

OPINION: Thank you, Kentucky. Now I won't have to see the UNC rejects on campus wearing light blue. **A4**

LIFESTYLES: The ECU campus mourns the death of student Amanda Kelly. Turn to Lifestyles to read about the impact she made on her friends, family and to the community. **A5**

SPORTS: With so many great sports movies out there, Jordan Anders decided to rank his favorites. Turn to sports to see what are his top sports movies and find out how you can share your favorites with TEC. **A8**

Proposed bill could lessen marijuana laws

Alexa DeCarr
STAFF WRITER

A legislative bill has been proposed that would amend the possession of marijuana in the State of North Carolina and in some cases, getting caught with the drug would be punishable by only a fine.

The bill, titled H324, would make getting caught with less than an ounce of marijuana an infraction, which leaves the offender with only a fine. If the quantity is between 1 and 1.5 ounces, the violation would be a Class 3 misdemeanor with no jail time. If the quantity is between 1.5 and 2 ounces, the violation would be a Class 1 misdemeanor. More than 2 ounces would result in a Class 1 felony.

The bill was introduced by Mecklenburg County State Representative Kelly Alexander, in hopes to clear out some of the low-level drug users in jails.

"We've got a criminal justice system that's clogged right now," Alexander said in an interview with Fox Charlotte News.

Scott Shelton, chief of the ECU Police Department, said that if the bill passes, he thinks there will be students who try to stay within a certain amount when carrying marijuana on them so that, if caught, they only face an infraction.

"Just like alcohol, no matter the amount, it still will not be allowed in the residence halls," Shelton said.

Shelton said that, currently, the biggest concern with marijuana is the violence that often occurs amongst those who buy and sell the drugs and thinks that if the bill is passed, marijuana traffickers may be at an increased risk for violence.

"But even if (the bill) is passed, there will still be stiffer penalties on sellers," said Shelton.

Senior communication major Walter Johnson is behind the proposed bill.

"Greenville has a lot bigger problems than some kids using marijuana and (the police) should focus their attention on the bigger problems."

Shelton said that campus police have gotten more calls in regard to marijuana this year than in the past, but said that does not necessarily mean it is any more of a problem than it has been in previous years.

According to Fox News, if a person is caught with less than half an ounce of marijuana in North Carolina, it is a Class 3 misdemeanor with possible jail time while more than an ounce and a half is a Class 1 felony with up to 12 months of incarceration.

USA Today reports that several states throughout the nation, such as California and Massachusetts, have enacted bills that decriminalize the drug or legalize it for medical purposes only.

Jack Prager, a sophomore business major, thinks that North Carolina should join these other states in lessening the charges against marijuana. "Other states have made it so that certain amounts of marijuana count as only minor offenses, so I think we should try and do the same," Prager said.

Shelton insists that even if the possession of marijuana is amended, students need to keep their future in mind as an infraction could still remain on their records.

"Employers do not want to hire drug and alcohol abusers," Shelton said.

There is also currently another pending bill which hopes to legalize medical marijuana in North Carolina.

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

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YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925



LUIS SINCO | LOS ANGELES TIMES | MCT

A man kisses a frightened child as they sit on the gun of a damaged armored vehicle on the outskirts of Benghazi, Libya on Monday, March 21, 2011.

The Libya War: Operation Odyssey Dawn

Hannah Farmer-Fernandez
STAFF WRITER



LUIS SINCO | LOS ANGELES TIMES | MCT

A rebel fighter celebrates on a smoldering tank, March 21, 2011, Zwitina, Libya.

Moammar Gadhafi's 42-year reign over Libya is crumbling to an end. Ally forces established a no-fly zone over the North African country, aiming to protect civilians from Gadhafi's government security forces and to provide humanitarian relief.

Senior Shady Maksimous, a communication major and Egypt native, said that the revolution in Libya was much needed. "It's about time for the people to speak up for their own simple rights to live."

Currently, nearly 200 warplanes, over a dozen helicopters, hundreds of missiles and thousands of sailors and marines are in Libya with thousands more soldiers on the way to aid in Operation Odyssey Dawn, the Libya War.

This Sunday, NATO attained full authority of military operation in Libya. After more than two weeks of involvement in Libya, the U.S. concluded its limited role in the Libya intervention by disabling Gadhafi air forces and handling the enforcement of a no-fly zone over Libya.

A no-fly zone is an area where aircrafts are not allowed to fly and usu-

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LIBYA page A2



CONTRIBUTED

Amanda Kelly (far right) and fellow members of Beta Alpha Psi.

Graduate student remembered

Cameron Gupton
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Last Thursday, students and faculty gathered to remember the life of graduate student Amanda "Mandy" Kelly, who died in a car wreck on Monday in Wilson County.

Kelly, 24, and a native of Ontario, Canada, was pursuing a master's degree in accounting. She was the president of Beta Alpha Psi, an officer for the National Society for Leadership and worked in the Office of Student Transitions and First Year Programs.

Kelly was driving eastbound on U.S. Highway 264 Bypass at around 8:20 a.m. when her 2000 Ford Taurus ran off the highway, into the median and ended up in the westbound lanes of traffic. According to investigators, Kelly

over-corrected, causing her to lose control of her car.

Kelly's Taurus then struck a 2006 Silverado head-on, driven by Johnnie Page III, 31, of Sims, N.C.

Sarah Young, a sophomore, was driving on the highway around the same time the accident occurred.

"I saw the police and emergency vehicles on the side of the road. It was seriously the worst wreck I have ever seen," said Young. "I was even more shocked when I found out a student was killed in it."

Kelly was pronounced dead at the scene and Page was treated at Wilson Medical Center for his injuries and released.

A memorial service for Kelly

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Unemployment picture still discouraging for college grads

Tyler Kitchens
STAFF WRITER

Although the national unemployment rate continues to decrease at a slow but tangible rate, the situation is still not as bright for college-age graduates.

Across the nation, overall unemployment dropped 0.1 percent from January to February, but recent statistics published by the Department of Labor indicate that the unemployment rate for bachelor's degree college graduates under the age of 25 was 9.3 percent in February, up from 8.7 percent the previous year.

During the same span, college graduates over the age of 25 saw their respective unemployment rate drop from about 5 percent to 4.3 percent.

Department of Labor statistics also show that over a three-year period from February 2008 to February 2011, the unemployment rate for graduates under 25 has risen 116 percent.

Compounding this news is a recent announcement by the Department of Labor that joblessness among all college graduates has reached highs not seen since 1970. While this figure is much higher among those who hold a high school diploma or less, approximately 5.1 percent of all graduates are unemployed in the midst of the ongoing economic recession.

"Students need to be aware of information like this because you don't hear these numbers every day," said senior criminal justice major Eric Anthony. "This will probably impact what a lot of graduates decide to do after graduation. If things don't start improving, it will be easier and more appealing for us to continue to stay in school and get advanced degrees to wait this thing out."

Senior Melvin Moore believes that securing post-graduate employment often depends on students' fields of study as well.

"In my opinion, there will always be certain fields that generally hire more than others, recession or not. Technology-based jobs such as computer engineering and health care industry jobs are perfect examples of this," he said.

One important resource students can utilize to prevent finding themselves among the unemployed upon graduation is The Career Center.

Located on East Fifth Street, the main purpose of The Career Center is "to assist and guide students in their career quest." They also "help students understand how to manage their careers and how to effectively market themselves in whatever endeavor they may choose."

The website has several important resources that can

help upcoming graduates prepare themselves to be appealing candidates in their respective fields. They offer tips on a wide range of topics from managing the job search process, writing resumes and preparing for internships to negotiating salaries and learning how to choose between job offers.

"I've had to do a few mock interviews at The Career Center since I've been at ECU, and I learned valuable information to take into real interviews after graduation. I feel much more confident going into that whole process now because I've had to practice being in those situations several times," said senior communications major Cameron Jukes. "It's definitely something I'd recommend for not only graduating students, but any student here on campus."

Another resource provided by The Career Center is the mock interview program. Students interested in scheduling these preparatory interviews should call The Career Center to set up an appointment with one of the career coaches.

Students who wish to explore the many tools provided by The Career Center can access its website at www.ecu.edu/cs-studentaffairs/career.

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

Calendar Events

Mar. 29- Apr. 2

Tuesday, March 29

"Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness"
9 p.m. at Hendrix Theatre.
This program will examine the various aspects of wellness in the movie "The Pursuit of Happiness". This is a passport event.

Wednesday, March 30

Softball vs. NCSU
4 and 6 p.m.

"The Complexity of the Veil"
4 p.m. in Bate 1032.
Dr. Charlotte Armster, professor of German and Women's Studies at Gettysburg College, will present this free, open lecture co-sponsored by the THCAS Women's Studies Program, German language program, Religious Studies Program.

Baseball vs. Elon
6 p.m.

"Killing Us Softly 3"
3 p.m. at Student Health Service Multipurpose Room.
This documentary examines advertising's depiction of women in great detail. This is a passport event.

SAB presents "Tangled"
9:30 p.m. at MSC Hendrix Theatre.
Free admission with OneCard.

Thursday, March 31

SAB presents "Tangled"
7 and 9:30 p.m. at MSC Hendrix Theatre.
Free admission with OneCard.

Mary Stuart (Opera Theatre)
7 p.m. at A.J. Fletcher Hall.
Admission charged.

"Not Your Average Southern Gentleman: Growing Up Trans in the South"
7 p.m. in Mendenhall Great Room 1 & 2.

This workshop will address issues for members of the transgender community—specific barriers to health care, risks and sources of pride—and how they differ with issues of the gay, lesbian and bisexual communities. Loren Lemmon will be speaking. This is a passport event.

FacuTea for Faculty
3:30 to 5 p.m. at Joyner Library conference room 2409.
Join us for tea, cookies and interdisciplinary scholarly exchange.

Friday, April 1

Uptown Greenville First Friday ArtWalk
6 to 9 p.m. in the Uptown district.
Come out and enjoy art exhibits, the Jolley Trolley and specials at your favorite restaurants and retailers. Free event. Visit www.uptowngreenville.com for more information.

ESA presents "Emily Minor Band"
8:30 p.m. at City Hotel and Bistro.
Admission is \$7 at the door for those 21 and up. All door proceeds benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital.

"Beauty and the Beast" (Play)
7 p.m. at Wright Auditorium

SAB presents "Tangled"
7 and 9:30 p.m. at MSC Hendrix Theatre.
Free admission with OneCard.

Mary Stuart (Opera Theatre)
7 p.m. at A.J. Fletcher Hall.
Admission charged.

Saturday, April 2

Soccer vs. Campbell
11 a.m. at NCC Recreation Fields

Women's Tennis vs. Gardner-Webb
11 a.m.

SAB presents "Walt Disney Marathon"
12:30 to 10 p.m.

Five movies will play in MSC Hendrix Theatre. Free admission with OneCard.

Club Lacrosse vs. WFU
2 p.m. at NCC Recreation Fields

Mary Stuart (Opera Theatre)
7 p.m. at A.J. Fletcher Hall.
Admission charged.

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LIBYA continued from A1

ally forbid military aircraft of the aggressive nation from operating in the region.

Presently, Gadhafi forces control the western region of the country along the coastal highway and rebel forces are holding strong to the eastern cities of the coastal highway.

The chaos in Libya began on Feb. 15 when hundreds of protestors gathered in Benghazi to show support for human rights groups and were attacked by pro-government security forces. As the days passed, the protests in Benghazi became more violent and the civil protests spread to Libya's capital, Tripoli. Within six days, the death toll from the bloody demonstrations was almost 1,000 casualties.

"If America does not help to stop Gadhafi, he is only going to keep killing innocent people and brainwashing his loyalists so they will keep defending him," said senior sociology major, Brittany Privott. "Who knows how powerful he can get if he isn't stopped and held accountable for the lives he as already taken."

Roughly a week after the treacherous events began in Libya and Gadhafi's negligence toward anti-government protestors' demands for him to step down from power, Gadhafi gave a speech blaming America for the problems in Libya and said that protestors and rebels must be executed.

Throughout the protests, the world oil prices extended to well over \$100 a barrel as a result of concerns from the violent events in Northern Africa, including Egypt and Libya and the pre-existing

uprising in Tunisia. Before demonstrations began and the halt of oil production occurred along Libya's coastal highway, Libya produced about 1.6 million barrels a day.

On March 17, the U.N. Security Council authorized the use of force in Libya, stating, "To take all necessary measures... to protect civilians and civilian areas under threat of attack." Two days later, the U.S. and British warships launched 112 Tomahawk cruise missiles in Libya, targeting Gadhafi's air forces and to clear a path for U.S. air patrols to ground in Libya. According to U.S. defense officials, Libya's air defenses suffered great damage from that attack alone.

"In any Arab county, the ruler lives in a house made up of gold. Life is such an insulting environment. The protestors want human rights," said Maksimous. "They are not protesting for a life of luxury. They just want to be treated normal."

According to the Huffington Post, China and Russia, who both withheld from the U.N. Security Council vote to authorize the Libya intervention, called for a cease-fire March 22, after international strikes hit Tripoli, destroying a military seaport in the capital.

"In the circumstances of protecting human rights, does the U.S. and the U.N. only step in when there is chaos? If the U.S. and U.N. cared about human rights, we should have stepped in 15 years ago."

This weekend the Gadhafi regime recognized the recent airstrikes had forced Gadhafi troops to retreat but set the blame of the withdrawal on the "choosing of

sides" by international forces.

"Gadhafi is in a tight corner," said Maksimous. "If he steps down, he has nowhere to go, nowhere to escape. He has taken things too far and became too violent." Maksimous said Gadhafi has two options: to kill all of the rebels to make an example of his power or to die in his seat, because there is nowhere for Gadhafi to take refuge.

Rebels are slowly making their way toward Tripoli and anti-government forces have gained control of two key oil complexes along the coast, including Ras Lanouf and Brega, and are pushing west toward Tripoli.

According to the Associated Press, if the rebels are successful in taking control of the remaining cities in eastern Libya, the rebels will refocus on Sirte, Gadhafi's hometown. Gadhafi has plenty of supporters and heavy weaponry in Sirte, making the city a high priority to overtake. Sunday, foreign journalists reported several explosions in Tripoli and Sirte; the air raid explosion locations were confirmed by Libya state television. The target for international air raids remains directed at Sirte until Gadhafi and his forces surrender.

"Make no mistake," said President Barack Obama Saturday on an Internet and radio address, "because we acted quickly, a humanitarian catastrophe has been avoided and the lives of countless civilians - innocent men, women and children - have been saved."

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

Pirate BikeShare Program



East Carolina University Parking and Transportation Services is happy to introduce "Pirate BikeShare". This program that will be rolling out on **April 1, 2011**, is being developed for Students to increase options for mobility around the East Carolina University campus without the use of an automobile.

With the Pirate BikeShare program, interested individuals will come to the Parking and Transportation Office at 305 East 10th Street and complete a form to enter the program. At that time the individual will pay a \$10 administration fee. They will receive a key that will unlock ANY of the locks to the Purple and Gold bikes attached to the 5 Pirate BikeShare bike racks. These 5 signed purple bike racks are located across the ECU Core and College Hill areas. These locations are:

- East of Todd Dining Hall (College Hill)
- North of Christenbury
- West of Austin
- West of Rawl
- North of Mendenhall Student Center

When a bike is needed, the individual will go to one of the racks, unlock a bike and ride it to their desired location and attach it to another of the Purple racks in the program. This will ensure that you and others in the program can continue to enjoy the program.

Information/ Questions regarding the program should be submitted to the TDM program (parking@ecu.edu). Also please make contact if bikes are noticed in locations other than the 5 program racks.

KELLY continued from A1

was held on Thursday in the Science and Technology Building.

University officials, friends and family of Kelly and even students who did not know Kelly personally attended the memorial. There was almost not enough seating in the room for the large crowd in attendance.

Douglas Schneider, a professor in the Department of Accounting, made the opening remarks.

"We will always remember with fondness a young lady from Canada who shined on our campus," said Schneider as the memorial began.

Virginia Hardy, vice provost of Student Affairs, offered condolences on behalf of the faculty and administration of the university.

Dan Schisler, the chair of the Department of Accounting, presented Kelly's degree and master's hood to her family. "It was really easy to like her," said Schisler. "She became the poster child for the university's accounting department."

Members of the Student Government Association and Orientation Assistants who worked with Kelly presented a poem, which they felt represented Kelly's qualities, and SGA president Tremayne Smith spoke.

"Genuine, tender, caring - she had the right words at the right time," said Smith. "We all have to come to together during this time."

During the service, it was announced that an Amanda L. Kelly,

Beta Alpha Psi scholarship will now be offered in Kelly's memory and speakers for Omicron Delta Kappa, an honor society Kelly was involved in, said they will be planting a tree in front on Mendenhall Student Center on April 21 in memory of Kelly.

Kelly would have graduated with her master's degree in May and would have begun her career as a CPA in Charlotte with the nation's fifth-largest accounting firm.

An obituary for Kelly has been placed on the Beta Alpha Psi national website.

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

Health Professions Expo



Wednesday, March 30
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Mendenhall Great Rooms
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The East Carolinian does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants. Questions regarding Rants can be directed to Katelyn Crouse, Editor in Chief, at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com. Log onto theeastcarolinian.com to submit a Rant of your own.

Why does my hangover decide to wait until 5 p.m. to show up? Go away, no one likes you.

Is it bad I'd rather have "the talk" with my parents than schedule a meeting with my adviser?

Thank you, Kentucky. Now I won't have to see the UNC rejects on campus wearing light blue.

The new Chili's is the demise of my Pirate Bucks.

I really wish you would stop pretending like we don't know what each other looks like naked.

Ever written a Pirate Rant about someone, got so excited it got published, only to see that person NOT reading the newspaper that day? It's like going to a class that doesn't take attendance: Worthless.

I'll stop writing hate rants when the girls around campus stop dressing like promiscuous hoe-bags.

So the world may be ending but at least I don't have to pay back my student loans.

That scary moment when your girlfriend has Taylor Swift lyrics as her status...

You think it's just a coincidence that there is a picture of someone praying on the cover of my anatomy lab manual? I think not!

To the girl in my English class: While wearing your tiara was definitely a change from your normal bandana, you won't be a princess until you stop dressing more manly than me!

If you get sexted by someone you don't like does that mean you just got molested?

I'm trying to study! I don't want to hear your instant messaging notification go off every 5 seconds. This is a library, idiot.

The longest minutes are always spent in front of the microwave.

I used to think that my tanning salon membership would make me bronze and sexy. Then I took a close look at the skin of the girls who work there. I'll be canceling next month.

When you talk like a baby and spread lies about me, you're letting everyone know just how pathetic you are.

Quit trying to cover it up with makeup. We all know that is herpes.

Let's leave the mirror pictures and web-cam photos to the middle school children. Thanks.

Dear ECU: I will pay whatever amount of tuition next year; just give me a Taco Bell on campus!

I think it's great that you're secure enough with your obesity to wear shorts. However, I still think it's really unattractive.

Seeing my ex-boyfriend at the pool was the highlight of my day. Isn't it fun when your ex keeps getting uglier and you keep getting hotter?

To all you jerks who tear down the GLBTSU posters: If I ever catch you in the act you better believe that I will have something to say to you.

Sticking your boobs out and arching your back so your butt sticks out in every picture does not make you look sexy. It makes you look deformed and socially awkward. Stand straight.

More Pirate Rants on the website!

Our View

All ideas and viewpoints expressed in "Our View" are those selected and discussed by the editorial board of The East Carolinian. Questions? Please call 252-737-2999 or e-mail opinion@theeastcarolinian.com

Accountability

As registration comes to a close, we have an idea of the upcoming semester. We have a class schedule and maybe a sense of what a professor will be like. Either from a friend's recommendation or a high rating on "Rate My Professor," we show up on the first day with an empty notebook and high expectations.

When the first day rolls around, we sometimes realize that our expectations don't match up with reality. A professor may be rated highly because they have a slack attendance policy for a boring lecture class or because they constantly cancel class. Many students are willing to put in effort, learn about future skills needed in the real world and want to have a mutual, respectful relationship with a professor.

Professors aren't held accountable for these actions at the current time. Using websites to give them a negative grade doesn't impact them at the university level at all. The Student Opinion of Instructor Survey (SOIS) is the only way to reach the higher-ups about a professor's performance and the current survey is limited.

The majority of the survey is based on a 10-point rating scale with additional comments at the bottom. Most students breeze through it for potential bonus points without putting much thought into the response. Unless the teacher is one you loathe or love, the results can be passive.

Luckily, the Faculty Senate is working on creating a new survey, one that focuses

on student-teacher relationships and accountability of the professors. Less vague questions will make students thoughtfully consider a response. Critiquing slack or disrespectful teachers will not only help students, but will help increase the quality of the education at ECU.

Along with shedding light on the bad teachers, those professors who go above and beyond will be given better reviews. We all have had a teacher who we look forward to seeing in class, who pushes students to learn and who makes class engaging. Associate professors will be able to showcase positive responses and can work toward tenure.

SOIS results aren't made public and are only used amongst the faculty. The only sources students can use are online. Half the reviews on Rate My Professor are intangible and hardly useful, while some websites like MyEDU and Koofers offer grade breakdowns for every professor. While this is helpful, some classes may only be taught by one professor who either doesn't grade fairly or slacks with teaching. The options are limited.

The committee, which surveyed students for insight on the new SOIS, is still gathering its findings. The report is not university endorsed yet, so the new survey may not be complete in the immediate future. We hope that the university chooses to positively change an outdated system.



ILLUSTRATED BY CRYSTAL NEVILLE

POLL RESULTS

Do you agree with Obama's decision to not back the ban on gay marriage?

Yes	57%
No	39%
Undecided	2%

Liberty or injustice for all



Morgan Logan
OPINION COLUMNIST

Some people believe the world is black and white, in reference to racial stereotypes and making assumptions based upon the actions of the other group. I try to not be one of those people. I believe that there is a logical, non-racist explanation for occurrences in our society. For example, take the actions at this past Saturday's Stroll Competition in Mendenhall.

The competition was set to begin at 7 p.m. Since I am overly compulsive about time, I was wondering why we had not been seated as the time was drawing nearer to 7:15 p.m. It was to my astonishment that not only were there four security guards outside of the door, they had also set up a walk-through metal detector.

As I handed my clutch to the security guard for him to properly examine, I mentioned to him how offended I was that I had to endure such a thorough search simply to view this competition. It was to no surprise that his reply was "I'm just following procedure, ma'am." There was a group of collegiate females standing in front of me complaining that they were just doing this "because we are black." I stood there and wondered if this was actually this case.

Don't get me wrong; I believe that there was nothing wrong at all with the presence of security. As a matter of fact, I would much rather prefer an influx of security than for something bizarre to occur and we don't have any means of protection. However, if we are going to implement this type of security, we should apply it at all events.

On March 21, the GLBTSU hosted a drag show; however, this time students were allowed to participate. The Federal Bureau of Investigations is required to compose an annual summary of hate crimes. In their 2003 report, they found that crimes based on sexual orientation were 17 percent, compared to 51 percent based upon race. Yes, that is a significant difference, yet that 17 percent encompasses 1,239 cases nationwide.

If crimes against homosexuals rank second in our country, why was there not a metal detector implemented for those wanting to go to the drag show? Is there not a threat posed to those performing or those students who wanted to volunteer?

Audra Thomas, the associate director of operations at Mendenhall Student Center, explained to me that because the event was held in the Great Rooms, they faced an issue with capacity. "If it were in Hendrix, there would not have been metal detectors because it had the capacity to hold more people."

Personally, I believe that the more people you have, the more likely you are to face a potential threat. There was an estimated 200 people in the Great Rooms, compared to the 743 people in attendance at the drag show.

Thomas went on to say, "The stroll competition was viewed more as a dance, or a program similar to it, so there had to be extra security." There were also teams and students from other schools, which played into the security factor. "Generally, more incidents occur when non-ECU students attend events such as dances, step shows."

I asked her why the need for the metal detector and she honestly did not have an answer. She did say that they do use metal detectors for events at Minges, which I, too, am aware of. The common denominator between Minges and the event in the Great Rooms is that students are standing. Is that to say that there is not a threat when a majority of the population in a room is seated?

I hate to be that person who thinks that they had a metal detector "because we are black." That's an ignorant thought in itself. After all, they did not have a metal detector at the Wiz Khalifa concert at Wright Auditorium back in November, and he is a black artist. I do feel that if there is any type of threat, especially on campus, other facilities need to impose security measures of equal discomfort for ALL events.

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

Scribbles to the Captain

The East Carolinian welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include the writer's name, address and daytime phone number and must be signed (except those sent by e-mail). Letters selected for publication may be edited and may be republished in any format. All letters submitted become the property of The East Carolinian. Questions? Please call 252-737-2999 or E-mail: opinion@theeastcarolinian.com

Dear Editor,

When I saw the name of the "Not everyone is cut out for academia" article in Thursday's paper, I immediately knew that it would somehow relate to me and my academic struggles. You see, I am one of those students who could be considered "not cut out for academia."

Getting to class on time every day is a struggle. Remembering my assignments? Nearly impossible. When I am working my hardest, my GPA is average, at best. I think there are many students in the same boat.

In the article, you gave the opinion that students should not be coddled or given second chances in order to "weed out" the ones who do not belong in a university setting. You mentioned that students who struggle with their coursework should not be given extra opportunities to succeed, and that trade or tech

schools are a better option in such situations.

I completely disagree, and I don't think that anyone has the right to tell me if I belong at a university or not.

ECU accepted me. Along with hundreds of other students who struggle with their academics. I pay my tuition just like anyone else. And I do my best to keep my head above the water, academically. This is my choice.

So why is anyone allowed to tell me that I shouldn't be here? If your goal in college is to learn everything possible, good luck. I hope you accomplish it. My goal in college is to make it through.

I don't judge anyone for their goals, so why is The East Carolinian printing entire articles condemning me for mine?

-Suzanne Louise Miller

Are you looney for Looney Tunes? For info about cartoonist positions at TEC: managingeditor@theeastcarolinian.com

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The *Did You Know's* came from the book "The Book Of Useless Information" by Noel Botham & The Useless Information Society.

Did you know?

One out of four people do not know what their astrological sign is.

50 percent of teenage boys say they would rather be rich than smart.

57 percent of British schoolkids think Germany is the most boring country in Europe.

69 percent of men say they would rather break up with a girl in private than in public.

7 percent of Americans think Elvis is alive.

9 percent of Americans report having been in the presence of a ghost.

Only 55 percent of Americans know that the sun is a star.

More than 50 percent of Americans believe in the devil.

Percentage of men who say they are happier after their divorce or separation: 58 percent.

Percentage of women who say they are happier after their divorce or separation: 85 percent.

82 percent of the world's population believes in an afterlife.

About 5 percent of Americans claim to have talked to the devil personally.

Assuming Rudolph was in front, there are 40,320 ways to rearrange the other eight reindeer.

About 200 babies are born worldwide every minute.

August is the month when most babies are born.

12 babies will be given to the wrong parents each day.

The world record for most children to one mother is 69 children.

You share a birthday with at least 9 million other people in the world.

There are about 15,000 people in the United States over the age of 100.

Statistically, the safest age of life is 10 years old.

Summer is statistically the most hazardous season.

You are more likely to get attacked by a cow than a shark.

The percentage of men who wash their hands after using a toilet is 55 percent.

The percentage of women who wash their hands after using a toilet is 80 percent.

In the next seven days, 800 Americans will be injured by their jewelry.

Men are 1.6 times more likely to undergo bypass surgery than women.

22,000 checks will be deducted from the wrong bank accounts in the next hour.

An estimated 880,000 credit cards in circulation will turn out to have incorrect cardholder information on their magnetic strips.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Amanda "Mandy" Kelly was very involved on campus and in the community.

Katey Warren
STAFF WRITER

On March 25, family, friends, staff and colleagues gathered to celebrate the life of student Amanda "Mandy" Kelly, who tragically passed away at the scene of a car accident on March 21.

"She will always be with us in the very place she touched us most: our hearts," said Tremayne Smith, president of Student Government Association and close friend of Kelly. "We've all got to come together now, to remind one another of the good times, the fun times and the 'crazy Mandy' that we all knew and all loved and will never forget."

Those involved in Kelly's life viewed her as a determined, intelligent and loveable overachiever, many often in disbelief of just how she balanced both the strong social and professional aspects of her life.

"To say Mandy was a hard worker would be quite an understatement," said friend Ross Browning. "She spent time double checking everything and had to get that A, even when a B would be enough ... She was the only reason I ever showed up in the right place."

After Kelly moved to Greenville from her hometown of Ontario, Canada, to pursue a master's degree in accounting, she immersed herself in several extracurricular activities that allowed her to excel as a leader on campus. Kelly was president of Beta Alpha Psi National Business Organization and vice president of Omicron

Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society. She was also an active member of both the Golden Key National Honors Society and the Beta Gamma Sigma International Honors Society. Kelly also taught a class to incoming freshmen as a graduate assistant for the Office of Student Affairs.

"Everything we want and expect in our students, Mandy exemplified on a daily basis. We hope that our students and our faculty and staff will try to model and consider our lives as Mandy did," said Vice Provost of Student Affairs Virginia Hardy.

Not only did Mandy touch the lives of the faculty and colleagues she worked with, but she also made an immeasurable impact on the lives of her closest friends and her family. They will continue to remember her kind and motivational advice, her nonjudgmental attitude, her corny and sometimes inappropriate jokes and her countless text messages.

"We all know Mandy is a texter," said Kelly's neighbor and friend Brittany Harrell. "The morning before any exam, test or quiz, 99 percent of the time I would wake up to a 'good luck, boo' message for extra support ... she always found a way to let her friends know she cared and she always brought a smile to our faces."

Ashley Nobles and Farah Hussain, who were also close friends of Kelly's, agreed with Harrell. "She lived each day to the fullest. She never held back and showed me how to let loose and not worry about what other people were thinking," said Nobles.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Celebrating the life of Mandy Kelly

Hussain, who roomed with Kelly, is appreciative of the time she and Kelly spent together and the memories they created. Whether they were sitting on the couch talking about school, work and boys, or watching "Jersey Shore" together, the girls developed a relationship that Hussain believes changed her life. "She truly became my best friend and sister. She changed me in more ways than one, and I'm eternally grateful for that."

During the memorial service, Dan Schisler, chair of the Department of Accounting, presented Kelly's family with her master's degree in accounting. In addition to this announcement, one of Kelly's professors, Douglas Schneider, revealed that an annual Beta Alpha Psi scholarship would be renamed in her honor. Members of the Golden Key organization will also plant a tree in Kelly's honor in front of Mendenhall.

Kelly's friends, family, colleagues, professors and others involved in her life will always remember the cheerful laugh and uplifting spirit of a girl Harrell describes as "one of the most beautiful, intelligent, sarcastic, strong and loveable people I've ever known."

And for Smith, who enjoyed the way Ontario-native Kelly said 'eh' after speaking, their parting is only temporary. "I'm not gonna say goodbye, just 'see you later, eh?'" he said.

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

Sculptures on show around Greenville

Student sculptors contribute artistic inspiration to campus and city

Marlana Sifter
STAFF WRITER

"Retrospection, Introspection," in conjunction with the Down East Sculpture Exhibition, is displaying the four larger-than-life winners of its annual visual arts competition. Matt Harding, a graduate student of the Master of Fine Arts program and former owner of a San Francisco welding business, won first place with his dazzling tower of dodecagons entitled "Color Totem." The piece is displayed in the most prominent area, downtown in front of Chico's. Runners-up are on display between Mendenhall Student Center and Joyner Library, featuring two works by MFA student Kevin Vanek and one by ECU professor of sculpture Carl Billingsley.

For the past 10 years, the Down East has displayed candidate artwork indoors at Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge downtown, one of three sponsors for the exhibition, the other two being the Student Activities Board and the City of Greenville. As submissions became larger, however, the need for space drove Down East to arrange a spot on Reade Circle and eventually to set up on campus itself.

"The SAB Visual Arts Committee contracted Facilities to pour three new concrete pads

between Joyner and Mendenhall," said Andy Denton, SAB Visual Arts Committee chair. Before the concrete locations, Down East artwork had been displayed outside of Jenkins Fine Arts Center.

Vanek's blue-collar themed sculptures, a massive hammer called "A Carpenter's Dream," and teetering bulldozer arm "One Big Scoop," serve as monuments to the working class. The hammer is constructed of steel and aluminum, and the bulldozer is purely steel.

"The body of work I'm on currently is about modern laborers in modern America," said Vanek. He added that he seeks to illustrate through his work the problems and realities experienced in the labor field. Vanek's sculptures took two months to make, an average time for pieces of their size.

Forming the third point of an imaginary triangle with Vanek's sculptures, Billingsley's "Kingsport Prism" stands erect, bright red and yellow. Its angular structure presents formalist planar expression amidst primary colors.

Harding's "Color Totem," on the other hand, is a column of mostly soft colors. He spray painted at first, taping off sections at a time and using about 54 colors throughout the process. While mixing primary colors, trying to get clashing hues, he finally ended with pastels, colors he described as those "you would find in your grandmother's bathroom."

The totem is less than 500 pounds, hollow, and steadied

with a cable support structure and stand. Harding said his finished product is a combination of many sculptures he's been working on, incorporating artistic aspects of Native American, Asian and European cultures. Though he based his shape off historic artwork, his pale color scheme and spray painted alien messages on the back give it futuristic implications as well.

"It could be an artifact from an extinct culture or it could be an alien craft just about to lift off," said Harding.

The sculpture will be for sale after its one-year residence downtown. While it will be nice to get a good price, Harding would ideally like to keep his totem and place it out "in the middle of nowhere," in the center of a field or deep in the woods where someone could randomly stumble upon it.

As a juried show, Down East was judged by Shawn Morin, an artist in residence and professor of sculpture at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. His work in stone carving is showcased on the second floor of Mendenhall.

The increased placements of artwork around the city give beauty to the environment while improving the artistic opportunities "in our thriving art community," Denton said. "This helps get more of the high-caliber artists to Greenville."

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



New sculptures are on display in the Mendenhall courtyard.

Students put history on display



CASEY BOONE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Students prepare for the National History Day competition.

Middle and high school students compete in ECU's National History Day fair.

Rebecca Blanchette
ASSISTANT LIFESTYLES EDITOR

On Wednesday, ECU will host its annual Natural History Day fair for middle and high school students throughout northeastern North Carolina.

"It's where the science fair meets history," said Chad Ross, the northeast regional director and professor of history. Ross explained that somewhere between 200 and 250 students have been working on history research projects for the fair.

Each year, there is a theme that students must explore; this year it is Diplomacy and Debate in History. "They can pick up any debate in world history," said Ross. "From the Punic Wars to Title IX and everything in between."

There are different types of categories that students can focus their work toward. These include websites, history papers or essays, performances, documentaries and exhibits. Ross explained that one year, two girls performed a dance interpretation of Harriet Tubman's Underground Railroad. "The students always surprise me with the work they come up with," said Ross. "They're very creative." Ross also added that all of the work is produced from primary research.

Eleven schools will be participating from the northeastern region, which stretches from Interstate 95 up to the Virginia

border and down the coast to about Carteret County, including public, private and home schools. Some of the schools have held school-wide history days where students could present their work before coming to the National History Day fair at ECU. However, this is not at all required. Anyone who works on a project has been welcome to enter the fair.

There are two divisions: the junior division, which is made up of sixth through eighth graders, and the senior division, which is made up of ninth through 12th graders. There are between six and eight regions in North Carolina that are holding National History Day fairs for middle and high school students. The top three to five (depending on the category) winners from each region will go on to compete at the state level at the end of April in Raleigh. Winners of the state contest will then go on to compete at the national level at the University of Maryland. "We've had some people go to that," said Ross of northeastern region contestants going on to the national level.

All entries will receive written comments from the judges in order to give students suggestions for revision. Judges are made up of history department faculty, other faculty members on campus and graduate students. "It's one of the most rewarding experiences the faculty in the history department can have," said John Tucker, judge and professor of history.

"This is a defining moment in (the students') development," Ross added, "A lot of people are skeptical the first time they judge, then they come up to me and say, 'That was so much fun!'"

The fair will take place in Mendenhall tomorrow, where students as well as parents and teachers will gather to see all of the works displayed. The performances for the performance category will also take place tomorrow. Ross thinks that ECU, where the event has always taken place, is a great location for the fair. "It's centrally located," he said. "We want to show students' education is a really good thing. We like to open the world to students, and East Carolina can actually do that." The fair will begin at 9:30 a.m. with an opening speech from the dean and Ross, judging will take place from 12 to 2 p.m. and the award ceremony will begin at about 2 or 2:15 p.m. "It's open to the public," said Ross. "We encourage everyone to come."

Ross explained that years ago, the National History Day organization conducted a survey to see the effects the fairs had on middle and high school students. "It makes students better students in everything you want to measure," said Ross of the results. "They're better readers and writers, they know how to do research." He also explained that he has had students who participated in the fair attend ECU years later and excel in his classes.

"It's an opportunity for us to take somebody who has this fire under him or her for history and give them this outlet for it," said Ross. "There aren't too many opportunities for them."

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

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EDITOR

Buccaneer
Yearbook

(Applicants must be enrolled as a full-time student and have a 2.25 GPA)

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will be held April 7–8 in the SGA office

ELECTIONS

will be held April 14–15

Available positions include:

Executive Officers:

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Legislative Officers:

Senators

Class Officers (1 per class)

College of Allied Health Science (1 position)

College of Business (3 positions)

College of Arts and Sciences (3 positions)

College of Education (3 positions)

College of Fine Arts and Communication (3 positions)

College of Health and Human Performance (2 positions)

College of Human Ecology (2 positions)

College of Nursing (1 position)

College of Technology and Computer Science (2 positions)

Honors College (1 position)

General College (6 positions)

Any student interested in running for the above positions must file for candidacy on April 7-8 in the SGA Office (101 Mendenhall) between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm. For more information about elections and positions, please go to www.ecu.edu/sga, or contact Brittney Williamson, Elections Chair, at electionschair@ecu.edu



TOP 5 SPORTS MOVIES

OPINION



Jordan Anders
STAFF WRITER

Sports movies are a funny sort. You can never know exactly what you're going to get.

You have the family sports movies, such as "The Game Plan" or any of the seemingly endless "Air Bud" series. You have the funny ones, such as the Adam Sandler trio of "Happy Gilmore," "The Waterboy" and "The Longest Yard." Then you get the inspirational ones, such as "We Are Marshall," "Radio" or "Glory Road."

You have the ones that are so bad that you just have to love them, like "BASEketball" or "Juwanna Mann." Occasionally you'll get the ones that are so bad that they're just bad (anyone remember "Crossover" or "The Comebacks")?

But occasionally you'll get one that entertains you, inspires you and shows that sports can provide a backdrop for some of the best stories life can provide. So here are my top five, in no particular order:

Hoosiers (1986)

"Hoosiers" is loosely based on the story of the 1954 Milan High School team from Milan, Ind. It stars Gene Hackman as Norman Dale, a hot-tempered basketball coach who takes over tiny Hickory High School in basketball-crazed Indiana. Dale overcomes a shorthanded squad and the shunning of the community to lead Hickory to the Indiana state championship. "Hoosiers" also featured Dennis Hopper, who was nominated for an Oscar for his portrayal of Wilbur "Shooter" Flatch, the town drunk who is named to Dale's coaching staff. Director David Anspaugh's telling of this underdog story is routinely mentioned as one of the best sports films ever made.

Rudy (1993)

Anspaugh's second foray into sports films would go on to become just about as fabled as the first. "Rudy" is yet another underdog story of a kid who wants nothing more than to be a part of the Notre Dame football team. Also based on a true story, "Rudy" features Sean Astin as Daniel Ruettinger, a walk-on who spends his career as a virtual tackling dummy for the varsity squad, before finally earning a chance to play in his last game. The scene where Rudy gets his only career sack and is carried off the field by his teammates to the chants of "Rudy! Rudy!" is legendary.

Remember the Titans (2000)

One word: Denzel. As Herman Boone, Denzel Washington gives an outstanding performance as a black head football coach in a newly desegregated high school. Boone has to balance coaching his team of white and black athletes with teaching them the importance of racial tolerance in the early 1970s. This film presents an obstacle of a different sort, and the way that the Titans prevail on the field and over the racial unrest of the time period makes it a fantastic sports film.

Raging Bull (1980)

De Niro. Scorsese. A collaboration of two of the most famous names in cinema history, "Raging Bull" has been called one of the best films ever. Period. Therefore, it had to be on this list. Robert De Niro won an Oscar for his portrayal of boxer Jake LaMotta, a tortured soul whose battles with his own demons trump his triumphs in the boxing ring. His tale of destruction and subsequent redemption is captured perfectly by Martin Scorsese and has earned a spot as a true classic.

Rocky (1976)

This one was tricky. The "Rocky" franchise is one of the most recognizable in cinema. While most say "Rocky II" is the best of the six films, I have to go back to where it all began. The Oscar-winner for Best Picture in 1976, "Rocky" is the first chapter of the most well known underdog stories in movies. Sylvester Stallone's Oscar-nominated turn as Rocky Balboa brings a hard-nosed, refuse-to-lose attitude, while still maintaining a very vulnerable human quality. The film was a sleeper hit and spawned five sequels.

That's my five. While I'm sure we can all agree that sports movies are a unique and entertaining breed, I'm also sure most of you have your agreements and your differences.

So here's your chance, Pirate Nation, to tell TEC what your favorite sports movies are. Log on to Facebook and like "The East Carolinian," if you haven't already. There, leave a post on our wall telling us what you think is the No. 1 sports movie of all time. Then check next Tuesday's sports section and find out what the top three most popular answers were. Let the debating begin...

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

'WRIGHT' MAN FOR THE JOB

WALK-OFF HOMER BY WRIGHT WINS

RUBBER MATCH OVER MEMPHIS

Lorianna Whitford
STAFF WRITER

The ECU baseball team completed its first Conference USA battle with success. After a quick schedule change, the Pirates won their first conference series against the Memphis Tigers.

These wins brought their current record of the season to 18-5 and got their C-USA record off to a nice 2-1 start. ECU took the Friday contest 3-2, they lost the first half of the Saturday double header 3-2 and won the rubber match 5-3.

The first game of Saturday's double-header brought a tough loss for the Pirates in a close battle that ended 3-2. Senior pitcher Brad Mincey continued his impressive scoreless streak to 22 innings before allowing a run in the seventh.

The second game of the double header was nothing short of a cinema-worthy drama. The Pirates trailed 3-2 heading into the bottom of the ninth and were down to their last out before rallying to win the game. Pinch runner Joshua Lovik sprinted home from second base to tie the game on John Wooten's RBI single to left field. Carrying high anticipation, catcher Zach Wright knocked in a two-run home run, breaking the 3-3 tie and securing a 5-3 walk-off series win. Wright currently leads the team this season with 18 RBIs.

"I hit a fastball but it really doesn't matter if I got enough of it or not," Wright said. "I'm just glad that we could really step up and come out in the ninth inning and win that ball game."

On the mound, junior Kevin Brandt threw seven innings recording his second quality start of the season, allowing three runs three walks and two strikeouts.

"It was not my best stuff out there today. I didn't really feel it today but I tried to get outs," Brandt said. The Pirates have had a tendency of winning late in games this season, when asked how he felt about this habit Brandt had a positive view on it.

"We're going to go far in the tournament and it's going to come down to one of these innings so its good to see guys come through and do this kind of thing. It's only going to help us."

After Brandt retired to the dugout, Mincey made his second appearance of the day recording a pair of outs before Jake Harris closed the eighth. Senior closer Seth Simmons tossed the ninth inning holding Memphis'



Junior catcher Zach Wright is greeted by a mob of his teammates at home plate, during his first ever walk off home run against Memphis on Saturday. Wright's two-run blast gave ECU the game and the series.

DAN WILLETT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

BASEBALL page A9

PIRATES STORM PAST THE GOLDEN HURRICANE

Stephen McNulty
STAFF WRITER

On a cold and dreary Sunday afternoon, the ECU Pirates (25-10, 5-4 C-USA) lit up the scoreboard in a 10-1 win over the Tulsa Golden Hurricane (24-9, 7-2 C-USA).

With temperatures in the 30s and a reoccurring drizzle, the chance of a third game was in jeopardy. Neither coach seemed too excited to play the game, but Pirates' head coach Tracey Kee would soon be glad they did.

"With the temperatures and the elements, both of us were a little hesitant," Kee said. "But we also knew the rain was going to hold and the field was in perfect shape. It was just a matter of who was going to suck up the elements and get it done."

ECU had little trouble adjusting to the cold weather, darting out to a 4-0 lead in the first inning. After Lacy Middlebrooks continued to struggle for Tulsa, the Hurricane brought in Jordan Kinard with the hopes she could shut down the Pirate bats again. But this time she couldn't.

"I think we kind of figured

her out," Clark said. "We saw her for so many innings and learned to stay off her rise ball."

The Pirates stayed hot in the second despite the dropping temperatures. Suzanne Riggs started the inning with a double to left and eventually scored on a Jimenez single. Clark followed with her first home run of the season to give ECU an early 7-0 lead.

"I've been in a pretty good slump," Clark said, "so I just thought put the bat on the ball, drive in these runs and have some fun."

With seven quick runs on the board, things looked good for ECU with the ball in their ace's hands. Paisley struck out 25 batters in her 15 innings of work against the conference's best offense over the weekend. The victory put Paisley at 19-5 on the season and lowered her era to 1.16 as she continues to fill the record books.

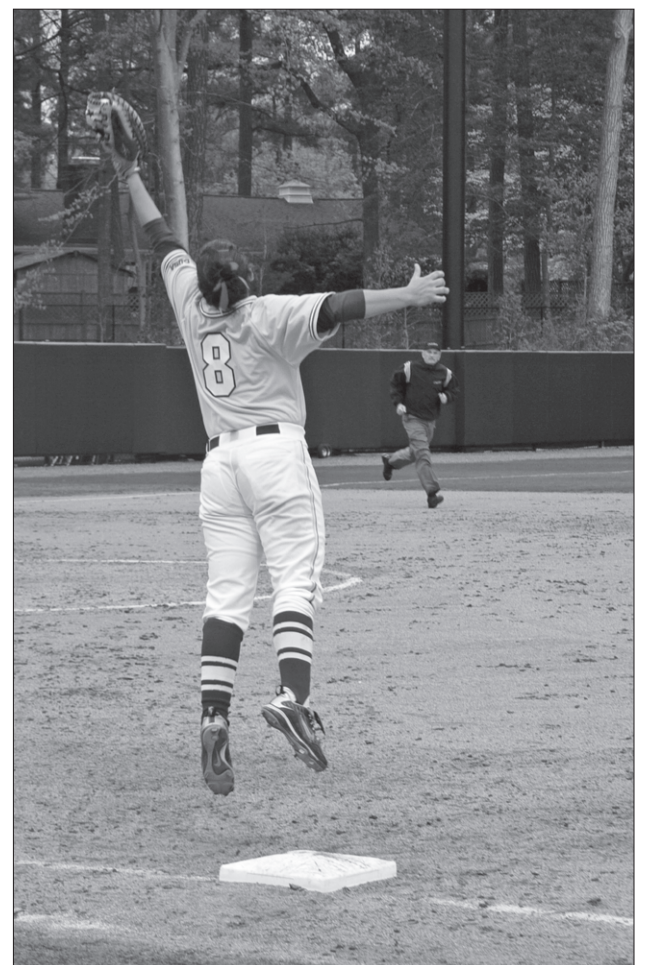
"Today was one of those days where the weather really has a chance to bring you down," Paisley said. "But our girls did really good at just saying, 'We're here, we have to play' and we just figured out how to have fun

with it." Tulsa managed a run in the top of the fourth before the Pirates gave the fans in attendance that braved the conditions a little present. ECU scored on two passed balls and another RBI from Clark to stretch the lead to 10-1. Paisley retired the side in the fifth to finish the game on the mercy rule.

When asked if she expected a 10-1 win, coach Kee had a simple answer, "No, I don't think anyone did."

The weekend began with a 10-inning marathon game that ended in a walk-off walk by sophomore Kai Clark. Toni Paisley came out with her usual stuff, striking out a career-high 16 batters in 10 innings of work without giving up a single run. Tulsa had an ace of its own in the circle as Kinard held the Pirates to nine scoreless innings.

Tulsa right-hander Middlebrooks entered the game in the 10th inning only to walk the bases loaded. Despite falling down 1-2 in the count, Clark had the patience and the eye to draw the walk and score Riggs. The loss to the Pirates was Tulsa's first conference defeat of the season.



Infielder Sissy Jimenez makes a leaping catch to get an out at first base against Tulsa on Saturday.

DAN WILLETT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

In the second game of Saturday's doubleheader, both teams started things off on a much different pace than in the previous game. The Golden Hurricane jumped on Pirate junior Faith Sutton early in the first, scoring four runs on three hits. Two errors in the opening inning

SOFTBALL page A9

OPINION



Chase Kroll
STAFF WRITER

The knock on this year's college basketball regular season was that, for the most part, it was average. Heading into the tournament, it was believed that the teams that were supposed to win were the teams that would win (with some exceptions of course). So when it was time to fill out NCAA tournament brackets, even President Obama picked all No. 1 seeds for his Final Four. But now that "March Madness" has swept across the nation, throw all the boringness and lack of interest out the window. This year's tournament has been simply magical, and with only four teams remaining to duke it out for the national title, the tournament has given a burst of energy to a season in need of a spark.

There are only three games remaining in the 2011 college basketball season, and the question on everyone's mind is: Who's coming out on top and taking home the national title? This is the first time neither

FINAL FOUR FORECAST



VCU's Ed Nixon celebrates on the court, following the Rams' upset over No. 1 seed Kansas on Sunday.

MCT

BASKETBALL page A9

BASEBALL continued from A8

score in place, giving the Pirates the win.

"There are a lot of ways you can win and that was certainly as dramatic as you can get," Godwin said about the series-clinching win. "It was huge. In the end, it's about winning series. In our league you want to get off to a good start."

Godwin concluded with great pride for his team, "All we can do is keep loving 'em, keep them on the grind and keep reinforcing the little things and then be glad that we walked out of here with a win. I think we're very fortunate to win."

To kick off the conference season, senior Seth Maness led the team on the mound Friday night by pitching a full nine-inning game for the third time in his past four outings. This time, he snagged his second complete game victory of the year.

"It was good to get off to a successful start in conference

and to set the tone for the series," Maness said. "I've been staying in better shape, which has helped me with endurance, and the support from our defense definitely doesn't hurt."

The Pirates won the Friday game with an early start in the bottom of the first inning on an RBI double batted in by junior Corey Thompson and an RBI sac fly by Wright. Senior Trent Whitehead broke a 2-2 tie in the fifth inning with a ground out RBI that secured the winning score for the Pirates (3-2) and prepared them to face a double header the next day.

The ECU Pirates will get back to the diamond Tuesday against the UNCW Seahawks at 6 p.m. in Wilmington.

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

SOFTBALL

continued from A8

added to an ugly first frame.

Facing the early deficit, the Pirates answered with three runs of their own in the first inning. Kristi Oshiro, Riggs and Jordan Lewis opened the game on consecutive walks before singles by Sissy Jimenez and Clark cut the deficit to 4-2. Jill Jelnick drew a two-out walk to score Lewis before the inning ended with the score 4-3 in favor of Tulsa.

After the early bursts from both teams, things cooled off. The Pirates couldn't manage to muster up any more runs and Tulsa added an insurance run in the fifth to secure the 5-3 win.

Next up for the Pirates is a Wednesday double-header at home against in-state rival N.C. State. The first pitch is slated for 4 p.m.

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

BASKETBALL continued from A8

a No. 1 or 2 seed has made the Final Four since 1979 and the first Final Four matchup that puts 11th-seeded VCU against eighth-seeded Butler.

At one point in this year's college basketball season, Butler was 6-5 in the Horizon League (yes, it is an actual conference) and lost to teams such as Milwaukee, Wright State and Valparaiso. During selection Sunday, VCU's players didn't even bother watching the show. With that being said, after their game on April 2, one of the two teams will be playing for the NCAA title.

Butler is riding a 13-game win streak and has made a name for itself as a team that always keeps games close, as well as a team that comes alive in the final minutes of a game. Bracket-breaking VCU has been the surprise of the tournament, reminiscent of the George Mason basketball team that also made a very surprising run to reach the Final Four in 2006. They have advanced so far due to their defensive play, allowing just over 60 points per game in their five appearances in this year's tournament.

When these two teams square

off, it will be one of the first times in the tournament that Butler is considered the favorite to win. VCU and charismatic Head Coach Shaka Smart are very comfortable and consistent in the underdog role, and I'm very interested to see how Butler performs when they are expected to win. I think the game could go either way, and if the game is close in the final minutes, don't be surprised if Butler pulls out another close victory. But I'm going with my gut instinct on this one and saying VCU once again takes control of the court, plays strong defense and punches their ticket to the championship game. **VCU wins 65-61.**

In Saturday's evening matchup, the University of Connecticut will take on the Kentucky Wildcats in a more traditional, powerhouse matchup. Connecticut and star player Kemba Walker stormed onto the scene early this season by winning the Maui Invitational, but then had a fairly average regular season, finishing as a .500 team in the Big East. Kentucky, under second-year coach John Calipari, has advanced to their first Final Four since

1998. After struggling to win road games throughout the regular season, the Wildcats kicked it into high gear and are currently on a 10-game win streak.

These two storied programs are sure to play a very fast-paced, highly competitive game, with the winner of this game favored to win the NCAA title as well. Kentucky has such a well-rounded team, but I think their defense is going to have their hands full with Walker and freshman Jeremy Lamb. I like UCONN 73-69.

On college basketball's biggest stage in Houston, Texas, the Connecticut Huskies will show down against the Virginia Commonwealth Rams. VCU has silenced all of the critics and went from a play-in game to a chance to take home the trophy. It's strength against strength as Connecticut's high-powered offense clashes with the Rams' resilient defense. This game is VCU's to win, but I think Connecticut will keep its composure, limit the turnovers and keep VCU from their storybook ending. **UCONN wins 68-58.**

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



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