

FEATURES

Can You Hear Me Now? The Cellular Connection

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Staff Writer

Imagine you and your date go to a movie theater for an evening movie. The movie is ending, and as you and your date snuggle close, and the onscreen actors do likewise, they begin to kiss and as you and your date play along; you suddenly hear "ring ding, dong, ding, ring." No you are not being awakened from a beautiful dream; you are being alarmed that someone forgot to turn off a cell phone before the movie started. Not only has your moment been spoiled, the person begins to talk and interrupt everyone's viewing.

"It is almost impossible to go anywhere without seeing someone yapping on a cell phone, discussing any and everything," says Nelson Veale a senior, at Elizabeth City State University.

With over 137 million cell phone users in the U.S. alone, according to Letstalk.com, it is not really surprising that the mass consumer has adopted the "need" for mobile communication, and as companies continue to usher in new rates, better technology, and more coverage, the numbers will likely rise.

Cell phones are popping up everywhere: parks, restaurants, theaters, classrooms, even those places thought to be sacred such as the church have not been spared from the outburst of a cell phone during a service. Which begs the question, "Are there some places that cell phones just don't belong?"

"People use them all the time, and especially when they don't need

to. I see people use them even while they are driving, which poses a safety hazard in my opinion," said Edna Bond, a University Office Administrator at ECSU.

Many faculty members at ECSU have taken notice and have included in their syllabi that the use of cell phones are prohibited during scheduled classes.

"Cell phones during classes or meetings are disruptive and are a hindrance to the conduciveness of a learning environment," says Andrew Vinson Jr., an ECSU senior, "We as users (cell phone) should be mindful of the privilege and responsibility that constitutes proper cell phone etiquette."

In an informal Compass survey found eight out of ten students from a total of 50 had now, or in the past 6 months owned a cellular telephone. Among those students, the average daily use of cell phones ranged from 5-10 times during the day (peak time before 9p.m.) and 10 or more times at night (off peak, after 9p.m.). These off peak usage was generally for an extended length of time.

In the U.S. the major cellular service providers include but are not limited to the following: AT&T (including Suncom Networks), Verizon Wireless, Sprint PCS, Cingular (BellSouth Wireless), Alltel, US Cellular, Nextel,

N-Telos, T-Mobile, and Virgin Mobile. While each company's overall coverage and services vary, over the past two years most have sought to give customers set daytime minute plans with unlimited night and weekend op-

"I'm covered," says Julius Council, a junior ECSU student.

For most it is a matter of choice, availability, and geographic location that will determine a decision for a wireless provider. Here in Elizabeth City, the main providers are Sprint, Alltel, and US Cellular; however, there is coverage for Verizon and Cingular Customers as well.

Published recently through Letstalk.com are lists of the following wireless etiquette tips:

1. Stop noise pollution.

Reduce noise pollution by not shouting into your phone and by keeping ringer on as low as possible. Even better, consider purchasing a vibrating battery so you can turn the ringer off.

2. Off means off.

Respect the rules of any location including airplanes, schools, churches and restaurants. When asked by an establishment to refrain from using a cell phone, do so. If you're expecting an important call, turn the phone to vibrate or silent mode wherein the phone's display lights up instead of ringing. If you have to use the cell phone, excuse yourself to the lobby, restroom, or outside where there are fewer people. Some restaurants and theaters now even provide special cell phone areas for their pa-

trons, similar to airport smoking lounges.

3. Don't cross the personal space boundary.

Be mindful of how close you are to others when using a cell phone in a public place. If possible, turn your phone off when you're at a theater, restaurant, classroom, religious event, or other public venue.

4. Inform callers and call recipients that you're on a cell phone.

They'll understand that the odd space between your words is a weak phone connection, not a lack of attention on your part.

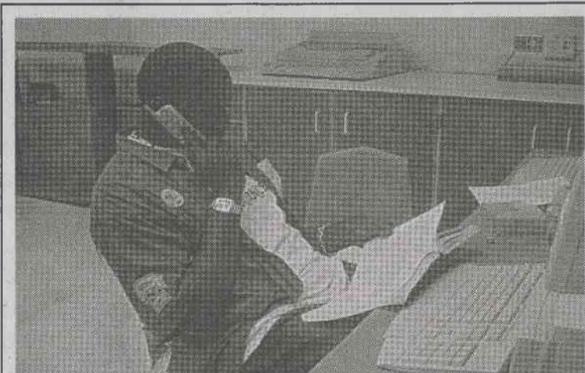
5. Know when to call.

Just because you have someone's cell phone number, don't assume you have free reign to use it at anytime. Make sure that you are calling during an appropriate time-during business hours if the call is work-related or after work if it's for social reasons. Since the recipient is billed for incoming calls, be considerate of the calls you make to cell phones and try to keep conversations to the point.

6. Heads up

Exercise caution if it is legal in your state to talk on the phone while driving. It is a good idea to keep both hands on the wheel and eyes on the road at all times.

Contrasting from their original use as mobile extensions for quick or emergency communications, cell phones are now equipped with everything from wireless Web browsers, e-mail services, 2 way text messaging capabilities, calendars, notebooks, even mp3 players. Everyone needs to use phones safely and courteously.



Susan Correll-Hankinson
Tsk. Tsk. Shame on you Antoine! Antoine Rascoe, a senior Mass Communication major, usually keeps his phone turned off while in class.

tions.

Some companies such as Suncom have plans that allow customers unlimited talk time in a set coverage area, while others such as Sprint allow customers to talk from coast to coast while never paying roaming or toll charges while on the PCS network.

"I've had Verizon, Suncom, Alltel, Nextel, and T-Mobile, and I am currently with Verizon whom I am most satisfied with. For \$60 a month I get 800 anytime minutes (peak) and Unlimited night and weekends (off peak), plus I never roam and even when I do,

Students breakfast with deans

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Members of the faculty, student body, and administration were brought together Wednesday, Oct. 8 in a "Breakfast with the Deans" that was held in the University Center of Elizabeth City State University from 8 to 9:30 A.M.

Featuring the school of Math, Science and Technology, chaired by Dr. Ronald Blackmon, and the school of Business and Economics, chaired by Dr. Freda McBride, it was all an attempt to let students know there is an open door policy among the deans, and that there is no reason to be intimidated by their titles.

The deans and administrators, such as Carolyn Mahoney, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, went around to each of the tables where students enjoyed breakfast and introduced themselves, welcoming the students to the University.

Ms. Willa Lamb, Commuter Services Coordinator, who also gave the introductory speech welcoming students and faculty is the person who

began the breakfasts.

"We want students to feel connected, to foster an informal togetherness so they won't feel intimidated," Ms. Lamb said.

The idea is to have the meeting close to mid-term so students can plan for it ahead of time and get some answers to questions they may have about the University or their particular department.

"I think it's such a great idea. The breakfast demystifies the whole process (of going to a University)," she said.

"I love it. It's a small school. It's better to be a small fish in a little pond than a small fish in a big pond. There is a lot more personal attention," Jerome Mitchell, a Computer Science major from Chesapeake, VA, said after the meeting.

Jerome Gillis of Hampton, VA, who is a student as well as a staff member, agreed. He said this breakfast was the 3rd since the year 2000. He added that there will be one breakfast every semester to cover all the different schools.

Next semester the breakfast will focus on the school of Arts and Hu-

Recipe of the Month Dorm Room Meatloaf Surprise

Ground Cumin and Nutmeg	1/16 tsp. each
Garlic Powder and Black Pepper	1/4 tsp. Each
Flaked (or chopped onion)	1 tsp.
Tomato diced fine	1/4 cup
Green or Yellow Pepper diced fine	2 tbsp.
Ground Sirloin	4 oz.
Egg or Scrambled egg product	1 or 1 pkt.
Meatloaf seasoning packet or Beef soup	1 pkt.

Combine green pepper, tomato and onion flakes in a microwave safe bowl; add 2 tablespoons of water, cover with plastic wrap and cook on high for two minutes. Remove from microwave and stir in soup mixes and spices. Add ground sirloin and egg mix (or egg) with a fork until well blended. Shape mixture into a small oval loaf. Place in a bowl or small microwave safe-pan, cover with plastic wrap and microwave on high for 3 minutes. Remove plastic wrap and microwave for 1 more minute. You'll have just enough for two people.

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manities, and the school of Education and Psychology.

"Enjoy your time as a Freshman," says Ms. Lamb. "It happens in stages, anyway. Stay focused, but have a little fun. Be the best you can be."

Ms. Lamb invites all commuter students (students who live off campus), to come by her office and chat. "If you have a question, come see me. I get joy out of my life by helping people."

Students compete in campus tournament

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Staff Writer

Elizabeth City State University hosted the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge, a question and answer game for America's Historically Black College's and Universities that is sponsored by American Honda Motor Company.

Several teams, each representing various departments, organizations or groups on campus competes for an opportunity to represent the university at the national competition in Orlando, Florida.

The Geniuses and the Mod Squad were the two teams that made it to the campus playoffs. The Geniuses team, whose members included Duane Ashmon, Warren Gibbs, Jamar Battle and Lamar Battle, won the campus tournament. The second place award went to the Mod Squad whose members included; Crystal Jarvis, Tyrone Knox, Emerald Lucus, and Chris Perry. The championship team members each won a \$50 cash prize and the runner-up players each received a \$25 cash prize.

Thirteen of the top scoring students were selected for the Varsity Team and will continue to train for a chance to participate on the Traveling Team.

"The player's are selected from different curriculums to form a broader knowledge base," said Derrick L. Wilkins, HCASC Campus Coordinator and Coach.

Each team at the National Championship Tournament represents a participating historically and/or predominately black college in competition for a share of \$300,000 in monetary grants to upgrade campus facilities, institutional resources and improve the quality of student lives.

It will feature 320 Students from 64 Colleges and Universities. The 4-day event involves much more than just quiz games! Students are treated to a once-in-a-lifetime experience including a gala banquets with speakers and performers; a 15,000 square-foot student union with food, games and activities; Orlando Theme Park tours; and most importantly, the opportunity to meet and make friends with other participants.

Questions are based on information from some of the following sources: encyclopedias and almanacs, Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, American Medical Association Home Medical Encyclopedia, Encyclopedia of Literary Characters, Modern Black Writers, Encyclopedia of American History. Questions are well represented about African American History, achievements, and culture from all subject areas.

ECSU offers Pharmaceutical Degree

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Elizabeth City State University launched a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Science Degree program with the start of the fall 2003 semester. Last week the university announced Dr. Ali Kahn's appointment as the Interim Pharmacy Program Director.

This degree program is a joint effort between ECSU and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The pilot phase began this fall and the joint pharmacy program is scheduled to be fully operational by fall 2005.

The six-year pharmacy program begins during the freshman and sophomore years, with a pre-professional curriculum providing a foundation in physical, biological, behavioral and social sciences. Beginning in the junior year students would complete

the first two years of their professional curriculum at UNC-Chapel Hill, and could obtain a newly designated Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Sciences degree from ECSU.

After obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree, ECSU students will then progress toward the Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Doctoral students would receive coursework from UNC-Chapel Hill while attending ECSU. The coursework would be delivered via video conferencing and other distance-learning technologies.

The sixth and final year would be completed in the North Carolina Area Health Education Centers program in Chapel Hill. Affiliated faculty will provide clinical experiences in the eastern region AHEC. The institution granting the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree will be UNC-Chapel Hill.

"This program will be quite valuable in providing options to those students pursuing careers in the health services field." Dr. Ronald Blackmon,

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