



BRIEFS

Police make arrest in Farmville triple homicide

Staff Reports

Pitt County Sheriff's deputies announced Wednesday that arrests had been made in the case of a triple homicide that took place at a convenience store in Farmville on Sunday.

Antwan Andre Anthony, 29, Xavier Montel Shamble, 19, and a juvenile are all in custody.

According to WCTI, Anthony was on probation in Connecticut after an assault charge in 2002.

Shamble was released from jail less than a month ago after being convicted of carrying a concealed weapon.

The three are being held responsible for three murders that happened around 10 p.m. at the Hustle Mart in Farmville.

Mokbel Mohamed Almuhanahi, 16, Nabil Nasser Saeed Al'Mogannahi, 26, and Gaber Alawi, 24, were all killed in the shooting.

Organization to hold book drive for children

Staff Reports

Pathways to Life will be holding a book drive from April 9 to May 4 to benefit underprivileged children.

There are several book collection locations, but the main drop-off site will be at the organization's headquarters at 1202 E. Firetower Rd. in Greenville.

The group is a local organization dedicated to helping families and/or individuals who are struggling with a variety of issues including anger, abuse and teen pregnancy, among other things, states its website.

Many consumers of the organization are children whose families do not have the means to provide appropriate books for their children.

For more information, contact Aryn Baker at ABaker@pwstolife.com.

Sociology graduate students host forum

Staff Reports

Graduate students in the Sociology of Immigration 6010 class will be hosting a free, open forum on immigration policy next week.

The forum, entitled, "Perspectives on Policy," will be held from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday in room 1100 of the Allied Health Sciences Building.

For more information, contact the Department of Sociology at (252)-328-6883.

Two people shot near Greek housing downtown

Staff Reports

According to Greenville police, 20-year-old Darrius Staton of Greenville and 21-year-old Keyvin Dixon of Bethel were both shot Tuesday night in front of 1016 Ward Street.

Staton was shot in the head and Dixon in the stomach. Staton's wounds were described as non-life threatening, but Staton required immediate surgery at Vidant Medical center, reported WITN.

Witnesses told police that the driver of a blue car got out of the vehicle in front of 1016 Ward St. and spoke briefly to Dixon and Staton before firing five to six bullets.

The suspect has been described as a black male in his

> BRIEFS page A3

ECU parking surveys students



Students and faculty were randomly emailed surveys about safety when it comes to biking, walking and running around campus and surrounding areas.

Staff Reports

The Department of Parking and Transportation is turning to the campus community for suggestions regarding safety for bikers on campus, walkers and runners. A survey was sent out through e-mail to a random selection of students, faculty and staff for their input.

"We are looking to see what we can do to increase the number of persons who chose these forms of transportation," said Deb Garfi, the director of parking services. "We are now more than just providing parking permits and spaces;

we want to assist and promote these healthy commuting options."

Garfi said they are looking to make bicycles an attractive and safe form of transportation on campus.

"We want to make it easy to commute by bicycle, and along with that, provide the means to make that happen," Garfi said. "Parking and Transportation is implementing Transportation Demand Management offerings to reduce the carbon footprint made by automotive traffic and to become a more environmentally conscious campus."

Garfi said that they are looking to form a focus group to assist Parking and Transportation Services in accessing the needs to make changes.

"We are developing five- and 10-year plans to implement recommendations from the Master Plan report," Garfi said.

For those who did not receive a survey but would like to fill one out, email Deb Garfi at garfid@ecu.edu to be added to the list.

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

Student debt may affect marriage



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | NICK FAULKNER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

More students are putting off marriage until after college because of increased amounts of loan debt.

Cameron Gupton ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Recently, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau reported that student loan debt has surpassed \$1 trillion, which has left most 2010 graduates with an average of \$25,000 in loans to pay off.

Shortly after that report was released, another was formed by IHS Global Insight, which suggested that marriage plans are being delayed because of debt, though it did not explicitly state it was directly related to student debt.

According to the IHS report, the top 1 percent of borrowers owe \$150,000 and the average age of first marriages has risen by nearly a year.

The debts amassed by post-graduate students can be much higher than indebted undergraduate students.

Currently, the average debt per undergraduate student is \$12,800, while students younger than 30 make up 40 percent of all student loan borrowers.

Sophomore construction management major Matt Ruffin and freshman sociology major Kali

Stallings both said that as a couple they would probably put off starting a family with their debts continuing to add up.

"I would say we could possibly get married with student debt but we would wait to pay them off before we have kids," said Ruffin. "That (debt) is going to be a big financial issue."

In 2007, the average age of first marriage was 27.5 for men and 25.6

> DEBT page A3

University holds safety meetings

Jamie Harper STAFF WRITER

The sixth annual North Carolina Higher Education Safety Symposium was held on the university's campus last Wednesday.

The Safety Symposium was a day-long event presented by the East Carolina Heart Institute and was sponsored by the Independent Insurance Agents of North Carolina, SIGMA Threat Management Associates, QVerity, and the UNC System Association of Student Governments.

Some of the topics presented at the symposium this year included the national standard of care for threat management, what every campus must be educated on regarding Title IX, responding to any emergency situations and campus emergency notifications, hate speech on campus, a staff member becoming a victim of crime, and lessons learned from the Penn State controversy.

"The whole symposium is really about creating a safe campus environment. A lot of discussion involved about how to handle crisis and how to prepare the campus to be a safe campus," said Maggie Olszewska, the director of student affairs. Olszewska attended the symposium as well as presented information involving hate crimes on campus.

Title IX, the Education Amendments of 1972, include section regarding sex, federal administrative enforcement, judicial review, blindness or visual impairment, authority under other laws unaffected, interpretation with respect to living facilities, interpretation of program or activity, and neutrality

> SAFETY page A4

Living alone may cause depression

Maddie Laing STAFF WRITER

A recent study published in BMC Public Health journal has found that young adults living alone have a greater risk of becoming depressed. Researchers studied 3,500 men and women for seven

years and concluded that people who live alone have an 80 percent risk of developing depression.

As defined by the ECU Counseling Center, depression is a period of time in which someone experiences low emotions and feelings of sadness. Depression can be a single episode, although cer-

tain triggers can randomly cause depression.

"A symptom of depression is isolation, and living alone would make this easier," said Lauren Thorn, staff counselor and out-

> DEPRESSION page A2

INSIDE

OPINION

I wish I could be responsible for choosing the Pirate Rants. Just for one day. **A5**

LIFESTYLES

TEC talks with singer Andy Grammer before his visit to campus. Turn to Lifestyles to read the Q & A! **A7**

SPORTS

Turn to Sports for a preview of baseball's match-up with Houston. **A11**

WEATHER

65°F/ 49°F

Scattered Showers



GRAPHICS FROM ENTROPIA.COM

ONLINE



Check out our fan page on facebook and twitter.com/ecunews.

BRIEFS CONT.

late teens or early 20s with short dreadlocks. He was last seen wearing a white T-shirt.

Ward St. is in the vicinity of both the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority house and Phi Kappa Tau fraternity house.

Anyone with information about this case should call Det. Jeff Baxter of the Major Crimes Unit at 252-329-4389, or CrimeStoppers at 252-758-7777.

Alumni Association announces scholarships

Staff Reports

The East Carolina Alumni Association has selected 23 undergraduate and one graduate student to receive scholarships of \$2,500 or \$1,000 each.

Recipients are selected based on academic performance, service to the university community, and recommendations.

The 24 recipients make up 12 Alumni Scholars, six ECTC Legacy Scholars, one Mary Jo Outland Baugh '55 Scholar, one Megan Grace Lavender Memorial Scholar, one New York Metro Alumni Chapter Scholar, one Tidewater Virginia Alumni Chapter Scholar, and two 2011-2012 Retired Faculty Association Scholars.

ECU allows Board of Trustee members to live out-of-state

Staff Reports

The UNC System has multiple universities that have Board of Trustee members living out of state, whose transportation and lodging is paid for by state funds when they are on official university business.

Currently, ECU, North Carolina State University, Appalachian State University, UNC-Charlotte and UNC-Chapel Hill all have a minimum of one member on the BOT that lives out of state.

ECU currently has two BOT members that live out of state in Virginia and Illinois. The university's BOT is composed of 13 members.

The members are elected by the Board of Governors, as well as by the Governor. The members of the BOT serve staggered four-year terms.

According to the by laws of the BOT, the Board of Governors must select eight of the members and the Governor selects four of the members. The student body president of the university is always the "ex-officio" member of the board. Additionally, none of the members, or their spouses, may be an employee of a constituent institution, an officer or employee of the State, or a member of the General Assembly.

According to Mary Schulken, the executive director of communication public

affairs and marketing for ECU, state funding pays for transportation for all members that serve on the BOT, whether they live out of state or in state.

There must be a minimum of three meetings each year. "Transportation, whether airfare or mileage, whichever is cheaper, is paid for by the state," said Schulken.

Lodging for the members is also paid for when they are on official business. Food, however, is not paid for from state funding, but rather from non-state funding. Meetings held by the ECU BOT generally last two days, on a Thursday and Friday of the selected week.

According to Schulken, the state budget manual states that non-state employees on state business may have all funds paid for, including food. Members of the BOT fall into this category.

The university follows the guidelines of "per diem." State funding pays for a certain pre-determined amount of transportation and lodging, and after that amount has been reached, non-state funds are used.

"We could use (state funds) for all expenses, but we don't. We feel like that is how we treat our other state employees, so we should treat the Board of Trustee members the same," said Schulken.

DEPRESSION continued from A1

reach coordinator of the ECU Counseling Center.

Researchers conducting this study followed antidepressant use, living arrangements, and health risk factors (drinking, exercise, smoking etc.) and discovered that people who lived alone were more likely to purchase antidepressants.

One third of the women studied developed an increased risk of depression if they had a low income or lack of education. The men studied proved to be more depressed if they drank heavily or had a lack of support from the workplace or their private lives.

"I wouldn't want to live alone because a roommate can be there for security, advice and entertainment," said Stewart Johnson, a senior urban development and regional planning major.

The study suggested that living alone could be linked with feelings of isolation and a lack of trust, which

are common symptoms of depression.

"The risk of becoming depressed is dependent on personality," said Thorn. "A more introverted personality might need more alone time."

The number of people in the U.S. who live by themselves has nearly doubled to one in three people over the past 30 years, which is more than any other time in history.

"I live alone because of issues with irresponsible and dirty roommates in the past," said Chris Buckley, a senior marketing major.

It is still unclear whether people more often choose to live alone or want to live with someone, but cannot find a roommate.

"Students might choose to live alone to avoid conflicts, or know they want to live with someone but can't find anyone," said Thorn.

The amount of people living alone is thought to have a clear impact on the overall

mental health of the nation. "I think if I lived alone, I would feel out of touch," said Johnson.

"This kind of study usually underestimates risk because the people who are at the most risk tend to be the people who are least likely to complete the follow up," said the study author Laura Pulkki-Raback, in a news journal release. "We were also not able to judge how common untreated depression was."

According to Thorn, it is a common theme that more depressed students have less of a social network or may be socially excluded.

"I don't feel depressed. I have my dog and friends in walking distance, so it's not like I'm ever really alone," said Buckley. "But I think that students (who live alone), that don't make an effort to hangout with friends or aren't outgoing, could easily become depressed."

Thorn encourages stu-

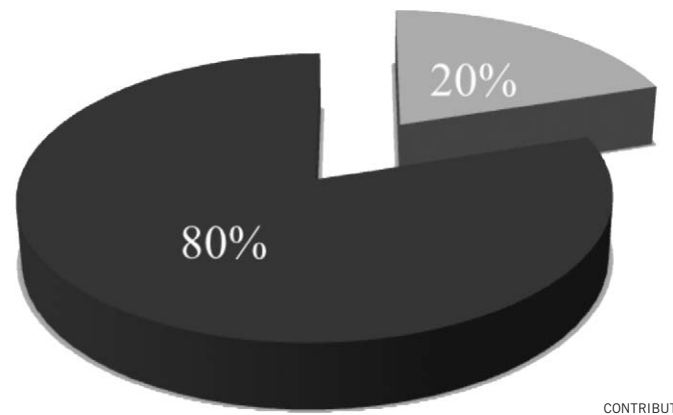
dents feeling depressed to open up to someone, whether coming into the counseling center or letting a friend know. Signs of depression could include change in eating and sleeping. Any feelings of potential self-harm may require immediate professional help.

"I want to make sure students know the counseling center is free and confidential, and we have group therapy and self-assessments available," said Thorn.

More information about the counseling center can be found at ecu.edu/counseling.

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

Depression Among Young Adults Living Alone



CONTRIBUTED

Researchers studied 3,500 men and women for seven years and concluded that people who live alone have an 80 percent risk of developing depression.

Vote 2012 HOMECOMING THEME APRIL 2-5. Includes survey questions: PeeDee for President, ECU, The Greatest Place on Earth!, The Purple and Golden Years. OneStop Ask Survey System.

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DEBT continued from A1

for women but now registers in at an average age of 28.7 and 26.5, respectively.

In that same time frame, live births per 1,000 women age 18 to 24 has decreased from 69.3 to below 65.

"I want to make sure I can support my kid before I have one," said Stallings.

The marriage rates have taken a sharp turn from the year 2000 when the marriage rate for men was 31.5 percent and 39.5 percent for women. Marriage rates are now at 23.5 percent for men and 31.5 percent for women, according to a USA Today analysis of the newest Census records.

Chris Christopher, a senior economist at IHS Global Insight, told Bloomberg Businessweek that the trend may correlate with the

way debt is dispersed among different age groups.

"Student loans are concentrated among young people — a particular group that may be prone to buy a new house, a new car and get married," said Christopher. "They are not spread out among all age cohorts in the economy."

Reports presented by the Family Research Council have shown that 14 percent of those indebted delayed marriage, while 21 percent delayed starting a family in 2002, which was up from 9 and 12 percent, respectively, in 1988.

Junior elementary education major Ellen Wheeler recently got engaged but will not get married until August 2013, following her gradua-

tion in May.

"It's not a debt issue, but it is a financial issue," said Wheeler. "I want to have a full-time job to support myself, and both of us will be done with school and done with paying tuition."

Another factor that has been pointed out as a potential explanation for the phenomenon is the fact that many couples chose to live together before getting married.

The Census Bureau has reported that the number of unmarried partners living in the same household has risen from 5 million to 6 million in the six-year span between 2000 and 2006.

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

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CLOSINGS FOR EASTER WEEKEND

Student Health Services: Closed April 6-8.

Mendenhall Student Center: Closed April 6-8.

ECU Transit:

April 5: all daytime service will end as normal schedule.

April 6 and 7: No service will operate.

April 8: Normal Sunday transit services.

Student Recreation Center:

April 6: Closing early at 8 p.m.

April 7: Open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

April 8: Closed all day.



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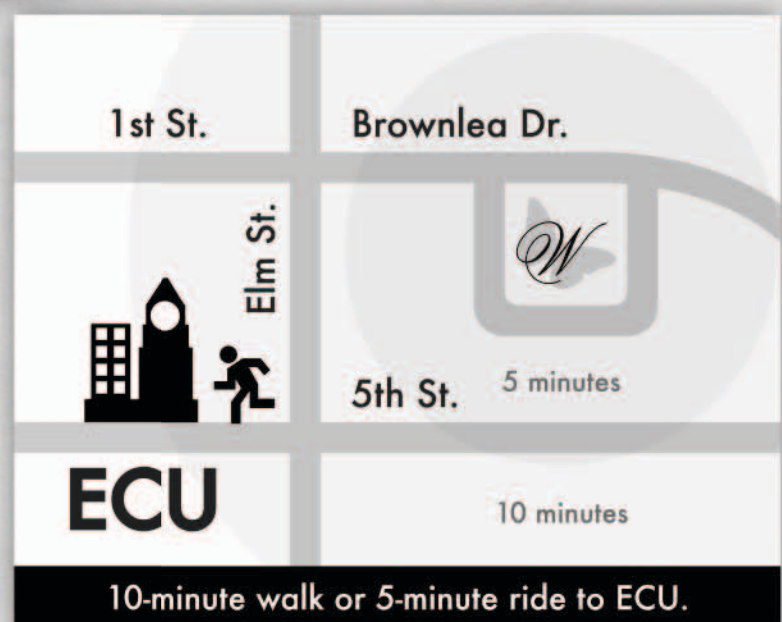

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SAFETY continued from A1

with respect to abortion. "I usually feel safe. Sometimes I feel unsafe walking at night. I think more lighting at night around areas like Bate and the library could help," said Ayah Odeh, a sophomore finance major.

The UNC System Association of Student Governments have been concerned with the dangers of hazing, according to a recent news report.

"I haven't heard as much about hazing recently as I did last year, so maybe it has gotten better," said Matt Edwards, a junior biochemistry major.

According to the Daily Tar Heel, Peter Romary, the director of student legal services, said the issue would be discussed at the symposium. Romary said it is incorrect to assume hazing incidents only occur within Greek organizations.

According to North Carolina state law, hazing is illegal and can result in a Class 2 misdemeanor. The law states "hazing" is defined as, "To subject another student to physical injury as part of an initiation, or as a prerequisite to membership, into

any organized school group, including any society, athletic team, fraternity or sorority, or other similar group."

"Essentially, (hazing is) anything that does or can potentially endanger someone physically, emotionally or psychologically. Different student groups have different initiation processes, and if they are sanctioned by a national organization, usually the organization are very careful to make sure the activities that are part of that process are not considered hazing," said Olszewska.

The university sanctions on hazing include that an individual student be on disciplinary probation for a minimum of one academic year under normal circumstances. The individual student and officer of the associated organization could face criminal charges.

The sanctions for organizations state minimally the suspension of privileges for one academic year or permanent "disbanding" of the organization.

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

NEW PIRATES ARE COMING!

The East Carolinian ad department is now reserving the Early Bird Special ad space for Pirate Preview 2012. The Pirate Preview will be in the Freshman Orientation packets and distributed during the summer at the New Student Orientations.

The Pirate Preview introduces new Pirates to college life at ECU and most importantly, introduces them to you. Take advantage of the Early Bird Special below! The deadline to reserve ad space at the Early Bird Special is 4pm on April 19*. As an added bonus, if you reserve ad space in the Pirate Preview you can also take advantage of reserving the same ad size or larger in the first edition of the new school year - The Back To School Edition at the Ad Managers Discount.**

Early Bird Special - April 19 Deadline:

Ad name	Ad Column Size	Ad Cost
Tab 1 (largest)	5 Cols x 11"	\$350
Tab 2	3 Cols x 11"	\$215
Tab 3	5 Cols x 5.5"	\$175
Tab 4	3 Cols x 5.5"	\$110
Tab 5	5 Cols x 2.75"	\$90
Tab 6	2 Cols x 5.5"	\$75
Tab 7	3 Cols x 2.75"	\$55

5 Column is 8.416" wide

3 Column is 5.000" wide

After April 19 Deadline:

Ad name	Ad Column Size	Ad Cost
Tab 1 (largest)	5 Cols x 11"	\$385.00
Tab 2	3 Cols x 11"	\$231.00
Tab 3	5 Cols x 5.5"	\$192.50
Tab 4	3 Cols x 5.5"	\$115.50
Tab 5	5 Cols x 2.75"	\$96.25
Tab 6	2 Cols x 5.5"	\$77.00
Tab 7	3 Cols x 2.75"	\$57.75

2 Column is 3.291" wide

To add color will be an additional charge.

Pirate Preview Early Bird Special deadline (reserve ad space and prepayment) - Thursday, April 19.

*The final deadline (reserve ad space & prepayment) in the Pirate Preview - Thursday, May 17.

**Back To School Edition, August 21—Ad Managers Discount is \$5.55 per column inch (pci) rate when you place an ad in the Pirate Preview AND reserve the same ad size of larger by Thursday June 28, otherwise all ad space is \$7.00 (pci) excluding ECU student organizations and departments.

Frequency Contract Rates are effective starting September 6, 2012.

To inquire how TEC can fit in your budget contact your ad rep today or call 328-9245.

Fax:328-9143 | Email: tecads@ecu.edu | ads@theeastcarolinian.com

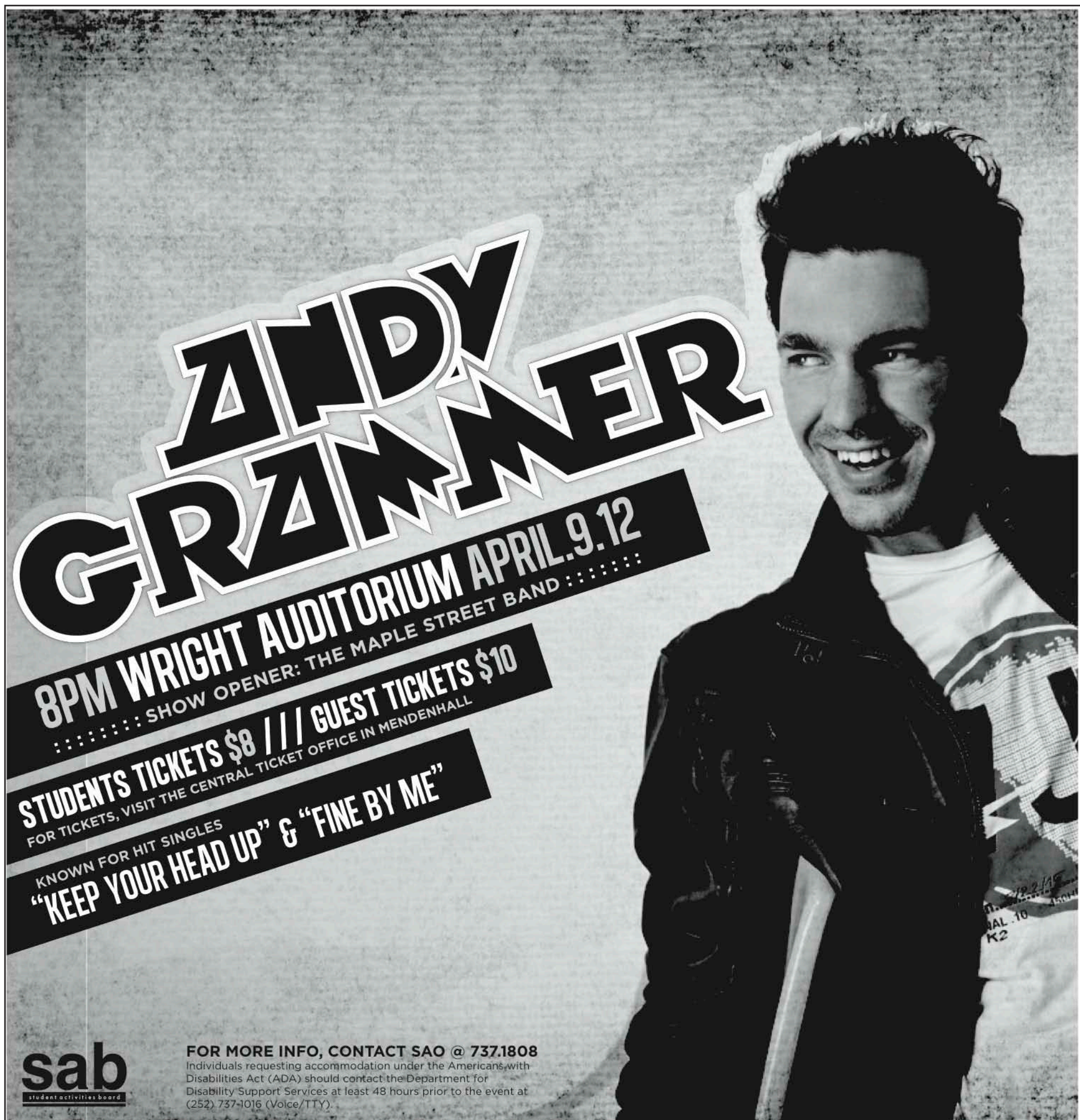
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Individuals requesting accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact the Department for Disability Support Services at least 48 hours prior to the event at (252) 737-1016 (Voice/TTY).

PIRATE RANTS

The East Carolinian does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants. Questions regarding rants can be directed to Stephen McNulty at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com. Log onto opinion@theeastcarolinian.com to submit a Rant of your own.

If only guys knew how much girls watch porn when they're not around...

Is there anything to do around here besides getting drunk?

The real world is coming wayyy too fast.

If people winked in real life as much as they do in texts, this world would be one creepy place.

After a day like today, I understand why people do drugs.

Learn your rules. You better learn your rules. If you don't, you'll be eaten in your sleep. ROAR.

Having to sell plasma to pay for my drinking ticket. What has my life come to?

Oh, you only live once? I had no idea, please tell me more.

You wear yoga pants only because they're comfortable? I'm sure that's the only reason...

Fake tan. Fake boobs. Fake nails. Fake hair. Tell us again how you want a real man. I'm so very interested.

How about ladies stop chasing after boys, and men step up and pursue us ladies.

Dear TEC, can you make a poll to see how many people read the paper only to read the Pirate Rants?

I noticed that people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then it dawned on me. They are cramming for their finals.

We live in a country where people are afraid of public speaking, yet unafraid of posting half-naked pictures of themselves on Facebook.

Dudes, if you can't find a condom, the second best form of birth control is jean shorts.

A healthy downtown environment? How about make it a safe environment and close off the streets so we don't get shot while we drink our \$2 beers. City Council pricks.

So I'm guessing everyone thinks they can be a DJ and a party host now?

I think we should see other people until I'm absolutely sure I can't do any better than you.

Gas, gas, gas, gas, gas, gas, gas, gas, STOP. Now make those muh-fuggin' prices drop!

If I hear YOLO one more time, I will punch someone in their esophagus.

When I go downtown on Thursday night, I'm drunk and accustomed to shambling through the streets. Now, the barriers are gone and I was almost hit by a car. WTF!

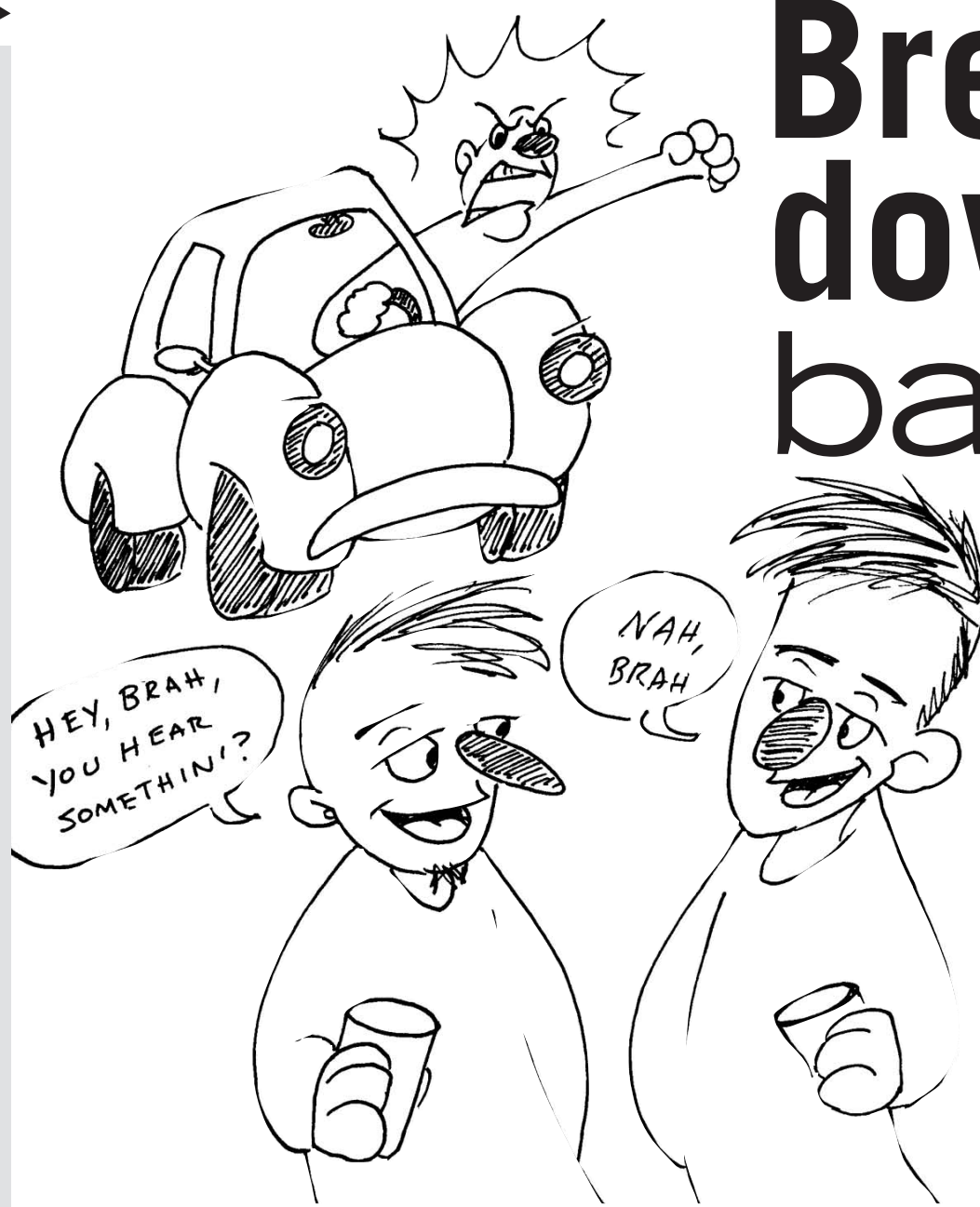
When there was penny draft, I always tipped a dollar. Now that it's 50 cent draft, I just get two beers and leave no tip. Suck it.

I wish I could be responsible for choosing the Pirate Rants. Just for one day.

My parents are coming to Greenville for the holiday. I sure hope they don't pick up a copy of the paper and read the Pirate Rants...

That awkward moment when you open a birthday card and there is no money in it.

To the jerk who won't tip bartenders: We're broke college kids too, who have to work and stay up late for you to get drunk! Think about that and tip the door girls too.



LISA TREADWAY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Breaking down barriers

Blockade removal could prove costly



Ben Cochran
OPINION COLUMNIST
Senior Nursing Major
@Ben_Cochran

I'm afraid that many of us have been lulled into a sense of security when going downtown in Greenville. Before you spew your drink everywhere, let me clarify that statement.

You're still very much at risk for being held up, mugged or shot at by Greenville's finest. But over the last couple of years, we have enjoyed the relative safety from through-traffic in the downtown streets.

For those of you that don't remember life before the barricades, going downtown was a veritable Russian Roulette — at any given moment you could get side-swiped by some aggressive driver thumping his way through the throngs of a packed Fifth Street.

Unfortunately, a drive-by shooting that took place a few years ago necessitated that additional measures were taken to increase security downtown. Included in these regulations was the blockading of the streets to eliminate motor-vehicle traffic.

At the outset, this seemed like a really good idea. When I used to live in Austin, TX, Sixth Street was blocked off, which provided several blocks of pristine and unadulterated merriment for the often times less-than-wary bar patron. Greenville City Council said that it was

modeling its decision on the actions taken in Winston-Salem, another North Carolina city that has found it necessary to increase safety in its urban settings.

The ability for the imbibing buffoon to confidently step out into a street without giving a moment's hesitation to would-be oncoming traffic can greatly enhance the downtown experience. In Austin, Winston-Salem, and other areas which have implemented similar tactics, people have the added advantage of utilizing the blocked-off roads for foot traffic, thus alleviating the saturated sidewalks of their drunken masses.

All this has been well and good up until a few weeks ago when the barricades ceased to exist. I was walking out of Fifth Street Distillery the other night, just yappin' away on my phone, when I stepped out into the street without looking. Out of nowhere came a car. At first, I thought it was some foreigner who plowed through the barricade. But then I came to the conclusion that either there were no barricades, or crazy drivers had overrun Greenville.

So the next day, I called Sgt. Joe Friday, who heads up the crime prevention and media for the Greenville Police Department. He assured me that there had been no mandate from on high to get rid of the barricade, and that it still remained at the discretion of the supervisors of the downtown deployment plan.

Sgt. Friday informed me that the size of the crowd and the judgment of the officers as to whether they could safely control the crowd

were the sole determinants in the erection of the barricade. Giggity.

What I can't understand is why the supervisors of the downtown deployment plan would decide that the barricades are no longer necessary when there are still so many students going downtown. Just because Greenville has been drive-by free for two years doesn't mean that the danger no longer exists — quite the contrary. It means that the prophylactic barricade has been an effective intervention.

It would be like discontinuing your birth control because you haven't gotten pregnant in awhile. Or bare-backin' it because you haven't gotten Chlamydia in awhile. Or not attending your fundamentalist church because you haven't had any homosexual tendencies in awhile.

I honestly want to give the Greenville Police Department the benefit of the doubt. If the barricades aren't up then I'm sure it's because there is a really good reason. So, I guess what I'm saying is simply this: the first person that walks out into traffic on Friday night and sustains an injury, thus resulting in the redeployment of the barricade, is getting a beer from yours truly (provided that you're 21). Now, get out there and break a leg.

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

Spreading the word on campus



Sidney Davis
OPINION COLUMNIST
Sophomore English Major
@FearLoathingTEC

Campus is increasingly riddled with advertisers, activists and voter registration solicitors. These particularly loathsome traffic hazards on the way to class can be easily avoided by faking a phone conversation or contagious illness.

However, some of these people don't just want your hard-earned dollars for their fraternity or sorority's charity, your vote for Ron Paul, your support for Greenpeace, or even your blood and precious bodily fluids for the Red Cross. Instead, they want your soul.

I'm referring, of course, to Christian proselytizers. Preachers of a particularly popular, 2000-year-old blood cult centered on a man who was supposedly the son of the god of the Jewish faith, these men and women will stop at nothing to spread the word of their savior to every ear on campus.

Sometimes, they're too loud to simply ignore.

I spoke to Ross Jackson, better known to the student body as "Brother Ross," about this faith, and one of its more controversial aspects: the concept of Hell. For those who haven't been in earshot of the mall lately, sinners will be cast into a "lake of fire" for all eternity, according to Jackson.

"It's not a fear tactic, but we do need them to fear God," he said. "They need to repent."

While being a predominantly Christian campus, the student body largely reacts to his sermons with great hostility. It may have something to do with the buttons he wears on to his suspenders — one labeled "Homo," the other labeled "Sin," both with red strikes through them — which trademarks of his schtick. Or the fact that he applies such judicious thumping to his King James bible throughout each sermon for what I can only assume is added emphasis, and not rhythmic accompaniment. Despite his unpopularity, he contends that the message of the Messiah, as he interprets it, is not

one strictly of love.

"Jesus preached more about hell than he ever did about love," said Jackson.

But there are those that make their appeal to Greenville's spiritual side with notably less hostility. Alan Mitchell, a man with a different perspective, preaches periodically to a packed room at Victory Campus Ministry's meetings in Mendenhall. You may have seen the prompt questions VCM has placed in front of Wright Place on a large white board during the

week as invitations for written student responses from believers and unbelievers alike.

Last week's question was "How can there be only one true Religion?" Before that, questions foreshadowed sermons about sex, marriage and atheism. His sermons include not only the usual Biblical citation, but also references to the works of Dr. Alfred Kinsey on sex and Jean Paul Sartre on philosophy and ethics.

On the subject of hell as a method for converting unbelievers

> WORD page A6

POLL RESULTS

Do you think it was smart to remove the downtown barrier?

Yes 77%
No 23%

WEB POLL

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- A) I'll go downtown less
- B) I'll buy less drinks
- C) I'll tip less
- D) It won't affect me

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Serving ECU since 1925, *The East Carolinian* is an independent, student-run publication that prints 9,000 copies every Tuesday and Thursday during the regular academic year and 5,000 on Wednesdays during the summer. "Our View" is the opinion of the editorial board and is written by editorial board members. *The East Carolinian* welcomes letters to the editor which are limited to 250 words (which may be edited for decency or brevity). We reserve the right to edit or reject letters and all letters must be signed and include a telephone number. Letters may be sent via e-mail to editor@theeastcarolinian.com or to *The East Carolinian*, Self-Help Building, Greenville, N.C. 27858-4353. Call 252-328-9238 for more information. One copy of *The East Carolinian* is free, each additional copy is \$1.

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WORD continued from A5

to Christ, he was quite reserved.

"It might change the mind," said Mitchell. "But it won't change the heart."

However, that doesn't mean his methods are any more watered down for his reticence to threaten potential converts with hellfire. He was sure to portray the importance of understanding the Gospels as "good news, not good advice," and to uphold the central tenants of his faith quite firmly. To Mitchell, Hell is still a very real concept.

"The metaphor of fire is not as bad as the actual thing, which is being separate from the source of all life forever, God," said Mitchell.

It's a far cry from the traditional hell of fiery eternal punishment, but in a way, this is far worse a condemnation. To say the least, he's gone to the deep end of the

pool with these interpretations. Instead of relying on purely scriptural apologetics which have, in many ways, failed to gather a young, (arguably) well-read college audience.

This begs the pertinent question: have we outgrown the carrot and stick approach of Heaven and Hell? Are we, as college-educated Americans, less susceptible to such absolute claims on our supposedly eternal existence? Or, by turning our back on the unsightly, harsher aspects of the faith, are we turning our back on belief in a Judeo-Christian god itself? Whether you believe every word of the Bible as literal truth or not, it's food for thought with which to approach the Easter Weekend.

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,

While I always enjoy the Opinion Section of *The East Carolinian* I have to say I was quite surprised to see some of the factual errors and presumptive statements made in Mr. McKellar's April 3 column regarding the compensation of the SGA President and my vote on last November's tuition and fee increase. Being that our goal for this year has been to improve the transparency and accountability of SGA, I'll provide the facts and let you all draw your own conclusions.

Our regular compensation is set to a level that would allow for any student holding office, regardless of financial stability, to solely focus on their duties as an SGA officer without the need for an additional part-time job, which would limit his or her ability to

effectively serve the student body. Regarding our officer benefits, the SGA Constitution and ECU require that all Executive Officers must remain on campus during the summer and must take at least one course during that time to remain enrolled. To be transparent, last summer, I took one DE course at a total cost, with the textbook included, of \$444.80. This requirement is also applied for the positions of vice president, treasurer, secretary, chief of staff, and chief justice. Additionally, we do not receive a full meal plan during the academic year, but rather a \$250 stipend that is intended to last from May until July (including both summer sessions). Further, all SGA officers purchase our parking passes independently of SGA.

In reference to my vote on our tuition and fee increase, there was, quite honestly, no other option

present for our student body. When the General Assembly discontinued last year's temporary penny sales tax, it cost the UNC system over \$400 million and ECU \$49 million. The money resulting from this year's increase will only cover around \$12.5 million of that cut. Had we not offset some of our losses, you would now be seeing more service reductions, more losses to our faculty, and less course offerings. In a nutshell, North Carolina is heading down a dangerous pathway where the state is shifting more of the cost of education on to students and families at a time when we can least afford the additional burden.

What my vote came down to was this: Do we maintain affordability at the expense of quality? Even if it comes with the risk that many of you might have to pay for an extra semester to

get a required course you may need to graduate? After talking with many students, it was clear that, although none of us like a tuition increase, risking the quality of our education could be even more detrimental for our futures and the future of East Carolina University. This was by no means an easy decision to make, but if there's one thing I've learned as a Pirate, it is that we rise above adversity, no matter the circumstances. There is a reason why, for every dollar the state invests in ECU, we return four dollars to North Carolina's economy: We stand together when the times are tough and always support doing the right thing. Now, more than ever, we must stand together in support of public education and in support of ECU.

Sincerely,
Josh Martinkovic
SGA President

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (Mar 21-Apr 19)

Your instinct to let others know what they've done wrong is better left alone today — almost nobody is ready to hear about their failings yet. Wait until they can see the results for themselves!



Taurus (Apr 20-May 20)

It's time to head out and have some fun — try a concert or some other musical activity like a dance club. Your energy is just right for grooving along with the beats and harmonies that fill your soul.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Try to catch up on email or anything else that is getting backed up. Communication is key, and your energy is great for small tasks and clearing away to-do lists. Write your grandma back!



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You can find new ways of expressing your innermost feelings today — and, better still, people are ready to hear you out! It's a good day for you to communicate with those who need to hear the word.



Leo (July 23-Aug 22)

You need to deal with your finances today — in one way or another. Things are good, of course, but they could always be better, and if you crawl a little further out of debt or make a smart investment, you're golden.



Virgo (Aug 23-Sep 22)

You feel more organized than usual today, so make sure that you're using that great energy to do great things. It could be time to rethink your approach to storage or to clear out old projects.



Libra (Sep 23-Oct 22)

Life gets somewhat overwhelming today, so see if you can outsmart it — or just hide away for a while! Things should start to get much, much better by this time tomorrow. Wait it out!



Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 21)

A good friend needs to know what's really going on, so fill them in as you piece together the details yourself. Your mental energy is just right for picking up on subtle clues — make a game out of it!



Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 21)

Slow down and get things done today — you know you can do it, as long as you avoid the temptation to cut corners or skip steps. Your good energy is sure to return as soon as you've made some progress.



Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 19)

Look more deeply into today's big situation — your mental energy is just right for research of all kinds. It may take longer than you think, but that just means you're getting better quality information.



Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18)

Your emotions are more grounded than usual today, so make sure that your energy is moving in that direction. You may find that you can reconnect with someone who was close to you once.



Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)

You have got to get to the bottom of today's big mystery: Who are you really dealing with? This is the time to ask big questions and make sure that you're getting the answers you deserve.



These horoscopes are from www.astrology.com.

All images are from MCTcampus.com.



CONTRIBUTED

Grammer to perform on campus next week

Hunter Ingram
STAFF WRITER

Andy Grammer is on top of the world. A hit song that continues to light up the airwaves, multiple TV appearances, an ever-expanding collection of famous friends, and a hit debut album can all make for a very satisfying rise to fame. But Grammer's roots are never lost on him and his music, which he is bringing to ECU's campus next week. Grammer talked to *The East Carolinian* about his rise to fame and how he approaches the art of making music.

Q: How would you describe your music for people that are just being introduced to you? What type of sound do you strive for and how important is it for you to be unique in the increasingly cluttered music industry?

A: I like to describe it as one part acoustic, one part piano rock, and one part hip hop. I think that these days you have to have a different sound for sure. Even more than that I think you have to have great songs. We are very oversaturated with music and media right now. The only thing that will cut through that is a great song.

Q: Have you always wanted to be a musician? Was it something that developed over time or was it always in your blood?

A: A little bit of both. I've always been fascinated how a three-minute song can affect so many people. So I knew early on I wanted in on that. Also, my dad is a children's singer, and so I kind of grew up around it. So, it's definitely in my blood.

Q: You recently released your debut album. How was that experience for you, releasing an album after all the time you spent building to that moment? Were you pleased with the response it got?

A: I think these days, an album release is not the same as it used to be. It used to be you would drum up all this crazy excitement and then it would be release day! Today, there is just so much good music coming from so many channels that release day is the day that you begin to let everyone know what you are about. For me, the big days have been the tour that followed, getting to connect with the fans over the music. That was awesome! That's the best part of the job. I am humbled and surprised by the size of the response this album has gotten.

Q: Many of your songs have a very personal backbone to them, like "Ladies," which you say you wrote for your late mother, and the songs that illustrate your past as a street performer. Where do you find the inspiration for your music and musical style?

A: I really just want to write music that is honest. If that's pulling the theme from my life or a universal theme from a situation, either one is fine; as long as it's connected to something real.

Q: Your song "Keep Your Head Up" was a huge hit on the radio and your second single "Fine By Me" is also doing very well. Will you be releasing more singles for your debut album?

A: Not sure. I hope so! There are so many mediums to get your music, but I think radio is still probably the biggest. So yeah, if we can get another one of my little babies up on the loudspeaker that would be fantastic!

Q: You have toured with the likes of Colbie Caillat (who just did a duet with you on a live version of "Fine By Me"), Natasha Bedingfield, Plain White T's, Parachute, and others, and performed on shows like "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno." What has it been like to get to share your music through these many different venues and outlets?

A: There is something really special about getting to play with the people you love. Like love musically. I'm big fans of so many of the artists I've gotten to play with this year. I have definitely been taking notes and really trying to soak up the experience.

Q: You spent time as a street performer in California, which you detail in some of your songs. But through these songs, it also seems you have a strong appreciation for these roots. Do you miss that now that you are performing in concert halls and on huge stages all over the country?

A: The most important thing is the energy between someone playing music and a crowd enjoying the music. On the street, the ratio was one to 10 or one to 50. Now, the ratio is sometimes one to 3,000, but it's the same energy. I just need that. I'll chase that anywhere.

Q: What can your fans expect from you in the future? Will you be touring throughout 2012? More TV appearances? Is a new album on the horizon?

A: I will definitely be touring in 2012, along with a new album I'm sure, and TV appearances will most likely be there (laughs). What's great about this job is that I don't know what will happen in a month. That's part of the excitement.

Q: One final question: Is this whirlwind journey that you have embarked on these last few years been all that you hoped it would be? Are you excited for what's to come?

A: Yes it is. It's incredible. I love to write and perform music. This year, I have been able to do that on a scale I never have before, and it's every bit as exhilarating as I thought it would be. Pumped is a good word to describe (how I feel about what the future holds).

To see Andy Grammer's first interview with *The East Carolinian* from last summer, visit theeastcarolinian.com.

Sponsored by the Student Activities Board, Grammer will perform in Wright Auditorium on Monday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$10 for guests, and can be purchased at the Central Ticket Office.

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

Noteworthy nurses

College of Nursing inducts eight women into Hall of Fame



The College of Nursing recognized eight alumni on March 16 for their hard work and contribution to the nursing field. CONTRIBUTED

Rex Rose
STAFF WRITER

ECU's College of Nursing has one of, if not the most, respected and qualified nursing programs in the state. The College of Nursing sets the bar for students when it comes to prestige and excellence.

To raise the bar even further, the College of Nursing has a Hall of Fame. "The Hall of Fame provides public recognition for the significant impact that the nurse has had to the advancement of nursing through clinical practice, teaching, administration, and/or research," stated the College of Nursing's website.

On March 16, eight ECU alumni were inducted into the Hall of Fame. The inductees were Linda Burhans, Martha Dartt, Nettie Evans, Susan Gerard, Sue Lassiter, Joanne Stevens, Carmen Vincent and Anna Weaver.

Every one of these women have served and continued to do so in very distinguished positions in their field. A majority of them serve in executive positions for their individual hospitals and help make the vital decisions that affect everyone from doctors to patients.

Martha Dartt, 52, who is the director of nursing ser-

vices at the Brody School of Medicine and also an adjunct faculty for the College of Nursing, has used her experience as a nurse to raise the Brody School of Medicine to even higher esteem.

"I have hired good people," said Dartt. "More so than what I have done, I think I am successful from the team that I work with."

While humble and unwilling to flaunt her achievements, Dartt's passion is easy to see.

"What I love about my job is that, even in an administration position, it is all about making the patient experience better," said Dartt. "I think one of the things that I have realized is that it takes more than one person to take good care of patients."

Dartt's passion for caring for patients is what has allowed her to serve the Brody School of Medicine with dedication.

"Even after 25 years, I still have passion for my job," said Dartt.

Carmen Vincent, 52, who was also an inductee, knows the meaning of dedication as well. Vincent is the vice president of corporate accreditation and regulatory compliance at Vidant Health and is an intermittent reserve

surveyor for the Joint Commission.

"Probably the biggest part of my success is that I have been with Vidant for 30 years," said Vincent.

At Vidant, Vincent manages a team of five people that work to make sure all components of Vidant Health are complying with current health care laws. As a surveyor for the Joint Commission, she travels to different hospitals and inspects them for quality and safety.

Vincent, who wanted to be a nurse since age seven, was appreciative of her recognition.

"I was extremely honored," said Vincent. "Being recognized by a lot of my peers was great."

While she enjoys the honor and rewards, her true joy comes in serving as a nurse.

"I travel some to other states and I like knowing that there are other people who are actively providing quality care to patients, and I am happy to be a part of it," said Vincent.

Linda Burhans, who is the associate executive director of education and practice for the N.C. Board of Nursing, was also happy to receive this honor from the same college

that prepared her for success.

"It is a great honor to have my contributions, across the span of my career, recognized," said Burhans.

Burhans' fruitful career, which began over 40 years ago when she served as a general nurse, has grown into a career in health administration. Burhans attributes her skills as an administrator to the education she received in the College of Nursing's masters and doctoral programs.

"Both programs prepared me for administration and management," said Burhans.

Due to her extensive education and wealth of experience she now works to not only provide care for a few patients but to provide care for the general public by regulating the field of nursing statewide.

The qualities that make up a distinguished nurse include dedication, passion for patients and always looking to improve the world of health care. The eight women who were inducted into the Hall of Fame transformed these qualities into a career and still impact the field of nursing today.

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

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Andy Grammer
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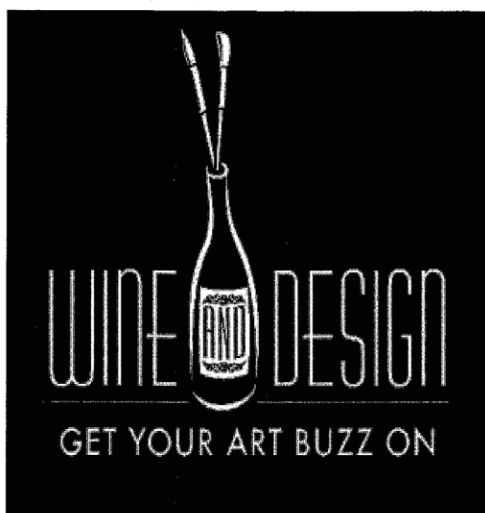
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Eggs and bunnies

The origins of Easter traditions

Sara Davis
STAFF WRITER

Easter is the time of year when children dye and hunt eggs, get a mysterious basket full of treats and take photos with the Easter Bunny at the mall. Unsurprisingly, a bunny treating children to baskets of candies and colorful eggs does not seem to have anything to do with the Christian holiday of Easter. The Bible says nothing about a large, pink rabbit laying eggs upon doorsteps in Jerusalem. So, how did these symbols and traditions come to be a part of the celebration of Easter?

Many of Easter's traditions and symbols come from the spring fertility festivals of Pagan groups. According to History.com, certain sources believe the Christian Easter got its name from Eostre, or Ostara, a Teutonic goddess of both spring and fertility. According to Saint Bede in "De Tempore Ratione," "Eosturmonath" became "Paschal Month," or Passover, and was once in honor of the Goddess Eostre. Jacob Grimm, usually known for his work on fairy tales, mentions Ostara being the namesake for Easter in "Deutsche Mythologie."

Rabbits and eggs made their way into Easter traditions and have remained there successfully. Rabbits are known to reproduce almost constantly and are a symbol of fertility. Easter falls during the time of the year when all the flowers are in bloom. Remember the pollen from a couple of weeks ago? That was springtime fertility. Spring fertility festivals gave Christian Easter the rabbit, but it is unclear when he became a bearer of egg gifts and more than a fertility symbol.

It is known that the Easter Bunny made his landfall in America in the 1700's. He was brought here by German immigrants who called Pennsylvania home. According to History.com, there has long been the tradition of a hare that laid eggs. He was called the "Osterhase," or the "Oschter Haws." Children even made nests for the hare so that he had a comfortable place to lay his colorful eggs. The tradition spread across America from there.

Eggs have been a symbol of both fertility and "new life" since ancient times. In the Christian meaning, Easter eggs represent the emergence of Jesus from his tomb and his resurrection. Grimm writes, "Then, through long ages, there seem to have lingered among the people Easter-games so-called, which the church itself had to tolerate. I allude especially to the custom of Easter eggs, and to the Easter tale, which preachers told from the pulpit for the people's amusement, connecting it with Christian reminiscences." The decorating of eggs goes back to at least the 13th century.

Eggs are forbidden to be eaten during Lent. So, it

is theorized that Christians decorated the eggs to celebrate the fact that they could eat them once more, since Lent had passed. In pagan tradition, eggs have been dyed since ancient times in celebration of their spring festivals.

The hiding of Easter eggs has a mysterious beginning, but it continues until this day. The tradition has even been adapted for children with visual impairments. Now, certain Easter eggs chirp so that they can be found more easily.

Candies have become one of the best parts of Easter; in fact, Easter is second to Halloween in candy sales. Peeps, jellybeans and chocolates in Easter shapes fill many bellies on Easter.

Easter traditions are unlikely to change anytime soon, if ever. One may never know the perfect and complete history of Easter traditions, but this will not stop them from happening. It is never going to make sense for a large, pastel rabbit to lay colorful eggs filled with candy. So, let's continue to dye eggs, stuff our faces with candy, and get a few days off of school.

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



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Women's tennis shuts out Mount Olive College

Staff Reports

ECU did not drop a set in all six singles matches and used a pair of decisive doubles wins to earn a 7-0 non-conference triumph over Mount Olive late Tuesday night at the ECU Tennis Complex.

The victory, which followed a five-hour marathon match that resulted in a 4-3 setback to the University of Richmond earlier in the day, improved the Lady Pirates' record to 8-12. The Trojans suffered only their fourth loss of the year in 19 outings.

ECU opened play by capturing the doubles point, using 8-3 and 8-4 decisions at the No. 1 and No. 2 slots. Dana Gray and Neena Wanko defeated Molly Lentini and Pietra Viana, while Renata Bakieva and Abby Richmond downed Marine Becker and Patricia Guedes before Mount Olive halted the sweep with an 8-5 win at No. 3.

The Lady Pirates turned in a dominating performance in the singles competition, posting straight-set triumphs in all six matchups. Junior Yilian Zhang sparked East Carolina's run from the outset, cruising past Lentini 6-1, 6-0 in a No. 2 meeting.

In other action, Natalie Collins bounced back from a disappointing three-set loss against the Spiders by besting Becker, 6-3, 6-0, at No. 1. Danielle Terpko won her third-straight match by handling Francesca Ceppi, 6-3, 6-1, at No. 3. Richmond rolled to a 6-1, 6-3 win over Viana at No. 4. Gray dispatched Samara Paldinho 6-1, 6-1, at No. 5, and Karling Watson earned her second career victory in as many opportunities by a 6-3, 6-2 count at No. 6.

Senior track athlete earns weekly honor

Staff Reports

After posting the nation's fastest time in the 5,000-meter run over the weekend, senior Brittany Copeland has been designated Conference USA Athlete-of-the-Week, according to an announcement Tuesday by the league office.

Copeland recorded a time of 16:09.67 at the Raleigh Relays on Friday, finishing as the top collegian in the 5,000-meter discipline. She also easily surpassed her own school record, which was previously 16:25.95. With the performance, Copeland has all but assured herself of a spot in the NCAA East Preliminary Round, scheduled for May 25-26 in Jacksonville, Fla.

Copeland is the first ECU athlete to earn the league accolade since Jordan Neil garnered the honor on April 5, 2011, for producing the country's top time in the 1,500-meter run.

It is the first weekly C-USA track and field honor of her career and second in as many sports this season, as she was named C-USA Cross Country Athlete-of-the-Week on Sept. 27. Copeland won the 2011 ECU Pirate Invitational title with a time of 17:40.02, which is tied for the 10th-fastest 5K mark in program history.

The Portsmouth, Va. native currently leads all C-USA athletes by more than a full minute on the league leaderboard in the 5,000 and will be considered one of the favorites to capture the conference title when the C-USA Outdoor Championships commence in May.

Tulsa's Paulo Pinheiro earned the league's male athlete-of-the-week accolade after recording the NCAA's eighth-fastest time of 8:14.39 in the 3,000-meter run at the 2012 Arkansas Spring Invitational.

The Pirates continue their outdoor campaign this weekend, traveling to Gainesville, Fla., for the Florida Relays. The meet is scheduled for Friday and Saturday at the Percy Beard Track.

Pirates to host Cougars

Three game series starts tonight

Adam Bunn

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

When the Houston Cougars arrive in Greenville for their three-game weekend series with the ECU Pirates, it will be a tale of two teams heading in opposite directions.

For the Pirates, they have won four games in a row and are climbing the Conference USA leaderboard, while the Cougars just snapped a four-game losing streak and sit at the bottom of the standings.

Last Time Out:

ECU defeated UNC-Wilmington Tuesday night to run their record to 20-8, while sitting at 4-2 in conference play, which places them second behind only Central Florida. Before the Pirates dispatched the Seahawks 5-0, they easily swept conference foe UAB with scores of 11-6 on Friday, 12-2 on Saturday, and 6-5 on Sunday.



Tanner Merritt (11) has appeared in 14 games with a record of 2-2 and an ERA of 2.22 in 20 innings

Houston, on the other hand, did something they haven't done a lot of lately: win. The Cougars defeated McNeese State 4-1, after losing four straight before that, which included getting swept by UCF.

ECU Hitting vs. Houston Hitting:

The Pirates struggled early on in the season with the bats, having trouble scoring runners in scoring position, and getting timely hits. However, those issues seem to be fading away as of late, with the recent offensive surge the Pirates have experienced.

ECU has now scored 165 runs on the season, which is good for 5.9 runs per game, which is up from the 4 runs per game they were averaging a month ago. Not only has the run production picked up, but every one on the team seems to be hitting their groove. The Pirates boast a team batting average of .292, which is good for third overall in the conference.

Leading the way at the plate is Drew Reynolds, who is batting .397. Not only is Reynolds leading the team in average, but every time the Pirates rally to victory, Reynolds is also the one leading the charge either with a timely base hit or hustle play. Not only has the contact hitting gotten better, but also the power has come back to the ECU line-up. Both Corey Thompson and John Wooten have over four home-runs.

Houston, on the other hand, continues to struggle. As a team, the Cougars are hitting just .262, which puts them dead last in C-USA. The only Houston player hitting over .300 is Chase Jensen, who is batting .307 with one home-run and 23 RBIs. After Jensen, just two Cougars are batting over .270, Landon Appling (.275) and Price Jacobs (.273).

EDGE: The Pirates will have the better offense today, tomorrow, and the next day, no matter what

Houston does.

ECU Pitching vs Houston Pitching:

This is another area where the Pirates seem to be far and away ahead of the Cougars. ECU boasts one of the best pitching staffs in the country, with the top-three starters totaling 12-2 record and an ERA of 2.62.

Getting the weekend duties will be Kevin Brandt (2.31 ERA, 3-2, 46 2/3 innings), Tyler Joyner (2.66 ERA, 4-0, 44 innings) and Jharel Cotton (2.89 ERA, 5-0, 37 1/3 innings). But the real strength of the staff comes from the bullpen.

Bridging the gap between the starter and closer is typically Andy Smithmyer, who has a 1.44 ERA in 25 innings pitched. After Smithmyer, the Pirates go to closer Reynolds who has a 3.07 ERA with seven saves.

> HOST page A12

Local pitcher gains experience



Sarah Christian (2) leads Conference-USA with 29 appearances.

Jordan Anders

STAFF WRITER

@jordan_anders

Like many quality high school athletes, Sarah Christian played out her high school career with a desire to take her talents to the NCAA level.

Unlike many of those athletes though, to find a quality program to be a part of, Christian needed only look just a little ways up the street.

The ECU freshman pitcher is just past the halfway point of her rookie campaign in the pitching circle for the Pirate softball program. Having authored a dominant pitching career at Greenville's D.H. Conley High School — which is located a whole five and a half miles from ECU's softball stadium — it seemed a no-brainer for Christian to join her hometown Pirates, who were winners of the last two Conference USA tournaments.

While she insisted that location was not the lone reason that she

> GAINS page A12

No underdogs survive Kentucky



William Farrar
OPINION
COLUMNIST

Another year of college hoops is in the record books. The Kentucky

Wildcats handled each of their opponents on their path to the 2012 national championship, as they were predicted to do so when given the overall No. 1 seed.

John Calipari and company dominated this season, only losing twice, once during the regular season to Indiana, and the other loss coming in the Southeastern Conference tournament final to Vanderbilt. Although no one was shocked to see the Wildcats crowned champions at the end of the tournament, this year's basketball season coughed up some moments that fans will be able to remember for years to come. One of the most memorable images of the year came at Kentucky's disposal in their only regular season loss to Indiana, which was won with a game-winning shot as time expired, to shock all of big-blue nation.

This year's tournament did not consist of any lower seeds that developed into what us fans like to call "Cinderella stories." A lot of sport fans do not have a particular team they cheer for in college basketball; so when tournament time comes around every March, many people will start to cheer for the lower-seeded team or teams who are making an unexpected run farther into the tournament.

Most fans who do not follow historical powerhouses, like Kentucky and Kansas, who constantly make appearances in the tournament, cheer for these lower-seeded teams in hopes to see a new program knock off a top-seeded program in a dramatic way to win a national title.

In the 2011 NCAA tournament, fans were entertained by Virginia Commonwealth University, who played all the way to the final four as an 11-seed, before losing to Butler, which was another team that had to upset higher ranked opponents to reserve a spot in the Final Four.

However, this year's Final Four did not consist of any teams ranked lower than fourth, making the two semifinal games not as appealing to those fans who do like to anticipate the chances for an underdog emerging as the champion.

> KENTUCKY page A13

Working the mound and the plate

Josh Graham

STAFF WRITER

Versatility, as the dictionary defines, is somebody or something that is "capable of many uses." They may as well post a photo of ECU's designated hitter and closer, Drew Reynolds, next to the definition.

Reynolds, a sophomore from Cherryville, N.C., currently has the most saves in Conference USA (7), while also having the third-best batting average (.392). "It's always good to be able to help my team any way I can; whether that is swinging the bat or coming in relief and pitching," said Reynolds.

Inside the batter's box, ECU's No. 7 is arguably swinging one of the hottest bats in the nation. Going into tonight's game against Houston, Reynolds holds a seven-game hit streak and has recorded a hit in 16 of his last 17 contests. In last weekend's series against UAB, he led the Pirates in hits (7), RBIs (7), and on-base percentage (.550). He also scored two runs on Sunday, including the game winner in the bottom of the 13th inning to complete the sweep.

On the mound, Reynolds has been just as effective. At the moment, he is 2-0 with a 3.07 ERA, and on Sunday he pitched a career-high four frames, while fanning six batters, which is also a career high for him. If that wasn't enough, opposing batters are only batting .212 against the right-hander

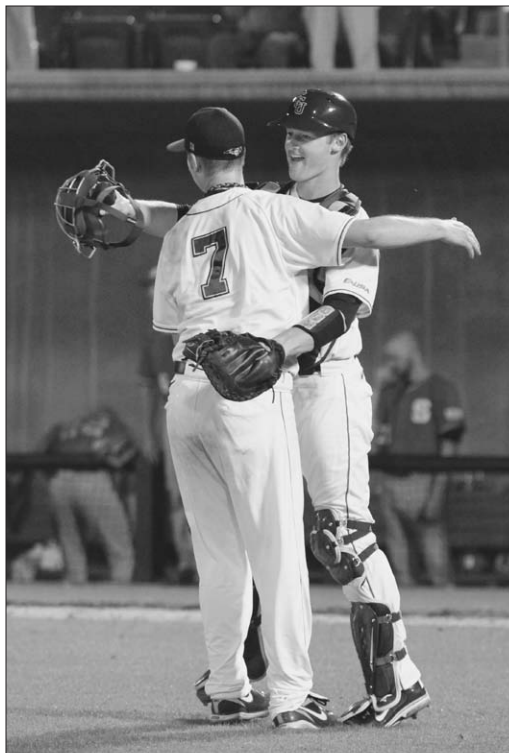
this season. "I like being the guy at the end of the game and have the coaches have confidence in me to come in and close the game down," said Reynolds.

Reynolds credits a lot of his success to the Pirates' coaching staff. "They're a huge part of what everybody does and they provide great support and advice when we need it," Reynolds said. He also went on to say that it is a great feeling knowing that the coaches care about him and his teammates. Reynolds specifically noted assistant and pitching coach Dan Roszel as somebody who has made an enormous impact on him and his game. "(Roszel) has been a huge help to me in my mental preparation and in trying to become better each and every time I go out there."

In high school, Reynolds was a stand-out at East Rutherford High School in Forest City, N.C., where he played for his father, Bobby, and was a three-year letter winner. In 2011, during his freshman

season at ECU, Reynolds appeared in 29 games and started 12 (4/2B, 8/3B), while only making two pitching appearances against Marshall and Delaware State last May. At the plate this season, he has already racked up six extra-base hits, 13

> PLATE page A12



Drew Reynolds (7) and Zach Wright (20) embrace.

HOST continued from A11

Houston has just one starter with an ERA under three, Austin Pruitt (2.16 ERA, 2-2, 41 2/3 innings). Other than Pruitt, the Cougars throw out Jordan

Lewis (5.23 ERA, 3-4, 32 2/3 innings) and Jared Ray (6.40 ERA, 1-3, 32 1/3 innings). Houston has an overall team ERA of 4.88.

EDGE: This is another aspect of the match-up that the Pirates should dominate. ECU has the better arms in the starting rotation and the better bullpen.

ECU Fielding vs Houston Fielding:

If there is one area in this series that seems balanced, it's the fielding. Both teams have struggled all year long, totaling 81 errors between the two. Houston, first in the conference, has 48, and ECU, third in the conference has 33.

The one thing that might trip the Pirates up is the play of shortstop Jack Reinheimer. He has committed 12 errors on the year and the fans inside Clark LeClair stadium all take a collective gasp when the ball is hit to him. But it may not be so bad for Reinheimer in this series since he has picked up his defensive play as of late.

During the UAB series and mid-week against UNCW, Reinheimer has not committed an error, which has been instrumental in the Pirates being on their four-game winning streak.

EDGE: Even. Both of these teams struggle defensively, and that has been a constant.

The Pirates and the Cougars begin their three-game series on tonight at 6 p.m.

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

GAINS continued from A11

chose to don the Purple and Gold, Christian did admit that it was a factor in becoming a Pirate, and that being so close to home has been a great luxury as she navigates through her first collegiate season.

"I had always loved ECU and my father works here," said Christian, who joined teammate Suzanne Riggs as former Conley Vikings on the ECU squad. "Obviously, I looked around (at other schools), but ECU just wound up being the biggest draw for me. It's just really cool to get to play in my hometown and that was one of the biggest reasons I wound up coming here."

Being close to family has made her transition to college life a little easier. "It's really comforting to know that my parents are here," she continued. "I know it's really tough for the girls who are from so far away. But I know that, for me, it's really been a blessing to be able to be so close to my family."

Plus, the recent success of Pirate softball made playing for ECU that much more attractive. But Christian, whose seemingly endless high school accolades included two North Carolina 3A-District 1 Pitcher-of-the-Year awards and a state championship as a senior, came to ECU as one of three freshman pitchers on a staff that finds itself stacked with

talent, but severely lacking in experience.

With such youth in the circle, the Pirates have predictably struggled, finding themselves saddled sixth in the conference standings. With fellow freshman hurler Emma Mendoker out with a season-ending arm injury, Christian and Courtney Smith have shared the pitching duties for most of the year.

Through 35 games for ECU, Christian is tied for third in C-USA with 12 wins and has compiled a 12-11 record in a conference-leading 29 appearances. She has thrown nine complete games and 45 strikeouts, and her earned run average of 3.63 ranks 19th in C-USA.

That's a far cry from the scant 0.63 ERA Christian carried through her senior year of high school, but she said that while the adjustment to the college game has been a bit bumpy, the progress she has made isn't something that can be determined by simply looking at the numbers.

"The biggest difference (from high school to college) has been that the practices are really ramped up," she said. "It's a lot different than high school and you just really have to elevate your game. The players in college, from (first through ninth in the lineup), are all great players, and in high school, it's not like that. So you have to elevate your game with the new

competition. I feel like I've improved a lot, but I feel like I still have a long way to go."

While some of ECU's struggles can be attributed to having such a young pitching staff, Christian noted that the fact that she and her fellow pitchers are all going through these growing pains together and competing against each other in practice has been somewhat of a blessing and has produced a bond between them.

At the end of the day though, Christian is trying to blaze her own path to success as a Pirate. With her freshman season nearing the final stretch, she has established clear personal goals for herself and is pushing herself to obtain them.

But don't mistake that to mean that she doesn't have the big picture in mind.

"For me personally, even though it's a really hard goal, I would really like to be pitcher-of-the-week one week," she said. "That's my goal for myself. But obviously, for our team, we want to be able to climb up in the standings within the conference and do well the rest of the season to position ourselves for the conference tournament. That's the ultimate goal."

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



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PLATE continued from A11

RBI, and a pair of home runs. In his 13 appearances on the mound, he has tallied 15 strikeouts, while only surrendering five walks in 14 2/3 innings of work.

Looking ahead, Reynolds undoubtedly has the potential to do many great things with his baseball career. His intended major is physical education, but believes through hard work, he and his team can accomplish any goals they set for this season,

as well as his baseball career. "I feel I can do whatever I set my mind to and be as good as we want to be," said Reynolds.

Reynolds is one of only two Pirates this season to earn weekly C-USA honors, when he was named Hitter-of-the-Week on March 12. He also collected Pirate hitter-of-the-week accolades Monday, as announced by the ECU Athletic Department.

If the Pirates plan on making it back to the NCAA

Super Regional, like they did in 2011, or further, Reynolds is going to have to play a huge role. A player with his kind of versatility and talent doesn't come across one's doorstep every day, and as long as he is wearing Purple and Gold, Billy Godwin and the Pirates have to be excited about what the team can accomplish.

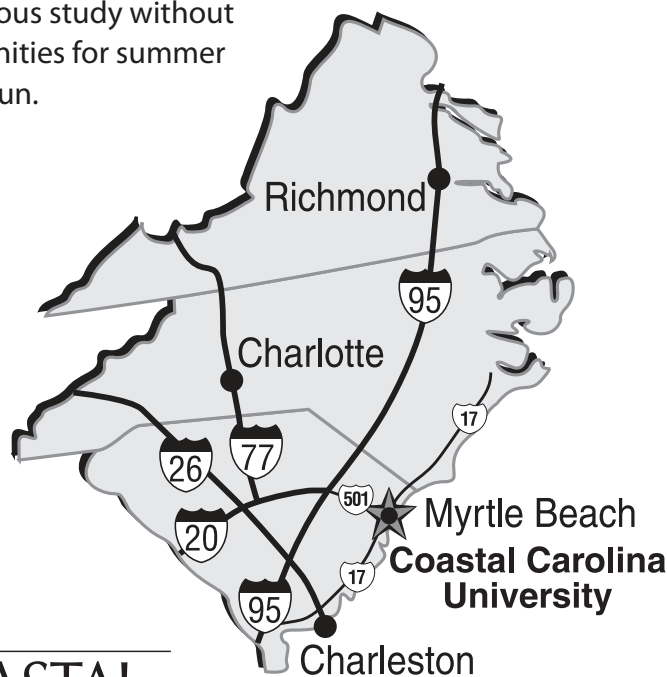
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KENTUCKY

 continued from A11

Both Lehigh and Norfolk State gained attention and respect in the first round, beating two-seeds Duke and Missouri, respectively. Although both teams had momentum after big-time upsets, neither team could squeeze out of the second round and into the Sweet Sixteen. With both 15 seeds being eliminated in the second round, 11-seeded NC State, 10-seeded Xavier, and 13-seeded Ohio were left remaining as the only teams left in the Sweet Sixteen ranked low enough to be considered "Cinderella stories."

All hype and hopes of these lower seeds making any further progress in the tournament was exterminated in this round, as we saw all three teams lose to their respective opponents.

While all this is happening, Kentucky is proving why they are the favorites to win it all, after they accumulated 100 points in their Sweet Sixteen rematch against Indiana.

In 2011, not a single one or two-seeded team made it to the Final Four. In this year's tournament, the final four teams consisted of a one-seed, two number two-seeds, and a four-seed. This year's Final Four was headlined with two matchups basketball fans were excited to see. Although No. 4-ranked Louisville was not favored as much as Kentucky was going into the national semifinal, it was still interesting to watch in-state rivals clash on college basketball's biggest stage.

In the other semifinal, two-seeds Ohio State and

Kansas competed for the spot in the title game. The hype around this game was more focused around the much-anticipated match up of Ohio State's Jared Sullinger and Kansas' Thomas Robinson, due to both players and teams having tremendous seasons.

As Kentucky did what was expected from them, fans can really say this March was one of the typical seasons: a couple of upsets here and there to assure many people's brackets will not be perfect for another year, and another dominant basketball program walking away with another national championship.

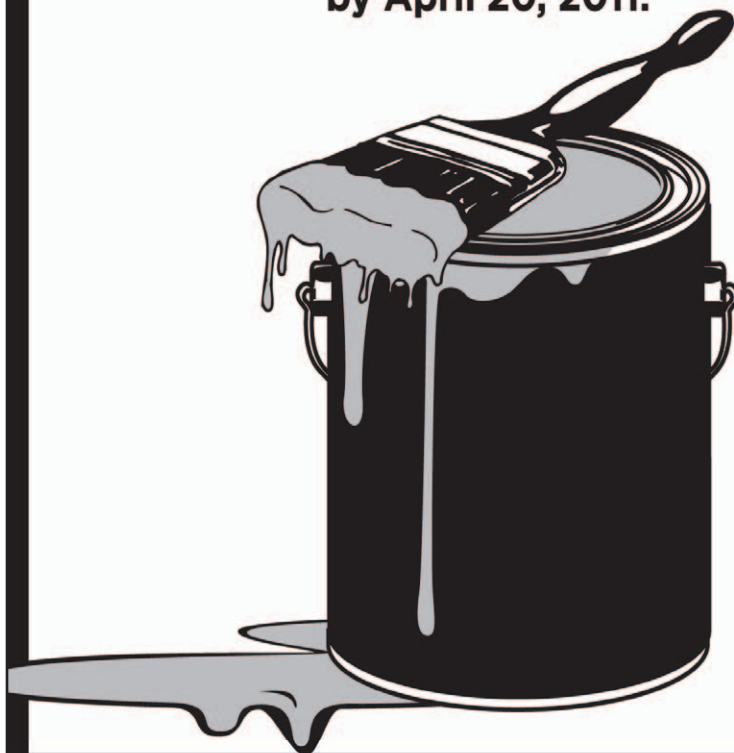
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Eagle Scouts of Pitt County will have a "Gathering of Eagles" event on Thursday, April 5th at 6:00pm at the ECU Heart Institute (115 Heart Drive) to encourage local Eagle Scouts to become active in scouting and promote fellowship and networking. For more info, please email Ashleykn09@gmail.com

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