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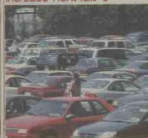
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Mason Inlet relocation project completed

SARAH BRODERS

STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of spectators gathered outside Shell Island Resort for the completion of the Mason Inlet relocation project a few weeks ago. The project focused on moving the inlet 3,000 feet North in hopes of saving Shell Island and other beachfront homes.

Mason Inlet has migrated 2,200 feet southward at rates as fast as one foot per day, over the past 10 years. In 1998, property owners formed the Mason Inlet Preservation Group (MIPG), in an effort to find a solution to the shifting inlet.

The Army Corps of Engineers, local environmental agencies, and county commissioners agreed on a contract, on Jan. 10. Construction began soon after, and the new inlet was finished ahead of schedule.

The most time-consuming obstacle to overcome was dealing with the environmental concern. Mason Inlet and the surrounding Estuarine lanes are nesting grounds for the piping plover, an endangered shorebird. The beach is also endangered habitat for sea turtles. There was much concern that the construction would disturb these endangered animals.



Photo: Rebecca DeJong

Buildzers near Johnny Mercer's Pier work to renourish Wrightsville Beach before tourist season hits full swing. The Mason Inlet project has already added 750,000 cubic yards of sand to the beach.

Deadlines restricted construction to proceed during the months of November to March, to ease the environmentalists' concerns. This avoided both Piping plover and sea turtle nesting seasons. Erica Carr, the coastal engineer on site, said that the pavers were also monitored and tracked throughout the project

to ensure that they were not being disturbed. Additional land was also purchased and put aside for nesting habitat.

The new inlet improved flushing of Back Bay areas, in addition to en-

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Students, faculty hold "kid-in" protest today

SARAH VAN SCHADEN

NEWS LIFE EDITOR

Today classrooms across campus will be filled with more than the murmur of exam review—they will be filled with children of all ages. These children belong to the students and staff members at UNCW who believe the university should offer on-site daycare.

The "kid-in" protest—a play on "sit-in"—was organized by a group of seven students as part of a collaborative project. The group said they hope to raise awareness about the need for on-site daycare at UNCW by encouraging students, faculty and staff to bring their children

to school for "Take Our Daughters to Work Day."

"It's making a problem visible that's often invisible," said Elizabeth Ervin, English professor.

Ervin teaches the class these students are participating in, and she has a young daughter herself.

A mass e-mail from Sam Connolly, director human resources, to university employees was sent in response to flyers and e-mails posted to spread awareness about the protest. The e-mail strongly discouraged faculty and staff from

bringing their children to school.

"UNCW does have a number of family-friendly policies and strives to create an environment where fac-

ulty and staff have reasonable latitude to balance work and family issues," according to the e-mail. "However, UNCW does not, nor does any university in the UNCW system, permit employees to be accompanied by children."

The e-mail also tells staff

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Looking back on UNCW

A senior says goodbye to school, hello to work and home

STEPHAINE ANDERSON

GUEST COLUMNIST

All students will soon sigh with relief as they leave their last exams to enjoy their summers of late nights, sleeping in and traveling to visit family. However, the most fulfilling liberation will be for those students who aren't talking about what professors they have next semester. The greatest pleasure will be for those of us who are finally done...the seniors.

Or will it? We are supposed to be feeling "done," right? Here we are. We have completed school. They all told us that if we went to college and got our Bachelor's degree, we would be able to get a job that was the whole point of it. But what do I do now? That proverbial "step" from college world into real world is more like a complex leap into a dark and rather frightening abyss.

I often feel a certain pull towards remaining a "kid" as I prepare to become an adult in the next few months. It is intimidating. Obviously adults are different from us, but how? What do I need to change? Do I stop wearing flip-flops or just refrain from PB&J's for breakfast, lunch and dinner? There is something 9-5 folks have I simply lack. More importantly, however, I feel as though there is something I have that 9 to 5-ers don't. Freedom. Am I ready to give that up?

As freshman and sophomores we romanticized the job search. In fact, we might still have been able to say, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Now, we enter into our own job searches as the economy slowly passes from recession, and we all grince at the possibilities.

Where do we want to live? What should we assume look like? Cover letter? How much money will we need? How many jobs are there in my field? Where

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