

Opinions

Season of hope and renewal propels us toward semester's finish

By Rebecca Clark
Pilot Editor

Spring Break is already just a memory and Easter is right before us.

With two breaks falling right after each other, March is fast becoming my favorite month.

I hope that everyone had a safe and relaxing spring break, and that

the mission teams that went out had a great time and were able to accomplish a lot in their time out in the field.

March also marks the semester halfway point, which is another reason to celebrate. In about eight more weeks we will be turning in our final exams and heading off to our various locations for the summer.

Many will head home to summer jobs, or stay on campus and attend summer school. Seniors will be graduating and hopefully beginning new careers. My plans are a bit ambiguous right now, but I am looking forward to finally walking across the stage and receiving my diploma.

Besides the holiday of Easter itself, a time to reflect on the death

and resurrection of Christ, I enjoy the time spent with family and friends.

Another reminder of the sacredness of life is the return of spring. The days are once again growing warmer and longer, daffodils are blooming, and spring is just around the corner, officially making its debut Thursday.

After growing up in the very

cold and usually colorless North, where spring is a fleeting season, I absolutely love this time of year in the South when everything seems to be blooming and there is color everywhere.

It is a personal reminder that, eventually, all things change and improve.

I especially love spring because it is a season of hope.

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Wisdom on Wheels

Things not done magnified as graduation nears

By Jacob Conley
Pilot sports editor

I have been melancholy for the last few days and I can't figure out why.

Yes, Gardner-Webb lost and if they had won Duke would be on the horizon.

But usually after a season ending loss I recover emotionally. Not this time, and I think I have figured out why.

My college career is almost over and there was so much I did not accomplish during my time here that I would have liked to.

My most notable shortfall is that I wish I had forged more meaningful relationships with people.

Sure people know my

name and that I like sports, but do they really know me? I wish they did and that I had spent some time getting to know them.

Of course I have had some good friends over the years: Sam Head, Justin Alston and Brandon Beach just to name a few.

But you may notice something missing from this list: women.

Oh sure, I have been on a few dates, mostly the spring formal, but I was never completely sure if my dates agreed to go with me because they saw it as an opportunity to get to know me as a person, or if they simply felt sorry for me.

In most cases it turned out



Conley

to be the latter, because soon after we arrived at the dance, my date for the evening would go join a group of friends and I would not see her for the rest of the night.

I would rather face flat out rejection than have to face the pain of neglect. It is much worse.

These feelings sometimes surface and I am pretty good at hiding them. I think what severed to bring them to the surface on this occasion was reading "High Fidelity" (thanks a lot, Dr Parker).

In this book the main character makes a list of his five most painful breakups.

I can't do that because I have not had any long relationships with the opposite sex, and that is depressing.

(As an aside, the best cure for depression is not listening to the complete works of Edgar Allen Poe narrated by Anthony Hopkins. That will, in the words of Thelma Harper, "Scare the holy sugar out of you.")

But I digress. In the near future, I will be looking for a date for the formal. All I ask is that you look past the wheelchair and base your response on personality, not pity.

Walking Wisdom

Stupid things in basketball have made season frustrating

By Lanny Newton
Pilot sports writer

College basketball has been plagued by two problems this year: bad refereeing and an incompetent NCAA tournament selection committee.

The bad refereeing was best illustrated in Gardner-Webb's A-Sun tournament semifinal loss to Jacksonville.

The selection committee's incompetence can be seen in its seeding and decision of who should get in and who should be left out.

The most obvious bad call was the momentum-shifting phantom technical foul on Brandon Jackson.

After he was intentionally fouled by Evan Jefferson of Jacksonville, the referee inexplicably called a technical foul with 24 seconds left in the first half.

Jackson missed both of his foul shots. Jacksonville hit both technical-foul free throws to put them up by 16 points.

Jacksonville then got the ball back and hit a 3-pointer from half court at the buzzer to make it a 19-point deficit, rather than a possible 9- or 10-point deficit if the technical foul had not been called.

This was especially excruciating, considering the fact that Gardner-Webb outscored Jacksonville by 10 in the second half.

While there have been blown calls in every league this year, the A-Sun seems to have had a disproportionate number of them.

Gardner-Webb was also the victim of several bad foul calls and phantom travels during the regular season.

The great hope is that with the move into the Big South we will have better referees calling the games and see an improvement in the ability of the referees to call the games properly.

The NCAA selection committee is always going to be plagued by controversy, as a seemingly deserving team always seems to be left out.

This year, however, the committee made some truly baffling decisions.

Rather than putting a team that was playing its best ball and look truly impressive at the end of the year, such as Virginia Tech, it decided to put in a sixth team from the Pacific 10 conference, namely Arizona.

Although Arizona had a more impressive non-conference schedule, it did next to nothing in conference, finishing under .500 at 8-10 in the No. 2 RPI conference.

Virginia Tech, by comparison, finished 9-7 in the ACC and played North Carolina to the wire in the semifinals of the ACC Tournament after winning their quarterfinal game, another thing Arizona didn't do.

This is compounded by the fact that the ACC as the No. 1 RPI conference in the nation only got four teams, which tied with the Big 10 for the least among the so-called BCS conferences.

This further baffles when

considering the fact that the ACC won the Big 10-ACC Challenge for the ninth straight year, this time 8-3.

Head-to-head wins were also completely ignored when choosing teams, as Arizona State beat Arizona twice in the regular season and had a better record.

The multiple stupid mistakes made by the committee is infuriating.

Another baffling thing committed by the NIT selection committee was placing Syracuse as a No. 1 seed while placing UMass -- which defeated Syracuse on its home court -- as a No. 2 seed.

Maryland, which had a win over North Carolina in February, was placed as a No. 5 seed despite its 8-8 finish in the ACC.

The good news is that the brackets are in and the tournaments are ready to get started.

For most North Carolinians and college basketball fans, this is the greatest time of year, at least besides Easter and Christmas.

Graduating in May?

Only if you meet these requirements

By Kory McNair
Pilot staff writer

If you plan to graduate in May but haven't turned in your paperwork yet, get ready to pay an additional \$50: You've missed Monday's filing deadline and the fee has just gone from \$100 to \$150.

Applications for anyone wishing to graduate over the summer are due April 28. The same fees apply.

The application can be found on the registrar's Web site.

However, just turning in the application and fee doesn't guarantee that you can graduate. There are basic

graduation requirements that may differ from major to major, but most specify that undergraduate students have at least 128 credit hours and a GPA of at least 2.0 to qualify for graduation.

Check your numbers to make sure they meet those requirements.

There will be two graduation exercises in May. The ceremony for nursing students is May 9, and all remaining undergraduates will have their commencement exercises May 10.

According to Randall Cooper, who works in the business office in Webb Hall, as many as 800 seniors expected to graduate this year.

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