



BRIEFS

Florida jail releases George Zimmerman

Staff Reports

George Zimmerman was released from a Florida jail on \$150,000 bond.

Zimmerman is awaiting trial for the shooting death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, reported WITN.

He has been charged with second-degree murder for the shooting, which took place on Feb. 26 in a gated community near Orlando.

Zimmerman said he shot Martin in self-defense, while Martin was unarmed.

Mellow Mushroom to hold grand opening

Staff Reports

The grand opening of Mellow Mushroom Pizza Bakers will be held on Monday.

Festivities will begin at 10 a.m. with The Capital Food Group's traditional pizza cutting, followed by a ribbon cutting. Doors open to the public at 11 a.m.

A check will be presented to Beau's Buddies Cancer Fund, Mellow Mushroom's local charity partnership.

The restaurant is located at 2020 Charles Blvd. and serves oven-baked hoagies, calzones, wings and much more.

The Mellow Mushroom bar will serve 90 different beers, many from local state breweries.

Eastern North Carolina's coastal and pirate history has also been incorporated into the establishment's décor, featuring an eight-foot steel sea dragon emerging from a 12-foot fire pit on an outdoor patio.

The Capital Food Group opened its first Mellow Mushroom in Fayetteville in August 2011.

University will celebrate Founder's Day tomorrow

Staff Reports

A Founder's Day celebration will be held tomorrow in Hendrix Theater inside Mendenhall Student Center from 9-10:30 a.m.

The university will commemorate its 1907 founding and recognize faculty members, staff members and students for their accomplishments during the last 12 months.

Faculty members, staff and students will also be inducted into the Servire Society, recognizing public service.

Police positively identify body of Pitt County man

Staff Reports

Pitt County deputies have identified a body that was found Thursday in a trailer.

According to WITN, the body has positively been identified as 42-year-old Irvan Babcock.

Babcock's body was found by a man on Bells Chapel Road. There is no evidence of foul play at this time, but the investigation is ongoing.

Be Sure to check out some of the best Pirate Rants from this year in our

Pirate Rants Year in Review!

B1



Fans can experience The Boneyard student section of Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium in the EA Sports game "NCAA Football 13," which will hit stores on July 10.

Boneyard section to appear in NCAA '13

Jordan Anders
STAFF WRITER

Despite reports to the contrary earlier this month, The East Carolinian has confirmed that EA Sports' "NCAA Football 13" will be the first video game to include Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium's "Boneyard" student section.

ECU message boards ignited with a firestorm of dismay on April 6, when the sports gaming website OperationSports.com published an interview with "NCAA Football 13" designer Christian McLeod and producer Ben Haumiller regarding the game.

In the interview, McLeod and Haumiller produced a list of 15 schools that received stadium changes in "NCAA 13" — two that got brand-

new stadiums and 13 that received significant renovations.

But ECU was not on that list, which infuriated Pirate fans who had already seen the stadium's expansion seemingly shunned in the 2012 version of the wildly popular video game prompting some to proclaim they would not buy the game when it hits stores.

But in an email to The East Carolinian, Haumiller said that Pirate Nation should not fret, because the Boneyard is coming to their gaming consoles this July.

"Yes, the ECU stadium renovation for Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium will be included in 'NCAA Football 13,' closing off the end zone and adding the 'Boneyard' student section," he said.

EA Sports did not, however, comment on why Dowdy-Ficklen was omitted from the initial list of renovated stadiums.

Pirate Nation's furor over the prospect of the Boneyard's potential omission from "NCAA 13" was reminiscent of that from a year ago, when ECU fans were stunned to see that the 7,000-seat end zone enclosure, which was constructed and opened in 2010, was not in "NCAA 12."

Lee Workman, associate athletics director for administration, said he understands why people were upset at the Boneyard's absence from "NCAA 12" and possible absence from "NCAA

> BONEYARD page A2

Year in Review: Top stories of 2011-2012

Cameron Gupton
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Hurricane Irene leaves mark on North Carolina:

Shortly after 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27, Category 1 Hurricane Irene became the first hurricane to hit the continental United States since 2008.

The storm made landfall just east of Cape Lookout on the Outer Banks and carried 85-mph winds.

At one point during the storm, 45,000 people in the Greenville area remained without power and 800 people utilized shelters set up across the county.

The violent winds and heavy rains from the storm damaged several residence halls and the administration building, and toppled many trees.

Officials estimated the total damage of Irene to the East Coast to be around \$15 billion. Forty-seven people died as a result of the storm, two of which were from Pitt County.

University ranks as top-tier school:

The 2011 edition of university rankings by U.S. News & World Report released in September revealed that ECU was a top-tier school.

Schools within the category "offer a full range of undergraduate majors, master's, and doctoral degrees, and are committed to producing groundbreaking research."

The university was tied with several schools for the 194th spot on the list, including UNC-Charlotte, Louisiana Tech and University of Montana.

MTV comes to campus:

Sex columnist Dan Savage made a stop at ECU during his tour of universities across the country to answer students' questions about sex.

Savage, MTV producers and crew filmed on campus from Oct. 18-21.

The show entitled "Savage U" premiered its first 30-minute episode on April 3, which featured the University of Maryland.

The episode featuring ECU premiered last Tuesday.

Student arrested in stabbing death:

On Nov. 2, student Chris W. Brauer was arrested after turning himself into police. Brauer was charged with murder in connection with the stabbing death of a Fort Bragg paratrooper.

Brauer, 21, was suspected of killing Pfc. Keyonn Parkin at a party in the Pirates Place apartment complex on Oct. 29.

According to a press release, there had been an altercation between Brauer, Parkin and Parkin's friend, Pfc. Michael Perry.

Brauer was placed in jail under a \$1,000,000 bond.

Streaker takes the field at football game:

During a football game against University of Southern Mississippi, John Sieglinger, a 22-year-old former student of Wake Technical Community College in Raleigh, took the field naked.

Sieglinger pulled the stunt during a military appreciation ceremony during the game's halftime. He was arrested for misdemeanor indecent exposure and first-degree trespass.

Sieglinger was also issued a lifetime ban from the university's campus.

The East Carolinian later ran a nude photo of the streaker, stirring up much controversy nationwide.

Two months after the photo ran, the university's director of student media, Paul Isom, was fired after the university decided to go in a "new direction."

Recently, Isom and the university released a joint statement stating that he would drop all efforts to get his job back.

Isom received \$31,200, which is the cost of health insurance and six months of his former pay.

Police respond to gunman threat:

On Nov. 16, shortly after 10 a.m., a university lockdown was issued after a man with what appeared to be a gun was spotted walking toward campus.

> REVIEW page A2

Greenville Police begins blogging

Jamie Harper
STAFF WRITER

The Greenville Police Department has begun blogging online to give the public an alternative way to receive an inside look at the day-to-day operations of the department, as well as a way to send out valuable information.

Sgt. Joe Friday, the department's public information officer, created the blogging site when he began in January of this year. The goal of the blog site was to allow the public access to potentially unknown information that they may want, or that can help them understand and make decisions and opinions about their local law enforcement.

According to Michael Dixon, an instructional designer for ECU, blogging has been somewhat left behind in regards to social media.

"If students know to go to a blog, then it's effective. The key is advertising," said Dixon.

The site, which currently has 22 blogs posted, was modeled after other police departments in differing locations, who had also begun blogging to get information out to the public.

"I think it's a great idea because it actually opens the door to a different variety of people," said David Chaney Jr., a senior communication major. "Not everyone watches the news. And now, people are into a lot of social media because it's a way to meet people online; so this will reach a lot of people."

The blogging site, which had the first blog posted on April 3 discussing Spring Break safety, has a variety of blog entries. There are blogs about current arrests in the Greenville area or events that occurred have recently, as well as interest pieces, all of which are written by Friday.

"A lot of people use Tumblr and other stuff like that, so it's a good way to get information out to people," said Kristen Riddick, a junior psychology major.

Some of the interest piece blogs are about the inside operations of the

> POLICE page A2

INSIDE

OPINION

Turn to Opinion to learn a little bit about the history of Pirate Rants. **A4**

LIFESTYLES

Look to Lifestyles to read Hunter Ingram's review about Zac Efron's new movie. **A6**

SPORTS

The C-USA merger with the MW may not happen. Turn to Sports to see what this means for ECU Athletics. **A8**

WEATHER

68°F/ 42°F

Partly Cloudy



GRAPHICS FROM ENTROPIA.COM

ONLINE



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

BONEYARD continued from A1

13,” but that most people underestimate the time it takes to get things right.

“The thing about licensing that people don’t know is that most things have a lead time of about eight to

12 months,” Workman said. “Obviously, with EA Sports, they have a lot to get right and a lot of things to do, so they need a good amount of time.”

Workman said that for the “NCAA 12” game, which

was released in July 2011, EA Sports inquired about the Boneyard in June 2010, before the expansion was even completed, which made it impossible to get the new section included in the game.

Haumiller said EA Sports operates in this way not only to make it easier for its design and production crew to put the game together, but also to provide the most accurate portrayal of stadiums for gamers and fans.

“When it comes to renovations, expansions and new stadiums, it is our policy to wait until the work is complete on the stadium before making updates in the game,” he said. “In previous years, we have made updates based on concept drawings only to have to go back and do another update to the stadium based on what actually was done.”

ECU’s video game depiction has gone through some changes in the last couple of years. “NCAA 12” was the first game to feature the updated version of ECU’s mascot, Pee Dee the Pirate, who was changed to his current wide-smiling form.

Now, Dowdy-Ficklen gets a facelift for the newest version of EA Sports’ college football simulation. But while ECU’s home field will be updated in “NCAA 13,” another hot-button topic among ECU football fans was not.

The helmets on this year’s game will not be the helmets the Pirates wore for the entirety of the 2011 season, which bore a skull and crossbones. Instead, the Pirates’ former helmets, emblazoned with the gold ECU logo with a sword underneath, will be seen.

Holly Wyche, athletics administrative assistant for licensing, said that decision was based on two reasons: the switch to the new helmets happened after ECU had already approved the old helmets for “NCAA 13,” and the fact that no decision has been made yet regarding whether the Pirates will wear those

helmets full-time in 2012.

Wyche did say, however, that if the decision is made to stick with the skull-and-crossbones helmets, EA Sports has said the in-game helmets could possibly be changed before “NCAA 13” is released.

“They are really good about working with us and trying hard to get everything as correct and as up-to-date as they can,” she said.

And the partnership between EA Sports and ECU continues to be mutually beneficial. “EA Sports is a great partner for East Carolina,” Workman added. “They’re so good at what they do and we’re happy to be on the game and be a part of it.”

Pirate fans can finally experience the Boneyard’s addition when “NCAA Football 13” hits stores July 10.

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

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NEW PIRATES ARE COMING!

TEC ad department is reserving ad space for Pirate Preview 2012. The Pirate Preview will be in the Freshman Orientation packets and distributed during the summer at New Student Orientations.

The Pirate Preview tabloid introduces new Pirates to college life at ECU and most importantly, introduces new Pirates to you! The final deadline to reserve ad space in the Pirate Preview is 4pm on May 17. As an added bonus, if ad space is reserved in the Pirate Preview you can also take advantage of reserving the same ad size or larger at the Ad Manager’s Discount Rate in the Back To School edition. (regular sized newspaper)*

The Back To School edition is the first edition of the new school year and will be published on August 21, 2012.

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

5 Column is 8.416 in wide 3 Column is 5.000 in wide 2 Column is 3.291 in wide.
To add color will be an additional charge.

*Back To School Edition - Ad Manager’s Discount Rate is \$5.55 per column inch when the same ad size or larger is placed in the Pirate Preview. Deadline to reserve ad space in the Back To School edition at the Ad Manager’s Discount Rate is Thursday, June 28, otherwise all ad space is at the \$7.00 rate (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.

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POLICE continued from A1

Greenville Police Department. They include “3 rounds in 5 seconds” and “Property and Evidence.” The first entry explains the process that law enforcement must undergo every year in order to re-qualify them to use their firearm. Friday explained in the blog, “In order to qualify, an officer must demonstrate an acceptable level of skill during both day and night shooting. Friday also stated in the blog that about 24,000 rounds of ammunition are usually shot, with about 188 police officers

in attendance.

The “Property and Evidence” blog entry described the process of how evidence is destroyed and how long evidence is kept. Friday also included a YouTube video link in the blog to exemplify how the destruction process occurs.

The blogs also include national information that may be relevant to Greenville residents, like “A Grandmother’s Love,” a blog explaining how con artists were calling grandparents, posing as their

grandchildren in need of money.

“Blogs are still important and a good way to get information out. Sometimes it can be a more intimate channel, which is good,” said Dixon.

In addition to the new blogging site, which can be found at http://greenvillepoliceblog.blogspot.com/, the Greenville Police Department also utilizes Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

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

REVIEW continued from A1

The man was captured on camera walking down Fifth Street at 9:37 a.m. carrying what many reported to look like an assault rifle. The object turned out to be an umbrella.

After being on lockdown for several hours, at 1:14 p.m., the university gave an “all clear” message and students were released.

SGA backs GLBTSU:

In February, the Student Government Association passed two resolutions that promote diversity on campus and disapprove of Amendment One.

Amendment One is com-

monly known as an amendment against gay marriage, but also blocks some rights for unmarried heterosexual couples.

The organization chose not to back the amendment as it stated it could affect future students, faculty and staff.

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

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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.

It's finally starting to hit me that graduation is in two weeks. Downtown will be seeing me in rare form this weekend.

The streaker was arrested AGAIN?? Dang.

If your phone rings in the library, you better answer it like your life depends on it. No one cares about your cool ringtone.

To the guy walking around in his tight black t-shirt with his hair slicked back and his sleeve tattoo: You DO NOT look like Danny Zuko from Grease, you just look like a tool.

I'm not actually funny. I'm just really bitchy and people think I'm kidding.

To the dude sitting next to me in class talking about how he came to ECU for the parties rather than an education: I'd like a Big Mac, hold the tomatoes, with a side of medium fries and a Coke.

To the girl I almost had a threesome with last weekend: We should try again soon.

If you were my final project, I would be doing you on a table in Joyner.

In my Courtship and Marriage class, this lady came and talked to us about sex toys. She gave us a 15 percent discount for her toys and I said, "what the hell, might as well."

I hope no one ever washes off the "Smoke Weed, Eat Yogurt" writing on the wall.

Not everyone parties, has sex, and gets high. But some of us do and still maintain a 4.0. It is possible to learn and also enjoy college life.

Biking to class in heels and arriving just in time to give an A+ presentation ... possibly my proudest moment as a Pirate.

To all the southerners who hate on us from the North ... who won the Civil War?

I wouldn't complain about the "Yankees" that go to ECU. Where do you think a lot of the money for this college comes from?

If you are worried about the MTV show making you look bad, you shouldn't have come to ECU.

Joyner needs to run on Dunkin'. Java City isn't working.

Yeah, Chic-Fil-A can donate as much money as they want to anti-gay groups, but they sure as hell won't be doing it with my money. Or my Pirate Bucks for that matter.

Hey you! Yeah, you choosing the rants. STOP choosing rants supporting gays! — Signed, Your friendly neighborhood homophobe.

Wow, a lot of people at ECU have a foot fetish.

Pirate Ranters: Who cares if you don't like someone's weight or clothes. It's not all about you and what you like.

I haven't taken an Adderall in four years. Why the hell did I wait so long?

To the guy who face planted outside West End Dining Hall on your long board, I sincerely apologize for laughing before I asked if you were OK.

This summer, I will plan out my future Pirate Rants. And they will be published. All of them. Get Ready ECU.

Let me take this pregnancy test before I start drinking.

I want a Real Man of Genius commercial written about me.

Next step: sell textbooks, buy BEER!

Ahhh, that time of year when everyone stops giving a f***!

Gas is \$4 a gallon, and girls think we're coming over just to "chill."

Please no more north vs. south Pirate Rants. We all know the West Coast is where it's at.

Much ado about Pyrates



Ben Cochran
OPINION COLUMNIST
Senior Nursing Major
@Ben_Cochran

My decision to use the traditional spelling of "pyrates" is four-fold:

It's an eye-grabber in much the same way that real pyrates were purse-grabbers.

During the Golden Age of Piracy, this was a common spelling, proven by Charles Johnson's groundbreaking 1724 work, "A General History of the Robberies and Murders of the Most Notorious Pyrates."

ECU has ironically trademarked the term "Pirates," and in keeping with our mascot's historically accurate disregard for property rights, I'd much rather be a pyrate than a Pirate.

I'm Ben Cochran, and I'll do what I want, savvy?

As a graduating senior, I have become acutely aware of how hyperconcerned everyone is with image. And while I can agree that it is important to put your best foot forward, even if that foot is a high-dollar prosthesis or a shabby wooden peg-leg, I feel as though we've gone overboard — in much the same way this paragraph has with the number of pyrat metaphors and references. Arrrrgh!

And just like a myocardial infarction (heart attack) presents with crushing pain, as if an elephant were standing on one's chest, the weight of keeping up a pristine image is bearing down on me, building up an intense pressure that makes me want to "cuss on the mic tonight." Just ask fellow North Carolinian and songwriter, Ben Folds.

As North Carolinians, we both know that it is far better "to be rather than to seem." The North Carolina General Assembly knew it back in 1893 when they made it our state motto. Sprite knew it in the early 1990's, when they hired Grant Hill to say, "Image is not-

ing. Thirst is everything. Obey your thirst."

It seems, though, that this is reversing. Corporate America is sending us a different message. These days, your success in the real world depends largely on how you are perceived. We are the first generation to fully embrace the ubiquity of social media. Unfortunately, the hiring employers are not of this generation and they put far more effort into evaluating our Facebook profiles than our resumes. They are more concerned with our image, rather than our essence.

Show of hands: how many of you have been getting Facebook notifications from complete and utter strangers? I thought I was being spammed by the flour industry when Aunt Jemima liked my status update. Turns out my friend just wanted to toss a red herring to the corporate hounds, so she didn't have to sacrifice her Facebook profile altogether just to get a job.

It's an age-old argument that what I do on my own time should have no bearing on my capacity to act with professionalism and a sense of decorum when I'm on the job. Back in 1970, Five Man Electric Band released a song called "Signs." It opens with the lyrics, "And the sign said long-haired freaky people need not apply."

You cannot be discriminated against based on sex, race, religion, or physical disabilities. Hell, even if your sexual orientation predisposes you to schtupping camels in the ear, you cannot be discriminated against. So why, all of a sudden, am I at risk for not being hired because I engaged in a Devil's Foursome last weekend and have the pictures to prove it?

The latest fad these days is to amend the Constitution. Some people out there are trying to modify the Constitution in order to provide a legal definition for marriage. Before it's all said and



LISA TREADWAY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

done, they'll probably get in a fight about how many scoops of raisins should or shouldn't be in a box of Raisin Bran, even though the answer is very clearly, three.

Nevertheless, if we're going to amend the Constitution, let it be something we can all agree on: Facebook profiles should be a protected status, privacy should

remain private, and trademarking the term "Pirates" should be punishable by walking the plank.

Thank you for reading my columns for the last three years. Fair winds and following seas!

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

Pirate Rants



Stephen McNulty
OPINION EDITOR
Senior Communication Major
@StephenMMcNulty

It's odd to me that I can remember when I was introduced to the Pirate Rants. It was my first time ever being on campus, of course, during a visit my parents and I took when I was a senior in high school.

Making sure we read the rants was one of the first things my guide did. It was spring break, the campus and downtown were kind of quiet and I was a little disappointed in the infamous party school I'd heard so much about. But the rants made me confident that this place was crazy, and definitely for me.

I'd always paid attention to the rants and, even though I've been with *The East Carolinian* since the first semester of my freshmen year, I never imagined I would be the one to choose them. To be honest, I never thought I'd stray from sports. But this past semester the job opened up, and suddenly I found myself at the helm of one of the most influential aspects of ECU; and boy does it bring you closer to the university.

I could never imagine ECU, let alone *The East Carolinian*, without the Pirate Rants. So when I found it difficult to get the story behind how they started, I was a bit surprised.

"The Pirate Rant" first appeared in the Aug. 31, 2004 edition of *The East Carolinian*, under then editor-in-chief Amanda Lingerfelt. At the time, there was no opinion editor. There wasn't one until Sarah Bell hired Elizabeth Lauten as opinion editor in 2007, allowing efficient time to be dedicated to the page because the rants

were growing in popularity.

Jennifer Hobbs, who worked alongside Lingerfelt and ran the rants during her tenure as editor-in-chief, believes the "Cheers and Jeers," a part of the Opinion page which appeared a few years prior, and an idea from a conference that Lingerfelt attended, combined to breed the beginnings of the Pirate Rants. Hobbs said there was a lot of "troubleshooting and 'how are we going to do this?'" going on in the office as well. But, with the first issue of the 80th volume of *The East Carolinian*, the Pirate Rant section, almost exactly what we still have it today, premiered.

They ranted about parking, partying, sex and professors. There was even a squirrel one in there. In the beginning, the rants were a lot longer; it wasn't quite the texting and Twitter generation yet, which led to a lack of one-liners.

When Hobbs took over as editor-in-chief in the summer of 2005, she was the first production manager to take the top job.

"Amanda started it, and then I carried it on," Hobbs said. "At that point, it was so new that I could have just gotten rid of it and nobody would've really known the difference. They may have been pissed at first, but then it wouldn't have been a big deal."

So after I told Hobbs that I thought there'd be a riot outside *The East Carolinian* office if we stopped the rants, she was overjoyed.

The Pirate Rants' ability to get the paper picked up, a primary focus of Hobbs' during her tenure as editor-in-chief and Sarah Bell's hiring of an opinion editor, really allowed the Pirate Rants to take off.

The rants are a place for the students to speak. While, yes, our writers are all students, they represent a small minority. "It was some-

"The Twitter before Twitter"

thing to involve the students in our newspaper, because it's a college newspaper, and that's what the point is," Hobbs said.

By 2007, "Not just for Pirate Rants" was written under the opinion banner. In October that year, the rants found their way to the center of the page, three columns wide. They stayed that way until 2009, when Katelyn Crouse moved them to their current format, where the move did cut down on the number of rants published in each issue.

Shortly after hanging up with Hobbs, she called me back. "I just saw the Pirate Rants were on Twitter. I had to call you back because I just about died when I saw that," she said. "I guess I'll have to start following now."

While we may offer a fewer number of Pirate Rants than in the past, we now offer you the "Pirate Rants: Year in Review" and @ecupiraterants on Twitter. May the rants ever live on in their glory; and fellow Pirates, never stop ranting. It's been a pleasure reading your thoughts.

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

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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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RANTS CONT.

Just because you don't want to date him, doesn't mean I can't still accept alcohol from him.

My friend's grandma told us that she met her husband at ECU during a drug bust at an off-campus party. Two things: not much has changed and there just might be hope for my love life after all.

Great movies always happen to be on TV when you're trying to study. And no, I don't have any will power.

You know it's bad when you look outside and don't even realize that you pulled an all-nighter.

And so the search for the legendary Poop Palace begins.

I STILL haven't slept with the dancing hotdog guy at Sup Dogs and he was even featured on MTV.

Instead of worrying about stopping Kony, let's worry about stopping Obama.

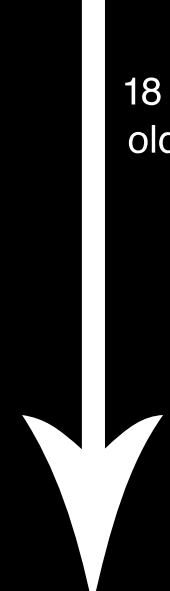
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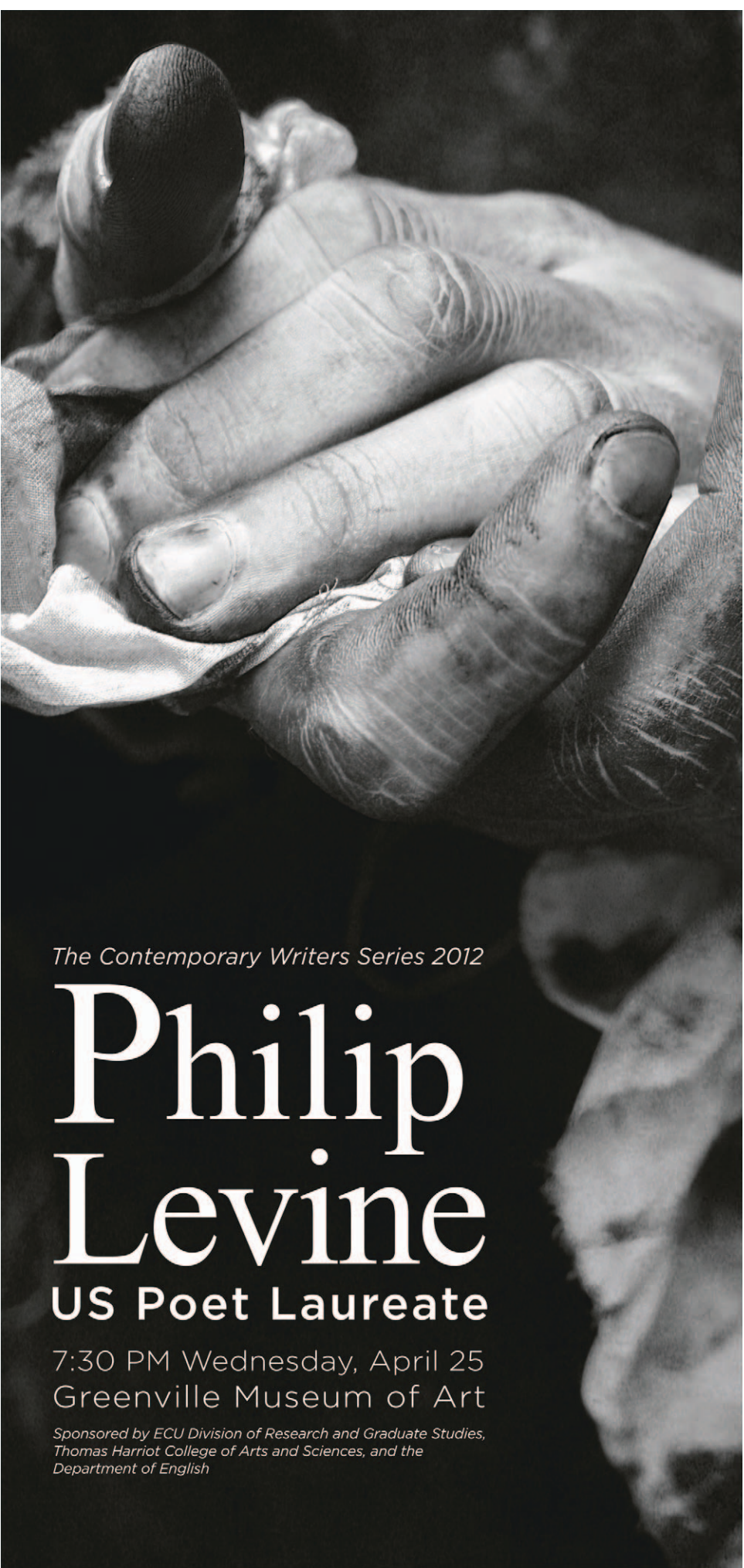
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ALBUM REVIEWS

And the Beat Goes On...



Stephen Mason
COLUMNIST

Alas, my final column for *The East Carolinian*. Thanks to anyone who actually read the thing, and all I can say is that I've enjoyed reviewing 70 or so albums over the last year.

But enough gooey stuff, here are some closing notes: Hit up East Coast Music & Video for leftover Record Store Day goodies. I picked up *Here's Little Richard* and Leonard Cohen's *Live in Fredericton EP*. Jack White's *Blunderbuss* drops this week, and he'll be performing with Alabama Shakes (whose debut, *Boys and Girls*, is rather good) in Asheville on May 19.

Tickets are sold out, so congrats to those of you who managed to get one. Me? I'm seeing Elvis Costello in Durham. Also, unless you're a diehard Madonna fan, the 12-track release of *MDNA* is preferable to the deluxe edition. Last words: Any A level album is required listening, a B+ is noteworthy, and everything else a waste of time. Happy listening.

DR. JOHN – *Locked Down*:

According to the liner notes, two men are responsible for the juju-inspired voodoo stomp and raucously trippy riffs mixed with swamp rock sludge. Surprisingly, neither is producer Dan Auerbach of the Black Keys, whose guitar work and assembly of young studio musicians backs up the N'awlins native with crackling energy. The opening title cut blasts a galloping rhythm section over sneering keyboards, and the heavy blues wallop of "Kingdom of Izzness" kills. On "Big Shot," the good doctor boasts "If I don't cure ya, I'm sure to kill ya." So, who are the "two brothers, both musicians" who birthed this disc? Mac Rebennack and Dr. John, of course. Duh.

ROBERT GLASPER

EXPERIMENT – *Black Radio*:

Glasper's experiment aims to push parameters (supposedly) plaguing contemporary jazz, and he (supposedly) accomplishes this through a blend of piano magic, credible hip-hop cameos, and long, winding R&B ... not exactly a unique combination but interesting enough. Competent? You bet. Badu's rendering of Coltrane's "Afro Blue" is remarkable, and Lupe and Bilal crossfade nicely on "Always Shine." But if this album is the future of music as too many claim, prepare for a world of rhythms without beats, improvisations that neither follow nor direct and ultimately fizzle, and enough people thinking this stuff is too good to be true.

MADONNA – *MDNA*:

Not surprising like her '80s stuff, Gaga does it better, yak yak yak. No kidding she's no longer twenty-something and will never make a career of wearing meat suits. But put aside any stupid preconceptions you have of the diva and you'll hear a dance-pop album far finer than *The Fame*. The synth-tastic "Turn Up the Radio" and disco-romp "I'm a Sinner" aren't as dumb as "Poker Face," and besides, dance music is only "smart" when it's detached and ironic, and thus too smug for its own good. And who cares if she trades shock value for humor? She dabbles in dubstep and shoots the b**ch in the head on "Gang Bang," brushes off critics bemoaning her continuance with lines like "Every record sounds the same / You gotta step into my world," and raps at least on par with Natalie Portman. Go ahead. Find me a 53 year old with this much sass to spare and I'll say, "L! U! V! Madonna! Y! O! U! You wanna?"

THE MARS VOLTA –

Noctourniquet:

I gave up on their lyrics out

> ALBUM page A7



"The Lucky One," starring Taylor Schilling and Zac Efron, opened in theaters this past Friday. It is the seventh film adaptation of a Nicholas Sparks novel.



Hunter Ingram
COLUMNIST
Grade: C

Say goodbye to the days of a skinny, floppy-haired Zac Efron who sings through the halls of East High, and feast your eyes on a new brooding and muscular version that has set the loins of many a lady on fire with the new Nicholas Sparks adaptation, "The Lucky One."

While Efron has indeed moved past the days of "High School Musical" and the whiney travesty that was "Charlie St. Cloud," no version of him can save the clichéd mess that is "The Lucky One." Over the years, Sparks has redefined the cinematic (and narrative) romance by creating stories of epic love, dramatic stases and a guaranteed lovemaking scene set in the vicinity of water. His stories leap past the simple love and shoot straight for the stars, a method that has led me to refer to him as "the Swoon Master."

In this newest film based on one of the Swoon Master's popular books, Efron plays Logan, a Marine whose lucky track record on the battlefield is attributed to the picture of a woman he found while in Afghanistan. When Logan returns stateside, he sets out to find the woman who "saved" his life, deciding to keep the picture a secret and

instead starting a romance with her that, you guessed it, has audiences buckling at the knees.

The sad part is, this film is far from deserving of such emotion, as it is a forced narrative that's sole purpose is to feast on the hopeless romanticism of America, which is a group I will admit I am a member of. Only I was not blind to the tactics unfolding onscreen.

Sparks has created fantastic stories with "The Notebook," "A Walk to Remember" and "Message in a Bottle," all of which are timeless tales of love and its power to defy even the bleakest of odds. Even in the unhappy endings that some of those films portrayed, hope was found in the fact that the love depicted was pure, organic and true. But with "The Lucky One," it's a rushed act that never truly blossoms in that organic way, instead being forced down the audiences' throat at rapid speed.

To his credit, Efron is not a bad leading man. He has the brooding, lost-boy-with-baggage façade down pat, which, as any Sparks fan can tell you, is essential to the puzzle of these films. They are all the same, with the same pieces, just a different design. And Efron is the first to fall into place.

The next is Beth, the leading lady, who, played by the undeniably beautiful Taylor Schilling, is the timid clear-thinker that is not fooled by Logan's charm and

wholesome nature. She doesn't like him at first, in a blatant and over-the-top manner, that isn't played all that believable by Schilling. Like the whole story, she is forcing this hatred to create the unavoidable wall that Logan must break down.

From there, the characters continue to fit into the Swoon Master's puzzle of romantic conventions, including the wise elder, in the form of Beth's grandmother (Blythe Danner); the lovable child that is the key to warming his mother's heart (Riley Thomas Stewart); the jealous former lover (Jay R. Ferguson), who provides the major conflict; and of course, the loyal canine companion.

But the Sparks' touch doesn't stop with the characters, it invades the whole story as well. There is the initial meet, the growing distain from the woman, the strapping man's wooing of said woman, the passionate water-soaked sex scene (complete with some light fondling), the montage of happiness, the reveal of the long-held secret (which is forgotten about for the majority of the film), the return of the hatred, the third-act tragedy, and then, the inevitable variation of the happy (or not-so-happy) ending. And yes, that is the entire film wrapped up in one sentence, which is a pretty good indicator of this film's lack of originality.

Not to mention, Efron and Schilling have very little chemistry besides that which naturally mani-

fest when someone jumps someone else in an outdoor shower. And this is sad because both are fine actors, they just don't fit together here, and are given terrible dialogue to work with, including the nauseating line, "You should be kissed every minute, of every hour, of every day."

The positive to this film is that it has some truly breathtaking scenery. Set in the backwoods of Louisiana, sun flares (J.J. Abrams-style) and mossy creeks are abundant, as are the shots of sun-soaked water and overgrown nature. Lucky for the audience, Logan likes to walk, so the scenery is a constant distraction from everything else happening.

I have said it before, and I will say it again — I'm a sucker for a good epic romance. Something about two people overcoming the odds and finding comfort and solitude in each other is powerful and moving. But I didn't find that in "The Lucky One," which just forced its lackluster story one clichéd too far. But the Swoon Master didn't get his name because this is his first romantic rodeo — and it certainly won't be his last. Unfortunately for the new and improved Efron, he will have to find his footing in a different film, because, unlike his character, the luck isn't in his favor.

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



ALLISON ZAUCHA | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

CREATES QUALITY PIZZA



Mike Davis
ASSISTANT
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Grade: B

With endless combinations of pizza, the smell of melted cheese, a packed restaurant and the anticipation of Greenville's newest restaurant, my girlfriend and I ventured downtown Saturday night to see what "The Quarry" was all about.

Though its two-page menu offered only a few pizza options and appetizers as part of its soft opening, The Quarry will reveal its full menu soon. Still, the atmosphere inside was alive and abuzz. It seemed as though I wasn't the only one curious about the food, as anxiety filled the eatery.

Despite a fairly short menu, I chose to create my own pizza, which included three toppings for no extra charge. With multiple options such as tomato sauce, white sauce and olive oil, creating the perfect pizza was harder than expected. With many changes along the way, I decided to order my own \$9 pizza with tomato sauce, pepperoni, sun-dried tomatoes and banana peppers.

On the other hand, my girlfriend ordered the balsamic chicken pizza, which had white sauce, chicken and balsamic vinaigrette, also for \$9.

For a place located in the heart of downtown Greenville, across the street from Fifth and Annex streets, it goes without saying a bar would help the late-night flow. But this wasn't the typical college bar seen throughout G-Vegas that offers up drink specials every day of the week, even though it

does offer up around 20 beers and mixed drinks. And yes, almost all restaurants have a "classy" bar with a TV or two showing basketball and football highlights, but not like The Quarry.

The most confusing thing about the restaurant is trying to decipher the direction it is trying to go in. From the sidewalk it's easy to see the seemingly countless flat-screens plastered high on the walls, showing hockey and UFC. Is this place trying to rival sports-inspired restaurants like Glory Days or the Carolina Ale House? Is it trying to compete with the student-filled downtown bars? Who is it catering to?

What further confused me was how nicely decorated it is inside. It's not to say a sports restaurant bar can't be fashionable or trendy, but those are uncommon traits in the ones I've been to. The inside of the pizza joint is filled with varied-size black tables throughout. Along the right wall are a few half booths and the middle was filled with high towering four-person tables.

The tables looked nice, especially in spatial comparison to everything else. But as we sat down, we found ourselves leaning across them the entire night due to their awkward size. Maybe they weren't that much bigger than the ordinary restaurant table, and don't deserve all the achy-back pain complaints, but the entire night was spent hunched forward.

It didn't help that there were two large groups on both sides of the room creating a loud atmosphere. The restaurant looked like a brick-oven pizzeria, but sounded more like the "Sup Dogs" late-night rush.

To make matters worse, one of its two brick

ovens crapped out after we ordered. Should it be a concern that the restaurant has been open for a week and is already having things break? Or is it just bad luck?

It wasn't the fact that the food took forever to come out that was tough; it was the fact that everything looked and smelled so amazingly good. It was torturous seeing and smelling the fresh-baked pizza around us. But even though the wait was long and a steady stream of saliva streaked down my face, the service was excellent. From beginning to end, our waitress updated us on the situation, filled our water and genuinely felt bad about our wait, which wasn't her fault.

But when the glorious moment came and Pete, the owner and chef, personally brought us our pizzas and sincerely apologized for the wait, it was time. My crisp, six-piece personal pizza, topped with banana peppers, sun-dried tomatoes and pepperonis, was unbelievably good.

The banana peppers and pepperonis, which packed a punch, paired perfectly with the sun-dried tomatoes. The pizza was filled with just the right amount of tomato sauce and cheese, not overpowering the extra ingredients added.

But the most memorable part was the crust. The thin crust added the missing texture, the crunch to set off the gooey cheese. The only negative I found with my flavor-filled pizza were the bubbles that crumbled over the plate as I ate, making the final bites more work than necessary. But despite the mess, I was in pizza Valhalla.

My girlfriend's pizza was just as good, if not

> QUARRY page A7

QUARRY continued from A6

better. The sweet and tangy vinaigrette didn't overpower the pizza. The chicken was juicy and was matched excellently with the white sauce. What little leftovers we had didn't last long, as our friend willingly ate the two slices when we got home, agreeing that this place was legit.

Despite the ruckus, this place was grade "A" certified. If you're a fan of California Pizza Kitchen or just pizza in general, make sure to stop by this up-and-coming pizza behemoth for food that will bring you back again and again.

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



ERIKA KHALIL | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
Downtown's newest eatery offers up a variety of pizzas and drinks.

ALBUM continued from A6

the gate with *De-Loused* and thought they might be kaput musically after the "acoustic" *Octahedron*. And while I still can't attest to their lyrics, at least Bixler-Zavala isn't another prog-metal (or whatever you might call this stuff) vocalist violently insecure about girls or his daddy. Rhythmically, only the title track punches like "Goliath" or "Viscera Eyes," but the Mars Volta have rarely been about tight execution, not in the way primo cuts from guitarist Rodriguez-Lopez's solo albums are. Fire up "Melting Chariots" or even the 20-minute-plus "Jacob Van Lennepkade II" from *The Apocalypse Inside of an Orange* if you don't believe me. They're instrumentals, if that tells you something.

ODD FUTURE – The OF Tape, Vol. 2:

With a solid hour of violent misogyny, homo-bashing, death threats, and a big middle finger to anything

resembling authority, it's no wonder moralists are quick to condemn these kids. First off, there's no reason to take anything they say seriously, and second, even if their material was shocking (it isn't), it would only make you think they need psychiatrists. Unfortunately, when an album this obvious is devoid of humor despite its best tries, criticisms of the aforementioned sort seem to hold water. I'm not in that boat, but I don't see much redemption, either. You have to watch the video for "Rella" to access their brand of genius, to appreciate the flaccid beat and manifestations of their absurd imaginations, like laser-semen that turns people into cats (think about it). If the album's funny, it's purely bludgeoning humor, as no one in the rap collective delivers a satisfying punch line — they just punch you in the face, every single time.

THE SHINS – Port of Morrow:

"I was born with blood on my hands / And have all the signs of a bleeding heart," summates James Mercer's latest album of 10 songs, coming five years after *Wincing the Night Away* and two after his *Broken Bells* venture. Despite how pop-oriented he's become since ditching the rest of the band, he never wears his heart on his sleeve as baldly as, say, Ben Gibbard, where it's all hapless boy (not man) pining hopelessly for uptown girl. In Mercer-land, the lovers stay together because both believe the apocalypse is impending. And the apocalypse isn't a world without each other; it's actually the end of the world. If it isn't, expect his next album in 2018 and more Danger Mouse detours along the way.

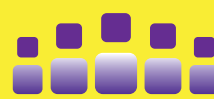
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Club boxing ranks third nationally

Staff Reports

The club boxing team competed in mid-April at the National Collegiate Boxing Association at Colorado Springs, Colo., and ranking third nationally, with two boxers earning All-American honors.

Brandon Knox placed second in the nation in his weight class of 125 lbs, while Franklin Baker placed third in his weight class of 175 lbs. Both competed on local, region, and national stages, and vaulted ECU to the third-ranked Collegiate Boxing program in the nation.

Vote Greenville for College Gameday

Staff Reports

For the first time, ESPN College GameDay will be filming one of its commercials on a campus selected by fans. The winning school, decided solely on votes cast, will be featured in a College GameDay ad that will run on the ESPN family of networks this fall.

The voting, which will include fans from more than 120 schools, takes place over a 10-day span that begins Monday at noon and continues through May 2 at 11:59 p.m. Individuals are allowed to vote one time per day at GameDay-Vote.com, m.GameDayVote.com on mobile devices, or at Facebook.com/collegegameday. The winning school will be announced soon after the contest ends.

Men's golf places seventh at C-USA Championship

Staff Reports

The ECU men's golf team sits in seventh place after the first round of the 2012 Conference USA Championships at the par-72, 6,935-yard Texarkana Country Club. The Pirates fired a 7-over 295 and trail first-place Memphis, who carded a 6-under 282, by 13 strokes after 18 holes.

The Tigers, one of three teams to shoot under-par, hold a two-stroke lead over second-place SMU (284) and a four-stroke advantage over third-place Marshall (286). UCF is (290) is five strokes ahead of ECU in fourth-place, while Houston and UAB are tied for fifth-place at 4-over 292.

The Pirates hold a one-stroke lead over eighth-place Southern Miss (296) and a two-shot lead over ninth-place UTEP (297). Tulsa sits alone in 10th-place at 13-over 301 followed by Rice in 11th at 21-over 309.

Junior Zach Edmondson and senior David Watkins posted ECU's lowest first round tallies at 1-over 73 and are part of a six-way tie for 20th. Senior Harold Varner sits one stroke back of his teammates, tied for 26th at 2-over 74. Senior Adam Stephenson fired a 3-over 75 to complete the first round tied for 32nd. Sophomore Ryan Eibner is tied for 36th at 4-over 76.

Memphis senior Jack Belote and SMU senior Max Buckley are tied atop the leaderboard at 4-under 68. Memphis' Jonathan Fly, reigning C-USA individual medalist, and Houston's Curtis Reed are tied for third at 3-under 69.

Have questions about the Sports section?
Contact the Sports Editor at
sports@theeastcarolinian.com

Softball clips Golden Eagles

Cameron Stephenson
STAFF WRITER

An opportunity to sweep the Golden Eagles of Southern Mississippi was tarnished by the rain on Sunday afternoon, but overshadowed by back-to-back victories on Saturday

for the ECU softball team.

Hosting conference rival Southern Miss, as well as former Pirate athletes, the ECU softball team held its annual Alumni Weekend while

while

Not-so-super merger close to collapse



Justin Ackley
OPINION COLUMNIST
@justin_ackley

According to a report from CBSSports.com, the

merger, which was going to blend Conference USA with the Mountain West Conference, looks to be less likely as time goes on. It is looking more likely that a certain agreement, such as an alliance, could take place instead.

In this case, the two conferences would be separate, but in agreement to share specific resources. Once UCF, SMU, Houston and Memphis leave C-USA, it could potentially put a strain on several sports within the league. As it stands right now, C-USA would lose women's swimming as a Division-I sport. The NCAA requires a conference to have eight participants in women's sports and six participants in men's sports to remain at the highest level of competition, which raises a whole other question of equal treatment, but that can be saved for another day.

So, what exactly does all this mean for ECU? The women's swim team would immediately feel the biggest impact. C-USA would have to go out and find additional teams willing to compete as a member to remain in Division I. If that does not happen, there are two alternate routes the Pirates could take.

The first would be finding another conference for swimming, by itself, to compete in. While there may be consequences to leaving C-USA for a sport, this would potentially save the Division-I aspect of the program. The second option is dropping down a level in competition. As this is not ideal, it could potentially start a downward spiral for the program due to a lack of competition.

The loss of the four C-USA teams, will affect the other sports as well. A notable change will be the removal of the C-USA Championship game in football. In order to have a conference championship game in football, a conference must have 12 active participants split into two divisions. With that being said, the conference will obviously still be able to sponsor football. The only real consequence is a lost game, which is lost revenue, as well as the winner of the regular season will receive the C-USA title.

A larger impact may be felt by the schedules of the teams at ECU. Many of the Olympic sports teams currently play each member of the conference once during the season. For a team like women's soccer, this equals out to 11 conference games during a given year. Now, with four less teams in the conference, there will be four games to be made up from somewhere else. This has a chance to positively affect the program, but brings on negative consequences as well.

ECU programs are in a good

> MERGER page A9

competing in a series against the Golden Eagles.

A ceremony was held in between the first two games of the series, in which former Pirate letter winners were called onto the field and recognized by all

attendance. Sunday's event, in which the Exceptional Community Baseball League would have played a game with the softball players of ECU, was cancelled due to bad weather.

Coming into this weekend's series, ECU was enjoying a three-game winning streak, with a record of 19-25 (5-10 C-USA), while Southern Miss entered the weekend 12-24 (4-11 C-USA). In the two teams' last series with each other, the Pirates, which hold an 18-16 all-time record

against Southern Miss, prevailed in all three games with scores of 6-0, 5-1 and 8-1. Sophomore Jasmine Robbins, who batted in three runs in game three of the last series, and her team looked to obtain similar results in this weekend's competition.

This proved to be a great weekend for the Pirates, as they clinched their second consecutive series victory.

Robbins drove in the first run of the series opener on Saturday in the bottom of the second inning with a double to left centerfield that allowed Priscilla Velasquez to score from second base. Preceded by two consecutive groundouts, in the following inning, Britney Dinelt of the Golden Eagles answered Robbins' RBI with a home run of her own, positioning the score at 1-1 at the top of the third. Only one hit and a slew of groundouts defined the next three innings, as both teams battled for an advantage over the other.

Finally, in the bottom of the sixth inning, the stalemate was broken by the Pirates. Consecutive groundouts led to a solo home run by Alex Fieldhouse, and despite being followed by another groundout, would go on to be the game-winning score for ECU. Pirate

pitchers Courtney Smith and Sarah Christian both threw complete games in Saturday's first victory, allowing only seven hits without any walks throughout the game. Smith put away 13 of the 14 final batters for Southern Miss, with only one of the opposing team members reaching after being hit by a ball.

During the second game of the series, first blood was drawn again by the Pirates in the bottom of the second inning, when Chelsea Kaluhiokalani-Glackin was walked with two runners on base forcing one of the runners, Jordan Lewis to score and Velasquez to advance to third. The score was followed by an ECU groundout. The Pirates scored yet again in the bottom of the fourth when Robbins hit a single to the left side of the field, allowing teammate Abby Wynne, who was pinch running for Velasquez after a double to left field, to score.

ECU's final score was recorded when Robbins reached on a fielding error in right field, and Velasquez scored an unearned run. Southern Miss did not get on the scoreboard until the seventh inning, when Stephanie Shiflet grounded out, allowing her teammate Carissa Turang, who was on third after her triple to right-centerfield, to score. The final score of the game read 3-1, as the Pirates advanced their overall

> EAGLES page A9

Looking back at two years with TEC



Adam Bunn
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

In 20 years, when we all look back on our time

here at ECU, most of us will not remember all the specific classes we took or the things we learned, but what we will remember are the little moments that made college special.

As a graduating senior, I have experienced many moments that I will look back on, but the memories that will be most vivid have come while I have served as the assistant sports editor for *The East Carolinian* over the last two years.

During my time with the newspaper, I have had access to coaches and players from every sport on campus, as well as the opportunities to travel outside of Greenville to watch them play.

I have seen Hail Mary touchdown passes from field level, overtime interceptions from inside the end zone, and stood on the field at Bank of America stadium, as well as the court at Time Warner Cable Arena.

But which one will be my most treasured memory, the one that I look back on and say I can't believe I got to do this?

My original assignment for this article was just to find a specific moment from my time working at *The East Carolinian* and relate how, when I'm 40 and telling my kids about college, that will be the moment I choose to focus on.

But as I sat and thought for what seemed like hours, a realization came over me. I can't just pick one moment. Picking one moment would be a disservice to all the struggles and triumphs that made me the writer I am today.

Working for *The East Carolinian* over the last two years has brought out the best in my writing, and forced me to come out of the shell I was in during my first two years at ECU.

Before I started working for *The East Carolinian*, the thought of standing up and addressing a crowd seemed like the worst thing imaginable, let alone asking an FBS-level football coach a stupid question in front of my peers.

What this paper did for me was give me the confidence to trust my instincts. To ask that question, whether stupid or not, because

being a student journalist isn't about perfection; it's about learning how to interact with coaches and players, it's about learning how to articulate your knowledge about sports to those who may not agree with you or understand the point you're trying to get across.

Working for the student newspaper is about making and learning from your mistakes. Anyone whose ever read my articles over the last two years can tell you that I have made mistakes; but without making those mistakes, I would have no concept of research, and would be doomed to failure in my professional life.

So in asking me to name one moment from my two years that I will remember most, I say that without any of them, I would not be where I am today, less than two weeks shy of my graduation.

Without having seen that Hail Mary, I would not know how to write with emotion; without being on the court at Time Warner Cable Arena, I would not know what I wanted from my life; and without *The East Carolinian*, I could be sitting here wondering what my future holds for me, instead

> LOOKING page A9

Pirates drop two against Rice Cotton pitches to 4-3 win on Sunday

William Farrar
STAFF WRITER

The Pirates traveled to Houston this past weekend to face No. 7 Rice in a three-game series. ECU, currently ranked 24th, won the last game, 4-3, behind Jharel Cotton (7-0), who started for the Pirates and pitched six frames before being relieved by Jake Harris.

Cotton retired 11 of the last 15 batters he faced, to receive his seventh win of the season, which leads in Conference USA. Harris faced one batter before freshman Jeff Hoffman came in to pitch for the Pirates in the seventh. Hoffman allowed one run on one hit before being relieved by Drew Reynolds.

Reynolds entered the game in the ninth frame with a runner on second and was able to pick up his eighth save of the season, which is a team and league best.

The Pirates scored three runs in the fourth to take a 3-1 lead. After Corey Thompson reached base on a walk, John Wooten and Zach Wright both singled. Thompson scored off of Wright's single, and Wooten would eventually reach home on a RBI ground out from Philip Clark. Wright made it home on a sacrifice fly out contributed by Jack Reinheimer. ECU added a run later in the game when another single from John Wooten plated Tim Younger.

On Saturday, the Pirates lost 6-2, after going 10 innings before Rice's

Craig Manuel hit a walk-off grand slam to give Rice the series win. Tanner Merritt (2-3) was given the loss after allowing five hits and five runs. Tyler Joyner started for the Pirates, but was relieved by Merritt after just over five innings of work. Joyner gave up one run on five hits and struck out four batters before he was relieved by Merritt. Although the Pirates accumulated 11 hits during the contest, 12 runners were left on base in the extra inning battle against Rice.

On Friday in the series opener, the Pirates offense never got going, as ECU recorded one lone hit in the game and eventually lost, 2-0.

> RICE page A9



Right-hander Jharel Cotton (39) pitched the Pirates out of a sweep at Rice, grabbing a 4-3 win on Sunday.

SERGEI TROFIMOV | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

EAGLES continued from A8

record to 21-25, and looked poised to add another victory onto their record until the game cancellation on Sunday. This proved to be a great weekend for the Pirates, as they clinched their second consecutive series victory against the Golden Eagles and prepare to get another this upcoming weekend, as

they play host again against Marshall. The series against the Thundering Herd will also serve as Senior Day, and the team will honor the final seasons of Suzanne Riggs and Priscilla Velasquez.

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

LOOKING continued from A8

of being pretty sure what I want in life. So maybe I lied. Maybe there is one moment from my four years here at ECU that will stand out in my mind forever. Maybe there is one moment that I will tell my children, and perhaps grandchildren about someday. But it won't be of a game

or a specific article I wrote, but instead it will be the day Michael Perry, the current sports editor, asked me to be his assistant. Without that day, I would be nowhere near who I am today.

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

MERGER continued from A8



The women's swim team may have to find a new conference to compete in if the conference merger fails to be completed.

geographic region with an abundant amount of Division-I colleges to fill the schedule.

There are conferences like the ACC and CAA, which will be viable options in the future scheduling of ECU. Competing well in non-conference games with teams from these conferences could go a long way in recruiting and improving the current state of each team. There may also be problems in which the teams in those conferences do not have any room left to sched-

ule more non-conference games. The latter of the consequences would force ECU to make some difficult decisions as to who to play. Other options could include Division II-schools and NAIA teams, which already make a very small appearance on some schedules at ECU.

If this merger does in fact fall apart, it is not the end of the road for ECU Athletics. It would only represent a time in which more creativity would have to be developed by the adminis-

tration in providing highly competitive, yet reasonable accommodations for the athletes. Maybe this works out for the best, as it possibly eliminates some long trips

out west that greatly impact the athletes involved in the Olympic sports.

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

RICE continued from A8

Kevin Brandt (5-3) started and received the loss for the Pirates, while pitching his second complete game of the season in C-USA play. Brandt allowed two runs on six hits, only one of the six hits being an extra-base hit. Both teams defense looked impressive in the game, as it eventually became the shortest game played by either school, lasting only one hour and 38 minutes. The Pirates will be back in action tomorrow, as they travel to Chapel Hill to face No. 6 North Carolina. First pitch is scheduled for 6 p.m.

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

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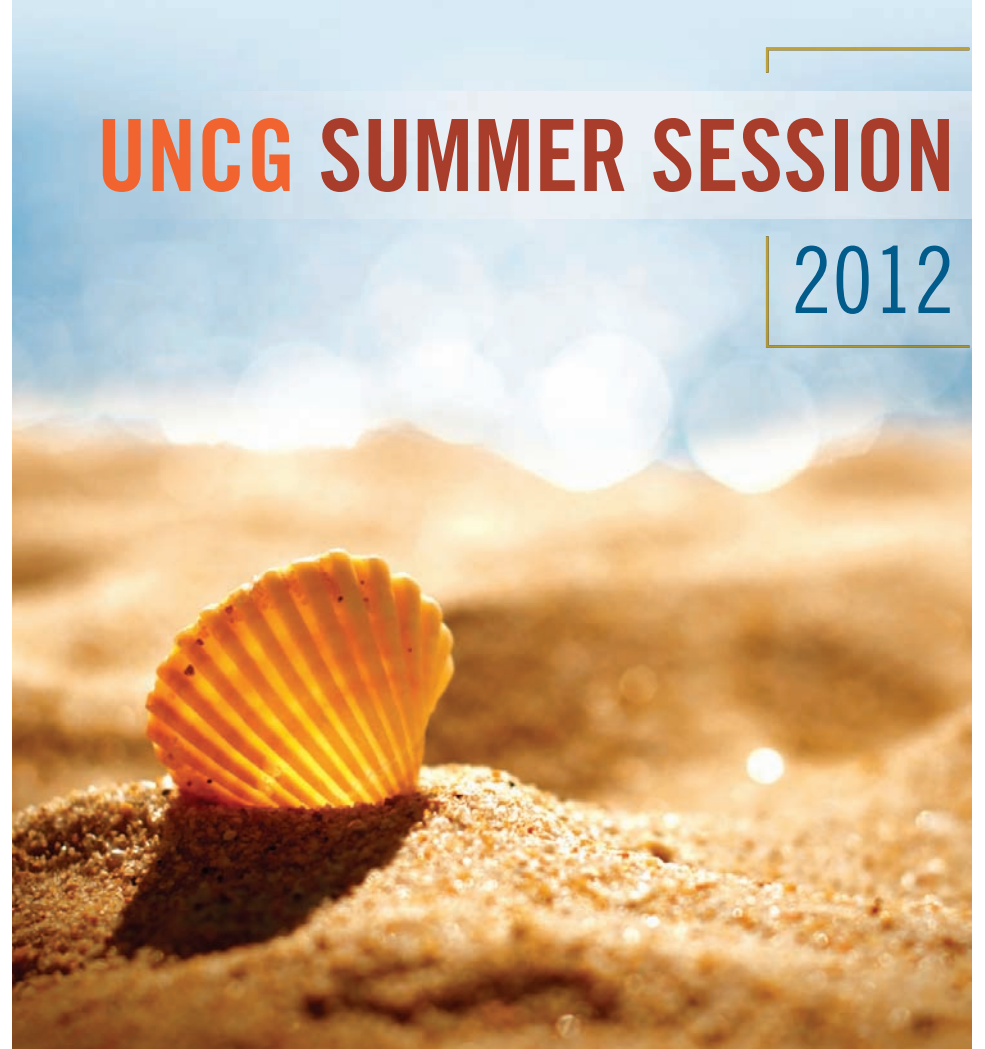
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