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President Jake Srednicki discusses upcoming plans for the spring semester to ensure students needs are represented.

SGA president talks future

Collyn Sheaffer
TEC STAFF

Now that Jake Srednicki has been sworn in as student body president, he said that it is time for East Carolina's Student Government Association to look forward and focus on the needs and wants of the student body.

Srednicki has officially been student body president for one week and he is already preparing to strongly and maturely finish the remainder of his term. Some of Srednicki's main concerns and goals for the rest of his term are increased representation of SGA, growing SGA's weekly discussion board meetings, building relationships between students and faculty, and creating internship programs and events.

The Student Government Association is planning to create an internship program, similar to many other student governments, in which students can gain leadership experience while learning how the organization operates. This program would also allow students to earn course credit and have the opportunity to experience if they would like to pursue other opportunities that SGA provides. Currently, Srednicki's leadership team has program outlines but they are still working out the logistics to

make this possibility a reality and gain the university's support.

"I have spoken personally with other universities within the UNC-System about their programs similar to this and it has functioned very well for them to improve the abilities of their student government," Srednicki said about the plans.

One goal that Srednicki said he is very enthusiastic about is increasing funding for students, groups, organization, etc. In recent years, Srednicki said that East Carolina's budget for SGA has been cut by more than \$400,000. Although Srednicki is unclear why they have lost this money, the fact that students and organizations at our university cannot accomplish tasks that they wish they could simply because of funding is an issue to him.

"I cannot emphasize enough that the Student Government Association budget has dwindled quite a lot over the past decade to a very small fraction of what it once was," said Srednicki.

Although the recent transitions in the Student Government Association were not expected, the judicial and executive branches remain confident with their team and are pleased with the way that the past two weeks have been handled.

"Jake has a different style of leadership than Michael," said Josh

Bailey, judicial justice for SGA. "But I am confident that Jake will continue to put the student body first and improve our Student Government Association's transparency on campus."

After the transition into presidency, Srednicki said that he has already spoken with several of the past SGA presidents to receive their insight and advice on how to handle these sudden changes. He plans to look for advice from many past student body presidents and members of the Student Government Alumni Association.

"This also has given me a better understanding of the past state of our student government and in turn a clearer view of how we need to grow," said Srednicki.

Srednicki is confident that his team will achieve these goals in time for the next elected officials to step into office. The Student Government Association is preparing for elections next month and Srednicki encourages anyone interested to try and get involved if they want to make a difference in our university and community.

"We are all Pirates," he said. "We are all passionate about East Carolina University and we all want the best for our soon-to-be alma mater."

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

Student alleges sexual assault

ReAnn Melaga
TEC STAFF

An investigation is currently ongoing after a sexual assault was reported to have taken place at the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity house on Jan. 25.

An ECU alert was sent about the incident at approximately 4:15 a.m. the morning the assault took place. According to the alert, a sexual assault took place at an off-campus residence at approximately 2 a.m. The victim of the assault was transported to Vidant Medical Center after the incident occurred.

New information has been released about the incident stating that the assault took place at the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity house located on E. Fifth Street. At this point the Greenville Police Department has identified the male and female involved in the incident but are unable to release their identities. According to police the two met at a party at the fraternity house but do not believe that either of them are associated with the fraternity.

>>INSIDE A2 IFC takes action

The male suspect was described in the ECU alert as a white male with medium brown hair and was reportedly wearing a plaid button down shirt at the time of the incident. Police have now stated that the suspect is not a student at East Carolina University.

The female who reported the incident is 18-years-old. No other details were able to be released.

The reported sexual assault is still under investigation and detectives are in the process of determining what took place.

According to Kristen Hunter,



MICHAEL SEEGARS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Sigma Phi Epsilon House is located on Fifth Street across from campus.

public information officer for the Greenville Police Department, incidents like this are more common than people think.

"Sexual assaults are largely underreported among college students. This is often due to stigmas associated with sexual assaults," said Hunter, adding that students should never let fear of judgment prevent them from reporting incidents to the police.

Hunter says that each sexual assault case reported to the Greenville Police Department is carefully investigated. Hunter also said that the Greenville Police Department has a dedicated team of detectives along with a victim advocate to work together in their Special Victims Unit for incidents such as this.

"All reports of sexual assaults that we receive are taken seriously. This case is no exception," said Hunter. "We will continue to investigate this until we are able to reach a conclusion."

Police encourage students to stay in groups and to not put themselves in situations with someone they just met. They also encourage students to stay in groups.

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

HRC reveals discrimination is still present

Sara Ataalla
TEC STAFF

Recently, a news report from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), has revealed that equal treatment remains out of reach for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Americans in most states.

The inaugural State Equality Index (SEI) reveals that, even with progress on marriage equality, there are extraordinary state-to-state disparities in LGBT non-discrimination protections, including in the workplace, and efforts continue by equality opponents passing state-level legislation that would sanction discrimination and undermine even minimal existing protections.

"Even with the marriage equality laws its still prominent and prevalent that people who identify within the LGBT queue spectrum are facing hardships that we can't even begin to understand," said Dana Flick, Fletcher Hall coordinator. "Anything from micro aggressions of people making comments about homosexual relationships and negating the idea someone could be with the same sex partner, or even explicit kinds of discrimination where people can't get the same types of healthcare for their spouses."

With same-sex marriage becoming legal in more states, and congress looking into making it a nationwide law, members of the LGBT community are hopeful for the future.

"Just recognizing these are great leaps and bounds that can't quite be fixed overnight, and I know it's unfair and will continue to be unfair to people within the [LGBT] community for a while," said Flick.

North Carolina is one of 32 states in the

country that lacks explicit state-level workplace protections for all LGBT employees. It is also one of 36 states with marriage equality.

"My girlfriend is a teacher in North Carolina and currently dealing with this issue, it hits particularly close to home for me, I understand because I am a large part of who she is," said Mia Willis, sophomore anthropology major. "But I do believe that individuals have the ability to be terminated based on their sexual orientation, and it is the worst kind of injustice."

Discrimination in the workplace has existed for decades for all sorts of reasons. What many people fail to realize is that sexual orientation is just as important of an issue as male or female.

"It is the equivalence of being terminated based on your race, height, based on something you can't control, and I think if it's not impacting their job performance in anyway then it shouldn't be something of note, I don't think it should even be an issue," said Willis.

North Carolina lacks basic statewide non-discrimination protections. Work continues on building support for statewide non-discrimination protections and to stop legislation that would undermine LGBT equality.

"I just believe that LGBT community should be treated as equals in the workplace because no matter how you see it now, we are all humans and should be treated the same," said Hunter Sarbacker, sophomore biology major.

More than 111 million people, or 35 percent of Americans, live in states that have marriage but where LGBT people are not fully protected from discrimination in the work-



CYDNEY SMITH | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Alex Lewis, freshman English major, works in the LGBT resource office, located in Brewster B103.

place. Furthermore, more than 206 million people nationwide live in states where every LGBT person lacks fully inclusive statewide workplace sexual orientation and gender identity protections.

"I feel that in the workplace nowadays people have become more accepting of the LGBT community. As a [homosexual] I am not as discriminated as I use to be," said Craig Langston, junior recreational therapy major. "I particularly work in a small town at a local bank full of plenty of conservative people and I feel that being myself and being a genuinely good person, I wasn't scared to come out to people in the bank and I have

become accepted. I feel that as long as you're a genuinely good person that is a good way to be accepted by anybody."

While many strides have been made, discrimination is still a prominent issue. However, not everyone in the LGBT community is still affected by discrimination.

"I do feel like there is discrimination in the workplace still, but I am fortunate enough to not have experienced it, but I do feel like we have long ways to go to completely eliminating [discrimination] within the workplace," said Langston.

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

BRIEFS

ECU Sorority Grants Wish

Chi Omega and the Make-A-Wish foundation of eastern North Carolina teamed up to grant 10 year-old Emma Ward's wish to go to Disney World on Sunday at its chapter house. The chapter hosted "Emma's Wish Party" for Ward who is undergoing treatment for a brain tumor. Ward had no idea about the party before it happened.

ECU recognized as StormReady

The National Weather Service has recognized ECU as a StormReady university, which means that it is prepared for severe weather. There are six requirements for a school to be classified as StormReady, which include having a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center and having more than one way to alert the public of severe weather. ECU was first recognized as StormReady in May 2009, then recognized again in March 2012 and again on Jan. 8.

New dental learning center opens

ECU's newest dental service learning center in Spruce Pine opened as a part of the School of Dental Medicine on Jan. 30 to encourage students to practice in more rural areas of North Carolina. Other ECU dental community service learning centers are already open in Ahoskie, Elizabeth City, Lillington and Sylva. Centers in Davidson and Robeson counties are also scheduled to open this winter, and an eighth center is under construction in Brunswick County.



From left to right, Cadet Timothy Clark (Jr.), Cadet Mikhayla Dunn (Jr.), Cadet Emily Smith (Jr.), and Cadet Mikayla Paluzzi (Jr.).

ROTC plans to serve

Kelsey Padgett
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University Army Reserve Officer Training Core, ROTC, is planning to spend this spring giving back to the Greenville community.

The group has three events in the works for the coming months that include bake sales, a community service day, and the annual Patriot Run 5-Mile race.

"We haven't really put our service to the community as much as we are trying to this semester," said Charles Allen, senior criminal justice major. "One of the Army values is selfless service and that's really prevalent in the Army, but we're trying to project that image to the community and university to show that we conduct training but we also give back."

Two bake sales are scheduled for this semester to raise money for the Army Cadet Association, which allots the funds for events like the Patriot Run, as well as the Military Ball. One will be on Feb. 12 in honor of Valentine's Day and the other will be on March 17 to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day.

The seventh annual Patriot Run has been scheduled for March 1 at 1 p.m. The five-mile run, which has been held in the past at Brook Valley Country Club,

will be starting at Town Commons this year to make its way through downtown. The proceeds from the run go towards a military charity each year.

"In the past we've done it through Survivor Outreach Services, an organization through Fort Bragg that helps families of soldiers killed in action," said Tanner McFleeter, senior political science major. "We've been partnering with them for six years, and we've donated more than \$60,000 to them. But this year an operation was brought up to me called Operation Re-entry that is run at East Carolina."

Operation Re-entry North Carolina is a campaign that helps in addressing the rehabilitation needs of military personnel, veterans and their families, as well as their concerns with re-entering civilian life.

Proceeds will also go towards finishing the endowment process for a scholarship honor JP Thompson, an ECU alumnus who died in Afghanistan in 2010.

The ROTC will be coming out into the Greenville community for a community service day in April. They are looking to partner with the McConnell-Raab Hope Lodge, a facility that offers

lodging at no cost to those going through cancer treatment who may be staying far from home for treatment.

"We'll send a group of cadets over there to assist them in whatever they need, maybe provide food from a food pantry," said Allen.

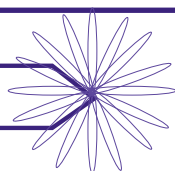
ROTC has been on campus since 1983 and the program is designed for individuals to receive a four-year degree, as well as military science education and leadership development. The cadets must maintain a 12 credit hour schedule and they are also responsible for training and military classes to prepare them for potentially being called to active duty after graduation.

"We have 11 cadres, and we kind of oversee to make sure we coach, mentor, and teach them in the roles of what it means to be an officer," said Lieutenant Colonel Sean Farrar, military science educator. "We try to lead by example and embody as role models what they hopefully aspire to be or try to build in themselves."

There are currently 129 cadets enrolled in the Army ROTC program.

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

ONLINE



Check our online photo gallery for the latest sports, events and campus photos.

Corrections/Clarifications

If you feel there are any factual errors in this newspaper please contact Jessica Richmond, editor@theeastcarolinian.com

ECO-pirates and The East Carolinian would like to remind you to recycle this paper.

UNC schools president to step down in 2016

Collyn Sheaffer
TEC STAFF

The University of North Carolina school system Board of Governors announced that President Tom Ross will be stepping down from his position at the beginning of next year.

Ross is expected to leave the school system on Jan. 3, 2016, or when the next president is named.

According to Raleigh news station WRAL, the decision was influenced by Ross's age. This rumor has yet to be confirmed as the University of North Carolina school system Board of Governors was unavailable to comment.

Since the Board has still not publically given a reason behind their decision, controversy has even begun to spark with students. Students have now started to sign a petition asking the UNC Board of Governors to reverse its decision and reinstate Ross.

Chancellor Steve Ballard made a statement addressing the issue. Ballard said that Tom Ross has been continuously supportive of East Carolina and our goals throughout his tenure.

"We remain focused on East Carolina's mission of public service, student success and regional transformation," said Ballard, according to Jeannine Hutson with ECU News Services, "and we will continue to pursue our bold goals to fulfill that mission, including coastal programs, public health, the Millennial Campus, engineering and others."

Since budget cuts and teacher funding is

such an ongoing issue, locally and at the state level, professors and education majors are hopeful that the Board of Governors keeps that in mind when making their decision on the next president.

"All I can say is that I would like someone who will fight for us on funding and salary issues," said Cindy Elmore, associate professor for the School of Communication at East Carolina University.

This decision is affecting students at East Carolina as well, especially education majors looking to teach in North Carolina or even eventually teaching at the university level.

"I would want them to select someone who has the best interest of the teachers of our state in mind, as well as the education system as a whole," said Emily Gross, junior elementary education major.

Tom Ross became president of the UNC school system in 2011. Ross stepped into his presidency of the school system during a time when budget cuts and student loan issues were a constant political problem in North Carolina.

Ross has contributed to the University of North Carolina school system as well as the judicial system due to his years of experience with North Carolina's legal system. The University of North Carolina school system includes 16 university campuses as well as a residential science and math high school.

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

IFC suspends activities

Jesse Deal
TEC STAFF

East Carolina Interfraternity Council President Evan Ball has released a statement regarding the self-imposed 45-day suspension of fraternity social functions.

"On Jan. 28, the IFC Executive Board and all IFC chapter presidents met with the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Dr. Virginia Hardy and staff from the Office of Greek Life," Ball said. "We informed Dr. Hardy that IFC agreed to a self-imposed social moratorium on all social events at chapter owned/leased houses, apartments/houses rented by members, or at third party venues."

Because of the moratorium, any of the 17 fraternities caught hosting a party will lose its charter. More information on the IFC's self-imposed penalty and disciplinary actions will likely be made public soon.

"This moratorium does not affect the ability for IFC chapters to engage in activities

such as community service, philanthropy, recruitment (no bid parties are permitted), intramural sports, or to conduct weekly chapter and new member meetings," according to Ball's statement.

The IFC suspension stems from an alleged sexual assault on Jan. 25 that provoked an ongoing investigation with the Greenville Police Department. The national office of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity has asked for a temporary suspension of its ECU chapter during the investigation.

Ball was unavailable to comment on the details of the incident at this time and the university has yet to release an official statement.

"I support the decision that was made," said Greek Presidents Council Chairman Blake Belch. "It's something that needed to be done to show that Greek life will not tolerate such actions. Situations like this are why the Greek Presidents Council was created—so they can be prevented in the future."

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

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Uptown Emerge Art Gallery hosts Tiny Art Exhibit

Lindsay Rayner
TEC STAFF

Pitt County Arts Council (PCAC) at Emerge will be hosting the annual Tiny Art Show this weekend.

The art for sale at the show ranges from paintings and drawings to jewelry and more. The pieces have strict restrictions about their size, ensuring that all of the work is tiny.

The exhibition is collective, meaning that all artists, craftsman and community members are welcome to contribute.

"It's gained a lot of buzz and a lot of people are sending art from a lot of places," said Heather Dail, marketing director at Emerge.

Although most of the artwork is from local artists, Dail said people have sent pieces from Illinois, New Jersey, California and even Thailand.

"We have some interesting additions from all over the globe, which is a really fun aspect of it," said Dail. Even kids are encouraged to participate.

"We've got a few school groups that have entered," said Dail. "We've got a lot of fun things. People can add a lot of really fun pieces to decorate their home, or for jewelry, or for gifts, and support local artists and also have fun."

The sale will kick off on Thursday with the Tiny Art Show Pancake Dinner and Preview Sale.

According to Dail, because the price point is so reasonable at Tiny Art, "the first couple of days are incredibly busy so we do encourage

people to come to the pre-sale because that way they get the best selection," she said.

The pancake dinner is an all-you-can-eat supper of breakfast foods. "We'll have pancakes and desserts, sausage and mimosas for the grown ups and juice for those who don't want mimosas, and all kinds of things," said Dail.

The proceeds will benefit PCAC Educational Scholarship and Outreach Programs, which provide children the funds to attend summer camps and art classes when they couldn't afford it otherwise.

The gallery offers classes in many different mediums, including filmmaking and stop-motion animation. "We do a lot here besides just, you know, sell art," said Dail.

One of the other things Emerge does, aside from selling art, is hosting an art walk the first Friday of every month, as part of Uptown Greenville's First Friday Art Walk.

According to Dail, the turnout for the Art Walk increases every time. "We're up to probably about 500 people attending our art walks Friday nights," said Dail.

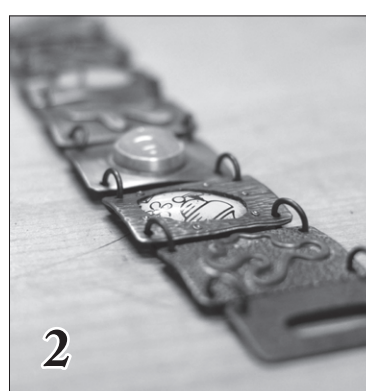
The exhibition dates for the Tiny Art Show are Friday until Feb. 27. Tickets can be purchased online or at the door.

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

INSIDE VIEW OF EMERGE ART GALLERY



1



2



4



3



MICHAEL SEEGARS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Several artists create art at Emerge everyday. 1). A woman uses a blow torch to help create a bracelet. 2). This bracelet was created similarly to the one being made in the first photo. 3). An artist hammers out the individual links to the bracelet in picture two. 4). An artist brings a copper etching to the art gallery. 5). A student finished recycled art project.

Greenville to be focus of new college life app

Nichole Currie
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University is in the running to be one of the first colleges to be featured on the new app "Happinin."

"Happinin" is a campus based mobile application used so students can post real-time video clips at different locations or events.

Michael Ciano, co-founder of "Happinin", is looking to expand across college campuses to capture memories like never before.

The "Happinin" website describes the app as "an unprecedented view of nightlife."

This application is designed to only give Pirate news and is restricted to students only. In fact, to access the application, students must use their school email address.

ECU will not be the first school "Happinin" will reach. Last summer, Baltimore took on the new application. Ciano was very eager to begin in Baltimore.

"There seemed to be nowhere better than Baltimore to release our first version of Happinin," said Ciano to the Baltimore FishBowl news. "The nightlife scene is present but not overwhelming and there is a huge number of college packed into a small area."

As of now, "Happinin" has had over 8,000 real-time videos uploaded. At first, the application was not intended for colleges.

It was originally used to provide people with insight on local nightlife establishments and restaurants of the town. The founders of "Happinin" switched the direction to campus life after finding it more popular there.

As of last week, they currently have over 1,000 students using their platform across two college campuses in Baltimore.

Aside from sharing your daily life, "Happinin" provides students and businesses the opportunity to advertise. They also include a promotions list to help users avoid paying full price at local restaurants. "Happinin" will also have a feature where organizations can organize upcoming events.

Happinin execs believe the app is a useful tool to help students interact with one another.

"We want to serve as a marketing tool for those establishments as well as a way to really architect your nightlife," said Ciano in an interview with the Baltimore News Journal.

For those that are interested in being a part of the current "Happinin" app, they can grant you access into one of the current college groups. Happinin can be accessed on Google Play and the Apple App Store.

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

Student creates t-shirt company

Kiera Huiel
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University student Tyler Davis started his own t-shirt company last August.

"My company is called the Old Plantation Apparel, said Tyler Davis, junior health fitness specialist major. "It all started with my family owning a t-shirt printing press in Benson North Carolina, so I have always been around it growing up."

Davis stated that he just kept thinking of something that he wanted to do and the idea of starting a t-shirt company came out of nowhere.

"I literally could not sleep at all last summer," said Davis. "I was just constantly thinking of ideas and those ideas became the start of two t-shirts."

Davis explained that his company is just a side hobby for himself.

"I grew up wearing all the southern brands and thought that I could start something that would be more affordable and people would like it," said Davis. "I have always been creative and this idea just really blew up for me."

Davis' company first started out with just green t-shirts, but has now grown to five different colors, blue, green, red, purple, and white, and two logos. "I just wanted to start off slow and build my image on t-shirts first," he said.

Davis explained that his first logo came from watching the movie "Gone With the Wind" and looking at the old plantation house in the movie.

"From that point on, I knew I wanted to incorporate the old plantation in my brand, because no one has ever done that before," he said. "I knew I did not want to put the word [southern] in the name, due to everyone having that in their name."

Davis stated that he started out this company strictly for men, but when he put his shirts in one boutique it was obvi-



HAILEY PORTER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Tyler Davis, a current ECU student who started his own t-shirt company, poses next to his merchandise.

ous that he should expand to women's t-shirts as well.

"They sold their shirts faster than any other men's stores that I put my shirts in," said Davis.

"I noticed nowadays that girls really like to wear guys t-shirts kind of oversized."

Davis explained that when people buy clothing, they go for the touch and feel of the clothing. "I wanted to have a t-shirt that didn't shrink and get holes in them when you washed them," he said. "When you [get] apparel you want to know what the quality of the apparel is and know that it is worth it."

Besides quality, Davis also wanted something that would be different from all the other brands. "I went with the brand of comfort colors and it did cost double the amount, but I had to get it for the great quality that would appeal to my customers," he said. "With other brands, everyone always see fishes, so for my other logo I

incorporated the tobacco leaf."

With his different style of t-shirts, Davis has launched out to many different areas of North Carolina and is continually extending his brand.

"I plan to eventually extend in the southern states like South Carolina and Georgia," said Davis. "Every weekend, I am off somewhere trying to [get] plans made. It is all about building connections with people."

Davis stated that he likes to personally deliver his t-shirts to the stores.

"I like to shake the owner's hands and build friendships with them," said Davis. "It is so nice to hear people call me and refer me to other people; it is literally like connection after connection."

Davis explained that his shirts are now sold in Washington, Hilton Men's Clothing in Wilson, Lilly and Lane Boutique in Rocky Mount, DeWayne's in Smithfield,

Beach Parlor Boutique and Carolina Moon Store in Triangle Town Mall in Raleigh. "I thought I really made it when my t-shirts started being sold in the Triangle Town Mall," said Davis.

There are many more big things that Davis has planned for the future of Old Plantation Apparel. "I want more of a dressy style," he said. "In the spring I plan on launching bow ties, neck ties, dress shirts, and definitely more feminine stuff." He is also in the process of starting his own website.

Davis stated that starting this company was not easy, but worth every second of it.

"My advice to anyone who wants to start their own business is to definitely have time and passion for whatever you are doing," he said.

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

Student to assist in family business

Jessica McGettigan
TEC STAFF

“What am I going to do after graduation?” is a thought that plagues all college students around the world on a daily basis.

However, for graduate student Mark Munoz, the thought of finding a job after college does not seem as scary of a thought as it once was.

When Peasants Pub closed over Thanksgiving break, some of Munoz’s family members decided to invest in the property to turn the once medieval-style restaurant into what will be Crossbones Tavern.

Munoz explained that Crossbones Tavern will be a family-run business.

“My brother’s father-in-law invested in the property and my brother is technically the owner of the place,” he said. “My brother’s wife graduated with a finance degree so she will be doing a lot of the office work and I will be the manager.”

Although the restaurant will have a new name and appearance, much of the old establishment will still be present.

“We’re taking on where Peasant’s left off,” said Munoz. “We plan on still offering full-service lunch and dinner menus as well as nightlife.”

Munoz explained that the aspects of the Peasant’s Pub menu will be available on the Crossbones Tavern menu as well.

“We will still have briskets and BBQ,”

he said. “It’ll be southern style cooking in Uptown Greenville.”

Crossbones Tavern will give Munoz the opportunity to put his business administration degree and his management skills to the test.

“I was thinking about what to do when I graduate and was working another job when my brother contacted me and said there was another opportunity,” said Munoz. “It’s sad for [Peasant’s Pub] but a good beginning for me.”

Munoz explained that he and his brother talked about getting involved in the business together for a while before anything concrete was decided. “We made small talk about it but I didn’t think it was going to happen,” said Munoz.

“I have a little management background but nothing like this,” he said. “Now I am hiring a staff and organizing [a lot]. It’s a little more overwhelming than I thought.”

For many college students, working and taking classes is too overwhelming for some to handle. Although Munoz has been working since he was 15, he was not completely prepared for this level of responsibility.

“It’s a little more intense than I’m used to and I’m a little more worried about the choices that need to be made,” he said. “School does only so much to prepare you for the real world.”

Munoz explained that the most difficult part of his day is trying to organize all of



MYLES TRAVITZ | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A band performs live at Peasant's Pub, which has since closed but will become Crossbones Tavern.

his classes and business responsibilities in a timely way.

“It’s embarrassing sometimes having to leave in the middle of class to answer a call but it needs to be done,” he said. “Timing is the hardest part but it’s everything.”

Working while in college is something that Munoz believes all students can benefit from.

“It brings about responsibility in students and it definitely taught me the value of a dollar,” he said. “I’ve never slowed down with work but as an entrepreneur you’re thinking about business all the time.”

As someone who understands the stressful feeling of trying to find a job after college,

Munoz explained that the best thing graduating students can do is to be happy.

“You might be going through a hard time and an opportunity can pop out of no where,” he said. “Go for the risk and learn what you can from school.”

While he may be much busier than the average student, Munoz is happy where his life is right now.

“It’s really scary and it’s really exciting at the same time,” he said. “Our goal is to bring out the better Greenville.”

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

Parks and Recreation to finish last season

Arvanna Smart
TEC STAFF

The popular NBC television network show, Parks and Recreation is on its final season after seven seasons.

The final season began on Jan. 13, and will air through Feb. 24, consisting of 13 episodes. The show, which was created by Greg Daniels and Michael Schur, airs on Tuesday nights at 8 p.m.

According to NBC chairman Robert Greenblatt, the reason for the shortened season is to draw attention to the show and not cut the span of the show shorter.

“In an effort to give it the send-off it deserves, we wanted to ‘eventize’ the final season to maximize the impact of these episodes, which really do take the show to a new level,” said Robert Greenblatt in an online interview with IGN.

The writers researched local California politics for the show, and talked with urban planners and elected officials. Amy Poehler’s character, Leslie Knope who is the main character, went through major changes after the first season in response to audience feedback that she seemed unintelligent and ditzy.

The writing staff uses current events in their episodes to make the show seem more realistic, such as a government shutdown in Pawnee inspired by the real-life global financial crisis.

The show is filmed using a single-camera mockumentary filming style similar to the one used to film the show The Office. This type of filming is used to create a parody show and has a documentary feel to it with a camera crew filming everyone. Other shows that have used this style of filming include The Office, Modern Family, and Reno 911!

Parks and Recreation is a comedy that

follows Leslie Knope, a mid-level bureaucrat in the Parks and Recreation Department of Pawnee, Indiana, and her efforts to make her small American town more fun.

In the Parks and Recreation Department, Knope’s co-workers consist of Chris Traeger, who happens to want to live until 150 years old, and Tom Haverford, a player who is obsessed with fashion and wants to have his own nightclub. The boss of the company is Ron Swanson, who hates the government he works for. The cast also includes a few more side characters that are related to the main characters in some way and help to push the storyline along.

Chris Traeger is among one of the cast members to leave in season two and will be making a return in the final season with his girlfriend and new baby after they left Indiana to start their life together in Michigan.

Since first airing in 2009, the show has

received much recognition including being on dozens of television critics’ Top 10 lists and was named “TV’s Smartest Comedy” in Entertainment Weekly’s 2011 cover story.

Additional Awards include Writers Guild Award and Producers Guild Award nominations, 2010 GLAAD Award for Outstanding Individual Episode, NAACP Image Award nominations, and Program of the Year and Individual Achievement in Comedy for Poehler and co-star Nick Offerman.

According to ign.com, Amy Poehler said, “It is really nice for us to all know, oh, we have twelve episodes and this is the arc and this is how it’s going to go if you have to end a show... which you do have to. They don’t let you do it forever. I’ve asked.”

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

Katy Perry brings summer fun to halftime show

Randy Lewis
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

Sunday’s Super Bowl halftime show headlined by Katy Perry was in some ways the most perfect marriage of a pop world star with football’s biggest day, the former cheerleader mining a trove of hits often built on “push-’em-back, push-’em-back, waaaaaay-back”-inspired choruses.

As colleague Mikael Wood points out in his assessment of the nearly 13-minute production, which also featured drop-ins by rocker Lenny Kravitz and rapper Missy Elliot, there was little effort wasted on subtlety or nuance.

For the opening number “Roar,” Perry road in on a gargantuan puppeteered lion, drafted Kravitz to shred on “I Kissed a Girl,” cavorted with animated beach balls, dancing sharks and gyrating palm trees during “California Gurls” and “Teenage Dream” and wrapped things up by turning into a human skyrocket for “Firework.”

Kravitz appeared to be along for the ride to give some-

thing for the millions of old-school rock fans who presumably make up a big chunk of the Super Bowl audience, and Elliot surfaced to balance the scales with a generous medley of her gritty hip-hop hits.

Perry’s moment at the Super Bowl adds to the near half century of performances that cut across a broad swath of the music world, from university marching bands in the first three contests to 1972 when jazz greats Ella Fitzgerald and trumpeter Al Hirt teamed up through more recent appearances by old guys who still rock such as Paul McCartney (2005) and the Rolling Stones (2006).

It took 20 years for Super Bowl entertainment mavens to start tapping pop stars for the halftime show, and even then it took a while for talent bookers to get up to speed. In 1988, the first postwar pop act to star in the halftime show was Chubby Checker, whose claim to fame hit “The Twist” had been on the charts a quarter century earlier.

Then in 1991, the Walt Disney Co., which had been

producing the halftime show periodically in the 1980s, brought in pop band New Kids on the Block. From there the ante bumped up a notch with Gloria Estefan the following year, and then the show turned to the King of Pop himself, Michael Jackson, in 1993.

For the last decade, pop’s biggest guns have been the rule, from Janet Jackson and her notorious wardrobe malfunction in 2004 to the parade of male rock and pop stars that followed in the next half decade in hopes of avoiding a repeat.

So far in the ‘10s, the Super Bowl has been declared safe for the women of pop and R&B once again, with performances given over to the Black Eyed Peas and Fergie, Madonna, Beyonce and, on Sunday, to Perry.

And who should be the star of next year’s monumental Super Bowl L? May we go out on a limb early and nominate, who L-se? LL Cool J.

Randy Lewis is a reporter for The Los Angeles Times and a contributor to Tribune News Services.

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PIRATE RANTS

My mom reads The East Carolinian. It was awkward when she spots my a** on the cover.

The next time a car honks at me while I'm crossing the damn street I'm going to get your license plate number, find you and key scratch your car. #impatientdriversbeware

SGA; A way for the greeks to take money meant to benefit all students and funnel it into greek life.

Both my parents were potheads before I was born. I think I have so much THC in my system that I don't even feel affects when I try to get high.

That was a good article about social media and responsibility. But, let's get real here. Not many will really care unless it directly affects them right there and then.

Money can't buy happiness, but it can buy tequila.

Imperial Stormtroopers couldn't shoot a bantha at 10 paces and you know it.

SGA is a joke! FIRE everybody involved and start over with students and faculty who actually care and want to accomplish positive things!

I'm just wondering if the administration of ECUNATION is going to put this on his/her resume.

This is Pirate rants not tumblr, take your social justice warrioring elsewhere.

To the person I accidentally let out of the elevator at Tyler Hall on Sunday: Sorry about that. I didn't mean to. I pressed the wrong button by mistake.

To the guy who saw me walking downtown alone on Saturday night at 2:30 a.m., and told me to have a friend walk with me next time: I got home safely, and I thank you for looking out for me. There should be more guys like you.

Met Isaiah Jones getting off the bus. He is so nice!! It's nice to finally meet a truly sweet male athlete on this campus!

Ms. Aycock Krewson: It's pretty clear your ancestor didn't stand for educational opportunities for EVERYONE. Have you actually read his speeches?

It is not just Carolina. I see plenty of cheating here too.

Considering there are almost 27,000 students enrolled at ECU, they should probably offer more than just a few sections of the required foundation curriculum classes.

I made my best friend breakfast after her hangover. She took one bite and started throwing up. I'm still trying to figure out if it was from my food or the hangover...

I walk in the bike lane and I am not a bad person.

Dear basketball crush, it's been a whole year since the first day I drunkenly contacted you. Oh how the time flies.

Does a bald head and beard do anything for any of the ladies on campus?

The East Carolinian does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants. Questions regarding rants can be directed to Zach Elsam at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Our view

Athletes paid to play the game

With 18 seconds left in Sunday night's Super Bowl, an otherwise poetic game was completely contrasted by a show of terrible sportsmanship and lack of composure.

The Seahawks had all but accepted defeat in the waning moments against the Patriots. After Tom Brady took the first of his two victory formation kneel downs, vocalexchanges led to arms flying and the eventual ejection of Seahawks' linebacker Bruce Irvin.

Irvin was ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct. With 114.5 million viewers watching worldwide, almost all would conclude that the third-year professional is not a role model. But who says he should be or any other athlete for that matter?

We as an editorial staff believe that while an athlete should be held up to their respective league's view of sportsmanlike conduct, there is no reason that an athlete should automatically be held up to the standard of a societal role model. No athlete is signing a contract promising to be

the picture-perfect person, they simply commit to their organization and league and will live up to the league's ma dated standards.

Football is an especially unique example of how athletes are taught to let their emotions show. The sport itself teaches the player to let your aggression show with on-the-field play. It is hard for football players to toe the line between controlled aggression that is acceptable within the game of football and aggression that is deemed dirty or unsportsmanlike.

Trying to walk that line with an expectation of being a role model for millions of children across the country hanging over your head is a daunting task that most average citizens could not live up to.

The behavior of athletes is not that problem that should be addressed, but rather the expectation of who should be held to society's role model standards.

NFL shows its true colors



Brian Wudkwyh
TEC STAFF

When confetti fell on the newly christened Super Bowl champion New England Patriots Sunday night it marked the end of perhaps the most turbulent season in the NFL's history.

It was a season doomed to fail from the very beginning when former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice was recorded assaulting and knocking out his then fiancee Janay Rice by an Atlantic City hotel elevator. But it wasn't the video that marked the start of a lost season, it was the way that NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell handled the case, handing Rice a measly two game suspension while sending a total tolerance message to the league. In short, it was a statement that in the NFL, winning trumps all.

But as it sometimes tends to do, the media focused so much attention on the Rice case that the pressure became too much for Goodell. He eventually overturned his previous sentence and instead suspended Rice indefinitely while

vehemently denying that he had access to what seemed like an easily acquired surveillance video, but I digress.

The fact of the matter remains, the priorities of the league lies in the pockets of the owners and their controversial commissioner. The product on the field undermines the values off of it. The NFL has lost its identity while maintaining its stance as richest and most popular game in America.

It's a noble cause that which some fans do in retaliation of the league. The female fans that stand up and boycott the NFL because of their second-class fandom are the most notable. With gender equality moving closer and closer to the limelight, the NFL did not help spearhead the effort when they decided that their two-time All-Pro's ability on the field was more cost efficient than his behavior off of it.

Deflategate - hopefully this article marks the last time I use that word. Even the NFL's most fabled game, one that is seen nationwide as an unofficial holiday, the Super Bowl, was marred by scandals and a polarizing running back that

so famously utters only a few words to the media during his availability. The story lines were set for the big game with the 'bad guy' Patriots aiming to cap off their dynasty with a fourth Super Bowl during the Tom Brady-Bill Belichick era facing off with the up-and-coming Seahawks seeking their second straight championship behind one of the NFL's more marketable figure, quarterback Russell Wilson.

Even the exciting matchup that resulted in one of the most exciting Super Bowls in recent memory couldn't escape the shadow of potentially deflated footballs. It's a sad, sad world that we live in when a game becomes a business and the fans become dollar signs.

The end couldn't have soon enough for the league and Goodell. In a society that loves its comeback stories, the NFL is squarely in the eyes of the country. The nation's biggest sport needs a cleansing and it starts right in the backyards of its 32 teams—with the fans.

Brian Wudkwyh is a sophomore majoring in communication and is the assistant sports editor. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

ECU Alerts could do more



Michelle Pumphrey
TEC COLUMNIST

I was scrolling through my Twitter feed today and I saw a tweet that caught my eye. "Waking up to an ECU Alert every morning is a bit concerning," this statement is very true. The days of Jan. 24, 25 and 26 an ECU Alert was sent out. Two of those three seemed justified. However, if someone is shoplifting from Sheetz, that doesn't really threaten me or other students.

To me, an ECU Alert should notify me if an ECU student gets assaulted/harmed/robbed on or near campus, and that's what the two of the three alerts were about. It would be nice if the ECU Alert system had guidelines to follow when it comes to sending out alerts. For example, if an ECU student is walking back from downtown and gets robbed; I want to know about it.

ECU Alerts shouldn't be something that annoys us. It should be a system to notify us about dangerous things that are happening to students near or on campus so we can react and get to a safe place as fast as possible. When students get an alert, we shouldn't be desensitized to it. This weekend it was like ECU Alert was "crying wolf" in a sense, hence why a set of guidelines

should be put in place to determine what is alert-worthy.

It would also be helpful if ECU Alert would send out update on current situations that haven't been resolved. On Jan. 20, a strong robbery happened at a residence on campus. The initial alert frightened me a bit because the person doing the strong robbery got into the dorm. I never got an alert keeping me updated with that situation. An update would have put my mind at ease and specifically the students that live in and around that area. When you live on campus, you're supposed to feel safe by having extra security precautions. Once someone infiltrates that space, it worries students, so perhaps sending update alerts should become an idea.

All in all, ECU Alerts should be in place to alert students of danger happening to or around them, not less important incidents such as someone shopping from the gas station near campus. Some advice to avoid all of the ECU Alerts, be careful at night and travel in a group. This way, there will be less danger to us and ECU Alerts won't be just be a form of "crying wolf" or annoyance.

Michelle Pumphrey is a senior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Poll results	Poll question
Should "ECUNation" Snapchat be shutdown?	Are you participating in SGA Elections?
Yes - 19.6% No - 80.4%	Visit theeastcarolinian.com to vote.

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Serving ECU since 1925, The East Carolinian is an independent, student-run publication distributed Tuesdays and Thursdays during the academic year and Wednesdays during the summer. The opinions expressed herein are those of the student writers, columnists and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff or administration at East Carolina University or the Student Media Board. Columns and reviews are the opinions of the writers; "Our View" is the opinion of The East Carolinian Board of Opinions. As a designated public forum for East Carolina University, The East Carolinian welcomes letters to the editor limited to 250 words. Letters may be rejected or edited for libelous content, decency and brevity. All letters must be signed and include a telephone number. One copy of The East Carolinian is free. Each additional copy is \$1. Unauthorized removal of additional copies from a distribution site constitutes theft under North Carolina law. Violators will be prosecuted.

Contact Info

The East Carolinian
Self Help Building,
Greenville, NC, 28889-4353
Email: editor@theeastcarolinian.com
Newsroom: (252) 328-9238
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dependable, awesome for students. 9pm - 6am. Call 252-754-8047 or 252-412-9315.

Greenville Recreation & Parks Department is recruiting youth soccer referees for the spring soccer program for ages 3-16. Applicants must possess a good knowledge of soccer rules and have the ability and patience to work with youth. Duties include but are not limited to: officiating games, ensuring safety of field/play, ensuring proper care of program/facility, conflict resolution, arriving to work on time and wearing referee uniform. Hours are from 8:00am to 3:30pm on Saturdays and 5:00pm - 9:00pm for some weekday games. Hours are flexible to class schedules. This program will run from March

21 - early May; trainings will begin in February. Officials will be required to attend one mandatory new staff meeting and two mandatory training sessions prior to the start of the season. Referees will be paid \$12.00/\$14.00 a game. For more information, please contact the Athletic Office at 252-329-4550, Monday through Friday, 10am until 7pm. To apply, please visit www.greenvillenc.gov. Applications accepted until positions are filled.

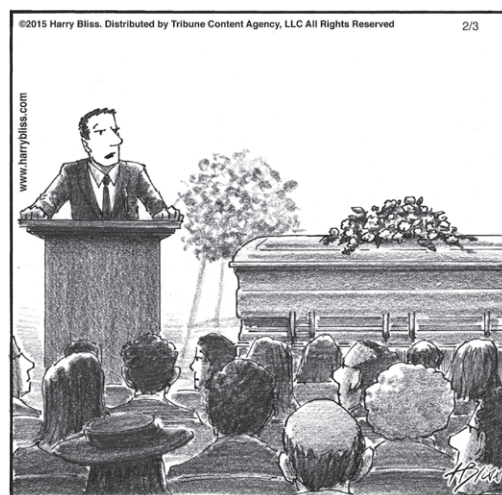
Greenville Recreation & Parks Department is recruiting youth baseball umpires and scorekeepers for the spring baseball program for ages 4-8. Applicants must possess a good knowledge of baseball rules and have the ability

and patience to work with youth. Duties include but are not limited to: umpiring, setting up for practices and games, ensuring proper care of program/facility and some conflict management. Hours are from 5:00pm to 8:30pm, Monday - Friday, various times on Saturdays, and possibly some Sundays. Hours are flexible based on class schedules. This program will run from April 18 - late June. The pay rate will be \$8.00 an hour. For more information, please contact the Athletic Office at 252-329-4550, Monday - Friday from 10am until 7pm. To apply, please visit www.greenvillenc.gov. Applications accepted until Monday, February 23.

COMICS

Majoring in Awesome

Brent Koehler
TEC CARTOONIST



"... He leaves behind a loving wife, two beautiful children and a credit score of 780."

BRAIN TEASERS

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

			6	3		1							
			3	2						9	8		
1			3		6							7	
	5	6								9	3		
8			7		4								2
6	2									7	8		
	7		9		5								

SOLUTION TO THURSDAY'S PUZZLE

2/3/15

1	7	9	4	8	3	5	2	6
2	8	6	5	7	9	1	3	4
5	3	4	1	6	2	9	8	7
7	9	8	6	3	1	4	5	2
4	6	5	9	2	7	8	1	3
3	1	2	8	5	4	6	7	9
8	5	7	2	9	6	3	4	1
6	4	3	7	1	8	2	9	5
9	2	1	3	4	5	7	6	8

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 3, 2015

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- Pharmacy purchase
- Figure (out), slangily
- Early Yucatán settlers
- German "a"
- Irish New Age singer
- Bite-the-bullet type
- 400 athletes?
- "Star Trek" lieutenant
- Trophy prized by actors
- Watermelon eater's discard
- Austin-to-Baton Rouge direction
- Flat hat with a pompom
- 40 polos?
- Football club based in Lombardy
- Many a casino visitor
- Bark offering
- Kelly of morning TV
- Moral code
- Texter's "Horrors!"
- 4 tire inserts?
- Squeeze (out)
- Local news hr. Mix
- ESPN analyst Hersher
- Wife of Abraham
- Chatty gathering
- 600 stand-ups?
- Plea at sea, briefly
- "Sadly ..."
- Pouty expression
- Repetitive musical piece
- ACC team with a turtle mascot
- 1,500 thermometer units?
- Gobbled up
- Letter carrier's sackful
- Starbucks order
- Sound from an angry dog
- Sugar bowl invaders
- Battle of Normandy town

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20					21			22		23		
			24		25		26			27		
28	29	30			31			32				
33				34		35	36		37			38
39				40				41			42	
43			44			45				46		
	47				48			49		50		
51					52	53		54				
55				56		57		58		59	60	61
62				63		64		65				
66					67					68		
69					70						71	

By C.C. Burnikel

2/3/15

DOWN

- Geometric art style
- Free (of)
- Like the word "waitress," briefly
- Gummy bear ingredient
- Susan of "L.A. Law"
- Small bills
- Oven-safe brand
- Stand in a painting class
- East Lansing sch.
- Nonreligious sort
- Mall directory words
- Bombing missions
- Sings like Ella
- Shrunken Asian sea
- Broadband initials
- Harry and ..., "Home Alone" bad guys
- Ground breakers
- Plenty
- Fesses up
- Document sealed by King John in 1215
- Petty peeves

THURSDAY'S PUZZLE SOLVED

O	V	A	L	S	G	A	S	E	S	T	R	A
D	E	B	I	T	E	N	T	R	Y	R	E	D
S	E	E	T	O	O	N	A	I	R	A	A	H
			R	O	B	R	O	Y	S	A	C	M
N	I	C	E	D	O	G	H	A	S	T	I	E
A	D	A	B	E	T	E	N	O	I	R	E	
R	E	A	L	M	S	U	R	B	A	N		
C	A	N	Y	O	U	B	R	E	A	K	A	T
			C	A	P	R	I	S	E	L	E	N
T	I	G	H	T	E	N	D	S	T	O	S	
A	M	N	E	S	I	A	E	R	I	E	S	T
S	H	O	E	C	D	R	A	T	E	S		
S	U	M	T	A	B	O	R	I	N	P	U	T
E	R	E	W	H	I	T	E	N	O	I	S	E
L	T	S	I	N	N	E	R	S	T	E	E	D

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2/3/15

- Salt (away)
- "Not ___ deal"
- Boston NBAer
- Islamic prayer leader
- Notable periods
- Thrive
- In some respects
- That guy
- Five-time Wimbledon champ Bjorn
- Goes out with
- Pause punctuation
- Khartoum's land
- Cut a line from, say
- Well-kept
- Computer giant
- Norway's most populous city
- NBC comedy staple
- Some Bronx trains

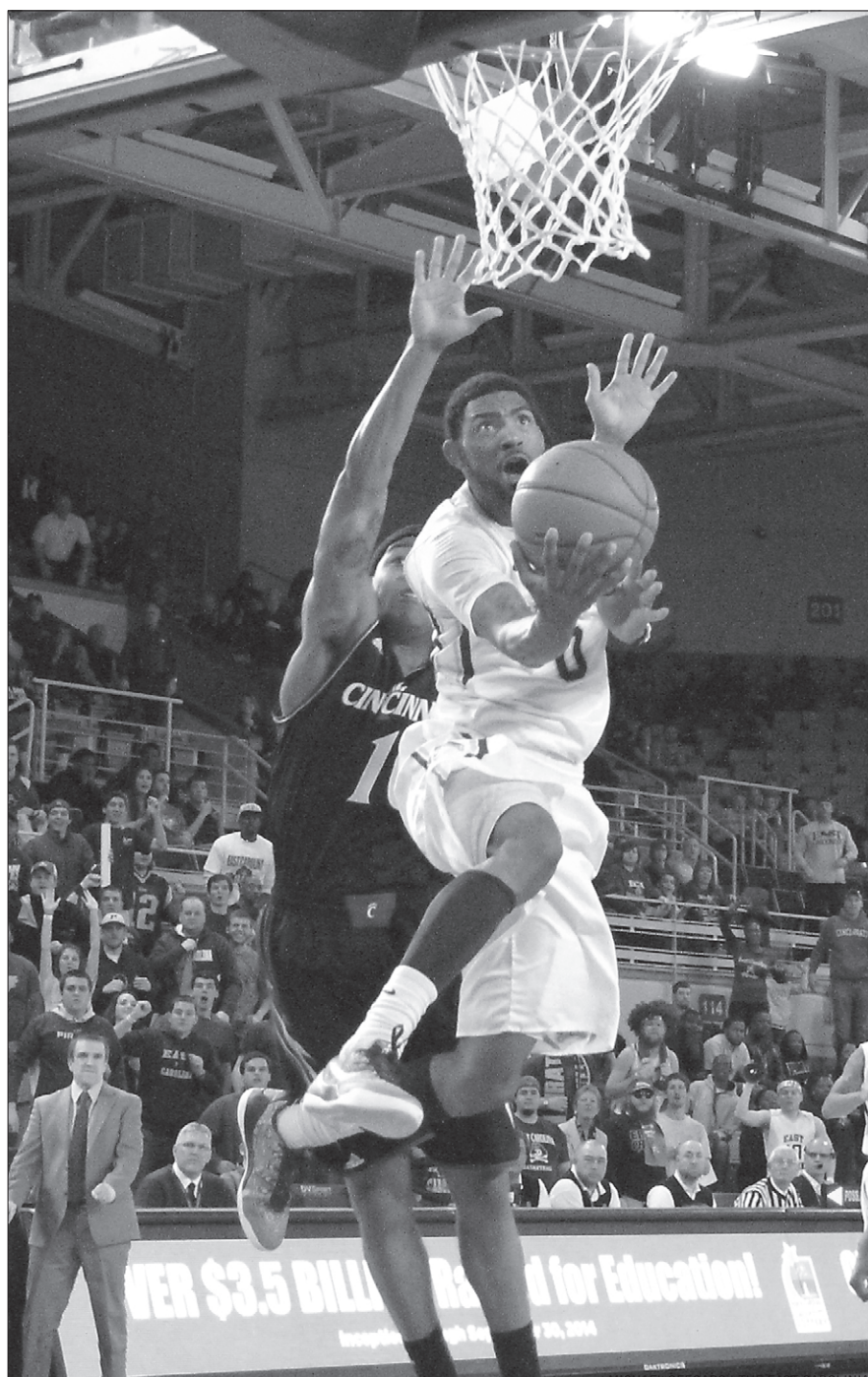
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Pirates notch AAC victory

Men's hoops topples Cincinnati in comeback effort



Junior guard Terry Whisnant (0) attempts a layup in Saturday's 50-46 win over Cincinnati.

Andi Caruso
TEC STAFF

Minges Coliseum roared with excitement when the ECU men's basketball team (9-12, 2-6 American Athletic Conference) defeated conference opponent Cincinnati (15-6, 6-2 AAC) for the first time in program history with a landmark 50-46 victory.

With 1:47 left in regulation time, junior Terry Whisnant and freshman B.J. Tyson scored back-to-back layups, giving the Pirates their second AAC win after their bout with Cincinnati.

Whisnant hit his layup to tie the score, 46-46. After an Antonio Robinson steal, Tyson hit a layup with 1:02 remaining that gave the Pirates the lead after trailing the Bearcats for 32 minutes and 59 seconds of the game. Caleb White clinched the game with two free throws to give the Pirates their second AAC victory. The Pirates used an 11-0 run in the final three minutes and five seconds of the game to seal the game.

"The past three games we lost were really close [games]," said senior guard Antonio Robinson. "We had to get used to the teams feel, and we're getting better as a team. It was a big win for us, and we're going to enjoy it."

Tyson, coming in after three lackluster games, picked up 18 points as he went 8-for-14 from the field. Tyson was the only Pirate to hit double figures.

"I just came in with the mentality to get better at practice," said Tyson. "I knew I needed to work harder, so that's what I did and it paid off."

Tyson's contribution started late in the second half, scoring 16 out of his 18 points in the last 15 minutes of the game.

Whisnant finished with six points on a weak 3-for-10 from the field. He failed to dial in from long range as he shot 0-for-6 from behind the arc.

"Everyone told me to be ready to shoot, which I was, but it obviously wasn't three's, it was layups," said Whisnant after the victory.

Cincinnati guard Farad Cobb was the only player in double figures by halftime with 10 points. He shot a perfect 4-for-4 from the field and went 2-for-2 on treys with one rebound and assist. He totaled 13 points, shot 5-for-9 and hit

3-for-5 treys for the afternoon.

Along with Cobb, Octavius Ellis gave his team eight points as he went 4-for-5 on the field with seven total rebounds, all of which came in the first half. He finished with a team-high 14 points. He shot 5-for-6 on the field and a perfect 4-for-4 from the free throw line.

During the first half, the Pirates recorded an assist for every basket made with eight. At the end of the first half, Paris Roberts-Campbell led the team with six points, all of which came from behind the arc. The Pirates were 2-for-14 from behind the arc, as Campbell was the only Pirate in the first half to hit a 3-point shot.

The Pirates turned the ball over just seven times, the lowest mark of the season, compared to the Bearcats' 12 turnovers.

"It shows us that we can take care of the ball," said Tyson. "When we're trying to play their game, you're turning the ball over and not taking care of the ball. But when we play our game, we can take care of the ball a little bit more."

Robinson headed the Pirates' stingy defense with five steals and disrupted Cincinnati's guard play throughout the game.

"Somebody had to do something on the defensive end, I got in and tried to get my hands on every ball," said Robinson.

"He was terrific," Lebo added. "Defensively at the end he got deflections. He had five steals, and took care of the ball. In the zone he's terrific."

The Pirates only shot 36.9 percent, going 21-for-53 on the field, and shot an unimpressive 4-for-19 on treys. The team's defense is what gave the Pirates the win, only allowing the Bearcats to shoot 35.6 percent from the field (16-for-45).

"It goes to show we can play with anybody in this conference," said Whisnant. "It'll give us some confidence going into the next game, and for the rest of the season."

The Pirates next game is on the road against defending national champions, UConn on Wednesday Feb. 4 at 7 p.m.

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

Former Pirate finishes second

Harold Varner III leaving mark on Web.com tour

Ronnie Moore
TEC STAFF

Harold Varner III is a name that many Pirate golf fans remember for his performance as a member of the ECU golf team. Varner was a Pirate from 2008-12 and finished as the most decorated golfer to don the purple and gold.

On Sunday, Varner had a chance to ink his name into the win column in only his second year on tour. The Web.com Tour professional competed in the Panama Claro Championship in sunny Panama, with the first round starting Thursday and the final on Sunday.

After nine holes on the final day, Varner was leading the event with the back nine in his sights and a treacherous wind standing in his way. The constant 15 mph wind with gusts reaching much greater made the back nine especially tough.

"It was harder to hit consistent shots on the back because there are some funky spots on the back nine," said Varner. "I had a couple three-putts and every course is harder when you do that."

After shooting 3-under on the front nine, Varner was 11-under overall, one shot ahead of Australian Matthew Goggin who started the day tied with Varner.

"Early in the week I was hitting a lot of fairways, which is always good," said Varner. "The course was fairly firm so you just need to get as much spin as possible going into the green. On the final day I just didn't hit many balls in the fairway."

Varner went on to bogey four holes on the back nine and eventually came up short to Goggin as he finished in second. The conditions weren't ideal; many critics would say it was the pressure that got to the 24-year old, but ECU golf coach Press McPhaul isn't buying that one bit.

"Harold is not a guy that plays golf with a whole lot of fear, he's confident and aggressive," said McPhaul. "[Varner] brings the battle to the golf course, I think the conditions played the biggest factor for him."

Goggin played a perfect final round as he tallied three birdies,



CONTRIBUTED BY ECU MEDIA RELATIONS

Harold Varner tees off during the 2012 National Championship, no bogeys and 15 pars on the day. During the third round on Saturday, Goggin struggled with the back nine with two double-bogeys, two bogeys, but he managed to survive as he birdied the final two holes to end the day. On Sunday, he seemed to conquer his struggles on the back nine with a flawless performance.

This was not Goggin's first time on the Panama course; in fact his track record speaks for itself. Goggin won the Panama Claro Championship in 2011 and notched a runner-up finish in 2013. In 2015, he took home the hardware once again.

Along with Varner's second place finish, the second-year pro won a \$67,500 check for his performance.

During the heat of the summer, golf courses tend to play fast as the course conditions are slicker and the ball rolls much quicker than during the colder periods throughout the year. Even though it is February in the United States, Panama's February conditions emulate summer with highs in the 80s and 90s. Those fast conditions are something Goggin plays on regularly in his home country of Australia. Varner also enjoyed playing on the fast surface in Panama.

"I enjoyed it because it was like playing in the summer," said Varner. "I play a lot of fast courses in the southeast region so I knew what to expect."

On Friday, Varner carded a 6-under 64 to vault into the lead heading into the weekend. After shooting 1-over on Saturday he found himself tied for second and only one shot behind.

"The hard part [of golf] is getting in a position to win and he's done that already," said the ninth-year Pirate coach. "You have to keep knocking on the door and sooner or later that door will open."

Varner, the second-year pro, collected his second runner-up finish in as many years and has shown his potential in a short time period after graduating from East Carolina.

"Harold is way ahead of schedule," said McPhaul. "There are a lot of really good player trying to play professional golf and he is 24 years old, which is a feat in itself."

Last season he missed the cut at the Panama Claro Championship and one year later he almost won the event and started his 2015 season on the right track.

"The goal is to get a PGA Tour card and this puts me a lot closer," said Varner. "I'm trying to do some damage down here in South America; I think I made one cut [in the four events] down here last year."

While at ECU, Varner earned the title of Conference USA Golfer-of-the-Year in 2012, the first in the history of ECU men's golf and was also named to the all-conference team three times ('10 second team, '11 and '12 first team). Varner finished his collegiate career with 18 top-10s, 30 top-20s and tied for 12th at the NCAA Regional in his senior season.

"I felt while he was at ECU that he had the tools to play on the PGA Tour someday," said McPhaul. "It's hard to predict how people will handle the traveling; he has made the adjustment faster than expected."

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

TAKEAWAYS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

ECU picked up a 50-46 win over American Athletic Conference opponent Cincinnati on Sunday. The Pirates are now 9-12 on the season and 2-6 in the AAC.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Lady Pirates used a 20-6 run to end a 67-63 comeback victory over Tulane on Saturday.

BASEBALL

ECU Head Coach Cliff Godwin will don the honorary No. 23 jersey this season. The number is in memory of former player and coach Keith LeClair.

GOLF

Former Pirate Harold Varner III finished second in the Panama Claro Championship this weekend.

CAROLINA HURRICANES

Carolina dropped back-to-back games, losing to the St. Louis Blues and the New York Rangers. The Hurricanes are now 17-26-6 on the season.

CHARLOTTE HORNETS

The Hornets topped Denver 104-86 on Saturday on the back of Cody Zeller's 21 points. Charlotte was 20-27 entering last night's contest.

ONLINE



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ECU adjusts Zone working for Pirates



Josh Graham
TEC STAFF

Jeff Lebo is reinventing a new brand of winning basketball at ECU.

Long gone are the days of the up-tempo, high-flying style we saw from the likes of Maurice Kemp and Miguel

Paul that won the Pirates a postseason tournament title in 2013, and the dazzling shooting displays from Akeem Richmond in each of the last two seasons.

On Sunday the Pirates rebounded—despite being blatantly undersized—and defended effectively to gain their first ever victory against Cincinnati 50-46 at Minges Coliseum.

This took place less than a month after the Bearcats routed them 69-48 on Jan. 6 at Fifth Third Arena.

The difference between the two games could have been ECU point guard Antonio Robinson.

In the first meeting, Cincinnati sliced up ECU's 2-3 zone defense on its way to 52 percent shooting and 40 points in the paint while Robinson played just 12 minutes. This time around, Robinson was all over the floor in his 21 minutes; constantly disrupting the Bearcats' talented guards and recording five steals, which fueled the Pirates' 11-0 run to close the game.

He had four assists and didn't score a point, yet could have been the most important player in a Pirate uniform Sunday.

Just a few days removed from coasting to a 70-58 win over reigning national champion Connecticut, Cincinnati was held to season-lows in made-field goals (16) and points (46). This is the same Bearcats team that beat N.C. State—on the road by double-digits, nonetheless—and ranked San Diego State before the start of conference play.

ECU's first win against Cincinnati was not only a signature moment for the

Pirates' basketball program, which is still looking to establish an identity in its first season in the American Athletic Conference, but was also significant for Lebo and his continued progressiveness as a coach.

Prior to last season, the notion of a Jeff Lebo coached team running predominantly in zone was unheard of. It was live or die in the man-to-man defense.

But when the Pirates were without a true center and had lost six big men for unexpected reasons, Lebo had no choice but to go zone to limit ECU's size deficiencies.

Thanks to the help of assistant coach Mike Netti, who was once a student manager at a Syracuse and has a strong understanding of Jim Boeheim's notorious 2-3 zone, the Pirates were quickly brought up to speed on it and by the end of the season, ran it almost exclusively.

Now, it's a part of this group's identity and has paid dividends.

If anything—similar to a boxer—the Pirates' defense has kept them in the fight, just hanging around with a shot to win in the end.

It nearly earned them a win against the American's top team, Tulsa, on Jan. 24 and certainly did against Bearcats. ECU closed the game on an 11-0 run and held Cincinnati without a field goal for the final 8:39 of the second half.

On the other side of the floor, the Pirates have become more patient since they no longer have the 3-point shooting threat of Richmond.

ECU has assisted on 75 percent of its made buckets in the last four games, which far exceeds its 56 percent average a year ago.

All the numbers notwithstanding, the victory proved that not only could the Pirates compete with some of the league's best, they can win. Progress has clearly been made and continued growth is imminent.

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



VS



Cougars on tap

Lady Pirates set for Houston

Rev Blanquicet
TEC STAFF

After splitting a tough two games on the road, Head Coach Heather Macy and the ECU women's basketball team (14-8, 5-6 American Athletic Conference) are looking to continue climbing the conference rankings.

As they bounce back from a long week of travel and tough conference play, the Lady Pirates are planning to blow by Houston (6-15, 1-9 AAC) tonight at 7 p.m. at Williams Arena in Minges Coliseum.

These two teams met earlier in the month, in Houston, where the Lady Pirates came away with their first victory in the American with a blowout, 87-46. In that game redshirt junior, Jada Payne had a season high 26 points and junior transfer Jasmine Phillips recorded her first double-double.

Houston will have to rely on junior Jessieka Palmer. Palmer managed just six points and three rebounds against the Pirates' strong defense and solid play under

the basket. She is averaging 10.1 points per game this season and 5.2 rebounds.

Fellow junior Marche' Amerson is another threat for the Cougars. The forward is averaging 9.1 points per game and 4.1 rebounds. In the last meeting with the Pirates, Amerson notched a team-high 14 points and seven boards.

With Houston struggling at the bottom of the conference on a seven game losing streak, this game should be an easy win for the Lady Pirates. The Pirates hope, like their first meeting, this game will act as a catalyst triggering another win streak for ECU.

This matchup couldn't come at a better time for the Lady Pirates. In the past week, they've faced the current first and third seed in the conference, No. 2 UConn (18-1, 9-0 AAC) and Tulane (16-4, 7-2 AAC). During those games the Lady Pirates have been able to get their legs under them and play their style of basketball: fluid, in your face defense.

If the Lady Pirates are to

make program history and record a third straight 20-win season, they will have to win six of their last seven remaining games. With five of those games against opponents with weaker records, this feat isn't entirely out of reach.

However, ECU has never faced two of those teams before: Temple (10-12, 6-3 AAC) and Cincinnati (6-15, 3-7 AAC). Despite Temple's losing overall record, they are at the front of the pack with the fourth best conference record. On the opposite end of the spectrum, Cincinnati sits ninth in the conference rankings. Luckily for the Lady Pirates, they face the Bearcats twice before beginning post-season play.

With a win tonight, the Lady Pirates will have a .500 conference record for only the second time this season, and will be one step closer to a top seed heading into the conference tournament.

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

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Men's hoops heads to UConn

Tyler Kelbaugh
TEC STAFF

After taking down one frequent NCAA tournament team at home on Sunday, the ECU Pirates will look to take down the defending national champion Connecticut Huskies on the road Wednesday.

"When we go in and play UConn we're going to have a lot of momentum," said the freshman. "We just beat one of the top three teams in the conference. It showed the nation that we can play with anybody."

Against Connecticut (11-9) on the road, ECU (9-12) will likely need another stellar team defensive effort to pull off an even larger upset.

"Our kids have been playing pretty hard," said Head Coach Jeff Lebo. "We've been active in our zone. We're playing a little differently, trying to slow people down, because we're having trouble scoring."

For the Pirates, keeping their momentum from their biggest win of the season is a high priority moving forward.

"[The win] gave us some confidence," said Lebo. "What basketball is about here, especially in this conference, is getting Cincinnati at home. You get a big win, and now you get to go play the defending national champions on the road."

Stopping Connecticut's senior star Ryan Boatright will be critical in order for the Pirates to find success. Boatright is averaging 16.8 points-per-game, the most in the American Athletic Conference.

"He's fast, he can shoot it. He does so much for them offensively," said Lebo. "He plays with a lot of confidence and generates so much offense for them. He's one of the top guard not only in our league, but in the country."

Defensively, Connecticut is one of the stronger teams in college hoops. The team allows just 61 points per game, in thanks largely to sophomore center Amida Brimah.

The 7-foot Brimah, born in Ghana, is second in the conference in blocked shots. He averages 2.8 blocks per game. He will be matching up against ECU's redshirt sophomore Marshall Guilmette and Michel-Ofik Nzege in the paint. With two and five inches on both Guilmette and Nzege, respectively, rebounding against the big man will be difficult for the Pirates.

"He's a good shot blocker," said Guilmette. "Cincinnati's Octavius Ellis is just as good of a shot blocker though, so we've got to attack [Brimah] the same way. [Offensively] I've got to keep him off balance with some shot fakes."

Recently, Lebo has started to treat his bench like Kentucky's coach John Calipari with nearly full line up changes.

"We've got a lot of guys, and not a lot of separation from one through 12," said Lebo. "There are a lot of guys who deserve to play."

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

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