

Opinion

{ Your Procrastination Destination }



Who deserves more mula?

ECU should reconsider the areas where they distribute funds

LAUREN COLLINS
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The university seems to have a number of things that need to be taken care of or adjusted in terms of funding. Recently I discovered that Skip Holtz's salary is \$565,000 for this year's season, and ECU has locked him into a six-year contract that is expected to total a whopping \$9.5 million. Although a large contribution to this salary comes from Pirate Club donations, ticket sales and sponsored events that Holtz participates in, his coaching has minimal reflection on student academics, which should be a higher priority than athletics.

The ECU Board of Trustees also approved a \$32,400 raise for athletic director Terry Holland, bumping his salary to \$356,400. Ironically, the professors, who work hard to prepare students for their future careers, average salaries of about \$74,000. Aside from the obvious whoa-factor involved with the drastic difference in salaries, there are concerns on campus as well.

Because funding is minimal, there is a strict 30-page limit on printing in the Student Writing Center's computer lab. The signs are plastered for all to see, yet when students print their materials, a nice big blob of splotchy black covers the pages. I was informed that the Writing Center does not receive enough funding to provide a new printer for the number of students that walk in each day. Perhaps the percentage of ticket sales that Skip Holtz receives could be allocated to student needs instead.

Professors and instructors are starting to email their ".pdf" files to students because they are limited on copies. It doesn't do much good for students who have limited computer access. If they go to the Student Writing Center, they're wading through ink stains or inconveniently forced to get to the labs that often close before their posted times. It seems beneficial that funding needs that directly affect students should be a top priority.

During the 2006-2007 fiscal year, only 13 percent of funding went to supplies and materials. Approximately 14 percent was directed to services, but the combination only totaled about \$187,000. Judging by existing problems, it's safe to assume that funding has either stayed the same or decreased since 2007. Ironically, student tuition and fees has increased to \$4,218 for in-state students and \$14,732 for out-of-state undergraduates. Graduate students are expected to pay about \$400 more. With an increasing amount of students entering ECU, it seems simple that the total tuition and fee amounts received could be delegated much more appropriately.

I discussed the coach's salary with a football player, and he seemed to share little concern about Holtz's astounding pay. He informed me that many of the guys playing football are currently working with full-ride scholarships including tuition, books and housing. I'm sure if I could receive the all-expenses-paid package to ECU for playing a game, I wouldn't be so shocked and appalled by the football coach's outrageous salary either. In the players' defense, they do train for almost the entire year, and their athletic ability has allowed them to have their scholarship privileges, but what about the average Joes that walk the campus each day?

All my life, it has been reiterated that grades are important and academic success will determine your future success. It has come to my attention now that the university may seem to care more about the rising status of our sports teams than the academic performance of our students. I will give some credit to Skip Holtz, who implemented a study hall for the players, but his coaching only affects a small fraction of the thousands of students attending ECU, so perhaps ECU should reconsider the allocation of so much money to their football coach and spread it more evenly to other areas as well.

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Five ideas for a great holiday

JASON M. WALLACE
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1. Go crazy with Christmas lights. If Halloween is the only day of the year to wear a costume and look normal, then Christmas should be the time to deck out everything in little, colored lights. This one is great for those who don't even celebrate Christmas and have money to spend on the electric bill. If you can cover your house in lights and find a way to cover your car with lights while wearing clothing made out of lights, you win.

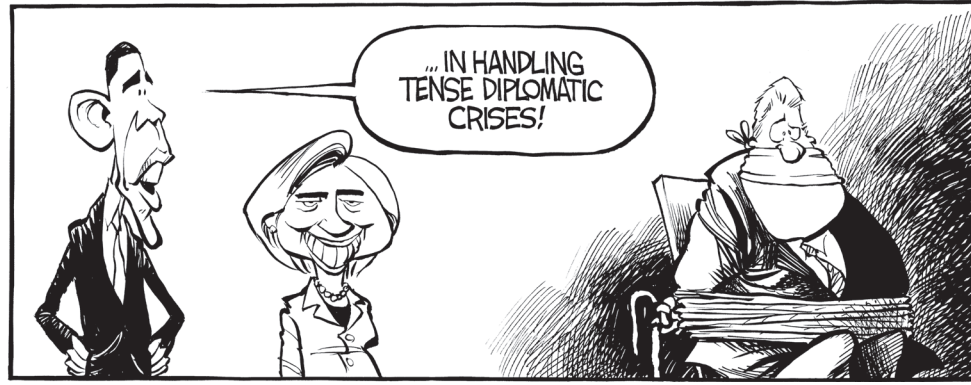
2. Promptly put the lights away. After New Years, no one cares.

3. Come up with new ideas for Christmas movies. This one is addressed to those who plan to be, or already are, writers for television. I don't think I can sit through another family-safe movie where the plot revolves around creating the perfect Christmas. Most of the time, there is a build up to perfection, and then the main character manages to fowl up everything. This is usually followed by a line, "there goes Christmas." Either avoid the Hallmark Channel or make a Christmas story that has a mystery detective or action theme to it, please.

4. Dress up as Santa. Feel empowered. You'll be recognized by all as you walk around town and into shopping centers. Try to outdo the mall's Santa. If this means gaining weight and growing a beard, go for it.

5. Take part in holidays other than Christmas. Learn about Hanukkah and Kwanzaa and participate with people who celebrate these holidays. America calls itself diverse, but Christmas overshadows these beautiful events from different cultures.

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PIRATE RANTS

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

Old PeeDee and new PeeDee need to have a fight to the death!

Who's ready for that month off of school?

I was thinking about attending UNCW...until I saw Pirate Rants!

To the guy who freaked out and drop-kicked the washer in Belk Hall: It was awesome. You looked like a ninja.

To the girl I talk to everyday before class: I just wanted to let you know you're awesome.

I would really appreciate it if the showers in Fletcher Hall were made for tall girls, so we wouldn't have to squat in the shower to avoid hitting our heads.

So, how about I stepped on a used condom on my way to class this morning...

I laugh like a donkey and like it!

To the guy in the basement of the library on Monday night: Thank you for farting by me and my friends and then running away. We heard you and then saw you cower in the corner.

Anyone notice something missing from "The Privateers Deck" banner in the stadium? Anyone?

I don't understand why my roommate feels the need to start a conversation with me about absolutely nothing when I am obviously trying to study...UGH!

To the blonde with the stringy hair and big boobs at McDonald's: I notice you noticing me.

It warms my heart to see the fake bake girls in really short shorts during winter.

Since my student fees pay for the huge plasma TVs seen everywhere on campus, is it stealing if I take one home?

If I fail college, I'm moving into a trailer park and getting pregnant!

I know you're still into me, but I'm not into you. Plus you have too many moles.

I mean really, ladies. How do you pee on the seat when you sit on the commode?

I just did the math, and even if I don't do my last three papers in English, I'll still get a 'B.' Guess who's not doing those papers!

If it snows a lot, I'm building a snowman and he WILL have a Pirate hook.

When I work out, I sweat like Michael Jackson at a Chuck E. Cheese.

You need a good slap in the face to bring you down from your cloud of crazy.

Thanks to the douche who got off the elevator on the fifth floor but pressed four, three, two and one on his way out. I had to stop at

each floor on my way down.

To the person who takes a mixed drink to the library to focus: There is nothing wrong with that, because I'm there with a Pepsi bottle that isn't filled with Pepsi!

I second that buying weed with Pirate Bucks would be schweet and then we could go use them again when we got the munchies!

Your dog is possibly the stupidest dog I have ever met...I think its retarded.

I think my roommate hates me because all our friends call me the hot roommate...and her the weird one with no friends.

Please excuse my hands.

My roommate's cat jumped in the dryer the other day when I was doing my laundry. I seriously considered just leaving her, but then I didn't want cat guts all over my whites.

WANTED: Someone messy, smelly and rude to sublease my apartment. I hate my roommate.

If you don't pay me back the money that you owe me, then I am going to steal something from you instead!

Ew, girl! That boy you're doin' the SHA NA NA with looks like he's five!

The student store rips you off so much! I paid \$150 for one of my books and they only gave me \$6.

To the cop that was arresting me for possession after a girl crashed into me—which brought the cop over in the first place: Thanks, that's just my life.

If you're going to tell a lie, make sure it's a good one.

Don't take it out on me that you gained a bunch of weight and now your clothes don't fit.

Lucifer raised his leg and out popped you...

Who would of thought asking a girl, "do you put out?" would work! I didn't get slapped, I got her number and we have been dating for over a year.

I wish we still had Chris Johnson. He is going to be rookie of the year in the NFL.

I would love to get my butt kicked by Wonder Woman.

I lost my fake ID...I hate my life!

Farting when you have to poop is like playing Russian Roulette with higher stakes.

I type my papers in 10-point font so that when I resize them to 12 point, I feel like I've written twice as many pages.

If my boyfriend is the person who is going to cheat on me when I go abroad next semester, I'VE GOT

NEWS FOR YOU!

To the girl I sit next to in Comm: You are probably the nicest, prettiest, most friendly girl I have met at ECU. And you don't get around...why can't you be single or have an identical sibling or two?

A question for all of you math majors/private dancers: If I walk into rumors with 100, \$1 bills, how many lap dances do I get?

If you are very nice, I will let you see my Victoria's Secret Santa suit.

To my roommate: If I see your mess on the counter in our room one more time, I'm going to use your face to wipe it up!

You are the worst of the worst, and the biggest two-faced liar ever.

I am a victim of the times.

Exam week is the reason alcohol was invented.

To the people that live above me and love to blast their music so loud my bed shakes: I have consumed two full bottles of Tylenol PM this semester because of you.

Do you realize that there are never good heroin stories?

I want to zoom, zoom in your boom, boom.

All I want for Christmas is a naughty Ms. Claus!

Truth is that I miss you. Truth is that I'm lying!

I saw you under that table giving your boyfriend head in the library study room. You thought no one saw you, huh?

I wonder if it's a trend in Asia for kids to get tattoos of words in English?

DRINK LIKE A PIRATE!

We have been sleeping together since August, and now you decide to tell me that you have a girlfriend!

I will not miss my philosophy teacher at all next semester! His face looks like Chewbacca's butt, he blabs about pointless stories and laughs at his own corny sarcasm! He better curve our grades cuz we're all failing!

If I was addicted to porn as much as I am Pirate Rants, I'd be one sick individual!

To the girl who said all I want for Christmas is good grades: Forget that. All I want for Christmas is an ECU baseball player!

I wish my roommate would just totally move all her stuff in her boyfriend's apartment. I could do so much with her side of the room and I need the closet space! Oh, and don't leave a box a pizza on the bed when you do come, wth!

How does one go about bribing a professor for a better grade?

Think twice, it's all right

LARA OLIVER
THE EAST CAROLINIAN

It's that time of year again. Time to run around in a panic trying to find the perfect gift for your best friend. Time to cut your fingers all to heck on wrapping paper and bows. Time to stress out over the amount of debt put on your credit cards. Time to buy your significant other a puppy?

The gigantic *Marley and Me* advertisements popping up in movie theaters, a larger than life Labrador Retriever wearing a red bow indicating Christmas gift status, reminded me of a problem I dealt with a lot working in animal shelters back in high school—abandoned pets. It might seem like a gigantic leap of logic to go from "adorable puppy present" to "sad abandoned dog," but it really isn't.

My shelter, like many others, allowed people who couldn't, or didn't want to take care of their pets, to drop them off with us. This type of policy is implemented for people who find themselves unable to financially support a pet anymore, but what we saw most often were people who just didn't want their pets anymore. Surrenders ranged from cat owners sick of scratched sofas, disinterested children getting rid of their rabbits and parents dropping off the family dog once Junior had gone off to college. Our front doors became a depressing show of how short "forever" can be when kids promise to love an animal that long.

It's this type of disinterest that makes buying a pet as a present so dangerous. Sure, it may seem like a sweet idea to get your girlfriend a puppy for Christmas, but do you even know if she can take care of one? Feeding, walking, vet bills, insurance, basic grooming—these expenses all add up, especially for the average college student. That isn't even including pet deposits, limited apartment options and the price of a pet sitter when you want to take a vacation.

If that isn't dissuading enough, when talking with one of the workers at a shelter in town, I learned that one of the major rescues the shelter often does involve saving abandoned dogs and cats from homes when students go on vacation. I even learned that one girl had left a bag of food open in her kitchen, locked the door and left for two weeks, I guess assuming the dog could call 911 if a fire erupted and it needed a way out. I also found out that many students along the Tar River had abandoned their pets during the heavy flooding, forcing volunteers to break into homes to save dogs and cats from drowning.

I don't think most people that adopt pets in college are anything like these terrible examples, but I can't help but worry when talking with people planning to give animals as a gift. While the reaction after presenting someone with a puppy certainly seems like a great way to earn brownie points, it's important to keep in mind how permanent that little critter will be.

So, if you're thinking about buying a pet for someone thinking they'll be "different," just ask yourself something—if that person couldn't take care of the animal anymore, would *you* take it?

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