're drowning say 'I need help.'"

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PIRATE RANTS

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

Why are there more rants online than in the actual paper?

If people have nothing better to rant about than their sex lives, maybe we should get rid of rants all together. Can we rant about real issues?

Finally! Rants back to sexual content!

Does anyone else feel like this semester was the devil?

Only at ECU am I able to take a shot of moonshine and a spoon-full of honey to cure a soar throat.

Every time my parents ask me "What's new?," all I can really tell them is about the latest shooting.

All I want for Christmas is a never-ending supply of condoms.

To the boy in the study room: Though I do appreciate you turning your screen so I can't see the porn, I can still hear it.

Remember that one time when ECU didn't send out an email about how the bus schedule changed and I was late to my review session? Yeah, me too.

My self-esteem is not low enough to date you.

Can't wait to get out of here. Then I won't have to worry about if I'll get shot this weekend or not.

Hard-earned tuition money spent mowing the leaves.

Here's an idea: Stop paying teachers their full salary when they retire and maybe the state wouldn't be broke and raising tuition on us every year!

Half of my class is transferring to cheaper universities with smaller classrooms. I think I'm going with them. I bet they won't rip me off as much as ECU.

Why can't I get a job on campus? I NEED money. I get NO financial aid and my parents give me NO money. How exactly am I supposed to survive?

Momma told me, "Careful where you put your garden hose."

I have homework that's due on Reading Day. Can you guess whose professor is getting a bad SOIS review?

You know what's better than studying? Not studying.

When you asked me to come over for a "beer," I had something else in mind instead of staying up until 2 and not getting any. Thanks for nothing.

People who sue others over sexual harassment just need to get laid.

The most depressing comment of the day: "Sir, you are out of meals AND Pirate Bucks." It must be the end of the semester.

How 'bout that ride in? Guess that's why they call it Sin City.

I guess it's because I've got a big, fat, lesbian crush on you! Suck on that!

Harry Potter marathon on ABC Family is the only thing that makes hangovers bearable.

That crap about you can't cancel class. We all know you can.

Mickey calls upon minions



Angus McKellar
OPINION
COLUMNIST

Graduate
maritime
studies major

Opportunity finds you when you least expect it. I certainly wasn't expecting anything when I found a brochure on the bathroom floor at Joyner Library. The pamphlet was a "casting-call," inviting the reader to "become part of the magic" that is Disney. And who wouldn't want the "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" to be a cast-member at Disney?

But the student who drives down to Orlando for this internship will quickly discover that he or she is not there to network with leaders or receive career training. No, the intern is there to make the beds, scrub the toilets, stock the souvenir counter, and drive the trolleys.

He or she is required to live in Disney-owned apartments and pay the inflated rates set by Disney. And since the pay is at minimum wage without benefits of any kind, the student may find that at the end of the stay, he or she is broke and begging mom for gas money to make it back home.

The executives at Disney struck gold when they discovered that all it took to produce several thousand seasonal workers at their doorstep was to sprinkle a little magic dust. By calling workers "cast-members" and their temporary jobs "internships," Disney has found a way to appeal to college students nationwide. And there is no need to hire any embarrassing ethnic faces to man the booths when you can replace them with the starry-eyed youths of white-bread, middle-class America.

Disney is one the many corporations that have discovered that the easiest way to milk cheap labor out young workers is to label their low-end jobs an "internship." By this sleight-of-hand, corporations no longer have to offer health insurance, benefits or even minimum wage. And the intern receives none of the legal protections granted to employees, such as those designed to guard against sexual harassment.

But most interns do work. That is not to say that they are actually receiving training for the white-collar jobs they aspire to, for companies have little incentive to invest time and energy into someone who is only there temporarily and costs them



MADALYN MCLEOD JOHNSON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

nothing.

And every time an intern does work, a firm is relieved of the cost and trouble of creating a real job, which is ironic, because real jobs are what interns are ultimately looking for. And let's not pretend that these internships will roll over into permanent employment: Most organizations know damn well when they advertise internships that they won't be offering positions anytime soon.

At least Disney pays. Internships for no pay at all are becoming the norm, and it is silly to offer a stipend when people are desperate to work for free. And now, The Huffington Post is selling its internships at a mere \$13,000 a pop. One suspects that it won't be the impoverished-but-talented up-and-comer that will win this position.

And if an internship is now required to get your foot in the door, then we can expect that the

good jobs of the future will go to those whose families can support them indefinitely while they hop from internship to internship.

Why are universities supporting this? Why, for example, does ECU have a Disney College Program page on its website? And why do so many majors now require that their students intern in order to graduate?

It seems like a good deal for the university. Never mind that the classes offered at Disneyworld, such as "Marketing You," are little more than a sham of an education. Students still pay for the credit received, giving universities the opportunity to collect money without actually having to provide a professor or a classroom.

And corporations win when the university backs them, because it artificially forces hundreds of thousands of students each year to seek low-pay or no-pay internships they might not otherwise have

taken.

It's not that there is no educational value in blue-collar work. But why is the "cast member," who prepares funnel cakes and scrapes gum off the sidewalk, getting an education while the short-order cook at Cubbies is not? What magical experience separates Goofy from the guy in the hotdog suit in front of Sup Dogs?

If the university wishes to recognize the value of labor as an educational experience, then let it reward all the students that are working to make ends meet and afford the ever-increasing cost of tuition. Let a student work away his internship requirements at McDonalds. Or let ECU acknowledge that the Disney College Program is a scam and nothing more.

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

Drop your books and go for a run



Rex Rose
OPINION
COLUMNIST

Freshman
psychology
major

Today marks the beginning of an important time for all of us Pirates: exams. We are all gathering our study guides and reviewing the semester's material. And our need for a quiet place to study has turned Joyner into a hot spot where luck is the one thing needed to find a study room or cubicle.

With all the "quiet" places around campus filling up with students making a last ditch effort to master material, or at least pass, the Student Recreation Center may be the best way to help you recall a semester's worth of knowledge.

I'm not talking about having a class study session on the racquetball courts or relaxing from tedious memorization in the pool, but instead, about aerobic exercise. A recent article in The New York Times discussed the process of neurogenesis, which is the process

of how your brain produces new cells.

A protein called Bone Morphogenetic Protein found throughout the entire body, controls stem cell divisions. In short, the amount of BMP directs how often stem cells divide or how often the brain produces new cells. As we age, the amount of BMP increases and slows the amount of stem cell divisions that occur in our brain.

Exercise counteracts this chemical and helps to reduce BMP-related brain activity. A chemical conveniently named "Noggin" helps to produce new brain cells. This chemical is also produced when you exercise. Thus, aerobic exercise decreases BMP and increases the amount of Noggin in your brain.

A study was done of mice that ran regularly on an exercise wheel versus a group on mice that did not regularly exercise. Both groups of mice were taught to differentiate between two different squares on a computer screen. One of the squares would reward them with a sugar pellet and one would not. These squares moved closer and closer to each other, thus making

it harder to differentiate between the two.

The group of mice who used the exercise wheel performed almost twice as well as the group who did not use the exercise wheel. The newer brain cells benefited the exercised group of mice in differentiating between the two squares that became harder and harder to tell apart as the squares moved closer together. The new brain cells gave the mice the added mental boost to differentiate between the similar squares.

When the scientists examined the brains of the mice that received the exercise, they saw the growth of 6,000 new brain cells per cubic millimeter in the hippocampus region of their brains. This region of the brain is the one that controls memory in all mammals. These results speak for themselves; exercise equals greater brain performance and focus.

The amount of exercise that is required to get results have not yet been identified, but just exercising at all, whether it is walking or biking, will help increase brain activity. Also, exercise decreases the amount of cortisol in the body, which causes the ever-present

feeling of stress.

While we are not rats trapped in a cage, we are stressed-out college students who feel as if exams have us locked away in the depths of Joyner. Take a break from stressing and studying and go to the gym.

If you are looking to ace your finals or looking to replace the brain cells you have lost, exercise will help you achieve your goals. And who knows? You might actually have an edge on the other mice — I mean people — in your exam.

This writer can be contacted at

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Scribbles to the Captain

The East Carolinian welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include the writer's name, address and daytime phone number and must be signed (except those sent by email). Letters selected for publication may be edited and may be republished in any format. All letters submitted become the property of The East Carolinian. Questions? Please call 252-737-2999 or email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Fellow Pirates,

As many of you read in Tuesday's edition of The East Carolinian, on Friday, Dec. 2, the Board of Trustees voted to increase tuition by 9.5 percent for undergraduate in-state students and 9.9 percent for undergraduate out-of-state students and all graduate students. As the student representative on the Board of Trustees, it is my responsibility to make the best decision possible for the students, as well as for the health of the East Carolina University overall. This was not an easy decision to make, knowing the potential implications that it could have on many of us who are on financial aid or who are working to make it through college to graduate. (Without a mountain of debt to go along with that nice diploma!)

The one constant that I have been reminded of throughout this process has been the severe impact that recent budget cuts have had on ECU. Since 2008, nearly \$120 million has been cut from our base budget. More recently, around 16 percent (or \$49 million) of that came just within the last year. The tuition increases we just enacted will offset less than a quarter of that summer 2011 cut. If there's one thing ECU excels at, it is doing more with less and overcoming the challenges we face. However, we cannot ignore that these repeated cuts threaten the efficiency and overall quality of our institution.

The revenue that will be raised from these increases will go directly back to students in various ways. Twenty-five percent will automatically be allotted for need-based financial aid and we are taking steps to provide more merit-based aid opportunities for both undergrads and grad students as well. I've suggested more hiring of student employees on campus as a way to further support students, while also assisting with our staff shortages in various departments. We will also use this revenue to increase class offerings, retention and study skills efforts, and to retain our quality faculty members so that we all get the classes we need for graduation without having to stay an extra semester. With as many needs as we are attempting to meet with this increase, there are many more that will still go unmet next year.

These are turbulent times for ECU, and for our fellow 16 institutions in the UNC system. I encourage you all to become actively engaged on these issues. SGA will do our part next semester to take the message of our daily struggles, as students, to the legislature and advocate for many of the policies that will support our education, but we cannot do it alone. With nearly 230,000 students in the UNC System and 800,000 in our Community College system, we are the future of North Carolina and its economy. It's time to stand up and be heard before it's too late.

Sincerely,
Josh Martinkovic
Student Body President
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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21 -April 19)

If you can go antiquing today, or even on a garage sale journey, that would be perfect — your eye for beauty (and good deals) is peaking. If that's not your thing, it may be a good time to start a collection.



Taurus (April 20 -May 20)

Financial issues are on your mind — but the trend is positive! You may luck into some small winnings, get a raise at work or find some other way to keep your balance firmly in the black.



Gemini (May 21 -June 20)

Try to focus your energy on something new today. It may be a person, place or thing, but you've got to direct everything you've got toward understanding and accepting it. A good friend can help.



Cancer (June 21 -July 22)

Your social energy is still going strong, and you may decide to chat up a stranger or ask out that cute coworker before your frontal lobe can stop you. That's good! You need to break out of old habits.



Leo (July 23 -August 22)

You should do whatever you can to pour on the charm today — someone really needs a boost. It could be a colleague, but more likely it's a friend or family member, so show them what's what.



Virgo (August 23 -Sept 22)

Your great energy should help you stabilize your work life and make it even easier for you to step up and take over when a colleague panics and can't meet goals. Even if you're off the clock, you still get a lot done.



Libra (Sept 23 -October 22)

Your polite ways are making life much sweeter for someone you like, and they are sure to reciprocate. It's a good time to build alliances and work toward deeper romantic understanding.



Scorpio (Oct 23 -Nov 21)

It's hard not to feel antagonized by that colleague or friend who's showing off — but try to be the grown-up. If you get sucked into a conflict, the odds are good that you may find yourself on the wrong end.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 -Dec 21)

It's the small stuff that really matters today, so drill down to the details that matter most. It's a good time for you to enlist the aid of people who really get what they're talking about.



Capricorn (Dec 22 -Jan 19)

You should try to hold on, even if things seem to be sliding backward. Your energy is best spent on maneuvering yourself into a better position to come back swinging later on. You can do it!



Aquarius (Jan 20 -Feb 18)

You need to deal with a parent or someone else who has played a guiding role in your life — it may be that the situation is starting to reverse! Help them to see that they need help, and the rest is easy.



Pisces (Feb 19 -March 20)

You have an artistic streak that helps you to see how great things can be, even when they're at their darkest. Make sure that your people get what you mean and don't just write you off as a Pollyanna.



These horoscopes are from www.astrology.com.

All images are from MCTcampus.com

Looking back on 2011

ECU year in review

Mike Davis
ASSISTANT LIFESTYLES EDITOR

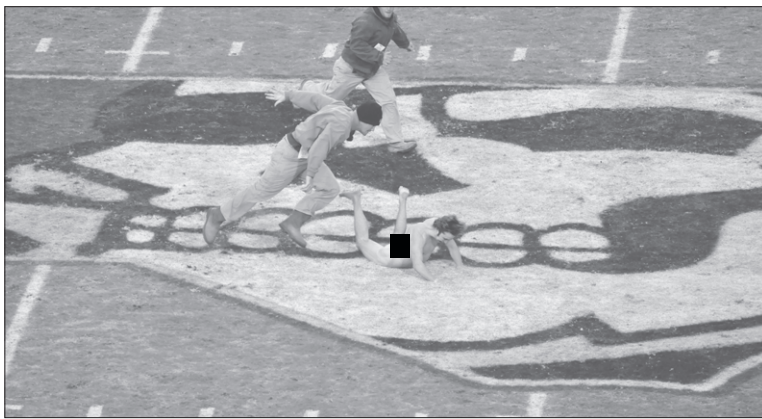
MTV at ECU



DOUG MACKENZIE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Lights! Camera! Action! Remember when MTV invaded the streets of Greenville looking for participants in their upcoming reality show, "Savage U?" Dan Savage, along with his MTV crew, interviewed students about sex and relationships for three nights straight, as they went to Sup Dogs, the Skullery and other downtown hot spots.

The streaker



SERGHEI TROFIMOV | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A single play from this football season's seemingly forgettable season will forever be remembered. At the halftime of the USM game, John Sieglinger ran across the Dowdy-Ficklen green in his birthday suit and got busted at the 50-yard line.

Gun-Brella man



LUKE RAYSON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Whoever thought that an umbrella could lockdown an entire university? Certainly not Jimmy Callaway, better known as the "Gun-Brella" man. The entire school was locked down due to reports that a man was walking through campus with a long rifled gun sticking out of his backpack. Students were locked in classrooms, computer labs and offices, scared for their lives all because of an oversized umbrella.

Big East application



DREW CARTER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Pirate football opened their season with high expectations for themselves, scheduling three top tier teams in the first month of the season. But no play or moment from any of those three games amounted to the excitement when the Purple and Gold applied to the Big East conference. A week of ESPN speculation and conference realignment talks later, ECU's slowly slipping season caught up and took them out of Big East talks.

Hurricane Irene



NIKKI RAUSCH | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

As the streets of Greenville flooded like a rushing river from the relentless downpour of Hurricane Irene, students were left having to make a choice about their plans for the weekend. Some students packed their cars up when they received the email about canceled classes, while others stocked their fridges and filled their keg shells to last them the weekend.

School of Dental Medicine opening



CONTRIBUTED

After six years of rigorous planning and recruiting, the new School of Dental Medicine opened its campus this past summer for its first 52 future dentists of North Carolina. The school hopes to bring dentists to rural communities lacking in dental assistance.

Shootings at The Bellamy



LACEY SCHWAB | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Despite the countless Campus Alert messages students get during an attack, nothing can compare to being the victim. And on Nov. 13, three students were shot at The Bellamy apartment complex during a party. Though two of the students received multiple gunshots, none of the victims were in critical condition.

Sound Off

The idea of an opinion article is to make people think and to hopefully spark conversation. But for Ben Cochran's half of the birth control Sound Off article, he did more than just create a spark. As the article colorfully showed his opinion, the response to his word choice and expression came in floods. And to put fuel into an already burning fire, the unedited version leaked out and made its way to hot gossip websites such as gawker.com and jezebel.com.



CONTRIBUTED

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

Unwrapping Christmas music

Leila Falls
STAFF WRITER

Whether one aspires to melt “Frosty the Snowman” and tell him it’s not his birthday or enjoys “Rockin’ around the Christmas Tree” while pretending to star in the fun parts of “Home Alone,” Christmas music dominates the holidays, just ask the Thanksgiving turkey’s therapist.

Since Christmas is one of the two largest Christian celebrations (the other being Easter), the most elaborate songs belong to the holiday, believes Kevin Moll, Associate Professor of Music. “(They) started off as plain chants — Gregorian Chants, with a simple melodic base,” said Moll, as he explained the stylistic changes of Christmas music over time.

“Most people know what a Gregorian chant is but have never heard one, (which) had its day even in popular music,” smiled Moll in reference to the album “Chant” that turned into a 90s fad.

Christmas music did not start off as trendy radio hits, but as religious practice of Psalms and hymns that go back to Jewish traditions, believes Moll.

“Hymns have different stanzas to the same music, while carols generally have refrains,” said Moll.

Carols have been influential since 1400, because of their catchiness. “Original carols were used for all kinds of things,” said Moll, citing one that celebrated a British victory over France in 1415.

Through the Renaissance music era, religious music flourished — with early Latin chants for Catholics in the West and Greek ones for the Orthodox in the East. But then, the Reformation created texts for all different languages, according to Moll.

“The arts are not born in this country; they were transplanted here. The richness of classic music won’t die in Europe because it was born there,” said Moll, in retrospect, about the fizzling of

singing in America.

Before recordings came out in the 1900s, people had to create music in order to hear it. It was considered a social pastime to have an entire family singing around a piano, believes a nostalgic Moll.

“Now it’s seen as cornball, old-fashioned and silly since the ‘50s, which corresponds to when rock came out,” said Moll.

Since the 18th century, music has become secularized, with some exceptions, like Handel’s “Messiah” and Bach’s works.

“There’s no law that says what’s new is better than old. The media is a big part of the problem; they usually won’t allow older things,” said Moll.

It is not uncommon for members of this generation to dig up a classic rock vinyl and treat it like a treasure, but when it comes to Christmas music enrichment, most people fa-la-la-laugh at the old-fashioned style.

An older Christmas hit needed a beautiful melody and text, like “Hail Mary Full of Grace,” while a modern rock/pop song requires a beat, hook and text with rhythm, believes Moll.

Most modern hits originated in Broadway, like “White Christmas,” ironically written by Irving Berlin, who was of Jewish ancestry, according to Moll.

The “Little Saint Nick” song dominates the airwaves as the face of Christmastime, or at least Coca-Cola’s label.

Santa Claus, the cherry on top of the peculiar mixture of religious and secular Christmas spirit, came to town, not because of Dickens’ “A



A student decorates for the holidays while listening to Christmas music.

Christmas Carol,” but thanks to Washington Irving, the creator of the creepy tales of “Sleepy Hollow” and “Rip Van Winkle.”

“Before Irving, Christmas was Puritan and a quiet devotion ... no flirting with mistletoe,” laughed Professor Thomas Douglass of the English Department.

In his 1809 book, “A History of New York,” Irving introduced St. Nicholas (Dutch Sinterklaas) as a part of satirical history.

“To promote the book, he kept putting ads in paper looking for the author and missing historian Dietrich Knickerbocker, who was just a character he made up,” laughed Douglass. “He had fun with this.”

In the spirit of spoof, Irving traveled across Europe and collected folklore to pro-

duce “The Sketch-Book” travel farce using the name Geoffrey Crayon, which included chapters that discussed details of a Christmas Eve, Day and Dinner.

“Mistletoe is mentioned, and singing carols while passing around this Loving Cup. It was a fantastical tale,” said Douglas.

Surprisingly, the Puritanical thinking was pushed aside and people began having “A Holly Jolly Christmas.”

“He brought this out at the right time, the time period of the constitution — in enlightenment,” said Douglass, describing Irving’s works as box office smashes, or as pop culture, would greet as the beginning of “the most wonderful time of the year.”

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

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Ronald E. Dowdy **STUDENT STORES** EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY





Linebacker named Freshman-of-the-Year

Staff reports

ECU inside linebacker Jeremy Grove has been selected as the 2011 Conference USA Freshman-of-the-Year, according to an announcement from the league office Wednesday afternoon. Grove is the first Pirate to receive the league's top rookie honor and joins Chris Johnson, Dwayne Harris and Dominique Davis as recipients of a player-of-the-year award from C-USA. Johnson (2007) and Harris (2009) were voted the league's top special teams players, while Harris was tabbed as the most valuable player and Davis the newcomer-of-the-year last season.

Grove, who earned Honorable Mention All-Conference USA and C-USA All-Freshmen Team accolades Tuesday, was East Carolina's leading tackler with 122 stops this season. He set the Pirate rookie record and tallied the third-most hits by an ECU player in the last 14 years, behind only Pernel Griffin (153/2001) and Chris Moore (148/2003). Grove currently stands third in the league and 10th among all FBS players, with 11.1 tackles per game. He is the only freshman ranked within the top 88.

The Frederick, Md. product totaled a squad-high five quarterback hurries (one/South Carolina, two/Virginia Tech, one/Tulane and one/UCF), 3.5 tackles for lost yardage (-15 yards), a pair of pass breakups (Virginia Tech, Southern Miss) and one sack (UCF) during the year.

He was ECU's defensive leader during C-USA contests, pacing the unit with 75 tackles, good for an average of 10.7 per contest. In the final two games of the year, against Marshall and UCF, Grove recorded a combined 20 stops. He led the team with nine hits versus the Thundering Herd and made six in the third quarter alone, including five tackles during Marshall's 14-play drive. A week earlier in the Pirates' 38-31 victory over Knights, he tallied 11 tackles, booking six in the opening half.

Mountaineers to play ECU in 2012 season

Staff Reports

ECU has completed its 2012 non-conference football schedule by adding a home game against Appalachian State according to an announcement by ECU Director of Athletics Terry Holland on Wednesday.

The contest, which is currently set for Sept. 8 in Greenville, will renew an in-state football rivalry that covers 30 games in a span of 80 years. The Mountaineers own a 19-11 lead in a series that dates back to 1932, but the two programs have met only once since 1979 — a 29-24 Pirate victory at a sold-out Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium on Sept. 5, 2009.

Appalachian State, winner of three consecutive Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) national championships in 2005, 2006 and 2007 under Coach Jerry Moore, has also posted six 10-win seasons in the last seven years, captured six of the last seven Southern Conference titles and made seven-straight postseason appearances. The Mountaineers' 79 victories since 2005 ranks first at the FCS level and stands second among all Division I programs, trailing only Boise State's total of 81.

Three Pirates earn All-Conference honors

Staff Reports

Three ECU players were named to the All-Conference USA Football Teams, according to an announcement from the league office Tuesday. Senior outside receiver Lance Lewis and fellow senior Emanuel Davis, a defensive back, were named to the All-C-USA Second Team while freshman inside linebacker Jeremy Grove earned an honorable mention nod.

Rams end win streak for Pirates

Jordan Anders
STAFF WRITER

The ECU women's basketball team entered its home game against Virginia Commonwealth Wednesday night, riding a record-tying, 12-game home winning streak.

Then VCU forward Courtney Hurt hit the floor and lived up to her last name.

The 6-foot-1 forward dominated the Pirates' inside, scoring 28 points and grabbing 12 rebounds as the Rams handed the Pirates their first home loss in almost 11 months, with a score of 62-49.

"(Hurt's performance) wasn't a surprise to us," said ECU Head Coach Heather Macy. "I felt we could have done a much better job of limiting her touches and recognizing when to go down for the (double-team), but she's just a tremendous player."

Hurt's domination down low was bad enough for the Pirates (5-3), but a dreadful shooting night for ECU only stacked the deck taller against them. The Pirates shot just 17-of-50 from the field (34.0 percent) and a woeful 5-of-24 (20.8 percent) from 3-point range.

Add to that fact that her team was at a disadvantage in just about every statistical category, and it made for a long night for the girls in the white home jerseys.

Macy's Pirates got off to a hot start, racing out to a 12-4 lead in the first four minutes, behind five points apiece from Shala Hodges and Celeste Stewart, and holding a 16-11 advantage at the under-12 media timeout.

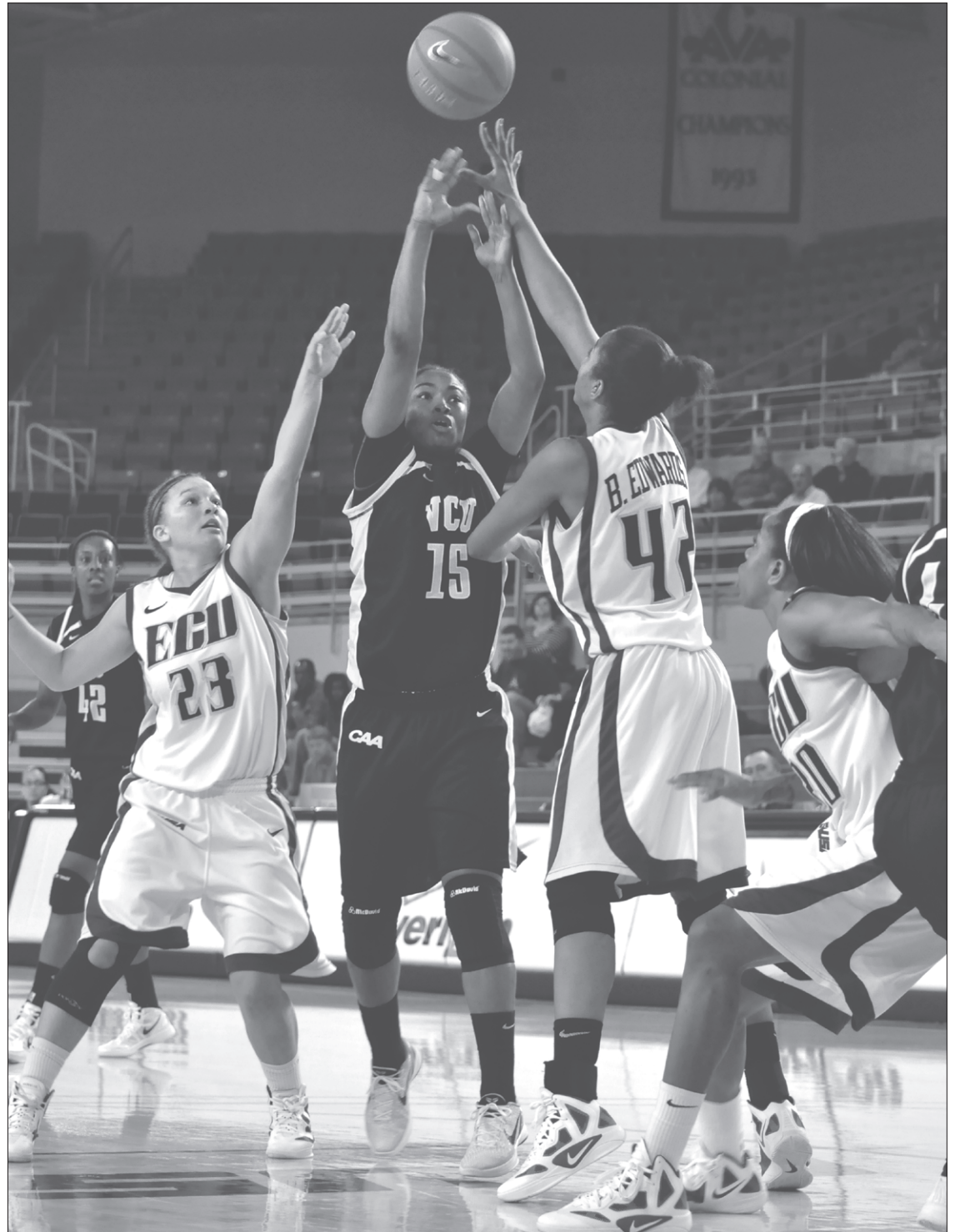
But that's where the wheels fell off the Pirate wagon.

The Pirates endured a scoring draught of over seven minutes and saw their 16-11 lead turn into a 20-16 deficit before Britny Edwards converted a layup to end the cold stretch at the 5:08 mark of the first half.

When the first 20 minutes were in the books, the Pirates headed to the locker room shooting just 10-of-26 from the floor, 2-of-11 from behind the arc and trailing 31-26.

"The bottom line is you've got to hit shots," said Macy. "You've got to rebound and you've got to hit open looks. We were getting shots within our offense and getting open looks. They just weren't falling."

The second half was only worse for the Pirates. They came out of the break and missed nine of their



SERGEI TROFIMOV / THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Brayelle Smith (23) and Britny Edwards (42) attempt to block VCU guard Andrea Barbour (15) on Wednesday night.

first 11 shots and fell behind by as many as 14.

Coming off her first career double-double in a win over Monmouth, guard Kristine Mial poured in a career-high 17 on the night, including 14 in the second half. By scoring 14 of the Pirates' first 16 second-half points, Mial almost single-handedly kept ECU from

getting blown out.

"She's a really good player, and she stepped up tonight for us when we couldn't find any scoring. She hit some big buckets for us," said Macy.

But every time the Pirates would get close and start to get the home crowd energized, VCU — on most occasions, Hurt — would knock down a shot that would stretch the

lead out again. Of her 28 points, Hurt scored 21 of them in the second half.

VCU ended the night shooting at a 48.3 percent clip (29-of-60). On the stat sheet, two telling stats on the night were the 42-22 advantage that the Rams held in points in the paint,

> RAMS page A9

Senior forward wraps up career

Ronnie Moore
STAFF WRITER

As a 4-year starter and senior team captain, Amanda Malkiewicz closed her career at ECU by posting her best season overall.

The senior captain finished her season overall with eight goals scored. She also added three assists for an overall total of 19 points on the season. The most telling stat that highlighted her season was her five game winning goals. Overall, the Pirates had 11 game winning goals and Malkiewicz had five of the 11, single handedly. The 80-game participant (79 starts) finished her career with 25 goals, 19 assists and 12 game-winning goals for a total of 69 points. She ranks fourth in the ECU women's soccer record books for goals, points and games played.

Malkiewicz is second overall in assists and stands third in career games started. All of these stats point to a successful season and a great career for the forward. Malkiewicz has written her name in many of the ECU record books and she will leave as one of the best to play in the ECU Soccer Complex. One stat stands out above the rest: 12 game-winning goals.

The Pirates, who finished with a record of 11-8-1, have improved over the last three seasons. Malkiewicz started all but one of her games this year. It was the first game she has not started in her entire career. She did play in that game but she did not register the start for the Pirates.

In her season campaign, Malkiewicz finished tied for second in goals but her assists took a hit this year from her junior season.

In the 2010-2011 season, she accumulated six assists and she could only pull together half of that total this year. She did produce in other ways like late game heroics. She accounted for almost half of the ECU game winning goals and she almost double her career total through her first three seasons.

Malkiewicz was named to the Conference USA second team all conference, which was a boost from her junior season. Leaving ECU, Malkiewicz accumulated three season awards: All Conference Freshmen Team (2008), All Conference Third Team (2010) and the All Conference Second Team this year. She was also on the Conference

USA All Academic Team, along with three of her teammates.

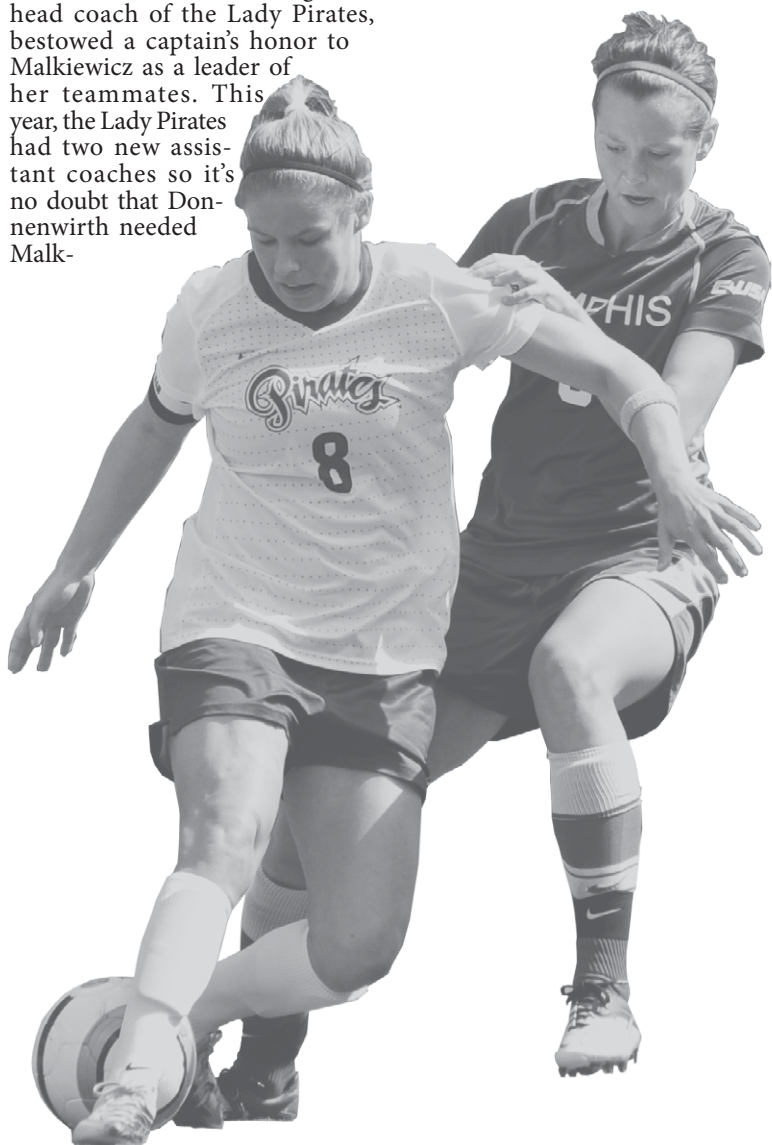
This was Malkiewicz's third straight academic honor. Her performance this year merited soccer awards and her body of work over her four years most definitely puts her in the top ranks of ECU women's soccer history. Malkiewicz has been on the soccer team since the 2008 season, which was the best in school history. The 2008 season gave ECU its first women's soccer championship in conference action. She was able to contribute four goals and six assists in her freshman season, which earned her a spot to the all freshmen team.

Rob Donnenthorn, long-time head coach of the Lady Pirates, bestowed a captain's honor to Malkiewicz as a leader of her teammates. This year, the Lady Pirates had two new assistant coaches so it's no doubt that Donnenthorn needed Malk-

iewicz's on-field leadership, along with her locker-room influence.

Replacing Malkiewicz may be a hard task for the veteran coach; but as a captain, she made an influence on her young teammates and showed them how to lead the team in the right way. Ranking in the Top 5 of numerous categories, it will be a very difficult task, seeing as Malkiewicz is leaving ECU as one of the most decorated Lady Pirates in soccer team history.

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



SERGEI TROFIMOV / THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Amanda Malkiewicz (8) dribbles the ball away from a Memphis defender.

Late rally expires against UMASS

Carlos Olivera
STAFF WRITER

Juniors Miguel Paul and Maurice Kemp led a furious comeback that fell just short against the University of Massachusetts on Tuesday night. A mere five points defeated the Pirates, 63-58 and the loss drops their record to 4-4 on the season and also extends their losing streak to three games.

The Pirates once again got on to a sluggish start and couldn't recover, despite a tremendous effort in the second half. The Minutemen of UMASS forced four early Pirate turnovers and jumped out to a lead they would never relinquish as they held the lead for all 40 minutes.

The Pirates were held scoreless for the first three minutes and twenty seconds, and spotted UMASS an 11-4 lead. ECU would get no closer in the first half as UMASS went on to open up a 22-point lead with four minutes remaining in the first half.

"We just struggled offensively," said second-year Head Coach Jeff Lebo. "It's frustrating when you can't put the ball in the basket."

Aside from the turnovers, the Pirates seemed to struggle with the length of the UMASS players. The Minutemen boast six players 6-foot-7 or taller and used that height advantage to out rebound the Pirates 23-14 in the first half.

The Pirates didn't help their cause as they couldn't buy a basket early on. They shot 8-26 from the field in the first half (30.8 percent), including an abysmal 4-11 (36.4 percent) from the free throw line. The Pirates' two leading scorers, Paul and senior Darrius Morrow, combined for just six points in the first half. The duo shot 2-9 from the field and 2-5 from the free throw line.

ECU was a "tale of two halves" as Lebo put it. Down by 19 at half time, the Pirates came out of the locker

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room with guns blazing. They opened up the second half on a 22-9 run to cut the Minutemen lead to just six.

"We just looked at the scoreboard," said Morrow. "It tells you a lot and no one in there (the locker room) was happy. Coach didn't have to say anything to us."

The turning point came just four minutes into the second half, as Paul stole the inbounds pass and threw a perfect lob pass to a soaring Kemp for the dunk. The dunk not only brought the Pirates to within six at 49-43, but brought the roof down as the crowd of more than 4,400 inside Minges Coliseum erupted on the play.

"I just tried to play as hard as I could," said Kemp.

UMASS followed the dunk with four points of their own to extend the lead back up to 10. ECU would cut the lead to one, 59-58, on a Paul lay-up with just over a minute left, but could not get over the hump and take their first lead of the game.

The Pirates had a chance to take the lead as UMSS went one of two from the charity stripe, to make it 60-58. Paul had a chance to give the Pirates the lead, but lost control of the ball in the lane and turned it over to UMSS, who iced the game with a pair of free throws.

During the three game losing streak, the Pirates struggled from the free throw line. Including the 9-23 against UMSS on Tuesday, the Pirates have shot 31-59 (52.5 percent) during the skid.

The Pirates will now have 10 days off to regroup and



Forward Austin Steed leaps to the basket for a tip-in against the Minutemen on Tuesday night inside Minges Coliseum.

try to stop the skid before they travel to Greensboro to take on the Spartans of UNC Greensboro on Friday, Dec. 16. Tip-off is scheduled for

7 p.m. inside the Greensboro Coliseum.

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

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and the 41-30 advantage they held in rebounding.

"We've been rebounding the ball really well," Macy said, "but you can't say enough about what kind of player (Hurt) is. She's a tremendous player."

With her 17 points, Mial was the only Pirate to score in double figures. Hodges added nine points and Dana Jones

finished with seven. For VCU, in addition to Hurt's 28, guard Andrea Barbour scored 14 to help improve the Rams to 5-3.

VCU ended the night with two fewer turnovers (18) than the Pirates (16), and after averaging 17.9 steals per game through their first seven games, ECU only had five against the Rams.

"You've got to give credit

to VCU; they're a really good basketball team," she said. "We've got to get in the gym and we've got to make a commitment to get better individually, and then collectively, on the glass."

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

Packers remain perfect, Giants falter in Week 13



Justin Ackley
OPINION COLUMNIST

Week 13 of the NFL season proved to be a standout week for former Pirates. Several ECU alumni are still in the race for a playoff spot with only four weeks of the regular season remaining. With the fall semester coming to a close, it is appropriate to look back at the past 13 weeks and realize how many ups and downs there have been. Chris Johnson, the pride and joy of Pirates football past, looked almost irrelevant for much of the season. The running back has really picked things up to reassure the rest of the league he's still there. As things stand currently, it seems that two former Pirates could be on a crash course to meet in this year's Super Bowl. With Green Bay and Baltimore playing at the top of their game, it will be worth keeping an eye on C.J. Wilson and Vonta Leach to see if both end up playing in Indianapolis for the big game.

C.J. Wilson, Green Bay Packers. Green Bay remained on track with its undefeated season defeating the New York Giants 38-35. It was a nail biter for the Packers, but they managed to walk away with a victory, just like every other game so far. Wilson did not record any tackles in the game and was part of a defense that struggled for much of the game. The Packer defense allowed 447 total yards with 347 coming through the air. With the win, Green Bay clinched the NFC North Division title and remains as the number one overall seed in the NFC playoff picture. **Linval Joseph,**

New York Giants. Joseph put up a huge performance in New York's loss to Green Bay 38-35. Joseph tallied nine total tackles for the defensive unit. By far, this was one of Joseph's best games as a pro. He was also part of a defensive front that held the Packers run game to an average of 3.2 yards per carry. However, Green Bay was able to move the ball using the passing game, which totaled 360 yards. The Giants currently sit one game back of the Dallas Cowboys for first place in the NFC East and will travel to Dallas this week hoping to get back on track. The Giants benefited this past week in the playoff race with losses by Dallas, Atlanta and Detroit.

Vonta Leach, Baltimore Ravens. Baltimore stayed ahead of the playoff curve with a win against Cleveland 24-10. Leach helped lead the way for AFC Offensive Player of the Week Ray Rice who rushed for 204 yards in the contest. Leach also had four carries for 12 yards and one reception for 11 yards.

The Ravens could be in for another big game on the ground in Week 14 with a match-up against the Indianapolis Colts. Baltimore will look to keep pace with the Pittsburgh Steelers as the two teams are tied atop the AFC North.

Chris Johnson, Tennessee Titans. Johnson carried the Titans to a win over Buffalo 23-17. He backed up last week's performance by putting up another big game. Johnson finished the day with 23 carries for 153 yards and two touchdowns, while also catching a pass for four yards. A fourth straight 1,000-yard season is now only 148 yards away for Johnson. It looks as though Johnson has returned to form, which comes just in time for Tennessee to make a playoff run. The Titans are two games behind the Houston Texans in the AFC South and are tied for the final playoff spot in the AFC.

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

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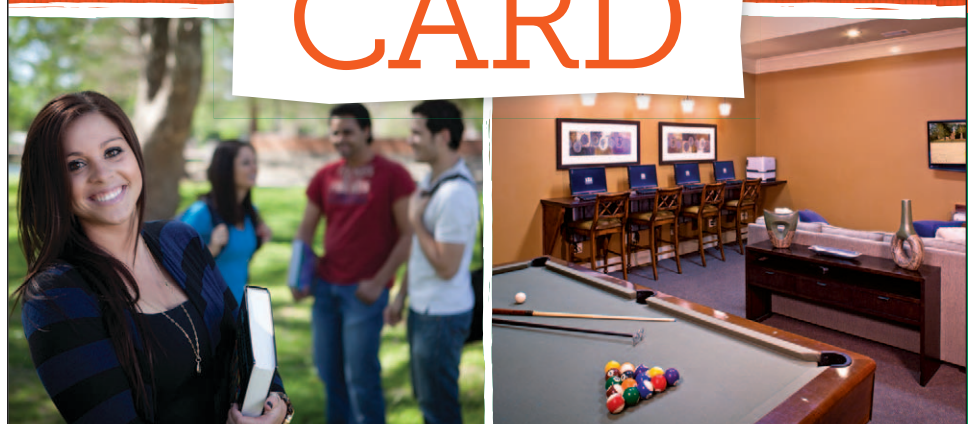
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