



## BRIEFS

### Career Center to hold leadership conference

#### Staff Reports

The Career Center and Center for Student Leadership and Engagement will be presenting a career leadership conference on Thursday.

The conference will take place from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Mendenhall Student Center.

In addition to the conference, the Career Center will be hosting a U.S. diplomat, William Lucas, on Feb. 8 at 11 a.m. in Mendenhall Student Center.

### University announces interim media adviser

#### Staff Reports

Frank Barrows, former managing editor for the Charlotte Observer and a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, has been hired by the university to serve as interim adviser for The East Carolinian.

His post as adviser will begin Feb. 6. He will provide journalistic expertise in news reporting, feature writing and story development, online journalism, editing, photography, formatting and layout, production techniques and processes, business operations, communications and public relations and several other areas.

Barrows' career in journalism extends five decades and includes 13 years as managing editor of the Charlotte Observer, the largest daily newspaper in the Carolinas.

### Professor collaborates to research sea-level rise

#### Staff Reports

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has awarded a three-year, \$1.5 million grant to a research team led by the University of Pennsylvania, and includes ECU Professor Reide Corbett.

The team is researching sea-level rise and flooding from hurricanes along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

Corbett is a professor in the Department of Geological Sciences and a research scientist in the Institute for Coastal Science and Policy.

Corbett and the team will combine empirical and modeled sea-level rise scenarios with hurricane and storm surge modeling at six study sites from Florida to Massachusetts.

### Delta Sigma Theta under investigation

#### Staff Reports

Currently, Delta Sigma Theta sorority is under investigation by its national office.

Director of Greek Life Keith Tingley would not comment on the situation.

Tingley did say, however, that depending on the charges brought on after the investigation, the issue could be brought in front of the Student Rights and Responsibilities council.

The investigation comes over a year after two pledges of the sorority died in a car wreck.

The driver of the car, Kamil Arrington, recently pled guilty to charges brought against her after the wreck and was sentenced to a year of supervised probation and a suspended sentence.

She was also given 100 hours of community service, had to surrender her driver's license and abide by a curfew as directed by her probation officer.

# Freedom wall coming to ECU



Former East Carolina University students spray paint the Free Expression tunnel at North Carolina State University before a 2008 rival football game.

### Abbey Way

STAFF WRITER

The Student Government Association's plan to bring a freedom of expression wall to the university is being put on the back burner for now. SGA President Joshua Martinkovic said, "We are taking it step by step to handle our current projects first."

Currently, Martinkovic is preparing to represent students at the upcoming Board of Governor's meeting. Also, he said they are dealing with some internal issues and organization, while

adapting to a new advisor this semester.

"We are just trying to make sure that we have that internal structure set before we start appointing people to start working on projects before we know what is going on," Martinkovic said.

Although SGA has not had any detailed discussions about the freedom of expression wall yet, Martinkovic said that it would be something similar to the free expression tunnel at NC State.

"The major discussion is going to be the benefits and drawbacks of the project itself and see how it affected other universities," Martinkovic said.

Allison Rhodes, a senior at NC State, who has written in the free expression tunnel, said writing in the tunnel is a very popular thing to do among students before they graduate. She also said that many clubs and organizations use the tunnel to announce news and meetings.

"It's a great thing for the campus to gather around and promote school spirit when big athletic events are coming up," Rhodes said. "I've also seen some pretty impressive graffiti in the tunnel

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Professor Charles Twardy teaches a COMM class taught under the Bachelor's of Science in Communication degree, which is being invested in by ECU.

# University reveals cuts, investments

### Cameron Gupton

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A university self-study report recently released a list of programs that the university will maintain, reduce or eliminate.

The report, which was compiled by members of the Program Prioritization Committee, was initially released on Jan. 18 and surveyed program productivity and quality, among other aspects.

Nine colleges and 70 departments and schools, along with the Brody School of Medicine, were included in the process that began last May.

A total of 277 program areas were considered, and for the most

part, they will be retained. Forty-eight programs were targeted by the committee for reduction or elimination.

"When you think about the number of programs they considered and the number being considered for reduction or elimination, it doesn't seem too bad," said junior art education Anna Hajjar. "Maybe, eventually, there will be enough money to bring some of these programs back."

Programs being taken away or reduced exist within the College of Education, the School of Music and departments in the Harriot College

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# Pirate Tutoring Center rejects certain majors

### Rebecca Semar

FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University's academic departments continue to be rejected from the on-campus Pirate Tutoring Center because of a lack of space on campus.

When ECU freshman Camille Kersey began struggling with her entry-level Philosophy 1000 course, she sought help, but could not receive it. "I went to the Pirate Tutoring Center to get help with the material I didn't understand. When I walked in and requested a tutor, I was told that they simply did not have the funds or enough tables to tutor the class," she said.

Though Kersey said she put in as much as effort as she could, she failed the class. "I attended every class and put a lot of time into studying. I honestly just needed extra help understanding the material," she explained.

Kersey is not alone. In the last five years, 12 percent of students taking a Philosophy 1000 course have failed, according to an analysis of all grades given at ECU since 2006. This analysis also found that other highly-failed courses where tutoring center help is not offered include classes in accounting, biochemistry, music and higher-level math.

Despite student fail rates year after year, highly-failed courses still remain without tutors. Elizabeth Coghill, associate director of the PTC, is the first to admit that the center is in need of more resources.

"There have been six different classes this fall that departments have asked us to tutor that will work with us to get volunteer students to serve, but I am out of table space in the library," she said.

Some of the classes requested for tutoring include accounting, higher-level math classes and business statistics. "When you have limited resources, you need to make some tough calls," Coghill said. Courses that are offered at the center are chosen for a few different reasons. Coghill reports that required courses with high-fail rates, such as Math 1065, are a priority. Since 2006, 20 percent of students who have attempted that course have failed, but that rate is improving. Pirate tutoring also focuses on 1000 and 2000 level courses that are common to many majors.

The Pirate tutors are open to working with departments that can provide space and funding. School of Music officials approached Coghill asking for help with Music Theory, a course that is often failed by new students. The school was able to provide a building and two tutors. "We're helping by handling the tracking of the students' grades. We'll also be running analysis on how effective those tutors are," said Coghill.

For students struggling in unoffered courses that cannot afford to provide their own tutors,

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## INSIDE

### OPINION

Check inside for reader reactions to "What's the matter with Greenville?" **A3**

### LIFESTYLES

One alumnus is due to appear on an upcoming episode of MTV 2's "Sucker Free Countdown." Turn to Lifestyles to read more! **A4**

### SPORTS

Turn to Sports to read about the suspension of Head Baseball Coach Billy Godwin. Was the self report enough to avoid further actions by the NCAA? **A6**

## WEATHER

65°F / 51°F

Mostly Sunny



GRAPHICS FROM ENTROPIA.COM

## ONLINE



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

**WALL** continued from A1

and there's also a fair share of amateur art."

Chase Miller, a sophomore psychology major, said it would be interesting to see that kind of artwork on campus. "It would give students a chance to show off their artistic abilities and express their feelings," Miller said.

According to Rhodes, students are lucky if their message lasts more than 24 hours without being at least partially overwritten, due to popularity.

Drew Kanz, a junior religious studies and English double major, said, "It adds color to a dull university and

lets a piece of the landscape of our school be designed by the people it's made for, not by the people who it's made by."

According to Rhodes, there are many positives to a freedom wall, but at times, it is hard to control the negatives that can occur.

"During my time here, there have been multiple hateful messages and slurs written in the tunnel aimed at people of different races, religions and sexual preferences," Rhodes said. "It is a huge responsibility to allow your student body an opportunity like this, and inevitably, someone is going to write or draw something that is going

to offend a person or group and your leaders on campus are going to have to deal with that."

Martinkovic said the in-depth planning for a project like this may take a long time to complete, even after his term at the end of the semester.

"I would like to take another look at it and if there was support behind it, we are usually good at trying to find funding and prioritize things," Martinkovic said.

Junior biology major Lena Keller said, "ECU needs more creative outlets, and as long as people were respectful, I think it would be great."

Fall 2011 graduate Ericka Charles agreed, stating, "I think it is an interesting idea

as long as the students keep their expressions clean."

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

**CUTS** continued from A1

of Arts and Science. The cuts vary from bachelors and masters degrees, to certifications, licenses and concentrations.

Chancellor Steve Ballard approved the work that was done by the committee and accepted the report.

"I'm proud of the systematic and comprehensive work done by the Program Prioritization Committee, which I believe to be among the very best campus prioritization assessments in the nation," said Ballard in a university news article. "All of this work to reduce expenditures and find more resources will be continuous, challenging and essential to our future."

The report stated that the reduction of expenditures has already begun in some program areas. Some have been decreasing enrollment or have been offering coursework that may belong in another program area.

Along with the decreases came the programs that the committee wishes to maintain and invest in as the funding and resources become available.

Such programs exist in the Colleges of Engineering and Nursing, the School of Theater and Dance, the department of kinesiology, biology, and several others.

"When there have been budget cuts, it's understandable that the university would have to make cuts," said Shana Wilkins, a junior biology major. "It's good to know that they will be investing in others though."

The Brody School of Medicine was not included in the report as it proved to be much more difficult in accessing, as the criteria used in the other colleges and departments didn't work for the medical school.

Recommendations for

Brody will be taken from its accreditation site visit, which will occur before the end of the month.

The relevance of the report will last for the next five to 10 years and are, according to Ballard, a "roadmap for investment and reallocation over time."

"ECU, like nearly all public universities, faces a daunting fiscal environment," said Ballard. "We will continue to focus on improved efficiency, reduced administrative expenditures and more private giving to help alleviate base budget cuts."

The committee is assessing the costs and benefits of the reorganization of academic units. Recommendations for reorganization are expected by Feb. 16.

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

**TUTORING** continued from A1

hope should not be lost. Philosophy Professor Rodney Roberts offers some helpful advice: "Come to office hours, mine or anyone else's. I say

that because I'm pretty confident that none of my colleagues would have a problem if a student came in and asked for help," he said.

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

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# Student Homecoming Chair

**The homecoming committee is currently looking for a person to fill the 2012 position of Student Homecoming Chairperson.**

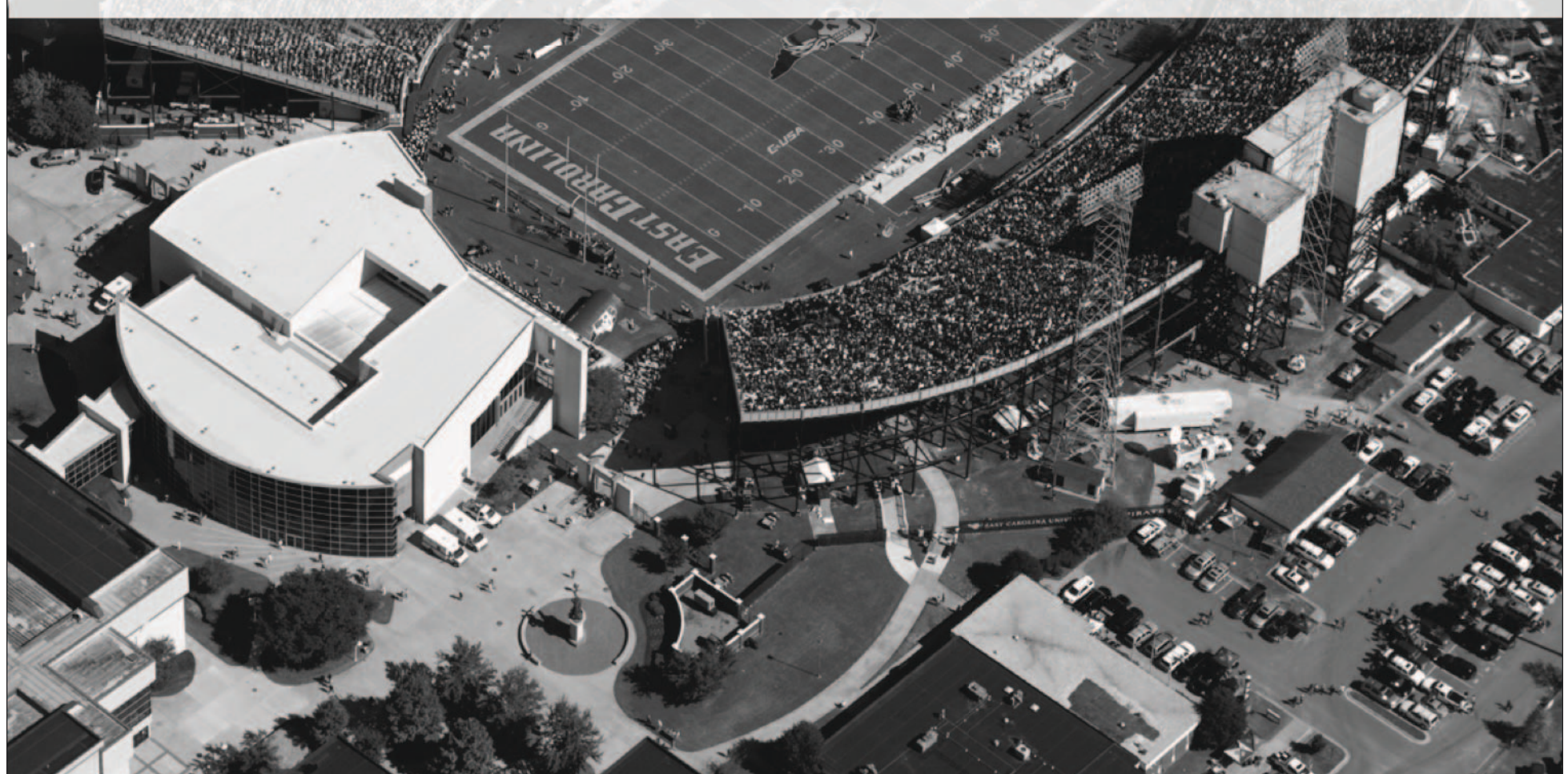
The position calls for the applicant to:

- Oversee eight(8) subcommittees
- Manage a \$30,000 budget and process expenditures in a timely fashion
- Chair all student Homecoming bi-weekly (Spring) and weekly Fall meetings

**To apply for the position, all applicants must:**

- Be a full-time student in good standing with the University
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5
- Have a class standing of sophomore or higher

This is a **paid** student position. All applicants must fill out a student homecoming chair application. Applications can be picked up at the Mendenhall Student Center in the Student Activities/Organizations Office, or by emailing Emily McLamb, Homecoming Advisor, at [mclambe@ecu.edu](mailto:mclambe@ecu.edu). All applicants must be submitted to Emily McLamb no later than February 3, 2012.



## PIRATE RANTS

The East Carolinian does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants. Questions regarding Rants can be directed to Stephen McNulty at [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com). Log onto [theeastcarolinian.com](http://theeastcarolinian.com) to submit a Rant of your own.

“Building 58” next to the stadium... Is that an exclusive club or something?

My roommates are 22 and 24, going on 7. Their favorite game is who can get a DUI first.

HEY SENIORS! WHEN YOU ARE READING THIS THERE ARE ONLY 93 DAYS UNTIL GRADUATION!!! AARRRGH

That awkward moment when your professor calls you out via Pirate Rant about your paper...

If ECU doesn't want to be known as a "party school," then maybe they should require their students to have more than just a 1.8 GPA!!!

Successful weekend: Got a drinking ticket while walking to the grid. Then got robbed after. Thanks G-ville PD/ALE for keeping your priorities in order.

If she only knows Leonardo DiCaprio from Inception, she is too young for you bro.

To the girl peeing at the stoplight outside Sup Dogs: real classy. Where were your pants?

Wiggle wiggle wiggle wiggle wiggle, yeah!!!

Yeah, I saw you pee in the fountain last night. I also saw you getting a ticket from the ECU policeman. Don't try to hide it.

As exciting as it was to graduate last month, being an ECU student was way better than being an ECU Alumni.

It's one thing to put ads before my Youtube videos, but before my porn — come on now!

I just spent the past hour at work reading Pirates Rants. I've come to the following conclusion: a) Greenville is seriously hood b) girls are sluts c) drinking is the only thing to do. WHY DID I EVER GRADUATE!

No one cares that your Pirate Rant got read in class, it wasn't that funny.

WHAT?! No shootings near my house this week! I'm almost more nervous now than before.

I remember my first published Rant better than I remember my first sexual encounter.

To the chick who said if her vagina was a restaurant: Your slogan should've been "Eat FRESH"

Well, here goes another unpublished Pirate Rant...

I wish lectures had commercial breaks.

Dear girl in my class: Please wear yoga pants more often, you're a\*\* looks amazing and gives me a better reason to come to class.

If there is more nicotine, THC, or alcohol in your body than proper vitamins: you might be a Pirate.

It's Monday and you still have X's on your hand from Saturday. I'm just saying, don't you bathe?

Ranting about your Rant? Why, dude, why?

Aaaarghhhh you going to be safe downtown this weekend? Studies show true Pirates can drink responsibly.

If all your classmates start talking when you raise your hand, you probably talk too much! Please shut up!

I'm only two girls short of a threesome.

# I'm sick, why won't you just *believe* me?



MADALYN MCLEOD JOHNSON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

**“I'm sorry about your apendectomy, but this isn't a university-excused absence. See you next semester.”**



**Abby Brockmeyer**  
OPINION COLUMNIST  
@AbbyBrockmeyer

Senior Communications Major

There are times in your life when you get down on your luck. Your car starts messing up, your dog bites another dog or your favorite television show ends its series run.

This is all manageable. But we all know that when you get that particularly nasty cold the thought of leaving your bed is almost unbearable to think about. The type of sick where the doctor gives you the stern “Take better care of yourself” look. The type of sick that's not any type of manageable. So, why must the school be so adamant about not giving out an excused absence for missing class because of a medical illness?

Sure, there are alternatives that the school gives you for those

absences. For instance, you can withdrawal for the semester from all of your classes. Because that's not drastic and a royal pain to take on when you're sick. You could just take a medical drop from the class, so if it is in the middle of the semester, all of that work you did for two months means absolutely, positively nothing. No worries, just take that class again!

According to Student Health Services, “Responsibility for class attendance rests primarily with the students who communicate directly with their instructors. The Student Health Service cannot verify the impact of an illness on a student's ability to attend class.”

That is exactly right, because I know when I am completely bedridden and cannot lift my head, my first thought is, “I have to email and convince my teachers that I am sick and not lying about missing class!”

The university should have a universal code for these types of issues, particularly this time of year when the flu is knocking on your doorstep. There needs to be a better way to handle sick

students. Saying no to excused absences because of the issue of “verifying” different cases of sickness is frankly a bunch of bull. Doctors tell you what medicines to take and exactly what to do when you are sick. So, a note from them telling the university if you can or cannot make it to class should absolutely be counted as an excused absence.

There are plenty of professors teaching in the land of ECU that count a medical-related absence as an excuse with you simply explaining to them what happened, or providing them with a note from your doctor as proof. I am not talking about or complaining about them. You guys are fabulous!

The issue is with the teachers that will not make an exception. The untrustworthy teachers that have spent the majority of their careers being lied to by students and dealing with their excuses; so much so that a university-excused absence is all they will accept. You guys make our lives very difficult!

The ECU administration does not need to be more lenient about accepting any type of medical

illness as an excuse for missing class. That would indeed turn into a downward spiral. Yes, I know that students are very witty liars. But what does need to be implemented is a better system to decide whether or not the student does indeed need a medical-excused absence for missing the days of class.

Of course it is the student's job at one point during his or her sick leave to contact his or her professors and let them know what is going on. Even though it is inconvenient, we need to take on that responsibility. But in turn, ECU needs to take on the responsibility of taking better care of it's students. If we need help with a situation, if we do our part with contacting our professors and our illness is proven to be legitimate enough to miss class, then we should be given an excused-absence slip.

How can you expect us to do our part when you refuse to do yours?

This writer can be contacted at [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

## Scribbles to the Captain

The East Carolinian welcomes letters or comments 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](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

Dear Editor,

Angus brings up a lot of good points, but the Greenville planning board shares as much blame as anyone. The location of the conference center and allowing big-box stores to settle into Greenville Boulevard has hurt the uptown area as much as anything else. This killed the uptown area by moving everything away from campus.

Uptown needs more than just eateries, bars, clubs, and specialty shops. There is no grocery in the uptown area (aside from the little place off Jarvis), there is no conference establishment of any size, there is no hotel, no movie theatre, no area for recreation beyond Town Common, and no place for children. Having these types

of establishments would draw more people into the area and increase the profile of the uptown area. It would also help reduce crime, because we would have more people on the street.

The Uptown Greenville Group is a remarkable force in helping to re-establish the area, but we need more than what we have now. Greenville could be such a great university town if we could reduce the bar and club presence, and make it a place that the entire community can enjoy.

-Clifton Watts  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies

## POLL RESULTS

**Do you think street preachers should be allowed on campus?**

**Yes 44%**

**No 56%**

## WEB POLL

**Who do you want to win Superbowl XLVI?**

Vote online at [theeastcarolinian.com](http://theeastcarolinian.com)

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## HOROSCOPES

### Aries (March 21 -April 19)

Find your patience and make the most of it — because you're off to a slow start today! That can work to your advantage as long as you can find new ways to keep your boredom from spreading.



### Taurus (April 20 -May 20)

You're all set for today's boost to your love life — whether you're single or partnered. Your allure is exponentially growing to at least one crucial person, so make the most of it!



### Gemini (May 21 -June 20)

You've got to focus on more than one issue today, but you can tackle them all separately if you make the effort. Things are looking up for you, so make sure that you're ready to throw yourself into the next big thing.



### Cancer (June 21 -July 22)

If you can spend the day enmeshed in group activities, you should feel at your best. If not, it's not the end of the world — just make sure that you're communicating with those most important to you.



### Leo (July 23 -August 22)

You've got an ego — who doesn't? Things may be a little closer to the limits of what you can take today, though, so try hard to get your people to see that you're the one who deserves support.



### Virgo (August 23 -Sept 22)

See if you can get yourself out there in an unfamiliar — though not uncomfortable — situation. You need novelty to maintain your spiritual growth, and your energy can take even more of it than usual now.



### Libra (Sept 23 -Oct 22)

You feel great — but that just makes it easier to overdo it. Try not to strain your body, mind or pocketbook too much, as things all tend toward moderation on a day like today.



### Scorpio (Oct 23 -Nov 21)

You're dealing with an unusual situation today, so make sure that you find a way to handle it with care. Things are looking up for you, but you may have to deal with some fallout for a little while longer.



### Sagittarius (Nov 22 -Dec 21)

Can you tackle the small stuff as well as the big stuff? Today tests that idea and may find you wishing you could get back to long-term strategic planning. The details are kind of boring, but they are still vital!



### Capricorn (Dec 22 -Jan 19)

You have to indulge your inner child — nobody else will! You have all kinds of positive energy and are able to make a real difference if you push things a little bit further.



### Aquarius (Jan 20 -Feb 18)

Your education is never complete — and that's how you like it! You may find that you pick up on something new and huge today — something that demands your intellectual attention for months to come.



### Pisces (Feb 19 -March 20)

You need to listen deeply to what people are saying and try not to get drawn in by their sweetness or poetry. They may be concealing something worrisome.



These horoscopes are from [www.astrology.com](http://www.astrology.com)

All images are from [MCTcampus.com](http://MCTcampus.com)



# Wrapping up new CD

Justin Capri Ruffin just released his newest album "BornStars." He is due to appear on an upcoming episode of MTV 2's "Sucker Free Countdown."

## Alumnus to appear on MTV

Mike Davis  
ASSISTANT LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Born and raised in Raleigh, N.C., Justin Capri Ruffin was destined to be under the lights on the big stage. And from an early age, Ruffin knew that music would become a major part of his life. Despite being active with football and basketball throughout his life, Russell said that "music was always the backbone" to all his endeavors.

After graduating from Garner High School in Raleigh, Ruffin came to Greenville with lofty expectations for himself. As an outstanding football player in high school, Ruffin played wide receiver for the Purple and Gold for two years. Along with his daily football routine, Ruffin continued to explore through music and created tracks of his own, devoting all of his spare time to both of his passions.

Despite growing up listening to a wide variety of genres, Ruffin became fascinated early on with rap and all of the elements that went into

it. Drawing different types of inspiration and knowledge from rappers such as Jay-Z, Lupe Fiasco, Nas, Tupac, Notorious B.I.G. and Dr. Dre, Ruffin found his own unique style.

While performing on the tours of artists such as Mac Miller, J. Cole, Young Jeezy and Curren\$y, Ruffin, better known by his stage name of J. Capri, said he learned how to interact with the crowd, how to become a better performer, and how to adjust to the life on the road.

"When you are on the other side and you've never experienced anything like that, you always wonder what it's like to be on tour," said Ruffin. "To be on all those different tours was a great experience because it gives you experience for when your time comes."

After two years of collegiate football, Ruffin hung up his pads and cleats and decided to focus his time solely on his music, shocking those close to him. But within no time at all, Ruffin turned those who questioned his path into the faithful support group that have helped

push J. Capri to the next musical and entrepreneurial level.

"When I dropped my project, it was just overwhelming the type of support I had, and people were really on board," said Ruffin. "It was a great feeling to know that my vision was correct."

With a few years of not only studying the musical side of becoming a successful artist, but the business aspects as well, Ruffin's newest album, "BornStars," which was released this January, is the accumulation of the past seven months of hard work and dedication.

As Ruffin closed one chapter in his life and started the next, the transition from football standout and 2011 college graduate, to moving back to Raleigh and continuing his musical career were all factors that helped shape the emotions of "BornStars."

"I wanted my vision to come off clearly to everyone, so when I was making it, there were a lot of particular things I was doing," said Ruffin. "It came out perfect, I was so

happy. When people heard it, they actually saw my vision 100% the way I tried to convey it."

Even with the success Ruffin's album has had within the first few weeks of its release, ECU graduate and longtime friend, Justin Nunerys, said that this is just the beginning for J. Capri. "Maybe on the outside looking in, it looks like he has had a lot of buzz," said Nunerys. "But Justin feels like he hasn't even made it yet ... he is really humble."

And in 2011, J. Capri landed his talents on hip-hop websites such as XXImag.com, thesource.com, nah-right.com and recordlabel.com, not to mention an upcoming feature on MTV 2's "Sucker Free Countdown."

"I put my heart into the project, so for people to be touched by the music, it was so gratifying," said Ruffin about the support and reaction his fans have had to him and "BornStars." "I couldn't have asked for a better reaction."

This writer can be contacted at [lifestyles@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:lifestyles@theeastcarolinian.com).

## Going behind the scenes of 'Dance 2012'

TJ Weaver  
STAFF WRITER

Building a dance show from the ground up may seem like a simple process; however, it's everything but simple. For "Dance 2012," the School of Theatre and Dance took great care and concern in reminding the community of Greenville the importance of dance and its role as an art form, which is to express different levels of the human condition through body movement.

The School of Theatre and Dance provides their students with real-world experience, taking what's learned in the classroom and putting it to the test every day. For "Dance 2012," both teachers and students came together, contributing several months of countless hours, to bring the show to the McGinnis stage.

Dance is not the only art of the dancer and choreographer, but also the art of the costumer, the set and the light designer. For the choreographer, the dance must communicate an idea or story on levels of emotions and body language.

For Teal Darkenwald, a professor of jazz and ballet and also one of the eight choreographers of "Dance 2012," the process of bringing her futuristic, post-nuclear reaction piece to life took little time as she discovered her inspiration early on.

"In terms of inspiration, I was interested in looking at the mutations that occur when nuclear fallout occurs and then also what happens physically when an atomic bomb goes off and the reaction to that," said Darkenwald. "The piece is about the idea of things being scattered everywhere, in complete destruction and disintegration."

Much like a painter, every choreographer's method of putting together a dance piece differs. For Darkenwald, she likes to envision the costumes and lighting before anything else.

"The collaboration between the costume designer and the lighting designer is very important," said Darkenwald. "Some choreographers don't have a clear costume or lighting vision but that tends to be how



RYAN HARPER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

"Dance 2012" will hold its final performance tonight. The choreography was inspired by post-nuclear reactions.

I see the piece from the beginning."

Once the choreographers find their inspiration, they present their ideas to the light, set and costume designers,

whose role is to help bring the piece from paper to the stage. For lighting designer, Erich Keil, the designing process provides a healthy relationship between him and the choreographer.

"The lighting designer's job is to decide what the audience sees and what they don't see and how they see it," said Keil. "With dance, it's critical to be able to emphasize form and movement. The arrangement of the picture in composition within space is really the primary goal, rather than seeing facial expressions."

Dance is often seen as theater without the dialogue and heavy characterization. Therefore, in the

absence of these two elements, the costumes and sets must bring the audience into the world of the piece.

Student and set designer Mandy

Goynes worked closely with each choreographer to achieve the setting of their pieces, and through extensive research began to formulate ideas and sketches for the sets.

"One thing with dance is trying to get the idea and the feel of an area without taking up too much space on stage," said Goynes. "It creates a challenge in wanting to get a more realistic feel, but it's a fun challenge trying to figure out how best to get across the setting."

Junior tap and ballet dancer and costume constructionist, Jessica Vaughan, explained that in dance, costumes are the one element

of design that comes directly in contact with the performer's body. Therefore, the costume becomes an essential part of the choreography.

"You have to take lighting and the set into consideration, and you have to understand that everything has to work together, cohesively," said Vaughan. "In general, it's one of the reasons why the dance becomes successful."

Out of the many art forms, dance has been regarded as the most expressive and humanistic. In today's society, when dance continues to battle for a spot among the arts, collaboration and originality are the keys for success.

"I think there is value in abstract movements that are not necessarily clear in terms of concept or idea," said Darkenwald. "Along the same lines, I think it's beautiful when choreographers tell a story. The beauty of dance as an art form is that it can touch everyone on a different level."

This writer can be contacted at [lifestyles@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:lifestyles@theeastcarolinian.com).

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## Lady Pirates continue slide

### Preseason honorees ready for first pitch

**Daniel Brockman**  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN  
@dbrockman2

The ECU softball team will be looking for continued success on the field this year, and three players in particular will look to lead the Pirates this season.

These three Pirate softball players were named to the preseason All-Conference USA team. With three selections, the Pirates were second behind the University of Tulsa, which received four places on the team. The three players chosen from the Pirates were senior Suzanne Riggs and sophomores Jill Jelnick and Kristi Oshiro.

"It was a privilege to be named on the preseason conference team," said Jelnick, who, along with Oshiro, was named to the Conference USA All-Freshmen team last season.

All three of these Pirates will play pivotal roles for the team this season as they look to continue their individual successes. Individually, these women led the team in many categories.

As a Greenville native and a former D.H. Conley Viking, Riggs led the team with 35 runs batted in, four home runs, a .438 slugging percentage and 74 total bases. She was second on the team with a .296 batting average, a .415 on-base percentage, 50 hits and 31 walks.

"I want to finish on a positive note and just make sure I have no regrets whatsoever," Riggs said of her senior season.

Oshiro led the Pirates with a .314 batting average, a .436 on-base percentage, 58 hits, 40 walks and 37 runs scored. She and Riggs were tied for the lead with eight doubles apiece. Oshiro also led C-USA in plate appearances with 233 at-bats.

"Offensively, I just want to try to get as much run support for our pitchers as possible," said the Mililani, Hawaii native, Oshiro.

Being one of only four C-USA freshmen to earn all-league honors for the 2011 season, Jelnick is looking to be a leader for the Pirates this season.

"I'm looking to work even harder, knowing that I've had a year under my belt," said Jelnick. "Hopefully, I'll do even better than last year, as well as help the team do better than last year."

This year's Pirate softball team is without a doubt young, and with only two seniors on the team, will certainly need to rely on leadership from underclassmen. And they understand the situation.

"I'll be trying to take on more leadership roles because we do have a younger team," said Oshiro. "Hopefully that will help us in the end."

Leadership and consistency will be key for the Pirates during this season with away games against the likes of the University of Alabama and perennial powerhouse, defending national champion and preseason No. 1, Arizona State University.

"Every year, we're looking to win conference and the big games, which we have a lot of big games this year," said Riggs. "The main thing is we just want to go out there and play to our potential."

Riggs, Jelnick, Oshiro and the rest of the Pirates will begin their 2012 season in the Pirate Classic on Feb. 10, as they host the University of Virginia of the Atlantic Coast Conference and Canisius College of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

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

**Ronnie Moore**  
STAFF WRITER

When a team is on an 11-game losing streak and it has not won a game since Dec. 18, then its members may not be very optimistic about the rest of the season. But, Heather Macy, coach of the Lady Pirates' basketball team, is proud and excited for her players.

After losing Sunday afternoon to the Memphis Tigers (16-4), the Pirates are still searching for a winning remedy that can end its long-standing win drought.

The Tigers came out strong and had a 10-point lead and never really surrendered that margin. Jasmine Lee, the Tigers' center, scored a game-high 20 points and managed a double-double with 11 rebounds.

"She was a force inside. When they fed her the ball, she knew what to do with it," Macy said of Lee.

Macy was right, as Lee scored on eight of her 12 shots and she made four out of five from the free-throw line. Nicole Dickson also had a nice game for Memphis, as she scored 10 points and she contributed eight rebounds and six assists.

ECU never laid down, continuing to hustle up until the very end. Tatiana Chapple had a team-high 10 points and seven rebounds, as she helped spark the Pirates to a second-half surge.

ECU managed to cut the Memphis lead to nine with a few minutes left in the game. Memphis seemed to have a knack for getting every loose ball as they caused 23 turnovers for the ECU women. In the end, the Lady Pirates lost the game in the paint, as Memphis overwhelmed the Pirates with 46 points in the down low — 16 more than the Pirates, which was the difference in the scoreboard.

A good sight to see was the return of Dana Jones, as she is progressively getting healthier and is returning to the court. In only three minutes of action, Jones had five points and made both of her attempted shots. Along with the injuries throughout the season, the Lady Pirates have lost players to suspension and to dismissal.

Despite the losing streak and off-court distractions, Macy and her team are staying focused.

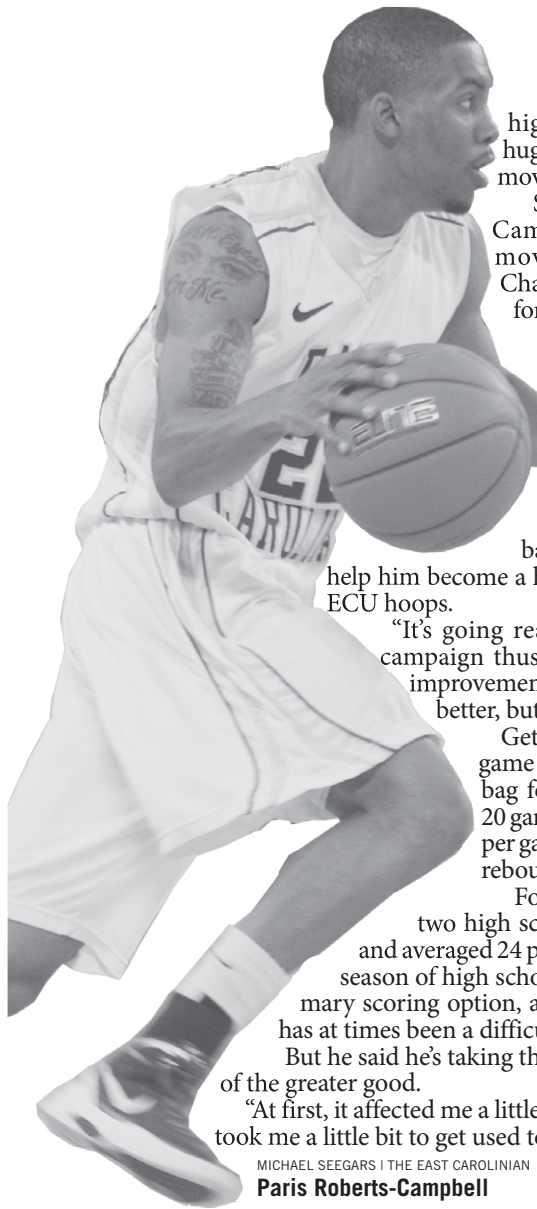


Celeste Stewart (14) attempts to drive the lane against Memphis Tiger Ramses Lonlack (32) on Sunday. SERGHEI TROFIMOV | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

> PIRATES page A7

## Freshman guard learns new role

**Jordan Anders**  
STAFF WRITER  
@jordan\_anders



Every fall, thousands of recent high school graduates take that huge leap of faith by packing up and moving away to college.

Seven months ago, Paris Roberts-Campbell was in the same boat, moving from his hometown of Charlotte, N.C., to play basketball for ECU.

But, unlike most students, Roberts-Campbell arrived at ECU with a stacked basketball resumé and a skill set that those in the basketball program think will eventually help him become a heavy contributor to success for ECU hoops.

"It's going real well," he said of his rookie campaign thus far. "There's always room for improvement and always things that I can do better, but overall it's been good."

Getting comfortable in the college game has been somewhat of a mixed bag for Roberts-Campbell. Through 20 games, he is averaging 17.6 minutes per game, putting up 5.2 points and 1.2 rebounds per contest.

For a young man who was a part of two high school state championship teams and averaged 24 points per game during his senior season of high school, the shift from being the primary scoring option, and learning to be a role player, has at times been a difficult transition.

But he said he's taking the role shift in stride for the sake of the greater good.

"At first, it affected me a little bit," Roberts-Campbell said. "It took me a little bit to get used to the role, but I had to do what's

best for the team to win, and if that means taking a smaller role, I'll do that. I'm just trying to fill my role the best I can."

As stark as the contrast is between star and sixth man, the 6-foot-3 sharpshooter said the transition from playing high school basketball to Division I basketball has been that much tougher.

On that front, Roberts-Campbell's numbers tell the story. On the plus side, he has scored in double figures in three games so far this season, including a season-high 17 points against Virginia-Wise on Dec. 31. But, there have also been three games where he failed to get into the scoring column and he's shooting just 31 percent from the floor and 30 percent from behind the 3-point line.

"It was a surprise," he said. "Everyone was faster, bigger and stronger. It took a while to adjust, but we go hard in practice and that helps me get ready for the games."

Still, Roberts-Campbell and those around him are convinced that these struggles are just something that come with making the jump to the top level of college basketball and won't last long. "My teammates have really helped me get better," he said. "They push me hard in practice, defending me hard and attacking me."

With that thought, Roberts-Campbell eluded to the aspect that he said has been positive since his first day at ECU: the camaraderie that he has established with his Pirate teammates. He described the team as one big family and credited one teammate in particular, who has taken him under his wing and showed him the ropes of college hoops.

"I'm with Corvonn (Gaines) a lot," he said. "He's like a big brother to me and has helped make (the transition) easier."

This season has been one of learning curves for Roberts-Campbell. But, he said that now being two-thirds of the way through his freshman year, those curves are becoming a little less sharp.

He said the game that was so fast back in November is beginning to slow down for him, a sign that he is becoming accustomed to the level of play in college and is getting poised to become a solid piece of future Pirate success.

As for some of the other adjustments that regular freshmen go through?

Well, he's still working on that. "Waking myself up in the morning without my mom was the hardest part," he said, smiling. "My mom always used to wake me up in the morning, so that's been kind of tough."

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

## Light suspension could bring heavy consequences

**Chase Kroll**  
OPINION COLUMNIST



Three weeks before the start of the 2012 baseball season should be a time filled with anticipation. It should be a time spent preparing upcoming trips to Clark-LeClair Stadium, where the only thing higher than a pop-up heading for a fan's glove is a Pirate's aspirations for the season ahead.

To a fan, this should be the time to place bets, to cross each day off the calendar and to go have a toss in the backyard. The sun is shining and baseball is in the air. Then enters that sinister cloud, slowly making its way across the skyline.

Terry Holland, ECU's athletic director, revealed last week that baseball's head coach, Billy Godwin, will be placed on a two-week suspension, starting Wednesday, for his role in an NCAA improper housing benefits

violation. This violation comes on the heels of a separate academic fraud violation that forced the team to vacate 17 wins from the 2010 season.

ECU uncovered that from 2004 (the last year of former ECU head coach Randy Mazey's tenure) to 2011, four volunteer coaches had stayed in courtesy apartments. The university dealt the team its punishment, consisting of Godwin's suspension without pay, a letter of reprimand and the suspension of the volunteer coach position for a calendar year.

The shadows cast from these violations aren't solely because they put a bad mark on the athletic program's reputation, but also because these self-imposed violations don't mark the end of the situation. The team is now in limbo heading into the regular season, as they have to wait for the NCAA to evaluate the situation, review the punishment and decide whether any further action needs to be taken.

> CONSEQUENCES page A7



Billy Godwin will be suspended until Feb. 14, beginning on Wednesday. SID

### Have questions about the Sports section?

Contact the sports editor at sports@theeastcarolinian.com

**PIRATES** continued from A6

“Our players are highly motivated and my challenge is to take some pressure off of them because they do have so much on their shoulders and they do strive to win,” Macy said.

The Pirates shot a dismal 32 percent in the first half

to dig them a 12-point hole. ECU did shoot better in the second half, but shooting just 38 percent for the game isn't going to get it done.

The Pirates are not in the running for any post-season tournament, but if they can string together a few wins

starting this Thursday versus Tulane at home, then they can salvage the 2011-2012 season and build for next year's recruiting class and schedule.

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

**CONSEQUENCES** continued from A6

With no date set on when the NCAA will announce its ruling, the unease could easily become an elephant in the room for the Pirates.

Despite the violation, both the athletic department and the baseball program deserve some credit. Both have been very proactive throughout the entire situation. Holland has been in direct contact with the NCAA, providing all details and information quickly in hopes of resolving this issue rapidly. Holland reported that all four of the volunteer coaches have repaid or nearly repaid all of the benefits they had received.

Not to be outdone, Godwin has confronted the situation head-on. He could've claimed that he was not the one responsible for starting the infractions, but rather for continuing to carry them out. Instead, he has taken all responsibility. He has issued practices led by the team's seniors to prepare for the time that he will not be there and assigned assistant coach, Nick Schnabel, the head coaching duties during his absence.

The question then becomes: Are the punishments put in place by ECU harsh enough to not warrant any additional action by the NCAA? The answer is undoubtedly no.

When taking a closer look, Godwin's punishments seem to be more taxing than they actually are. They never looked particularly taxing from the beginning. Godwin's suspension will last from Feb. 1-14. The Pirates' first game is Feb. 17. Godwin will not be missing a single regular season game and will actually be allowed to coach this season's first full practices at the end of January, before taking two weeks off. Based off of a \$122,500 estimated yearly salary, he stands to lose about \$4,712.

In comparison, when Tennessee basketball coach Bruce Pearl, violated NCAA recruiting rules in 2010 (albeit on a bigger stage), he was fined more than a million dollars by the university and forced to sit out of eight conference games before the NCAA ever ruled on his case.

Godwin's other punishments also don't carry any particular weight. A letter of reprimand is a standard procedure for any wrongdoing by an employee, and in simplest terms an excuse for Holland to formally criticize Godwin for his actions. From the barrage of judgment passed on Godwin this past week, he has proved he can handle a few harsh words.

While the idea of losing

a coaching position for a year seems catastrophic, the damage done is actually far less severe. In lieu of a "volunteer coach," the program has added former outfielder Trent Whitehead as a "student assistant coach" for the upcoming season. It should be noted that several of the past volunteer coaches from 2004-2011 were former players as well.

No limitations on scholarships, postseason or conference play, or monetary funding limitations were set by ECU.

So as it stands, the program has to assume that it will move on from this situation after Godwin's return with no additional harm. But, it could provide a problem for the team mid-season if the NCAA decides that the punishment was not enough. It will be difficult as a coach to prepare the team for a season when you could be penalized or suspended at any point.

For now, Godwin is escaping with a bit of a vacation and a slap on the wrist. But no one likes a vacation with clouds in the forecast, and all signs point to added NCAA restrictions before the sun comes out again for Pirate baseball.

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

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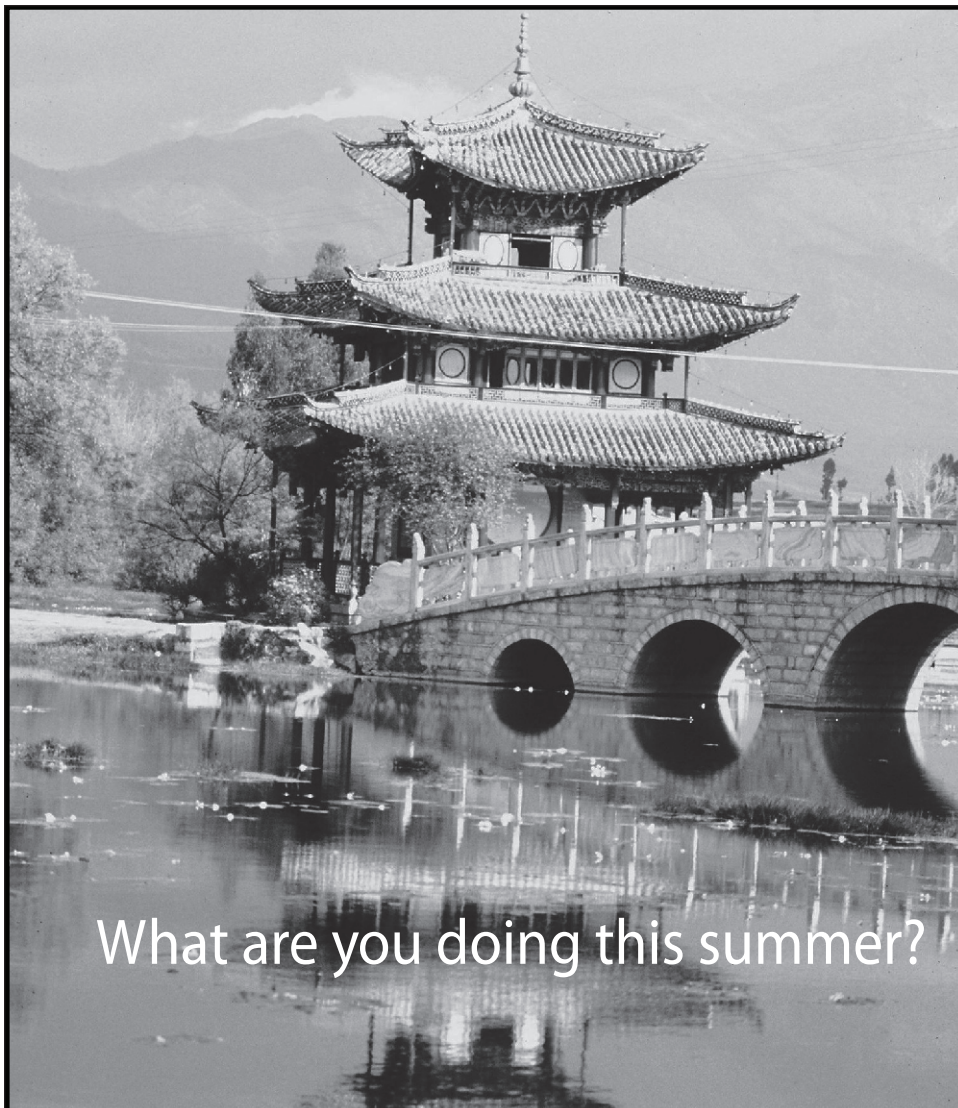
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