



## BRIEFS

### Professor speaks on recent school shooting

Staff Reports

Rehabilitation counseling professor Mark Stebnicki, an expert on crisis response, spoke about the high school shooting that occurred in Ohio yesterday.

News reports indicate that the shooting left one student dead and five others wounded at Chardon High School.

Stebnicki said that the majority of shootings that take place in schools or in a workplace are committed by students who attend those schools or are a current or former employee.

According to Stebnicki, researchers who study the risk factors in adolescents look at four primary domains when examining these types of situations; the individual, the family, the community environment and the school setting.

Stebnicki said that immediate interventions like critical incident stress debriefings and later interventions such as individual, group and family counseling, have been successful in countering crises.

### Police search for male sexual assault suspect

Staff Reports

Police are still investigating a sexual assault that occurred shortly after 2:18 a.m. on Friday.

The assault took place in the parking lot of First Street Place apartments. Two female victims were able to get away, one of whom was an ECU student.

The suspect was last seen running eastbound on foot and was described as a light skinned black male in his mid-20s, around 6'0" tall and weighing 150-160 lbs.

He has close-cut hair and was last seen wearing blue jeans and a white T-shirt.

Anyone with information is urged to call the Greenville Police Department at (252) 329-4135 or CrimeStoppers at (252) 758-7777.

A victim's advocate is currently working with the police department in assisting the student.

### Book lists ECU as 'disability-friendly'

Staff Reports

ECU was recently named one of America's most 'disability-friendly' colleges in the book "College Success for Students With Physical Disabilities."

The book, published this month, contains "forms, checklists, interviews with other students, advice from college disability services personnel, and profiles of disability-friendly colleges across the United States."

ECU is listed as a school that goes beyond the normal requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act in providing service to students with physical disabilities.

### ECU wins lawsuit against 'healthy pirates' website

Staff Reports

A Greenville man has been ordered to stop using HealthyPirates.com, a website for a health magazine,

> BRIEFS page A2

# Board of Trustees presents university 25-year plan

Caitlin Hunnicutt  
STAFF WRITER

The University Master Plan, a 25-year plan for the university's campus, was presented to The Board of Trustees on Thursday.

The comprehensive plan has been a three-year process by designers, and aims to bring additions to the university's campuses as well as renovate existing features of the campus.

The Master Plan is described as a "living document" and as "the most comprehensive plan that has been seen at any university" by its designers.

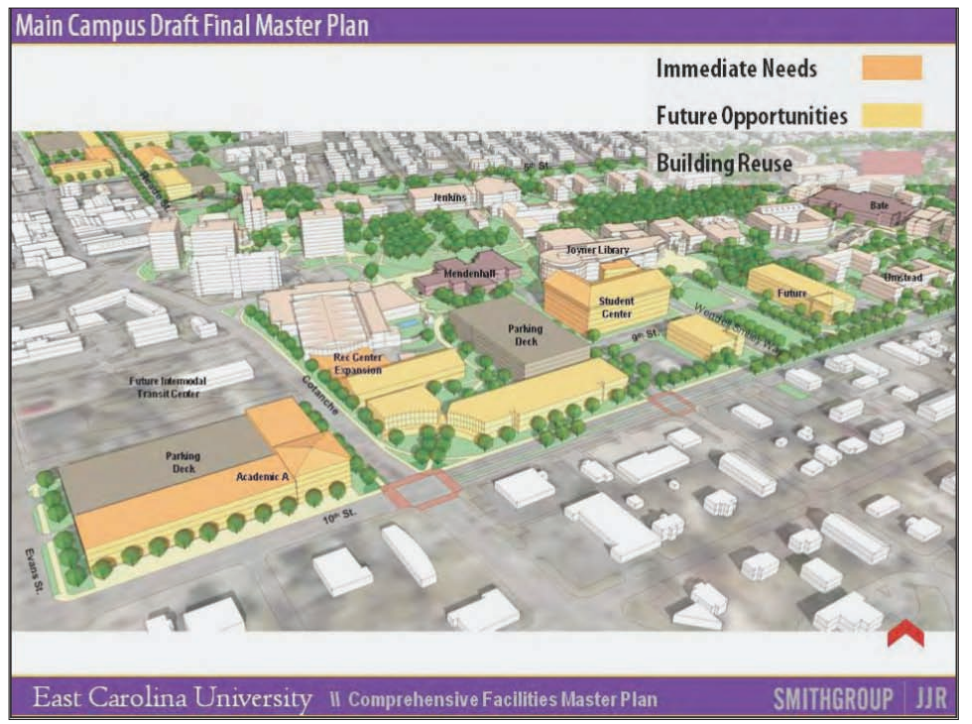
In the presentation to the Board of Trustees, the designers stated, "The purpose...is to create a plan that will anticipate the future by considering facility needs generated by the university's Mission Statement, Strategic Plan and corresponding Academic Program."

Board of Trustees members were given a bound book and CD of the entire Master Plan, encompassing immediate need and future-need design plans.

"I've been involved with [the Master Plan] with SGA for several years and it's very exciting to actually see it come together and be on paper," said Josh Martinkovic, SGA President.

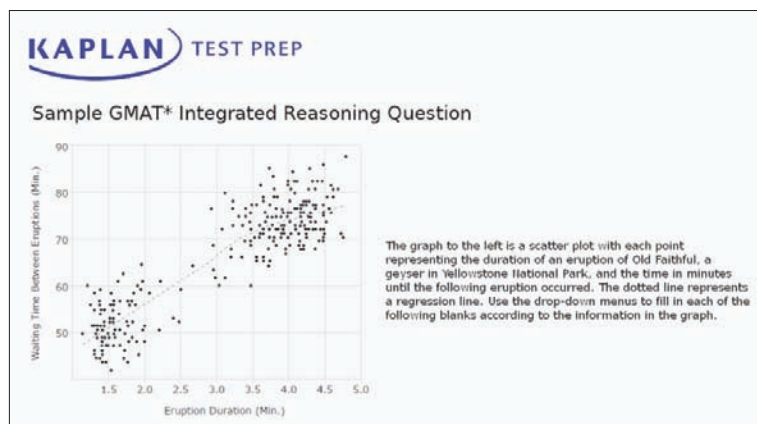
Three key themes make up the University Master Plan. The first theme of the plan is to, "Create a socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable campus plan that represents the hopes and aspirations of this

> PLAN page A3



The 25-year master plan includes a student pathway through campus, repaving College Hill Drive and beautifying Tenth Street to look like East fifth Street, which parallels main campus.

# Updated GMAT exam to release this summer



Kaplan offers a view of the sample questions, which come from the new test.

Cameron Gupton  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Undergraduate students who plan to attend business school will face a more challenging GMAT examination in June.

The GMAT is a standardized test used to evaluate students for

business school and predict student success.

According to Kaplan's Test Prep's director of pre-business, Andrew Mitchell, MBA degree seekers generally take the GMAT.

The new exam, which is being called the "Next Generation" GMAT, will feature an Integrated Reasoning

section.

The section will contain four question types, each of which are designed to gauge a test taker's ability to organize, synthesize and evaluate information from several sources and in different formats.

The makers of the exam say that the new section will measure how business school applicants respond to complex challenges like those they will meet in business school and as managers.

"Integrated Reasoning questions resemble what is learned in business school," said Mitchell. "A big part of any MBA program is working on case studies."

The new change to the exam will apply to about 200,000 people who take the test every year.

> GMAT page A2

# SGA reflects on Fall 2011 highlights

Melanie Jock  
STAFF WRITER

Student Government Association has released its Fall 2011 semester highlights and accomplishments, which features the different initiatives taken last semester to better the student community.

SGA President Josh Martinkovic said it would be hard to pinpoint just one accomplishment as being the greatest of the fall semester, but one that stands out in his mind was the SGA discount cards, which contain discounts at local businesses and services, given out to the student body.

"Of all things, it's the most tangible, visible thing we've done," said Martinkovic. "We're using fee dollars to support the local community."

SGA has distributed around 3,000 of the 5,000 cards produced for students. The card can be used at various restaurants and stores in the area. Some students, like junior elementary education major Rebekah Van Curen, support the efforts of SGA's discount cards.

"It's very positive what they're doing around campus for college students," said Van Curen.

SGA has also started issuing monthly crime reports, in order for students to become more aware of personal safety.

"The reports tell where it happens and what happens — to keep campus informed," said Martinkovic.

He said if students can see where a crime, such as a larceny, has frequently occurred, students may think twice when they are attempting to keep themselves safe.

SGA also did its part to keep students safe when Hurricane Irene hit last August. Before Irene made landfall, SGA coordinated with the university's administration to provide students with campus updates in order to keep students safe during the storm.

Senior hospitality management major Anne Block said she was not in Greenville during the storm, but she was appreciative of the updates about campus she received, which helped her return safely.

"They were really helpful," said Block.

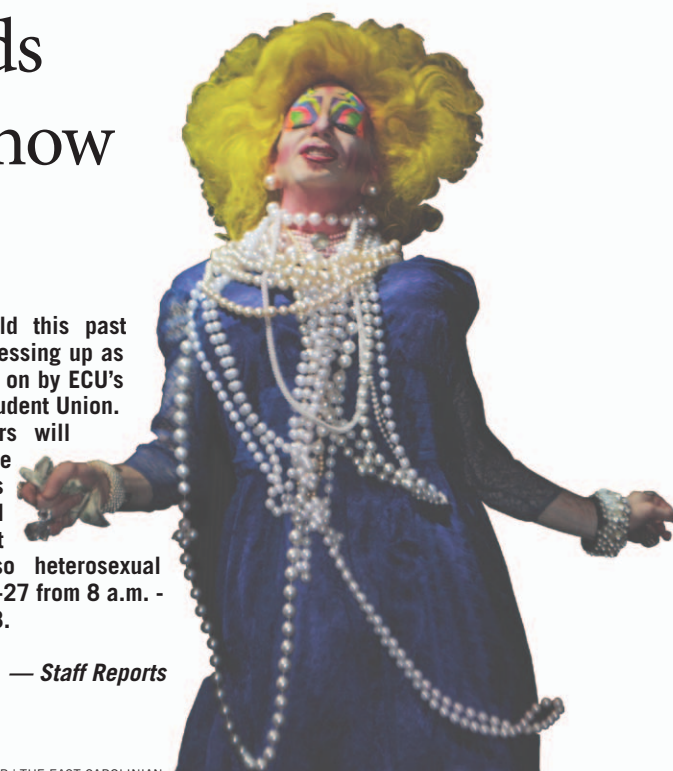
> SGA page A2

# GLBTSU holds annual drag show

The annual drag show was held this past Thursday and featured individuals dressing up as costumed women. The event was put on by ECU's Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Student Union.

This year North Carolina Voters will take to the ballots in May to vote on Amendment One, which bans the recognition of civil unions and domestic partnerships between not only homosexual couples but also heterosexual couples. Early voting will be April 23-27 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. in Minges Colliseum room 143.

— Staff Reports



LACEY SCHWAB | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

## INSIDE

### OPINION

Check out Opinion for a Sound Off on religion in college. **A4**

### LIFESTYLES

Like chicken and waffles? Turn to Lifestyles to read a review on the newly-opened Sky Bar. **A6**

### SPORTS

Turn to Sports to read about the Clark LeClair Classic. **A8**

## WEATHER

63°F/ 39°F

Partly Sunny



GRAPHICS FROM ENTROPIA.COM

## ONLINE



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

## INSIDE

## BRIEFS CONT.

because the name infringes upon ECU's trademarks.

Roy Hopkins Jr. was enjoined from making any use of the term "Pirates," any skull and crossbones logo or any other logo in a manner that is similar to ECU's logos and color scheme, including the colors purple and gold.

Hopkins must also transfer the domain name registration and pay the univer-

sity's costs and attorneys' fees, totaling \$36,357.03.

ECU filed a suit in federal court against Hopkins in April 2011. Hopkins has 30 days to report his compliance with the injunction to the court and the university.

H. DAVID and DIANE  
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## 2012 HOUSING FAIR

ALL STUDENTS INVITED

When: March 14, 2012

Time: 10:00am-2:00pm

Mendenhall Student Center Brickyard

Purpose: Get the latest information for off-campus & on-campus housing, what each community has to offer, talk with property managers, find the right place to fit your life style.

Extras: Free food, prizes and music

Sponsored by: ECU Off-Campus Student Services

Information: Contact the Office of Off-Campus Student Services at 328-2847 or visit their website at [www.ecu.edu/offcampus](http://www.ecu.edu/offcampus)

## GMAT

 continued from A1

New question types included in the section are table analysis, graphics interpretation, multi-source reasoning and a two-part analysis.

According to Kaplan, test takers will be presented with "a sortable table of information, similar to a spreadsheet, to be analyzed to find whether answer statements are accurate." In table analysis questions, test takers will be asked to "interpret a graph or graphical image, and select the option from a drop-down list to make response statements accurate," and the graphic interpretation questions will examine "all the relevant information which may be a combination of text, charts, and tables to answer questions" in multi-source reasoning questions.

Junior elementary education major Sarah Young said

she feels the changes are good for students who are planning on attending business school.

"My boyfriend is a business major and I think the test will really help him and anyone going to business school," said Young. "What is on this test is what they are going to be doing after they graduate."

The two-part analysis questions will involve two components for an answer. Potential answers will be provided in a table format, with a column for each component and rows with possible options.

"I don't think that the new addition will necessarily make the test harder, but the two-part questions do sound a little confusing," said sophomore Daniel Johnson. "It really just depends on how you are at test taking."

The Integrated Reason-

ing section will be scored separately and a poor performance will not be balanced out by a better performance on the other sections of the exam.

The length of the test, which runs four hours, will remain the same even with breaks. The new section replaces one of the essays on the old test and will not add extra time.

Mitchell said that those who have time to prepare and take the test before June will have a slight competitive edge compared to those who wait until after the changes are made.

For more information on the changes visit [www.testchange.com](http://www.testchange.com).

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

## SGA

 continued from A1

"All of SGA's efforts have been really rewarding."

With tuition and fees rising, SGA has created ways for students to be involved with the process and provide feedback about increases.

SGA held two campus forums last semester that were attended by more than 60 students. The forums allowed students to share their thoughts and ideas about financial increases.

In addition, SGA created a web page for students to take surveys about fee increases. Over 2,000 responses were received, which SGA said helped influence fee increase decisions.

According to SGA, a partnership began with The Daily Reflector last fall that provides free newspapers on campus, which works as part of the student newspaper readership program which, "helps students acquire the

skills vital to educated citizenship" by offering free newspapers on campus, according to its webpage. This allows for students to stay connected to the local community.

"I really enjoy The Daily Reflector," said Block. "I know when you go to other places you have to pay, so I like that it's free."

Van Curen has also taken advantage of the free newspapers provided on campus, which also benefits her often.

"I like getting the paper and not having to pay," said Van Curen. "I read the paper every day."

Other initiatives to gain student feedback about increases will take place this semester. SGA will participate in the Association of Student Government "Cuts Hurt" initiative, which will be targeted at seeing how budget cuts are impacting student experiences. It will be avail-

able through the university's website.

Other plans taking place this semester include creating a monument for "The Boneyard," the student section in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

"There will be a design contest opening up to accept applications," said Martinkovic. "Every student will create a design of what it should be. It will be narrowed down to the top three or five, depending on the number of applications, and the undergraduate senate will vote on it."

The monument will provide a rallying point for students for years to come. "I'm really excited because it's something that will always be there," said Martinkovic.

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

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Ronald E. Dowdy

**STUDENT  
STORES**

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY



**PLAN** continued from A1

region.”  
 The second theme is to, “Bring four diverse campus environments into a coherent and connected campus plan.” The four campus environments are Main Campus, Health Sciences Campus, west Research Campus, and the North Recreational Fields Complex.  
 The third key theme to the Master Plan is to use the university as a resource and to, “Utilize the campus to support and enhance the community and the university and the community.”  
 Implementation of the Master Plan is broken into phases. The current phase of the plan is Phase One, which began in January 2011 and is projected to last until January 2015. Phase Four, the final phase of the process, is projected for 2026 or beyond.  
 The presentation of the

Master Plan focused mainly on the changes that will be happening on the Health Sciences Campus, as well as ECU’s Main Campus. A main point repeated in the presentation was “working within our means” and using land, buildings and resources that the university already owns.  
 Proposals for the Health Sciences Campus included a major clinical addition, new diagnostic and treatment platform for ECU Physicians, a new free-standing cancer center, a site to group medical education with allied health and nursing, and additional office space and structured parking.  
 Main campus has a significant amount of changes, additions and renovations in its future with the Master Plan. The plans include expanding main campus, and repurposing the land that

is already in use.  
 One specific part of this expansion includes developing and increasing the east side of campus, end at creating a “science neighborhood” where the Science and Technology building currently is.  
 “The mall is an iconic space on the campus, but once we get outside of that, that space and quality breaks down,” said Neal Kessler, who worked on and presented the Master Plan to the Board of Trustees.  
 The Master Plan includes removing Founders Street from main campus and replacing it with a pedestrian core, removing all parking from the center of campus. It would keep parking solely on the outside of campus, and would extend the mall and create more green spaces throughout the center of campus. Founders Street

would still come into campus on both sides, but would serve as a turnaround on both entrances.  
 Other plans for main campus on land currently owned by the university include adding greenery to 10<sup>th</sup> Street, building a new student union, renovating Mendenhall Student Center and looking for a parking structure on that side of campus to service students. Designers also proposed a new entrance and welcome center to the university.  
 “The obvious issue is parking, but other than that I would like to see more computer labs. This campus seems to get more and more crowded as the semester goes by,” said Spenser Bowles, senior anthropology major.  
 Another proposed addition to main campus would be the Downtown Read Street

area, where there is currently parking for students.  
 “This area offers a lot of parking, and while we need the parking, I think we can do it in a different way,” said Kessler.  
 The Downtown Read Street Area would include a parking deck, an alumni building, performing arts buildings and could potentially have offices and classrooms. The area is planned to help develop the area downtown.  
 “The downtown model resonates very well with what Greenville City planners would like to do with the area,” said Kessler.  
 The final new addition to main campus would be the Warehouse District, which would replace support services that don’t need to be on campus but need to be close by, according to Kes-

sler. Services like ECU Police, Facilities and Grounds, IT/Networking. The area was modeled to look like the Durham downtown Tobacco District.  
 Kessler said plans for College Hill include, “replacing Belk, in a way that does not close off the district, but allows potentially a connection between College Hill and the athletic services.” The process would involve removing the current building from where it stands, rebuilding it and paving the road that goes through College Hill.  
 The property at Stratford Arms that was recently purchased does not yet official use in the Master Plan.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com

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**Dr. J. Kameron Carter**  
**“Religion and the Post-Racial Condition”**

Carter is an associate professor of theology and black church studies at Duke University.

Cosponsored by the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Religious Studies program and Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church. The ECU Religious Studies program selects the lecturers. The views of the lecturers do not necessarily reflect United Methodist theology or the beliefs of Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church members.

**Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Wright Auditorium**

Complimentary tickets are available to all attendees and are available through the Central Ticket Office by calling 252-328-4788 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS. For more information, contact Dr. John Tucker at 252-328-1028 or tuckerjo@ecu.edu, or visit www.ecu.edu/voyages.


↑ Individuals requesting accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should call 252-737-1016 (voice/TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the event.

U.P. 12-055

**EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY**

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The Conduct Board is composed of students who hear cases relating to any and all violations of the ECU Student Code of Conduct. The board then decides if the accused student is responsible or not responsible for the violation and applies appropriate sanctions to any students found responsible. If you would like to get involved with an organization that truly makes a difference on campus, apply to today for a position on ECU’s Conduct Board!

**APPLICANTS SHOULD:**

- Have a minimum 2.5 GPA overall
- Be in good standing with the University
- Have good decision making skills
- Be committed to a fair and just judicial process

**APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE:**

- [http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentaffairs.osrr/conduct\\_board/information.cfm](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentaffairs.osrr/conduct_board/information.cfm)
- MSC front desk
- Mendenhall 23 and 8C
- 364 Wright Building

## 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 [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](http://opinion@theeastcarolinian.com) to submit a Rant of your own.

Look forward to groups having equal time on campus supporting Amendment One.

You know it's thirsty Thursday when all 6 showers are full at 5 p.m.

More meters outside of Scott Hall, along with taking away spots for the Tyler construction, along with the high fee for an A2 pass...wow Parking and Transit, YOU SUCK!

To the guy who bust in to my apartment with a case of beer and yelled party's here... I wish you had stayed instead of leaving when you realized it was the wrong apartment.

The girl who made everyone on the bus sing "The Fresh Prince of Bel Air" theme song made my year.

BAZINGA.

That TEC article about Amendment One was kinda gay.

Stanley, did you learn that on the streets?

How can a drink price be "\$1 tip"? How about you just charge a dollar for the drink since you don't understand what a tip is.

Infamous vomit boy...we know what you did.

I need to stop tweeting friends, squirrels and fruits during class. Um, nahh.

I'm a white, straight, Greek male. Where is my article/month/week/day...haha who am I kidding? Yoga pants answer all those questions.

So Ikey might not be that racist, but that article sure was. Sorry some of us drive trucks.

I'm a Pirate and I'm voting for Amendment One. I don't hate gays. I'm a conservative and a student... deal with it.

Post this and prove both sides of issues can be heard in the rants. Not everyone agrees with what the GBLT stands for, so stop rubbing it in our faces all the time. I mean promoting drag shows is a little much, don't you think?

If the sanctity of marriage is "ruined," then why do gay people want it so bad?

I'm straight, you're gay, read the Bible! It's 2012 so get over it!

Dear TEC, my apologies. I forgot y'all were too liberal to publish rants in support of Amendment One.

Most of the people who argue with Brother Ross would benefit much more if they would actually listen to the message!

I'm sick of seeing all of this "vote against" junk. Christians, let's stand up and Vote For N.C. Amendment One!

Pirates for No H8!!! Equality is law where purple reigns!

Vote AGAINST Amendment One on May 8th. Every vote matters.

Thank you Brother Ross, for telling me the top 5 ways to find a lesbian. You know I love them lesbians. <3

#BrotherRoss - "You smoke cigarettes, no telling what else you suck on."

To Ben Cochran who thinks all female nursing students are engaged... we're not, and you're hot!

My ex-boyfriend of three years got his current girlfriend of two months pregnant...I'll drink to that.

# SOUND OFF

# Finding and forsaking faith in college



**Abby Brockmeyer**  
OPINION COLUMNIST  
Senior Communication Major  
@AbbyBrockmeyer

I never imagined going to college would open my eyes so much. Everyone told me it was going to be an experience I wouldn't get from anything else in life.

From learning to live with people while still being independent, college took my life by storm and forced me to make real adult decisions I never thought I could make. The one aspect no one prepared me for, nor that I ever thought I would encounter, was losing my religious beliefs.

Before college, I could say I was confidently part of the Catholic faith. Although I didn't attend church regularly, I was confirmed, attended at least eight years of religious classes and felt strongly that I was affiliated with religion. To me, religion didn't mean sitting in the front pew of a church singing gospel songs or telling people how much I prayed. To me, religion was an extremely private matter between yourself and only yourself, not to be discussed with others, but to be figured out on your own, within yourself.

Everything I knew about religion was thrown to the wolves when I began college. Because I wasn't bonded with my religion before college, I was open to learning about other religions. I looked forward to hearing from conservatives and liberals alike to try and understand where they were coming from. However, the inconsistencies started to show the second I came here.

While some people are blind to all things inconsistent with what they've been taught, that is not who I am and curiosity got the best of me. I'll never forget the first time "Brother Ross" told me I was going to hell. He preached the word of the Lord, standing there during the pretty days yelling about his faith, condemning these people he didn't know. I remember thinking, "How could this guy be religious, he is talking like the devil?" After one day, I was finished hearing his story and decided there were idiots in every religion.

I had the pleasure of interviewing, for a feature piece, a professor of religion here at ECU. Talking for more than two hours with him and getting in depth about his Buddhist religion was a revelation to me. He spoke, I listened, and every single thing he said made so much sense to me. How could two very different and opposing religions, Catholicism and Buddhism, both be true? I spent days pondering everything he discussed with me, his many changes in religious beliefs throughout his life and his never-ending quest to find his true faith. Reflecting on my own shaky, weak faith didn't make me feel any better.

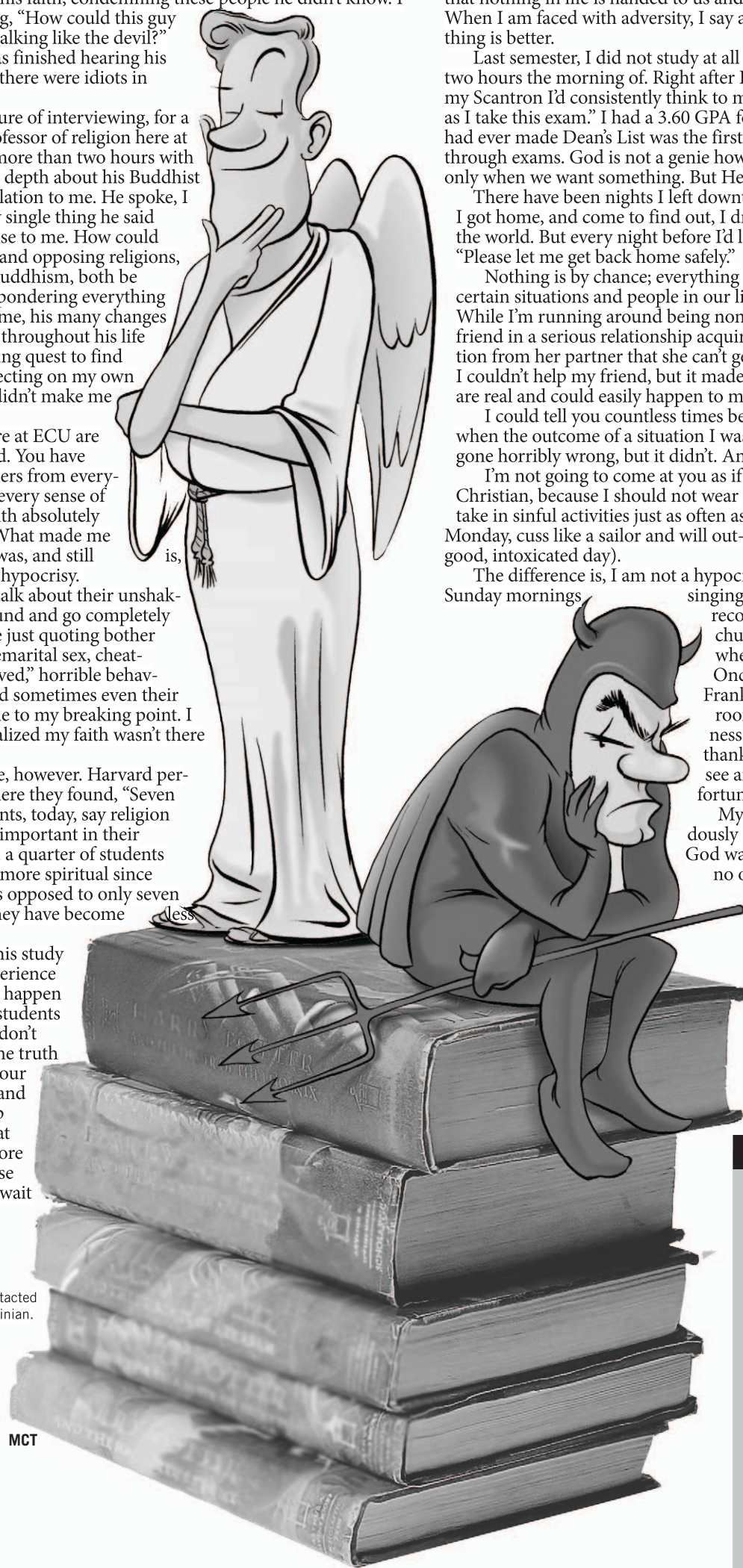
The people here at ECU are more than cultured. You have students and teachers from everywhere, some with every sense of faith and others with absolutely no sense of faith. What made me disgusted though was, and still stant portrayals of hypocrisy.

Students who talk about their unshakable and then turn around and go completely the bible they were just quoting bother The amount of premarital sex, cheat-on people they "loved," horrible behaviors towards others, and sometimes even their friends," pushed me to my breaking point. I up one day and realized my faith wasn't there anymore.

I am a rare case, however. Harvard performed a study where they found, "Seven in 10 college students, today, say religion important or very important in their lives. What's more, a quarter of students they have become more spiritual since entering college, as opposed to only seven percent who say they have become spiritual."

Even though this study shows that my experience doesn't necessarily happen to the majority of students entering college, I don't think I'm alone. The truth is, college shakes your beliefs to the core and you either build up your faith from that to become even more spiritual, or you lose what you had and wait for it to return.

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



MCT



**Morgan Logan**  
OPINION COLUMNIST  
Senior Public Health Major  
@MoLo\_So\_Dope

The phrase, "God does not present you with any situation that He feels you are not ready for," is what old folks have been saying for years.

Until recently, that was just a saying to me, just words without a true meaning. But being in college for the past four years, I feel not only have I obtained a meaning of the phrase, but a stronger connection with God as well.

Religion is different than spirituality. While I like being a Baptist, I love knowing that nothing can interfere with my relationship with God. Religion is more so the organized aspect, while spirituality is more so the individual beliefs.

People rely on religion to predetermine their outlooks and perspectives, which in turn causes controversy. You can sit in church all day long, but if you don't believe with your heart and soul, then you are just taking up pew space. One can be without religion but still have a beneficial connection with God in a sense of which I learned for myself.

My first night in Cotten Hall in August of 2008, I came to the realization that I was there alone — no momma, no emotional security, no structure. I solemnly asked the Lord to protect me and watch over me at ECU. Four years later, He saw me through with trial and error, experiences, as well as success, that I could have never imagined.

Why do I attribute my successes to Him and not to myself? Simple. God does not present us with a situation that He feels we are not ready for. If He knew that I couldn't handle a particular situation, He would not have made it available. Whatever task I take on, I complete to the best of my ability, be it an exam, a project or a relationship. We know by now that nothing in life is handed to us and that nothing is going to be easy. When I am faced with adversity, I say a quick, silent prayer and everything is better.

Last semester, I did not study at all for my exams, except for maybe two hours the morning of. Right after I bubbled in my information on my Scantron I'd consistently think to myself, "Okay, God. Just be with me as I take this exam." I had a 3.60 GPA for the semester. The first time I had ever made Dean's List was the first time I ever asked God to see me through exams. God is not a genie however, and we shouldn't go to Him only when we want something. But He is there, always.

There have been nights I left downtown with no knowledge of how I got home, and come to find out, I drove. That's the scariest feeling in the world. But every night before I'd leave my house, I would ask God, "Please let me get back home safely."

Nothing is by chance; everything happens for a reason. God places certain situations and people in our lives as a learning experience. While I'm running around being non-monogamous, I had a close friend in a serious relationship acquire a sexually transmitted infection from her partner that she can't get rid of. It hurt me knowing that I couldn't help my friend, but it made me more aware that these things are real and could easily happen to me.

I could tell you countless times between now and freshman year when the outcome of a situation I was faced with could and should have gone horribly wrong, but it didn't. And for that, I am thankful.

I'm not going to come at you as if I'm the cutout of an extreme Christian, because I should not wear white on my wedding day. I partake in sinful activities just as often as the next. I drink Monday through Monday, cuss like a sailor and will out-trash-talk Katt Williams (on a good, intoxicated day).

The difference is, I am not a hypocrite. I do not sit up in church on Sunday mornings

singing praises. Matter of fact, I am in bed recovering. I honestly haven't been to church since the last major holiday when I was at home in Charlotte. Once I do get up, I turn on my Kirk Franklin Pandora station and clean my room, for "cleanliness is next to Godliness." But as I do every morning, I give thanks to the Lord for allowing me to see another day, as not everyone is as fortunate.

My spirituality has grown tremendously in my time here. Why? Because God was always there with me, even when no one else was. He has not let me down yet and I don't think He intends to start.

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

## POLL RESULTS

How would you vote for Amendment 1?

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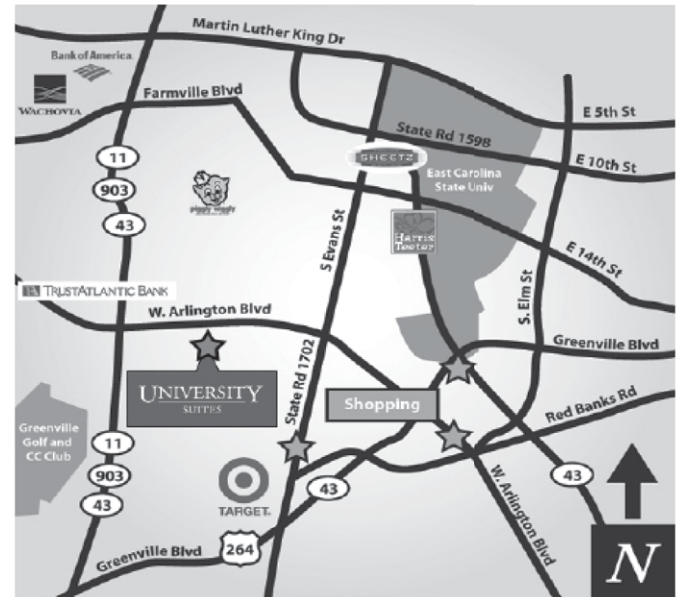


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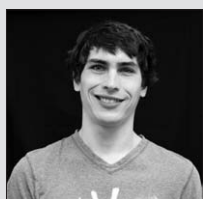
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## ALBUM REVIEWS

### Old spin on new ideas



**Stephen Mason**  
COLUMNIST

Those who peruse the print edition of "Spin" will have no doubt noticed the magazine's new format. Their aim, in their own words, is to publish "stories you can enjoy as thoroughly today as four months from now." I applaud their self-inflicted makeover — "Spin's" biggest weaknesses were its inability to establish an identity like "Rolling Stone" has with its politics, and their authority over the indie/alternative canon was usurped by "Pitchfork" years ago.

However, neither of those publications has attempted serious, long-term discussion of pop culture — "Rolling Stone" foolishly dismisses entire musical genres and subgenres, and "Pitchfork" is infamous for its absurd grading scale and revisionist reviewing history. The new "Spin" features Simon Reynolds's supplementary Lana Del Rey essay for his 2011 book *Retromania* concerning our referencing of our immediate cultural past in order to pave roads to the future.

Chris Weingarten's musings on contemporary artists' attraction to David Lynch's films is more observational than assertive. Indeed, these are "stories that are about an idea, not a moment," and I'm on board. Out with the ephemeral, in with the substantial.

#### LEONARD COHEN – Old Ideas:

At 77, Cohen's anticipatory death album features contradictions that can make muddy what he's learned over the years. For instance, he follows the lustful "Crazy for Loving You" with "Come Healing," which considers spiritual cleansing. But like any wise man, he knows if he wants truth he has to be truthful — necessary in addressing the root of morality, his own or the universe's. So when he proclaims we're "on different sides/Of a line nobody drew," I'll listen when he suggests the genesis of our disagreements is that "Both of us say there are laws to obey / But frankly, I don't like your tone." Called *Old Ideas* why, exactly? Because Cohen's a geezer? Because someone's suggested them all before? If he told you out the gate he was a messenger in "the brief elaboration of a tube," would you think there was more to it?

**LANA DEL REY** – Born to Die: Perhaps the outpouring of critics' derision concerning "inauthenticity" stems from their dismay of having crowned "Video Games" a brilliantly poignant ballad signaling the ascendance of an American retro-soul singer only to have the album show nothing for it. Why else label her turncoat with such vitriol? Personally, I'm not bothered by her dismal SNL performance, funding from her rich daddy, or convenient covering-up of all things Lizzie Grant. What bothers me is that for a 25-year-old who's been in love

> ALBUMS page A7



MAGGIE PENDERGRASS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN



MAGGIE PENDERGRASS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN



MAGGIE PENDERGRASS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Skyy Bar delivers delicious food in an empty atmosphere. While the different chicken and waffle dishes are worth devouring, the restaurant has more space than it can fill and gives off a ghost town vibe.



**Mike Davis**  
ASSISTANT LIFESTYLES  
EDITOR

### Grade: B

After walking into the newly-opened Skyy Bar on the corner of Fifth and 10th streets, my expectations of the restaurant were up in the air. Having had no information about the place, other than a sign off the road, I was ready to dive into this conveniently-located new restaurant.

Considering the amount of space the restaurant had, the table distribution inside seemed less than proportional. The bar area to the right was fashionably furnished, giving off a fresh and youthful attitude. A light shined on the liquor that sat on the shelf that surrounded one of the two large flat-screen TVs. A few trendy high stool tables, each accompanied with bar stools, suggested a different atmosphere than the other section, which was scarce at best. The brick walls

painted in dark grey matched the tone of the restaurant this past Sunday — dull, despite the many beautiful paintings that hung from them.

After looking over the semi-small menu, which presented itself standing on my table, I was surprised to see that it included strange variations of chicken and waffles, something that was foreign to me. Items such as "The Frizzell Fowl," "Lady Blues" and "Lil' Dizzy," which were all different varieties of the simple breakfast-dinner combo, were priced affordably between \$9.75 to just over \$11.

After a fairly long wait and confusion, someone who failed to introduce themselves casually took my order and disappeared to the back. If I hadn't been able to hear the chefs in the back, I would have thought that the place was a vacant ghost town. The only other sounds the restaurant echoed were from the distant TVs projecting the NBA All-Star game.

And with my expectations of the food quickly dwindling due to the complete lack of the traditional new-restaurant service and aura, I still held a small sliver of hope for it to regain itself with an

outstanding dinner.

Now I've had a lot of chicken in my day. I've also had a lot of waffles. But never before had I mixed and matched the two. Don't get me wrong, I'm all about mixing seemingly opposite foods in an attempt to find flavor ecstasy, but the closest I've been to this sweet and savory combination was while watching "Best Thing I Ever Ate" on the Food Network.

Having never eaten chicken and waffles together before, I felt like a fish out of water when the waiter bestowed this gem upon me. Was I supposed to dip the waffle in the syrup, the hot sauce, or both? Was there a recognized formula for waffle-to-chicken ratio? Even simple table manners like chewing with my mouth closed, putting a napkin on my lap and keeping my elbows off the table became in question.

But after a moment's hesitation, an empty hot sauce and syrup container, and the general consensus just to dive in with the intention to cover

> SKY BAR page A7

## Different language, different outlook

An inside look at two multi-lingual students

**Mike Davis**  
ASSISTANT LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Despite the official Mother Language Day being in the rearview mirror, students, faculty and community members continue to celebrate their heritage everyday. And for having never visited the United States, ECU graduate student Ting Ting Sui came to Greenville with a thirst for knowledge and an experience of a lifetime. She credits her university professors back in China, who were mostly from the United States, for the preparation they gave her about a country she had never been to.

Since her arrival in August two years ago, Sui has come a long way from where she started. "For some courses, it is hard for me. I have classes with doctoral students and the first month it was chaos," said Sui. "But after that, I kept making improvements because I record all the lectures and listen over and over again."

For the past two years, Sui has taken graduate courses in English with a concentration in teaching English to speakers of other languages in hopes of eventually going back to China to teach. Despite learning English in school every year since a young age, and further studying business English at SIAS International University, becoming fluent and blending in has been another beast to tackle.

"Well, I think for me, what is the most difficult, is (that) my first language interferes," said Sui. Some of the most difficult things Sui said about the differences between Chinese and English are that there are no verb changes and plural words in her native language.

One of the main dialectal differences Sui has noticed in her time here has been the difference between academic English and daily English. But in general, "it is very easy for me to grab a language," said Sui, having also learned Japanese



JUDAH MORMINO | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Susan Assavanilwong speaks both English and Tai.

and French.

"I think it is not very hard to speak, listen or write in English," said Sui, "but it is very hard to sound like a native speaker."

After Sui's graduation from the Purple and Gold, she plans to stay in the United States for a few years because she thinks the education system

is better here than back at home. After gaining a full grasp on the language and culture, Sui plans to go back to China and teach English to Chinese students.

But unlike Sui, Asheboro, N.C. native and ECU senior Susan Assavanilwong grew up in the United States and learned language and culture from a different perspective. Growing up with a Chinese mother and a Tai father, Assavanilwong was raised speaking English at school and with her friends, but Tai at home.

Since Assavanilwong knows two languages fluently, despite losing the ability to read and write Tai throughout the years of nonuse, she knows the importance of grasping multiple languages. "Since language is part of culture, it definitely helps me understand the culture better," said Assavanilwong. "I definitely think language is important because any language is part of communication."

Having traveled back to Thailand multiple times throughout her life to visit family members, Assavanilwong has grown to love and appreciate cultures outside of what she has grown up around. "Seeing the different places, especially comparing it to my hometown in North Carolina, it is just so beautiful how things are so different," said Assavanilwong. "Just being able to travel and see where my family is from, it is just very different and beautiful."

After graduation, Assavanilwong envisions herself using her public health degree and love for traveling to guide her in completing her goals in life. "For me now, I want to do global health and I do want to go back to Thailand," said Assavanilwong. "I think my language will help me in the future."

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

ALBUM REVIEWS CONT'D

once, she's too naïve to realize it's not profound and too much of a dullard anyway to pretend it is. Claims of inauthenticity are countered by "Radio," a song about how sweet life is when you make it so long as it impresses the person it's all for. Still, it's not enough she sings about heartbreak — she has to say something interesting about it.

**DIE ANTWOORD** – Ten\$ion: The opener and closer of the bizarre South Africans' sophomore album are steeped in stagnant dubstep — a sub-genre of electronica, which 99% of the music-loving world hates — and most everything in between relies on tired party-seeking, money-flaunting, hater-hating hip-hop clichés rendered too sincere for their own good. So it's puzzling that the zef-obsessed crew would cite pressure to conform the reason for leaving Interscope in favor of self-release. Ten\$ion lacks all the humor that excused \$O\$'s raunchiness — with the exception of "Fatty Boom Boom," which, with quotes from contemporaries including Vanilla Ice and Eminem, blurs the line between reverence and ridicule. But once the second part of "Never le Nkemise" rolls around at album's end, you'll be amazed you've only wasted 38 minutes. But for what a long 38 minutes it is.

**ANI DIFRANCO** – Which Side Are You On?: Four years ago, I panned DiFranco's Red Letter Year — a judgment unsound because of my current inability to remember the record and my certain critique of it being boring. Now I'm older (and — crossing fingers — wiser), and DiFranco's brand of political album — timely, reasoned, no bombastic dramatics at all — is preferable in these shouting-match times. The title song doesn't propose a black and white fallacy. It asks if you're willing to widen your ideological scope. It asks if you'll for one second discard stigmas attached to feminism by the people in charge who are pissing you off.

**GOLDFRAPP** – The Singles: The sequencing of this discotheque duo's career-spanning compilation of nearly two-thirds of their singles catalogue juxtaposes spurts of hot dance numbers ("Ooh La La," "Strict Machine") against ethereal ballads ("Utopia," "Melancholy Sky"), resulting in a leaner and tighter playlist than any of their standard studio albums offer. Goldfrapp's blend of electronica and pop, regardless of their idiosyncratic and ephemeral influences, sounds overwhelmingly fresh, and Alison Goldfrapp's voice dictates mood just as well as Will

Gregory's arrangements signal era — the Donna Summers-disco of "Ride a White Horse," for instance, is markedly different from 80's club pop pomp like "Rocket," though both unmistakably bear the band's seal. A best-of done right.

**HIMANSHU** – Nehru Jackets: A free download by one of Das Racist's MCs further continues Heems's reliance on humor in order to communicate deeper sentiments. The ridiculously funny "Womyn" doubles as odd awe tinged with earnest disappointment. The refitted "SWATE" uses his wit to disarm criticisms against it. His endless line of references, ranging from Prince to Chumbawamba to Johnny Nash — not to mention his eccentric across-the-board sampling of Kate Bush or some long-forgotten foreign advertisement for Coca-Cola — ultimately celebrates what in part makes hip-hop (or, you know, music) great. And his version of "NYC Cops" is heartrending in a way the Strokes' can never be, as Casabiancas stops after calling them stupid. Heems illustrates how power in the hands of idiots can inflict destruction in broad daylight.

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

BUCCANEER BULLETIN

Tues., Feb. 28

Fireside Chats with Peter Green 6 p.m. at Tippy Teapot  
The final performance of the School of Theatre and Dance's "The Elephant Man" 8 p.m.-11 p.m.

Wed., Feb. 29

Men's basketball senior night against Marshall 7 p.m.

Thurs., March 1

Last day for undergraduate students to drop term-length courses or withdraw from school without grades. Deadline is 5 p.m.

Fri., March 2

First Friday Uptown ArtWalk 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Sat., March 3

Tippy Teapot hosts Carolina bands FS, Murder Media, A Million Pages and Me Against May. Doors open at 9 p.m.

Know of some awesome events coming up? Let Lifestyles know! Email [lifestyles@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:lifestyles@theeastcarolinian.com) and put "Buccaneer Bulletin" in the subject bar.

SKYY BAR continued from A6

all the flavor bases, something became very apparent. After 21 years of constant eating, I had maybe eaten one of the single best bites of my entire life. But the madness didn't stop there. Every consecutive bite grew exponentially better, to the point where the lack of service and surrounding atmosphere didn't matter. I was in another world.

I was overwhelmingly surprised with the oversized waffle that lay steaming with a generous coating of powdered sugar and the chicken cutlet seemingly as large as the waffle and plate itself, not to mention the sizzling-delicious macaroni that accompanied "The Frizzell Fowl."

The chicken, which was heavily seasoned to near perfection, was covered in a crisp layer of crunchy goodness. But despite the golden-brown covering, the chicken ripped in juices. Even without the addition of the cinnamon-flavored, perfectly cooked, smells-like-home, looks-like-home, but is ten-fold better than home, waffle, the chicken could be sold by itself and would be an instant classic.

Unlike the chicken and

waffle, the macaroni side dish didn't remind me of my grandma's gooey, cheese-drenched concoction of macaroni heaven. This was an entirely different beast, again like something I hadn't seen before. The macaroni was once again seasoned excellently and portioned for a small family, yet wasn't overpowering with ten different types of cheeses. The dish looked harmless and simple, but was packed with complex flavors that pleasantly surprised me, again.

Even though the restaurant was practically empty, had a sullen atmosphere and lacked work organization, the place had direction. Any restaurant that's been open for less than a week will encounter such problems. You can fix the problems that Skyy Bar has right now with time and repetition. One thing that can't be changed over time is bad quality food, which the restaurant definitely doesn't have. For a broke college student, the quality of food was far superior to the price they charged. It seems almost a crime to only have to pay ten bucks for such an unbelievably filling and simply mouth-watering meal.

The attitude restaurant owners Keith Frizzell and Matthew Jackson hope to bring to the restaurant is a laid-back, community dining staple that can provide a night life atmosphere comparable to any major city, without sacrificing quality in any manner. The dining hours are from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, opening its full bar and nighttime appetizer menu from 10 p.m. – 2 a.m. every Tuesday through Sunday.

Also, every Thursday, jazz group 1-4-5 Quartet will lay the groundwork for the expected atmosphere of the place. Along with the scheduled weekly quartet, Skyy Bar will have poetry readings every second Saturday of the month.

The owners have also said they hope to have strong ties with the community and the university. Already in contact with a few sororities and fraternities, Skyy Bar looks to extend its arms to help feed homeless people during Thanksgiving and other events.

With a rollercoaster of emotions that hit every end of the spectrum, Skyy Bar has proven to me that it has the

potential to be unbelievable; worthy of a spot in any Food Network airing or restaurant magazine. With the help of time, recognition, and the power of the word-of-mouth, the restaurant will undoubtedly become more efficient and a can't miss on any food lover's list of dining destinations.

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

Radio Station Editor Position



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BUCCANEER Yearbook

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## Women win Indoor Championship

### Staff Reports

A total team effort by the ECU women's track and field squad paid off Sunday as the Pirates captured their first-ever Conference USA Indoor Championship title at the Birmingham CrossPlex. ECU downed defending champion UCF, out-scoring the Knights 123-113.5 to claim the crown. The men also found success, producing their highest-ever placement in the event by taking third place.

As a result of the ladies' performance over the two-day event, head coach Curt Kraft was named C-USA Indoor Women's Coach-of-the-Year. The conference title is the first for the Pirates since winning the Colonial Athletic Association women's outdoor championship in 2000.

The championship-clinching 10 points were provided by the 4x400 relay tandem of Tyshonda Hawkins, Tiffany Harris, Tania Minkins and Aiesha Goggins as they pulled past UCF's squad and finished the race in a league meet record time of 3:39.00 - just five seconds shy of the automatic NCAA qualifying standard. Minkins also improved upon the ECU school records she produced in the 60 and 200-meter dash events yesterday, running respective times of 7.40 (third place) and 23.88 (second place) to snatch all-conference honors in both races.

Junior Tynita Butts is heading the NCAA Indoor Championships after posting a mark of 1.85 meters to win the gold in the high jump. She tied the C-USA indoor meet record with the effort and fell just .02 short of her own school standard.

The Pirates captured a total of five individual championships Sunday to end up with six for the weekend.

Senior Brittany Copeland set a new C-USA meet record in the 3,000-meter run and rushed past Becky Wade from Rice in a time of 9:30.08 to earn her spot atop the podium.

The 400-meter dash proved to be a huge factor in the victory for the women, as Hawkins (54.24), Harris (54.36) and Goggins (54.45) placed second, third and fourth to score a total of 19 points in the event.

## Men's golf wins team title at UNCW

### Staff Reports

The ECU men's golf team picked up its first team win of the 2011-12 season Monday, carding a final-round 286 to take the title at the Seahawk Intercollegiate with a even-par 864 (296-282-286). The Pirates had four players finish in the top-13 led by senior Adam Stephenson, who tied for 13 with a 1-under 215 (71-73-71).

The Pirates, ranked 51st in the latest Golfweek/Sagarin Rankings, finished nine strokes ahead of No. 45 Wake Forest (292-292-289=873) in second-place, 11 strokes in front of third-place South Carolina (298-293-284=875) and were 15 strokes better than 26th-ranked Chattanooga (300-288-291=879), which earned a fourth-place finish. UNC Wilmington (299-294-287=880) claimed fifth-place followed by No. 31 Liberty (309-284-288=881) in sixth-place.

The first-place finish is the Pirates' first win since taking the River Landing Intercollegiate title last season and is the fifth top-four finish of the season. ECU started the day with a six-stroke lead over Wake Forest and extended its lead to win its seventh tournament under coach Press McPhaul.

Three Pirates tied for 13th-place at 4-over 220. Senior Harold Varner (82-70-68=220) posted the team's best third round with a 4-under 68. Varner combined to shoot 6-under in the final two rounds after shooting 10-over in the first round to salvage a top-15 finish.

The Pirates return to the links Monday, March 5 at the 15th Annual Cleveland Golf Palmetto Intercollegiate at the historic Palmetto Golf Club in Aiken, S.C.



Pitcher Andy Smithmeyer (29) in action against Maryland during the ninth annual Keith LeClair Classic on Saturday at Clark-LeClair Stadium.

# Bats fall silent in Classic

Adam Bunn  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The baseball team played three games over the weekend during the ninth annual Keith LeClair Classic and the only thing those games had in common was the consistent pitching.

Over the course of the weekend, ECU (5-2) played a total of 27 innings, allowing runs in just five frames. The dominant pitching kept the Pirates in games one and

three of the Classic against Purdue and Maryland. The offense had its strongest performance during game two against Western Carolina winning 3-1. Without the pitching from both the starters and the arms out of the bullpen, the Pirates could very well have been sitting at 0-3.

ECU threw out their top three pitchers over the course of the Classic, but the star of the weekend was Tyler Joyner, who started the second game of Saturday's double-header against the Catamounts.

Joyner was phenomenal tossing seven innings allowing just one run on three hits, before handing his gem to the bullpen that shut down WCU, preserving ECU's lone victory of the Classic.

Sunday brought a new pitcher to the mound for the Pirates in Jharel Cotton, who added to the consistent pitching trend. Cotton didn't have his best stuff, as he seemed to labor for the majority of the afternoon, but was able to battle out of countless jams in four and one-third innings.

The Virgin Islands native turned the game over to the bullpen in the fifth with Andy Smithmeyer coming on in relief. He worked three scoreless innings taking the Pirates into the ninth knotted at one.

"I've been very pleased with our pitching," head coach Billy Godwin said after the Pirates fell 2-1 to Maryland on Sunday. "I thought we played good defense too, we had those two errors on the one

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# Blazers torch men's hoops

Daniel Brockman  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The men's basketball team's three-game conference winning streak is firmly a fixture of the past, thanks to the team that sparked the original streak.

"It was a tough loss for us today," said head coach Jeff Lebo of his Pirates' 61-57 loss to the University of Alabama-Birmingham Blazers.

As Miguel Paul's 3-pointer fell just short and the Blazers' Preston Purifoy, converted both of his following free throws, the home crowd inside Minges Coliseum witnessed the Pirates' fifth consecutive loss.

Recently, through this losing streak, however, one Pirate has shown he is fighting to lead the team back to victory.

"Shamarr (Bowden) was terrific tonight," said Lebo. "And he's shot the last two games. At Memphis, he was the guy that made (shots)."

Junior guard Shamarr Bowden almost single-handedly kept the Pirates in the game against the Blazers on Saturday.

Bowden shot a blistering five of seven from behind the arc in the first half, and finished the game making

seven of his 11 attempts. "I just relaxed and let the game come to me," Bowden said. "I just played off my teammates."

With the rest of the team struggling from the field, shooting 11 for 33 from the floor and a meager three of 14 from behind the three-point line, Bowden was lighting up the Blazers for a career high 27 points.

"I got a rhythm going early, and they kept finding me," Bowden said.

Over the past two games, Bowden has averaged 20 points per game while registering a 62.5 percent field goal percentage and shooting over 66 percent from behind the three-point line.

Unfortunately for the Purple and Gold, Bowden was the only Pirate who seemed confident to handle the strength and speed of the recent opponents.

"We've got a lot of guys right now, offensively, that aren't playing with a lot of confidence," said Lebo of his teams recent struggles. "You've got to perform on the practice court, and you've got to perform in a game situation to really have true confidence."

To be a successful team, the Pirates will need every

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# Pirate Nation divided?



Stephen McNulty  
OPINION COLUMNIST  
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There is an old adage about three things you can't talk about in a bar. Religion, politics and well, sports, of course.

For many of us, myself especially, religion and politics don't even come close to sports. Sunday is a religious day to me, yes, but it is not wasted away at church, it's spent watching football, basketball or baseball. There isn't much better than spending all day lounging around watching the final round of a major.

So when it comes to whether or not someone should or can be a fan of a team, just as religion is, it is unique to everyone. And you better not challenge their beliefs because they'll fight you to the death.

To understand my beliefs about bandwagon jumpers, Wal-Mart fans and the most loyal, obsessed fanatics there are, you have understand how I view sports, specifically at the collegiate level.

The biggest thing is that athletic programs are separate from the university. With today's level of coverage, you get nearly as much, if not more news about the Tar Heels as I do about the 76ers. There is a very fine line between college athletics at the highest level and professional sports. Alabama or Notre Dame football, Duke or Kentucky basketball, they're just the same as the Washington Redskins or the Charlotte Bobcats.

When asked who my teams are by someone, I always name three. These three teams I eat, sleep and breathe. All year round, recruiting, spring training, the drafts, you name it. The Eagles, the Phillies and Duke basketball. They are my teams, not my city or my college, but my teams.

See, being a fan for me is about where you come from as much, if not more than, where you are now. There is a lot that goes into being a fan, just as there is a lot that goes into where you go to college.

Some people are just born into a team. They truly don't know any different. Some live in a region where the majority of people like one team. Like outside Philadelphia where it's mostly Eagles fans. These people usually either like the "home team" or absolutely hate them because everybody else likes

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# No consistency for softball



Freshman pitcher Sarah Christian (2) delivers a pitch during the Pirate Clash at the ECU Softball Stadium.



Justin Ackley  
OPINION COLUMNIST  
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Heading into this past weekend's Easton Bama Bash, the

ECU Softball team was looking to provide answers to some questions after last weekend at the Pirate Clash. Playing against teams with a combined record of 19-7 would give the Pirates a chance to find out just how ready this team is to take the next step.

Several questions surround the program. Would the young pitching be able to survive another long weekend? Would there be enough offense to compete with a nationally ranked opponent? The

Pirates answered these questions and left us looking ahead to next weekend after their 2-3 weekend in Tuscaloosa.

ECU opened on Friday and Saturday in the same fashion as they defeated SIU Edwardsville and lost to No. 2-ranked Alabama on both days. The two losses to Alabama had signs of good things for the Pirates, as they were able to compete and fight in both games. Neither game got out of control as ECU had chances to possibly sneak away with an upset bid. The Pirates closed out the weekend with a heartbreaking 9-8 loss to North Dakota State in eight innings. Only four of NDSU's nine runs were earned on the afternoon as the ECU defense made three errors, accounting for five unearned runs.

So, exactly what does this mean for the Pirates going further? On the surface, it is just a 7-6 record for a young team still looking to catch onto a wave of consistency. However, this past weekend was more than that as it gave the young team a chance to battle in pressure-packed situations at a road site.

The Bama Bash can be used as a learning tool, especially for freshmen pitchers Sarah Christian (5-3, 3.65 ERA) and Courtney Smith (2-3, 2 saves, 2.98 ERA). This was the first chance for the pair to pitch away from the ECU Softball Stadium. Although pitching seems simple as it happens inside a painted circle with a regulation pitching rubber, it is much more

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play. You've got to bear down and finish that play. It was basically a gimme, give them credit they took advantage of it."

The mentioned play was just another in a line of miscues that have plagued ECU early on in the season.

Reliever Drew Reynolds would surrender the game winning single two at bats after a two error play that put runner in scoring position.

Despite the shaky end

to the bullpen's day, in all it was a strong weekend for the Pirate pitching staff. As good as the mound work was, ECU struggled with the bats. Out of the 27 innings the Pirates played over the two-day classic, they lead for just five of those and recorded more than one hit just five times.

With the offensive struggles, the pitchers carried the team to keep these games respectable. According to Smithmyer, pitchers crave

such situations.

"In a tight game you're going to keep going out there to throw strikes," Smithmyer said. "It really puts a fire in me to keep doing what I'm doing."

The Pirates will continue their long home stand as they host Stony Brook for a three game series starting Friday at 3 p.m.

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player to step up, especially their point guard Paul. "I think Miguel's confidence is shaken," said Lebo. "He's really struggled here in the last four games."

Coming into these last four games, Paul was averaging 2.43 turnovers per game. His average for the past four games is more than double that, at 5.50 turnovers per game.

"When your point guard is struggling like that, it's hard," said Lebo. "Before those games, he was leading the league in assist to turnover."

However, Paul is certainly not the only reason the Pirates are sliding to the end of the regular season. The Pirates have given up double-digit offensive rebounds in four of their last five games.

"We can't let a team get double-digit offensive rebounds," said center Darrius Morrow. "You're not going to be successful in this league."

One bright gleam of hope for the Pirates came in the second half of the game when the Pirates only allowed four offensive rebounds.

But it is the falling behind early that is plaguing this team.

"When you're fighting back the whole game, it just takes a lot of energy out of you," said Morrow.

"To fight from behind, that's the tough part," Bowden added.

If the Pirates hope to end this winning drought, they will have to re-group and focus quickly.

The Pirates are hosting the Marshall Thundering Herd Wednesday night inside Minges Coliseum. Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m.

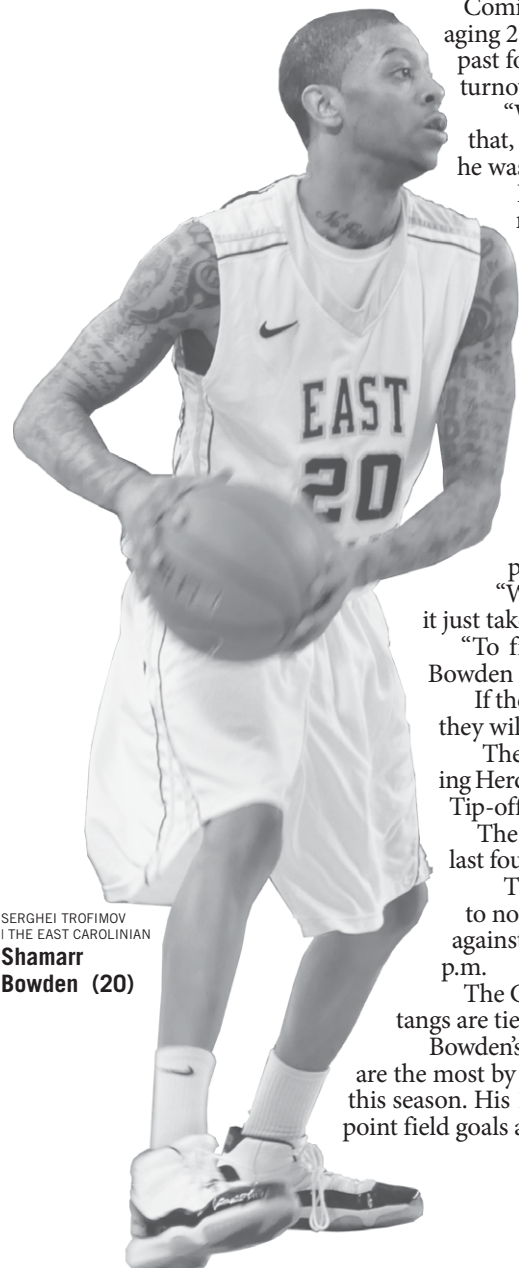
The Thundering Herd have won three of their last four, including a 78-68 defeat over the Pirates.

The more realistic opportunity for the Pirates to notch win number 13 lies in Fogelman Arena against the Tulane Green Wave on Saturday at 8 p.m.

The Green Wave, the Pirates and the SMU Mustangs are tied for 10th in Conference USA.

Bowden's seven three-point field goals made Saturday are the most by any Conference USA player in league play this season. His 10 made field goals and seven made three-point field goals are both career highs.

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SERGEI TROFIMOV / THE EAST CAROLINIAN  
**Shamarr Bowden (20)**

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than that. The physical ability has been shown and proven by both early in the season. There is no question that both have the tools to become very good pitchers. The weekend gave them a chance to go after hitters on unfamiliar grounds. The hostile environment should prove to be a worthwhile experience as the team moves on and gets deeper into the season.

A lack of consistency showed to be a deciding factor again and again for the Pirates. Timely hitting and pitching were outdone by mistakes. Three crucial errors came back to get the Pirates in the weekend finale

against NDSU. However, there were bright spots from the weekend that included Alex Fieldhouse batting in her 10th run of the season, as well as a four-hit game from Jill Jelnick. Both Christian and Smith pushed past the 40 innings pitched mark.

This team has shown that it is more than capable of not only competing with, but also beating talented teams. Consistent performances will be the key as the season moves on. Timely hitting and run production will continue to also be very important for this team as manufacturing runs has already paid dividends. More consistent play in

the field will also help this young pitching staff grow faster. So far, the Pirates have committed 19 errors on the season, 1.46 per game.

Looking ahead to next weekend, the Pirates will have a chance to recover and battle quality competition once again.

ECU heads out west to Fullerton, Calif., to take part in the DeMarini Invitational. The Pirates are slated to play ranked teams California, Northwestern, Indiana and Stanford. There will also be an additional game against CSU-Fullerton.

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ILLUSTRATED BY DUNCAN STEPHENSON

them. Then, there's some who are born into voids, no prior influence on who they should be a fan of. And in that case, who knows what will make you pick your favorite team.

Not everywhere in this country is like North Carolina, where there is a Division I program around every corner. I don't meet many people from North Carolina that don't have some prior connection to Appalachian State, Wake Forest, Duke, N.C. State, UNC Chapel-Hill, ECU or even Clemson.

For me, I was born into that void for college sports as a whole. Neither of my parents went to college. My sisters went to local community colleges and some of my extended family went to Penn State. PSU, more than three hours away from me, would be considered

my "home team" to many people, and I do sometimes root for them a little in college football. But, not over ECU.

So I jumped the Duke bandwagon when I was 10 years old. For sake of word count, I'll try not to delve into the mind of a 10-year-old, who played with a team in a video game and learned players' names by watching them on TV. My cable provider is based out of Maryland, so ACC programming was readily available. Not to mention, very few teams get more coverage on ESPN or CBS than Duke does.

I have now been a loyal and avid Duke fan for more than half of my life. Yes, I've been to a game. I saw JJ. Redick set the all-time ACC scoring record in Philadelphia. I own more Duke shirts and hoodies than I do

any other team, including ECU.

But none of this affects my writing. In the Thursday edition, I backed my statements up with facts on the biggest issue currently pertaining to ECU athletics. This is a newspaper, not a public relations forum.

So for me to flip on Duke, a team that rarely even crosses paths with ECU, would be the worst bandwagon move of all. Why can't I just love both? The biggest Pirate fan I know, who's from Greenville, is a fan of Notre Dame football. It's not like I go to Ohio State and root for "That Team Up North." Or even worse, call myself a State fan.

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